

Meeting of Minds: Gatekeepers

Thursday 20 March 2025, The Berkeley Hotel, London, SW1X 7RL

Schedule of the Day

The Belgravia	0815-0900	Breakfast	Informal networking over breakfast
The Ballroom	0900-0920	Keynote	Welcome - incorporating the highlights of the Scene Setter research. With Daniel Gilmore , Head of Sales at Owen James Events
The Ballroom	0920-1000	Keynote	Expert insights on the geopolitical and economic landscape
Boardrooms	1005-1115	Roundtable Session	<i>Please refer below to get a feel for the topics that will be tabled for discussion within the roundtables</i>
The Belgravia	1120-1150	Morning Coffee	Informal networking with your peers
Boardrooms	1155-1305	Roundtable Session	<i>Please refer below to get a feel for the topics that will be tabled for discussion within the roundtables</i>
The Ballroom	1310-1400	Lunch	A seated formal two-course lunch
Boardrooms	1405-1515	Roundtable Session	<i>Please refer below to get a feel for the topics that will be tabled for discussion within the roundtables</i>
The Ballroom	1520-1550	Keynote	The Hidden Power of Emotional Intelligence in Leadership
The Belgravia	1550-1700	Farewell and Networking	With a glass of fizz on the side

A MEETING OF MINDS: GATEKEEPERS ROUNDTABLE THEMES

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ROUNDTABLE THEMES TABLED FOR DISCUSSION

MACROECONOMICS & GEOPOLITICS

1. Geopolitical risks and global market volatility

Geopolitical tensions and economic challenges across key regions continue to bring market volatility - and with Trump moving back into the White House there will be more uncertainty in 2025. This session explores how investors can adapt to risks stemming from US-China relations, European economic struggles, and other global dynamics including:

- Strategies to mitigate geopolitical risks and uncover opportunities in a fragmented global market
- The weakening link between open economies and wealth generation

2. The impact of Zero-Sum Thinking and megatrends for 2025

Pessimism is growing in the UK which has one of the lowest trusts in government among OECD countries. This session will focus on the impact of Zero-Sum Thinking and whether we may see a way out of this trough with economic growth, as well as a slowing down of the divisive political fragmentation which is spreading throughout the west, including:

- The growing divide over climate policies (Net Zero) and immigration and how these divisive issues influence investment strategies
- How political fragmentation is shaping the investment environment
- Aligning investment strategies with emerging megatrends for a more optimistic future

AI

3. How technology is shaping the Gatekeepers, Fund Selectors and CIO roles

The adoption of AI-driven insights, data analytics, and advanced tools is transforming how investment teams operate, shifting their focus from manual analysis to strategic decision-making and collaboration. This session will explore the changing nature of these roles and how firms can adapt their teams to thrive in this new environment, including:

- The need for data scientists, tech-savvy analysts, and collaborative frameworks that combine human expertise with machine-driven insights

4. The next wave of innovation with AI in 2025

The excitement around AI developments is reaching new heights as we enter 2025, but after the 2024 market volatility, investors are faced with a more nuanced landscape. As the debate continues over the costs and returns of AI investments, it's crucial to understand where value can be captured in the evolving tech supply chain.

This session will provide critical insights for investors looking to navigate the rapidly changing AI landscape in 2025, focusing on both the risks and opportunities within the tech supply chain.

5. AI market euphoria and regulatory concerns

By focusing on strategic approaches to managing risks and leveraging opportunities in areas like SDR implementation, tech stock concentration, alternatives, sustainable investing, and AI market concerns, investors will be better equipped to make informed decisions in a rapidly changing environment. But as AI-driven investments increase, so do the regulatory concerns. This session will ask:

- How can investors navigate the excitement surrounding AI while mitigating the risks of overvaluation and regulatory scrutiny?
- What are the current regulatory challenges facing AI markets, and how can investors safeguard against potential downside risks?

SUSTAINABILITY

6. The impacts and opportunities of SDR implementation in portfolios

This session will focus on how Sustainable Development Requirements (SDRs) are shaping the investment landscape, especially in portfolio construction by discussing their alignment with client values and regulatory demands, and the challenges of their adoption, including:

- Understanding SDRs and their impact in Model Portfolio Services (MPS)
- Aligning SDRs with sustainability goals while balancing financial returns
- The role of regulatory frameworks in SDR adoption and how investors can navigate the transition

7. The opportunities and challenges of sustainable practices

This session provides insights into the growing importance of sustainable investing, focusing on trends, regulatory developments, and how to integrate sustainable practices into portfolio strategies.

