Dr Ana Lopes, Lecturer in Human Resource Management, Newcastle University Business School

**Title:** Women’s participation in trade unions: barriers and enablers

**Date:** Wednesday 5th June 2019

**Venue:** Meeting Room 2.214

**Time:** 14:00 – 15.30

**Abstract:** Despite the fact that women now make up the greater proportion of trade union members, they continue to be under-represented in trade union leadership structures (Ledwith, 2012), limiting their influence over the trade union agenda and leading to the continued marginalisation of women’s concerns (Greene and Kirton, 2003).

This paper makes a contribution to our understanding of what facilitates and hinders women’s participation in trade unions. It draws on data gathered from two very different UK trade unions, whose membership spans the public and private sectors, including a mix of large, small and not-for profit organisations. The findings highlight gendered disadvantage in work and trade union life irrespective of occupational or hierarchical positions and reveal how the intersection of different identities leads to qualitatively different experiences of trade unionism.

**Biography:** Ana Lopes is lecturer in HRM at Newcastle University. Her research interests focus on gender and employment and include casualisation and precarious work, women’s activism and voice in trade unions and women working in male dominated industries.

**Registration:** Please email irruoffice@wbs.ac.uk