

# Advance HE EDI Conference 2020

Courageous conversations and adventurous approaches: Creative thinking in tackling inequality

19 March 2020  
The Radisson Blu, Edinburgh, UK

## Session abstracts

For ease of reference to the session abstracts, simply click on the title of the session you wish to view and you will be automatically taken to the abstract in this document.

Parallel session 7 (19 March 2020: 11.30 – 12.30)				
Belonging and safe space	Bridging the gaps	Belonging and safe space	Belonging and safe space	Skills building for EDI change agents
Room: Dunedin 1	Room: Dunedin 2	Room: Canongate 1	Room: Canongate 2	Room: Holyrood
7.1 Panel session	7.2 Panel session	7.3 Interactive breakout	7.4 Interactive breakout	7.5 Interactive breakout
<a href="#"><u>Storytelling and courageous conversations</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Parental equality and working flexibly</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Approaches to addressing inequitable outcomes for students from black African and black Caribbean backgrounds</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Finding the missing pieces of my history to find myself</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>The role of the tempered radicals: Experiences of making changes in our organisation</u></a>
Martell Baines, Leeds Arts University, Dr Rachel Forsyth and Professor Claire Hamshire, Manchester Metropolitan University and Leza Soldaat and Dr Danielle Fontaine-Rainen, University of Cape Town	Dr Katie Thirlaway, Cardiff Metropolitan University Clare Matysova, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Dr Angharad Davies, Swansea University Dr Katie Thirlaway and Dr David Brown, Cardiff Metropolitan University	Wendy Fowle, Dr John Butcher and Darren Gray, The Open University	Dr Nighet Riaz, Advance HE	Melissa Highton and Dr Dominique Green, University of Edinburgh

Parallel session 8 (19 March 2020: 13.20 – 14.20)

EDI and leadership	Thinking forward	Bridging the gaps	Belonging and safe space	Skills building for EDI change agents
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<a href="#"><u>Institutional approaches to EDI</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Athena SWAN round table session</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Listening matters and listening works: Effective and meaningful institutional change through friendship conversations and democratic decisions. An exploration of two methods</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Persistent inequalities: Tackling the negative experiences of LGBTQ+ students in higher education</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>How culturally competent are our students? Exploring cultural awareness, knowledge and sensitivity through inclusive conversations</u></a>
Paul Neville, Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance; Marcellina Fogarty and Rory Carey, University College Dublin; Dr Miriam Lynn, University of Cambridge	Ruth Gilligan and Kathryn Harrison-Graves, Advance HE	Dr Emma Heron and Helen Parkin, Sheffield Hallam University	Amy Norton and Dr Gary Downing, Office for Students	Rhianne Sterling-Morris, Dr Mark Smith and Lauryn Tamou, University of Lincoln

Parallel session 9 (19 March 2020: 14.25 – 15.25)

