

Cathal Buckley (Teagasc)

With Masters in both Agricultural Science and Economics (and a PhD in Economics) I'm currently employed as a Senior Researcher Officer with Teagasc (Republic of Ireland's Agriculture and Food Development Authority) in the area of Environmental Economics. As a long standing member, the Agricultural Economics Society has been a constant in my career since attending and presenting as a PhD student in the mid to late 2000's. I have made it my business to attend as many events and annual conferences as possible. I have always found the AES to be a great place to present new work, meet peers and socialise with old friends. So much so that I insist on my own PhD students attending to experience this fellowship. Since first attending I have noticed that the AES has been a bellwether for wider research and policy direction. For example, my area of research was more a minority subject area in my earlier years but now makes up a significant part of the AES programme. I am lucky that the institute that I work for also holds the AES in such high regard and encourages experienced staff and PhD students alike to attend events on mass. If I'm selected to serve on the AES executive I hope to give back in some small way to the society which serves me so well over the years.

Luiza Toma (SRUC)

Dr Luiza Toma is a Reader in Agricultural Economics at SRUC and Lead of the Social Sciences Section within the School of Natural and Social Sciences. Her research focuses on sustainable and resilient food systems, with particular expertise in food loss and waste, circular economy, and the behavioural and socio-economic drivers of decision-making across agri-food supply chains. Her work combines economic analysis with behavioural science perspectives, using mixed and systems-based approaches to inform policy and practice.

She is motivated to join the AES Executive Committee to support the Society's role in strengthening policy-relevant research and reinforcing the contribution of agricultural economics to key societal challenges, including resource efficiency and food system transformation. She is particularly interested in enhancing engagement between research, policy, and industry, and in promoting collaboration that increases the reach and impact of agricultural economics.

Claire Jack (AFBI)

BScEcon, PhD Agricultural Economics

Current position: Principal Research Economist, Agrifood and Biosciences Institute, Belfast. My career sits at the intersection of research and policy, and I would welcome the opportunity to strengthen the Society's influence in this space. I bring extensive experience in applied economic analysis that directly informs government decision-making, which I consider will bring a policy-focused perspective to the Executive Committee, helping to ensure the Society continues to champion high-quality evidence for policymakers across the UK. I am committed to deepening AES engagement by building stronger links between policymakers, academics and applied economists, and by supporting early-career researchers interested in policy relevant work. Serving on the Executive Committee would allow me to contribute to the Society's core aim of promoting the study and application of agricultural economics to key issues across the agricultural, food, environment and rural sectors.

Dr Stuart Henderson (University of Kent)

I recently completed my PhD at the University of Kent and since have remained there as a Post-Doc. My research focuses on reducing chemical inputs, regenerative farming and technology adoption in agriculture — combining econometrics and policy analysis with farmer interviews to ensure impact beyond the academic context. My first AES conference was in Bordeaux in 2025 where I enjoyed an intellectually rigorous environment where my research could be challenged and improved. I also attended the joint Defra/AES conference where I was able to explore the interaction between policymakers and researchers.

In the coming months I will be hoping to join Defra's Research and Development Fellowship, giving me direct insight into the evidence needs of government — something I see as complementary to committee membership.

I am motivated to contribute to the Society's work on the important policy questions facing the sector: supporting the annual conference, contributing to journal and budget decisions, and liaising with the EAAE. I also bring experience as a journal referee, which has deepened my appreciation for the work that goes on behind the journal.