

# ACCELERATE

The UK Venture Conference

8 May 2025 | Andaz, London Liverpool Street

Agenda

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## Agenda, 8 May 2025

08:30

### REGISTRATION

Angel

09:00

#### Welcome

Chris Elphick, Head of Venture Capital, BVCA

09:05

#### Venture capital in the UK 2025

##### Keynote

*Synopsis: Analysis from the BVCA on our Venture Capital in the UK 2025 report.*

Suzi Gillespie, Head of Research, BVCA

09:15

#### Investment Day Zero - how to get it right at pre-seed

##### Panel sponsored by UKBAA

*Synopsis: This panel will explore angel and pre-seed VC investment, from identifying promising startups to supporting growth and achieving successful exits.*

**Moderator:** Rod Beer, Managing Director, UKBAA  
Nick Button-Brown, Founder, The Games Angels  
Sarah Finegan, Associate Partner, Antler  
Oliver Kicks, Partner, Concept Ventures

09:40

#### Tipping the balance - lessons from the Investing in Women Taskforce

##### Fireside

*Synopsis: This fireside will cover the latest developments from the Invest in Women Taskforce and the policies needed to drive change.*

**Moderator:** Jenny Tooth OBE, Executive Chair, UKBAA  
Debbie Woskrow OBE, Co-Chair, Invest in Women Taskforce

09:55

#### Emerging funds and emerging industries

##### Panel

*Synopsis: This panel will examine how emerging VCs can stand out and distinguish themselves with new strategies and approaches.*

**Moderator:** Dr Juanita Gonzalez-Uribe, Associate Professor in Finance, LSE  
Chloe Dagnell, Principal, Isomer Capital  
Sarah Drinkwater, General Partner, Common Magic  
Brian Kinane, Co-Founder, Sure Valley Ventures

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10:20

### From Founder to VC - lessons from the other side

#### Fireside

**Synopsis:** Fireside discussion with the founder of Boxpark and Boxfund. He will provide reflections on his journey from successful founder to VC.

**Speaker:** Juliette Gerstein, Head of Public Affairs, BVCA  
Roger Wade, Chairman, Boxfund VC

10:30

## NETWORKING BREAK

Seed-Series A

10:50

### Founder fireside - seed

#### Fireside

**Synopsis:** Fireside discussion with the founder of Urban Jungle and Eka Ventures.

**Moderator:** Camilla Dolan, General Partner, Eka Ventures  
Jimmy Williams, CEO & Founder, Urban Jungle

11:05

### From lab to market: accelerating UK spinouts

#### Panel

**Synopsis:** On this panel, the focus will be on translating academic research into high-growth companies and all the nuances involved in this process. Panellists will share insights on building strong university-industry partnerships, scaling spinouts in priority sectors like AI and life sciences, and addressing regional disparities in spinout success.

**Moderator:** Tom Nugent, Newsletter Editor, Sifted  
Anne Dobrée, Investor Director, Parkwalk  
Robert Higginson, Co-Founder, Par Equity  
Andrew Scott, Managing Partner, 7percent Ventures

11:30

### Keynote

**Synopsis:** Keynote speech from the Shadow Secretary of State for Business and Trade

Michael Moore, Chief Executive, BVCA  
Andrew Griffith MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Business and Trade, Conservative Party

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11:45

### Diversity and sustainability in the Trump era

#### Panel

**Synopsis:** This panel will focus on the current state of affairs for diversity and ESG, two focus areas which have been very prominent over the past decade. The question of how developments in the US could affect the UK and Europe's Diversity and ESG agendas will be discussed.

**Moderator:** Amy Abbott, Director, Industry Development, BVCA  
Sarah Kunst, Managing Director, Cleo Capital  
Amy Nauiokas, Founder & Group CEO, Anthemis  
Meghan Stevenson-Krausz, Co-CEO, Diversity VC

12:10

## NETWORKING LUNCH

Series A+

13:05

### Welcome

Chris Elphick, Head of Venture Capital, BVCA

13:10

### Squaring the Circle - unlocking pension investment for Venture Capital

#### Fireside

**Synopsis:** A discussion regarding the latest developments with the Mansion House reforms and the outlook for unlocking greater investment in venture capital.