EDI and leadership	Belonging and safe space	Bridging the gaps	Thinking forward	Skills building for EDI change agents
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9.1a Oral presentation	9.2a Oral presentation	9.3a Oral presentation	9.4a Oral presentation	9.5a Oral presentation
<a href="#"><u>Anti-racist pedagogy and practice in higher education</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>An exploration of the views of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) UK business leaders and their experiences of glass ceilings and career progression</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>'Reverse' mentoring: A knowledge sharing study between BME Psychology students and senior university leaders</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Generating EDI dialogue between research and practice in the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Let's talk about race: Exploring race, culture and identity through literature</u></a>
Dr Anil Awesti and Dr Meleisa Ono-George, University of Warwick	Richard Dunston Brady, University of Huddersfield	Dr Kathryn Waddington, Dr Deborah Husbands and Bryan Bonaparte, University of Westminster	Megan Todman and Samantha Aceto, Newcastle University, Dr Gretchen Larsen, Durham University and Dr Rachel Carroll, Teesside University	Dr Karen Lipsedge, Kingston University
9.1b Oral presentation	9.2b Oral presentation	9.3b Oral presentation	9.4b Oral presentation	9.5b Oral presentation
<a href="#"><u>'We're in a real bind here': Elite women humanities and social science scholars' experiences of higher education policy interventions</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>On difference and the Academy: A cabaret</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Re:Tension: Using film and the aftermath debate to tackle racism in higher education</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>TechUP Women: Our journey</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>BME students' lived experience at Roehampton Business School</u></a>
Anna Bradshaw, The British Academy	Dr Kieran Fenby-Huls, Teesside University	Syra Shakir and Ricardo Barker, Leeds Trinity University	Professor Alexandra Cristea and Professor Sue Black, University of Durham	Dr Jan Moorhouse, University of Roehampton
9.1c Oral presentation	9.2c Oral presentation	9.3c Oral presentation	9.4c Oral presentation	9.5c Oral presentation
<a href="#"><u>Going for Stonewall: Developing LGBT+ inclusivity at BCU</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Do rainbow lanyards make a difference? Findings from a study in an academic setting</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Inclusive nepotism: UCL's experience of creating a positive action sponsorship programme for BME staff</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>The power of networks for equality: Creating influence through collectives</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Walking the talk: The University of Sheffield's Student Anti-Racism Training Programme</u></a>
Ross Strong and Andrew Hollyhead, Birmingham City University	Dr Nuno Nodin, Royal Holloway, University of London	Vicki Baars and Ash Talwar, University College London	Jordan Kirkwood, Aston University and Dr Sammy Li, University of Birmingham	Dr Rachel Van Duyvenbode and Santhana Gopalakrishnan The University of Sheffield and Albert Attom, University of Loughborough

Ignite and Soapbox session (19 March 2020: 15.45 – 16.45) Room: Dunedin

**IG3a: Mind the gap: Tackling the BTEC attainment gap in higher education**, Dr Hannah Holmes, Manchester Metropolitan University

**IG3b: From the sticky floor to the glass ceiling and everything in between: Preliminary results from a systematic review and qualitative study of (gender) inequality in clinical academic careers**, Jennifer Brown, University of York and Professor Gabrielle Finn, Hull York Medical School

**IG3c: Behaviorally informed interventions to improve attainment**, Vanessa Todman, King's College London

**IG3d: Queer STEM: Systems engineering as queer pedagogy in railway engineering education**, Dr Holly Foss, The University of Birmingham

**IG3e: Creating an inclusive environment for first years where all can flourish**, Dr Roselina Alerhi and Dr Anthony Rossiter, University of Sheffield

### **Session 7.1: Storytelling and courageous conversations**

Martell Baines, Leeds Arts University; Dr Rachel Forsyth and Professor Claire Hamshire, Manchester Metropolitan University; and Leza Soldaat and Dr Danielle Fontaine-Rainen, University of Cape Town

#### **Belonging and safe place**

*Panel session, Room: Dunedin 1*

This session will focus on collective narratives from students, staff and practitioners allowing for a more personal view of EDI issues, and in particular some of the barriers we need to overcome. The session will include a practitioner research study from Leeds Arts University on widening participation, underpinned by the findings of the Children's Commissioners 'Vulnerability' Report (2018); examples from the creative and voluntary sector of feminist interventions that used personal narratives to support vulnerable women working for change; and comparisons of staff perceptions of first generation at Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Cape Town.

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### **Session 7.2: Parental equality and working flexibly**

Dr Katie Thirlaway, Cardiff Metropolitan University; Clare Matysova, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Dr Angharad Davies, Swansea University; and Dr David Brown, Cardiff Metropolitan University

#### **Bridging the gaps**

*Panel session, Room: Dunedin 2*

In this session we will be discussing issues around parental responsibilities and equity across the family unit, alongside flexible working policies that can help to support families. We will hear about an initiative at Cardiff Metropolitan University around equal benefits for maternity, shared parental and adoption leave; how shared parental leave, having been available since 2015, has not impacted significantly on the number of women taking the main caring responsibilities in the home; how the NHS still falls behind the HE sector in its treatment of maternity leave; and a study by Cardiff Metropolitan University looking at how immediate line managers impact on the uptake of flexible working hours.

