

## **BUIRA statement of solidarity with colleagues at University of Leicester**

As an association for Employment Relations and Politics of Work scholars, the British Universities Industrial Relations Association (BUIRA) are issuing this statement of solidarity in support of our colleagues in Political Economy and Critical Management Studies at University of Leicester, who have been brutally threatened with redundancy during a public health pandemic. We express our solidarity not just in support of colleagues who are presently at risk of losing their jobs but also collectively stand in solidarity with Leicester UCU and other unions defending jobs.

BUIRA also proudly support the vital importance of pluralist critical research and scholarship in the broad area of Management Studies. Now more than ever, pluralism of critical scholarship is essential for responding to the serious social science challenges facing the world and devising new policy and practice solutions and directions regarding 'big picture' issues like the future of work and the climate crisis. Political Economy and Critical Management Studies are a vital part of this endeavour.

Rather than being diluted, pluralist critical scholarship in our universities should be supported and extended. Surely the purpose of universities is or should be advancing pluralism of ideas and knowledge, otherwise they are arguably no longer civic universities serving the public good in any real meaningful sense.

BUIRA

*3rd February 2021*