



Careers Convention

Wednesday 22 July 2020 | 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

This annual event allows students to meet recent graduate engineers and experienced representatives from the electricity industry and discuss career opportunities and pathways for future engineers.

Join online from your device or come to E5 lecture theatre and stay afterwards for pizza.

Keynote Speakers



Dr Yanosh Irani

Electrical and automation engineer, Meridian Energy

Yanosh completed his BE in Electrical and Electronic Engineering in 2011 and his PhD in 2015 both at the University of Canterbury. Since then he has worked for Meridian Energy as an electrical and automation engineer. His job consists of design and technical management of large multidisciplinary upgrades and refurbishments on hydro stations in the upper Waitaki catchment.



Karl Schicker

Senior Electrical Engineer (Power Systems Analysis Team), Mitton ElectroNet

Karl is a chartered professional engineer with 10 years of experience in the power industry since graduating from UC in 2009. He has worked for a Contact Energy at both their Hydro and Thermal sites. This has included the installation and commissioning of transformers and excitation systems. Karl is part of the Power Systems Analysis (PSA) and Generation team at Mitton ElectroNet. His PSA projects have included Island microgrids; carrying out load flow and protection studies for clients installing new PV and BESS systems. Generation projects have included two 400 V switchboard replacement projects involving secondary design of protection, PLC and Protection Replacements, and transformer specifications for windfarms.

Thank you to our Power Engineering Excellence Trust Members



Recruitment Panel



Anna McCullough

Talent Acquisition Manager, Transpower

Anna McCullough held operational management positions focused on building brand, enabling people and organisational performance, before moving into Human Resources consulting in 2010. After working for both international and national agencies leading multi-disciplinary cross sector recruitment teams in the UK, Australia and New Zealand, Anna joined Transpower inhouse as Talent Acquisition Manager in 2016. Her current role partners with managers and executives and covers graduate recruitment through senior leadership roles across the full spectrum of technical and strategic engineering, and corporate disciplines. Anna also supports organisational change initiatives, and loves building diverse and inclusive teams where people grow and really enjoy their work.



Emma Bennett

Group Human Resources Manager, Powerco

BA, BSc (Hons), MBA. Ms Bennett was appointed as Powerco's Group Human Resources Manager in 2019. She leads the team responsible for delivering Powerco's people and culture strategy which includes industry-leading approaches to delivering Powerco's individual, team and company performance ambitions. Before joining Powerco, she held a number of senior manufacturing and human resources roles in Fonterra. She has public and private sector experience in strategy development and deployment, operational excellence, high performing environments, and mergers and acquisitions. Ms Bennett holds a degree in international business, psychology and political studies, and is a member of the Institute of Directors.



Melanie Kayes

Recruitment Manager, Northpower

Melanie has been employed in various capacities within the People & Capability team at Northpower since 2007, moving into the specialised role of Recruitment Manager in 2019. She has a total of 22 years experience working in Human Resources and has experience in both agency and in house recruitment. She holds a Bachelor of Business majoring in Employee Relations.



Ashani Senanayake

HR Coordinator, Electrix

Ashani Senanayake, BBS, PgDip is a HR professional with over 15 years of experience in a variety of HR functional areas. She joined Electrix 8 years ago and is responsible for the HR functions of Distribution Services. Prior to joining Electrix, Ashani worked in the non-profit and retail sectors. Ashani has notable experience working with the operations managers to achieve company objectives, human resource planning, recruitment, employment relations, performance management and restructures. She is actively involved in the Trainee and Graduate Programme for Distribution Services.

Graduate and Young Engineers Panel



Generation: Dr Yanosh Irani

Electrical and automation engineer, Meridian Energy

Yanosh completed his BE in Electrical and Electronic Engineering in 2011 and his PhD in 2015 both at the University of Canterbury. Since then he has worked for Meridian Energy as an electrical and automation engineer. His job consists of design and technical management of large multidisciplinary upgrades and refurbishments on hydro stations in the upper Waitaki catchment.



Transmission: Hugh Hendrickson

Graduate Engineer, Transpower

Hugh is a graduate engineer at Transpower on their graduate programme. As part of this, he has worked in different parts of Transpower including project management, grid maintenance, power system protection, power system engineering and the system operator. Hugh graduated in 2018 from UC with a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical & Electronic) with a minor in power engineering. He is also a former EPECentre scholar (2015-2018).



Distribution: Yuyin Kueh

Network Planning Engineer, Orion

Yuyin has 6 years of experience in the NZ electricity industry, having graduated from the University of Canterbury in 2014. In 2016, Yuyin joined Orion, after four years in the consultancy space managing projects and producing detailed designs for a wide range of industry customers. As a Network Planning Engineer for Orion, Yuyin is responsible for conducting load flow and contingency analysis, developing project scopes and contributing to Orion's future network strategy.



Consulting: Laura Harding

Graduate Engineer, Beca

Laura graduated in 2019 from UC with a Bachelor of Engineering with Honours (Electrical & Electronic Engineering) with a minor in power engineering. She is a former EPECentre scholar (2016-2019) and participated in the 2019 EPECentre field trip. Whilst at UC she was involved with the UC Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Student Branch (UC IEEE), with roles as secretary and later chairperson. Over the 2016 and 2018 summer breaks she completed work experience at both ElectroNet Transmission Ltd in Nelson and Mitton ElectroNet in Christchurch. She is now a graduate electrical engineer in the Southern Power Team at Beca in Christchurch.



Contracting: Sweta Patel

Estimator, Electrix

Sweta graduated in 2011 with a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering. She currently works as an Estimator and is responsible for all tendering/marketing of major projects and taking care of Electrix' future work load requirements. This involves negotiating with some major construction companies and clients likes of Vector and Transpower. Sweta has previously worked as a lecturer in an Engineering Institute and as a Junior Engineer at a Transformer manufacturing firm, Atlanta Electricals.