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### **Session 7.3: Approaches to addressing inequitable outcomes for students from black African and black Caribbean backgrounds**

Wendy Fowle, Dr John Butcher and Darren Gray, The Open University

#### **Belonging and safe place**

*Interactive breakout session, Room: Canongate 1*

This workshop will present an approach to challenges in addressing gaps in outcomes for black African and black Caribbean students within a distance learning HE environment. It focuses on curriculum design and assessment. Literature was reviewed and interviews undertaken with students, in order to elicit the student voice. The workshop will present delegates with the opportunity to engage in debate in relation to the issues that the project identified with a view to informing future practice. They will also engage in a practical activity to apply the 'inclusive curriculum tool' developed to be embedded within curriculum design at the case study institution.

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### **Session 7.4: Finding the missing pieces of my history to find myself**

Dr Nighet Riaz, Advance HE

#### **Belonging and safe place**

*Interactive breakout session, Room: Canongate 2*

Imposter syndrome can affect a person's sense of identity and belonging (Clance and Imes, 1978, p. 241). The presenter shares her experiences as an older Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Muslim female early career researcher in Higher Education struggling with fitting in, being included, dealing with racism, patriarchy and not 'being good enough'. Nighet discusses why a decolonised curriculum can, by examining BAME histories and their intersections with Europe and the UK, support opportunities for BAME educators and students in teaching and learning and help them to understand who they are, and why they are here, and to cope with the feelings of displacement.

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### **Session 7.5: The role of the tempered radicals: Experiences of making changes in our organisation**

Melissa Highton and Dr Dominique Green, University of Edinburgh

#### **Skills building for EDI change agents**

*Interactive breakout session, Room: Holyrood*

'Tempered radicals' are individuals who are committed to and identify with the organisations in which they work and yet are also committed to a cause or ideology which is fundamentally at odds with the dominant culture in that workplace. Debra Meyerson has written about how these change agents make tactical decisions to effect change without making trouble (Debra E. Meyerson, 2008; Debra E. Meyerson & Kolb, 2000; D. Meyerson & Scully, 1995). If you think you too may be a tempered radical, this is the session for you.

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### **Session 8.1: Institutional approaches to EDI**

Paul Neville, Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance; Marcellina Fogarty and Rory Carey, University College Dublin and Dr Miriam Lynn, University of Cambridge.

#### **EDI and leadership**

*Panel session, Room: Dunedin 1*

This panel session explores some of the initiatives currently being used in HEIs to completely embed EDI into policies and practice. We will hear about a strengths-based approach employed by Trinity Laban to promote its new Equality Objectives; how University College Dublin believe that the elimination of discrimination and promotion of EDI is central to decision-making and policy/process development; and how the University of Cambridge are breaking the silence and speaking out against harassment and sexual misconduct.

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### **Session 8.2: Athena SWAN round table session**

Ruth Gilligan and Kathryn Harrison-Graves, Advance HE.

*Round table session, Room: Dunedin 2*

#### **Thinking forward**

Following the Athena SWAN Impact Evaluation and the independent Steering Group review of Athena SWAN, Advance HE would like to take the opportunity to discuss and explore possibilities for the Charter's future direction with member institutions. These round table discussions are aimed at UK institutional Athena SWAN leads and will be facilitated by members of Advance HE staff. Places may be limited to one per member institution.

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### **Session 8.3: Listening matters and listening works: Effective and meaningful institutional change through friendship conversations and democratic decisions. An exploration of two methods**

Dr Emma Heron and Helen Parkin, Sheffield Hallam University

#### **Bridging the gap**

*Interactive breakout session, Room: Canongate 1*

After a brief background explaining the two qualitative, complementary methods of Listening Rooms and Round Table Analysis, participants will be given an opportunity to experience both methods in real time with the aim of revealing how institutional change can be brought about through key values. By the end of the session, participants will be able to understand how qualitative methods used in higher education can bring about meaningful change to the lives of students and staff, and how the methods in and of themselves bring about a positive and transformative experience.