- Current trends in sustainable investing and their future outlook
- Regulatory landscape influencing sustainable investments and ESG integration
- Key opportunities and challenges in implementing sustainable practices in portfolios
- Best practices for integrating sustainability into investment strategies without compromising financial performance

INVESTMENT TRENDS

8. Balancing risk, returns, and resilience for high-yield bonds in 2025

High-yield bonds remain an integral component of diversified portfolios, offering equity-like returns with lower volatility. However, the high-yield landscape in 2025 is marked by evolving credit dynamics, persistent inflationary pressures, and regulatory changes, necessitating a nuanced approach to investing.

This session will delve into the strategies and considerations required to navigate the complexities of high-yield investing in today's market, focusing on:

- Identifying emerging opportunities within the European high-yield market
- Balancing short-duration positioning with yield-enhancement strategies
- Managing risks associated with elevated default rates, sector-specific exposures, and liquidity challenges
- Leveraging research-driven methods to uncover value in improving credit stories and fallen angels

9. The new realities of Fixed Income investing in a volatile landscape

Fixed income markets, long considered a source of portfolio stability, have entered a phase of heightened volatility and economic uncertainty. This session will explore how evolving central bank policies, inflationary pressures, and ownership shifts are reshaping the fixed income landscape and what investors can do to adapt their strategies effectively, including:

- Ownership dynamics in fixed income markets: implications for liquidity and volatility.
- Strategic allocation shifts: balancing short- and long-duration assets to align with economic conditions.
- Leveraging technology: innovations in fixed income trading, analysis, and portfolio management.
- Diversification strategies tailored for income generation and retirement planning.

10. Navigating global bond opportunities amid rising risks

As global risks escalate in 2025, bond markets continue to offer opportunities for return generation and portfolio diversification. This session will delve into the complexities of global bond investing, focusing on risk mitigation strategies and identifying opportunities amidst geopolitical, economic, and inflationary challenges, including:

- The impact of central bank policies on global bond yields and investor strategies.
- Geopolitical risks: how they shape fixed income returns in developed and emerging markets.
- Strategies for navigating inflationary and deflationary trends in bond markets.
- Preparing for market disruptions driven by upcoming elections in major economies.

11. Structural trends and opportunities with thematic strategies in real asset investing

Thematic investing in real assets is entering a transformative phase, shaped by global volatility, evolving monetary policy, and structural changes in sustainability and technology. This session will explore how thematic drivers are reshaping the real asset investment landscape, focusing on:

- Adapting to supply chain risks and evolving monetary policy to inform portfolio strategies

- Capturing growth through hybrid property models that combine liquidity with stability
- Leveraging ESG recalibration to enhance long-term returns and meet regulatory imperatives
- Exploring emerging opportunities in logistics, healthcare, and renewable energy infrastructure

12. Staying ahead of the emerging trends in Private Markets

As private markets continue to grow in importance, investment teams must stay ahead of emerging trends, from innovative deal structures to the increasing influence of technology and data analytics in sourcing and due diligence.

This session will discuss the new opportunities for diversification and growth as well as:

- The unique challenges in access, valuation, and liquidity
- The latest trends in private equity, private credit and infrastructure in order to in order to capitalise on this evolving landscape

PORTFOLIOS

13. How the future of MPS solutions will shape fund selection strategy

The rapid evolution of DFM Model Portfolio Service (MPS) solutions is transforming the fund selection landscape. As the MPS market grows, with over £145 billion in assets under management, fund selectors face increasing opportunities to align portfolios with scalable and innovative solutions. Amid growing regulatory scrutiny and a demand for transparency, the focus is now on how MPS innovation can address challenges and unlock growth opportunities for fund selectors.

This session will examine the next phase of MPS evolution, with an emphasis on:

- The role of technology and enhancing efficiency, execution, and reporting in fund selection processes
- How Consumer Duty influences due diligence and fund selection within MPS frameworks.
- Evaluating cost transparency, platform innovations, and sustainability integration as key drivers of the next MPS wave

14. Managing active risk in portfolios with the 'Magnificent Seven' tech stock dominance

With the dominance of Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Alphabet, Nvidia, Meta, Tesla in tech stocks this session will examine active risk management strategies to handle concentration risks and ensure portfolio balance, including:

- The impact of the Magnificent Seven tech stocks on overall portfolio risk

- Managing valuation risks tied to these stocks, and the importance of sector diversification
- Exploring alternative tech or non-tech sectors to balance portfolios effectively

15. Costs, complexity and client communication for Alternatives in portfolios

Alternative investments offer diversification and higher returns but come with higher costs and complexity. This session will discuss how to incorporate alternatives effectively into portfolios and communicate their benefits and risks to clients.

- Enhancing portfolio diversification and returns with alternative investments in 2025
- Addressing the challenges related to the complexity and costs of alternatives
- Communicating the value and risks of alternatives to clients effectively
- Emerging trends in alternative investment strategies and their relevance in 2025