**Moderator:** Isobel Clarke, Director of Policy, BVCA  
Veronica Humble, CIO, Natwest Cushon Master Trust  
Harry Raikes, Investment Director, Schroders Capital

13:25

### Beyond the AI goldrush - where next for series A

#### Panel

**Synopsis:** This panel will focus on helping investors identify the most promising sectors within AI while addressing risks such as over-saturation, ethical dilemmas, and regulatory challenges. Key questions will be addressed here including discussions on what is needed to galvanise these sectors and does the UK's domestic "Growth" agenda go far enough in positioning the country to be a winner in the AI space.

**Moderator:** Aaron Archer, Partner, Cooley  
Josh Bell, General Partner, Dawn  
Itxaso del Palicio, Partner, Notion  
Stephen Nundy, Partner & CTO, Lakestar

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13:50

### Spotlight on the regulators *Fireside*

**Speaker:** Leo Ringer, Founding Partner, Form Ventures  
Doug Gurr, Interim Chair, CMA

14:05

### Innovating at the intersection: deep tech, life sciences, and the future of health *Panel*

**Synopsis:** This discussion will dive into the convergence of deep tech and life sciences in healthcare. From personalised medicine to game-changing startups, the panel will explore how emerging technologies are shaping the future of health and what it takes to build successful ventures in this rapidly evolving space.

**Moderator:** Carmine Circelli, Director of Direct Life Science Investments, British Business Bank  
Simon Goldman, Partner, AlbionVC  
Jonathan Hepple, Partner, Rosetta Capital  
Dr Pamela Walker Geddes, Founding Partner, Thena Capital

14:30

### *Fireside*

Michael Moore, Chief Executive, BVCA  
The Rt Hon Peter Kyle MP, Secretary of State DSIT, Labour Party

14:55

## NETWORKING BREAK

Series A+

15:20

### Investing in Security - the future of defence tech in the UK and Europe *Fireside*

**Synopsis:** Panel discussion focussing on developments in defence and dual purpose technologies. They will discuss on whether more VCs will enter this space and what can government do to support investment.

**Moderator:** Edmund Phillips, Senior Investment Partner, NSSIF  
Dr Daniel Carew, Partner, Defence & Strategic Technologies, JOIN Capital  
Ian Lane, Partner, CIC  
Nicola Sinclair, General Partner, Twin Track Ventures



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15:45

### How to scale with Venture debt - from early stage to growth

#### Fireside

*Synopsis:* Panel discussions looking at the latest developments in venture debt.

**Moderator:** Leon de Bono, Managing Director, Industry Development, BVCA  
David Bateman, Managing Partner, Claret Capital  
Stephen Fahy, Partner - Venture Debt, Salica Investments

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16:00

### New Model VC - what does Venture need to evolve?

#### Fireside

*Synopsis:* This panel will examine potential disruption to the VC model from AI and new investors such as pension funds. Panellists discuss sector specialisation, hybrid investments, and ESG integration in Series A+, driving innovation and shaping the future of VC.

**Moderator:** Christine Hockley, Managing Director, Funds, British Business Bank  
Douglas Hansen-Luke, Executive Chairman, Future Planet Capital  
Kiu Kim, Investment Director, Beringea  
Anna Slemmings, Partner, MMC

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16:25

### Raising Series A and beyond - lessons from a repeat founder

#### Fireside

*Synopsis:* Fireside discussion with a founder who has successfully raised a series A round and looking to grow. They will cover the impact of AI on software, the company's future growth/expansion plans and what more the government can do to support founders.

**Speaker:** Stephen Chandler, Managing Partner, Notion  
Ben Peters, Founder, Cogna

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16:40

### The final push: from VC, to growth, to exit

#### Panel sponsored by Stephenson Harwood

*Synopsis:* This panel will explore the critical phase of scaling companies beyond Series A, navigating late-stage growth, managing strategic investments, and optimising for a successful exit. Panellists will discuss the challenges of sustaining momentum, balancing profitability with expansion, and choosing the right path (IPO, acquisition or alternative exits).

**Moderator:** Adam Crossley, Partner, Stephenson Harwood  
Henry Sallitt, Co-Founder & Managing Partner, FPE Capital  
Olav Ostin, Managing Partner, TempoCap

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17:05

Closing remarks

Michael Moore, Chief Executive, BVCA

17:15

NETWORKING DRINKS

18:30

CLOSE

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**8 May 2025 | Andaz, London Liverpool Street**

**British Private Equity &  
Venture Capital Association (BVCA)**

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