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### **Session 8.4: Persistent inequalities: Tackling the negative experiences of LGBTQ+ students in higher education**

Amy Norton and Dr Gary Downing, Office for Students

#### **Belonging and safe place**

*Interactive breakout session, Room: Canongate 2*

Inequalities persist for LGBTQ+ students in HE, negatively affecting their ability to negotiate and achieve successful outcomes. This OfS-led workshop will explore the challenges faced by LGBTQ+ students in HE environments, and the impacts of these challenges across the lifecycle.

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### **Session 8.5: How culturally competent are our students? Exploring cultural awareness, knowledge and sensitivity through inclusive conversations**

Rhianne Sterling-Morris and Dr Mark Smith, University of Lincoln and Lauryn Tamou, University of Lincoln's Student Union

#### **Skills building for EDI change agents**

*Interactive breakout session, Room: Holyrood*

Cultural competence is a critical, yet under-represented, skill in student development. Needed by all students, we have a role to play in preparing learners for careers and citizenship in a diverse society. To start this journey, cultural awareness, knowledge and sensitivity must be woven into our conversations. This workshop aims to evoke these and act as a catalyst for change. By growing awareness of cultural competence, our position amongst one another, and how students of the past may be different to those of the future, we will reflect on our own views to explore cultural competence within practice.

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### **Session 9.1a: Anti-racist pedagogy and practice in higher education**

Dr Anil Awesti and Dr Meleisa Ongo-George, University of Warwick

EDI and Leadership

*Oral presentation session, Room: Dunedin 1*

Various reports on student attainment and experience in higher education have shown a clear and substantial difference in the attainment, progression and overall experience of students who identify as Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) compared to those who identify as White. In 2018 an 'Anti-Racist Pedagogy and Process in Higher Education Learning Circle' was established at the University of Warwick which aimed to inform institutional deliberations on issues of BAME student experience and attainment. In this session, we will present the work, successes and challenges, of the Learning Circle including the process of developing an institutional training course focused on anti-racist pedagogy for academic and professional services staff.

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### **Session 9.1b: 'We're in a real bind here': Elite women Humanities and Social Science scholars' experiences of higher education policy interventions**

Anna Bradshaw, The British Academy

EDI and Leadership

*Oral presentation session, Room: Dunedin 1*

Higher education and research policy increasingly involves large interventions that emphasise measurement, audit, transparency and technicality, like the REF, TEF and KEF, and the Athena SWAN Charter. While there is significant scholarship looking at how these kinds of 'new managerialist' approaches can be gendered in the public sector, there has been less scholarship looking at universities. This session will present the findings from new qualitative research into how elite women scholars in the Humanities and Social Sciences experience these kinds of interventions, and will make recommendations for policy and practice based on the findings.

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### **Session 9.1c: Going for Stonewall: Developing LGBT+ inclusivity at BCU**

Ross Strong and Dr Andrew Hollyhead, Birmingham City University

EDI and Leadership

*Oral presentation session, Room: Dunedin 1*

This presentation will be led by Ross Stone, the newly appointed Project Manager for our Going for Stonewall Project. In this talk we discuss the context for accreditation, both in terms of time and place, with specific regards to the recent issues experienced regarding LGBT+ teaching in Birmingham schools. We reflect upon the importance of the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index and conclude with a group discussion identifying the key stakeholders who need to be engaged.

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### **Session 9.2a: An exploration of the views of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) UK business leaders and their experiences of glass ceilings and career progression**

Richard Dunston Brady, University of Huddersfield

Belonging and safe place

*Oral presentation session, Room: Dunedin 2*

This presentation will challenge the assumption that people who identify as being LGBTQ holding leadership positions have been treated fairly and equitably in terms of their employment and career opportunities and the impact of glass ceilings on their career trajectory. A group of leaders from the public, private and SME sectors based in the UK were interviewed. How does a leader negotiate internal and external political factors and break through the glass ceiling? How does intersectionality and being an LGBTQ leader, impact the glass ceiling. Initial findings suggest that the culture of the organisation must tangibly demonstrate their support for LGBTQ people.

