



## Community-Based Participatory Research with UNITE the Union

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This workshop is aligned with the conference theme of 'Inclusivity and social justice'. The foundations of participatory research call for research to be led by those with experiential knowledge of diversity and social justice. This workshop is grounded in two streams of participatory research which UNITE the Union has initiated and implemented over the past six years. The first is a large-scale oral history project whereby union members have been trained to undertake historical research into the work of their union over many years. The second is the creation of a Knowledge for Change Hub for training of union representatives and members in conducting union-led research into issues that arise from their working lives.

UNITE has extensive adult education programming including Learn with Unite and the training of workplace representatives. The Oral History project is an established participatory research project while the participatory research course is currently running as a regional pilot awaiting national approval.

The workshop will share stories of why and how UNITE the Union undertook these participatory research initiatives. It will provide an opportunity for participants to explore questions about the potential role of trade unions in participatory research, ways in which academics can support union-led research, lessons learned in the training of union members in research work and the potential from building participatory research capacity in non-academic settings.

The workshop will be led by the Union leaders and members who have developed and implemented these two substantial research initiatives with participation by academic allies who have supported this work. It offers an opportunity to explore the wider national and international possibilities of workers organisations as centres for research on inclusivity and social justice.