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### **Session 9.2b: On difference and the Academy: A cabaret**

Dr Kieran Fenby-Hulse, Teesside University

[Belonging and safe place](#)

*Oral presentation session, Room: Dunedin 2*

In this performative paper, I explore notions of critical race theory (Collins, 1999), outsider theory (Eburne, 2018), and queer theory (Ahmed, 2006, 2012) to question current approaches to equality, diversity and inclusion within higher education (Smith, 2015). Drawing on my own lived experience as a researcher-practitioner working in the area of inclusivity in research, this interactive cabaret seeks to dismantle some of the mythology that surrounds diversity work. I will explore the role individuals, leaders and institutions can play in fostering more inclusive research environments and argue that for the academy to become inclusive, it must be driven by difference.

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### **Session 9.2c: Do rainbow lanyards make a difference? Findings from a study in an academic setting**

Dr Nuno Nodin, Royal Holloway, University of London

[Belonging and safe place](#)

*Oral presentation session, Room: Dunedin 2*

Members of staff in many industries use rainbow lanyards to display openness and support to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and other sexual minorities (LGBT+). Despite the increased uptake of these symbols of inclusivity across many environments, including in many universities in the UK, there is limited evidence about the impact of such initiatives. This project aimed to determine to what extent introducing rainbow lanyards and providing guidance to staff about how to support sexual minority students in an academic department had an impact on perceptions about openness and confidence in addressing student questions about sexuality and sexual identity.

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### **Session 9.3a: Reverse' Mentoring: A knowledge sharing study between BME Psychology students and senior university leaders**

Dr Kathryn Waddington, Dr Deborah Husbands and Bryan Bonaparte University of Westminster

[Bridging the gaps](#)

*Oral presentation session, Room: Canongate 1*

This presentation will discuss the findings of a pilot 'reverse' mentoring scheme involving five black and minority ethnic (BME) Psychology students who mentored five senior leaders - including the University's Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer. Apostrophes are used to draw attention to potentially problematic aspects of reverse mentoring as it currently appears in the literature. The pilot scheme used Nancy Kline's Thinking Environment™ model, which places value upon diversity and the concept of 'equal thinking partnerships'. The presentation will report on evaluation of the scheme, and relevance of Forward Mentoring as a means of enabling courageous conversations and institutional change.

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### **Session 9.3b: Re:Tension: Using film and the aftermath debate to tackle racism in higher education**

Syra Shakir and Ricardo Barker, Leeds Trinity University

[Bridging the gaps](#)

*Oral presentation session, Room: Canongate 1*

The first step is accepting there are problems, then doing something about it. This training toolkit is to be used alongside the film 'Re:Tension'. It clearly outlines the role and responsibility of peers in accepting the existence of racism, then acting on this because they know it is wrong and challenging others who perpetrate discrimination and enforce the silence upon individual people of colour in not speaking out about their experiences. The poem is used immediately after the screening of the film and captures key themes emerging.

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### **Session 9.3c: Inclusive nepotism: UCL's experience of creating a positive action sponsorship programme for BME staff**

Vicki Baars and Ash Talwar, University College London

[Bridging the gaps](#)

*Oral presentation session, Room: Canongate 1*

Inclusive Advocacy is a UCL institution-wide positive action sponsorship programme for BME staff at Grade 7 (research/teaching fellow/coordinator) and Grade 8 (lecturer/manager) and is open to professional services, early career researchers and academic staff. UCL's Race Equality Charter application highlighted a plethora of issues around BME staff promotion, progression and satisfaction with career support. Inclusive Advocacy is driven by evidence-based research, which shows that the daily

experiences of working relationships and managerial support and encouragement are significant matters for career advancement (Mullins, L.J., 2007). This presentation will highlight how the programme was established and how it is progressing through a two-year pilot.

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### **Session 9.4a: Generating EDI dialogue between research and practice in the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences**

Megan Todman and Samantha Aceto, Newcastle University, Dr Gretchen Larsen, Durham University and Dr Rachel Carroll, Teesside University

#### **Thinking forward**

*Oral presentation session, Room: Canongate 2*

This session explores the opportunities and challenges in generating dialogue between research in Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences and EDI practice, in interdisciplinary, intersectional and inter-organisational spaces. We will explore the role of collaborative networks, how to translate research into activism, 'calling in' non-engagers, developing research-led curriculum content and anything else that participants choose to highlight. The session will be hosted by members of HASTEN (Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences: The Equalities Network), a real-world and virtual network of academic and professional colleagues committed to contributing our discipline-specific expertise and insights to enrich the equalities landscape in universities.

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### **Session 9.4b: TechUP Women: Our journey**

Professor Alexandra Cristea and Professor Sue Black, University of Durham

#### **Thinking forward**

*Oral presentation session, Room: Canongate 2*

The TechUP programme takes 100 women from the Midlands and North of England, particularly from under-represented communities, with degrees or experience in any subject area, re-trains them in technology and then gives them the opportunity to interview with a company for an internship/apprenticeship/job. The re-training programme, developed by the partner universities in conjunction with industrial partners, has modules at level 6/7 and includes: Technology: coding, data science, cyber security, machine learning, agile project management, and workplace readiness skills: public speaking, clear communication, working as a team. The session will discuss the successes we have had so far and the overall lessons learned.

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### **Session 9.4c: The power of networks for equality: Creating influence through collectives**

Jordan Kirkwood, Aston University and Dr Sammy Li, University of Birmingham

#### **Thinking forward**

*Oral presentation session, Room: Canongate 2*

The LGBT+ Network of Networks in Higher Education was created in 2017 as a means of sharing best practice between 220+ members from LGBT+ staff networks and E&D teams of about 90 universities and research institutions in the UK. This session will reflect on the journey of establishing a national network for empowering EDI change agents to broaden their reach and collective power in the HE sector. We will explore the opportunities and challenges faced by such a peer-support model and aim to open up a wider conversation about super-networking of other protected characteristics.

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### **Session 9.5a: Let's talk about race: Exploring race, culture and identity through literature**

Dr Karen Lipsedge, Kingston University

#### **Skills building for EDI change agents**

*Oral presentation session, Room: Holyrood*

The Kingston University Reading Group was created as a means of facilitating discussion on culture and identity to promote race equality and enhance the University's work to embed EDI at the heart of our institution. Our session will demonstrate how our initiative is expanding its work to equip our staff to recognise the value of a diverse student population and honour and promote cultural competence and inclusivity in their teaching and learning. Talking about race, equality and identity is challenging. Our session will reveal how reading groups can provide a safe, informal space, in which to have courageous conversations about race and disrupt dominant narratives.

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### **Session 9.5b: BME students' lived experience at Roehampton Business School**

Dr Jan Moorhouse, University of Roehampton

### Skills building for EDI change agents

*Oral presentation session, Room: Holyrood*

This session will explore the lived experience of BME students. Our research identifies the problems of BME commuter students who are predominantly first generation in family that current Roehampton Business School undergraduate programmes fail to address and we suggest micro- and meso-level changes. Using Alvesson's concept of grandiosity (Alvesson, 2013) and Ritzer's notion of disenchantment (Ritzer, 1999) we posit that the problems BME students encounter have their roots in the marketised expansion of HE as a positional good. We argue that we need to re-engage more authentically with BME students to help them navigate through and beyond a world of imagology to a genuinely emancipatory university education (Freire, 1970 (1993)).

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### Session 9.5c: Walking the talk: The University of Sheffield's Student Anti-Racism Training Programme

Dr Rachel van Duyvenbode and Santhana Gopalakrishnan, The University of Sheffield and Albert Attom, University of Loughborough

#### Skills building for EDI change agents

*Oral presentation session, Room: Holyrood*

The University of Sheffield launched its first ever institution-wide student anti-racism training programme in September 2019, reaching more than 3,000 newly arriving students across 52 timetabled sessions during intro week. The talks, delivered by trained Race Equality Student Champions, with the support of staff co-facilitators, constitutes the first phase of our collaborative approach to working with students to develop the content and pedagogy of race equality training. In this presentation, we will discuss how and why we developed our programme at Sheffield; share findings from the student evaluation of anti-racism training; and offer insights from the project team about the challenges, risks and rewards of putting into practice effective anti-racism student training.

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### Session IG3a: Mind the gap: Tackling the BTEC attainment gap in higher education

Dr Hannah Holmes, Manchester Metropolitan University

*Ignite session, Room: Dunedin*

This session outlines a project at Manchester Metropolitan University incorporating targeted support for students from feeder colleges with the largest number of vocational entrants by programme, who currently do not succeed in line with non-vocational students, to improve their transition experience, leading to better progression. The aim is to report initial findings to inform broader practices, behaviours, and informed adaptations across the sector. The objectives are to inform curriculum (re)designs, improve understanding of the prior learning experiences of future students, meet the transition needs of this significant class of our future intake, and help institutions to deliver transformational impact.

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### Session IG3b: From the sticky floor to the glass ceiling and everything in between: Preliminary results from a systematic review and qualitative study of (gender) inequality in clinical academic careers

Jennifer Brown, Centre for Reviews & Dissemination, University of York and Professor Gabrielle Finn, Hull York Medical School

*Ignite session, Room: Dunedin*

In academic medicine and dentistry, women are more likely than men to be "stuck to the floor" and struggle to get their careers up and running. When they build a career, they often hit the "glass ceiling" and find themselves unable to progress beyond a certain point. We will present preliminary findings from a systematic review and qualitative interviews into enablers and barriers faced by women and minorities wishing to pursue a clinical academic career. We hope to engage with participants to brainstorm potential interventions to address issues identified and to explore and confirm key dissemination channels and strategies.

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### Session IG3c: Behaviorally informed interventions to improve attainment

Vanessa Todman, King's College London

*Ignite and soapbox session, Room: Dunedin*

Using a cutting-edge project combining robust evaluation methods with behavioral insights we will show how psycho-social factors which can affect attainment, such as sense of belonging and social capital, can be positively influenced to help close attainment gaps.

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### **Session IG3d: Queer STEM: Systems engineering as queer pedagogy in Railway Engineering education**

Dr Holly Foss, The University of Birmingham

*Ignite and soapbox session, Room: Dunedin*

The term queer is now widely accepted across multiple levels of society and scholarship. In the context of education this has been adopted within the concept of queer pedagogy, referring to inclusive practice that reconsiders normativities of both content and method. Promoting ambiguity, disruption, and questioning in and through education poses a particular challenge within STEM subject areas. This session considers how systems engineering and engineering habits of mind intersect with queer pedagogy to facilitate inclusive teaching and learning activities, in both classroom practice and curriculum design.

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### **Session IG3e: Creating an inclusive environment for first years where all can flourish**

Dr Roselina Alrehi and Dr Anthony Rossiter, University of Sheffield

*Ignite and soapbox session, Room: Dunedin*

The authors will present an overview of the induction and delivery practices that have been pioneered in their department over a period of about 10 years. These are of particular interest because, out of all the departments in their faculty and indeed, contrary to national trends, in the authors' department black and ethnic minorities (BAME) have been slightly over-performing for each of the last five years, rather than under-performing. The consistency of this statistic suggests that the good practice being adopted has significant factors which could be useful elsewhere and thus are worth disseminating and discussing. These include a strategic approach to pastoral support, induction, and mentoring, presented as a coherent single framework.

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