

**UKCGE Annual Conference 2026**

1<sup>st</sup> Wave of Confirmed Presentations – as of January 2026

**Reimagining Postgraduate Cultures: Equity and Belonging through the ASPIRE Programme**

Ifedapo Francis Awolowo | *Sheffield Hallam University*

*Primary theme: Building inclusive and equitable research communities*

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**Seeds of Myself: Exploring My Face-to-Face and Online Graduate Supervisory Experiences**

Charmaine Bissessar | *University of Guyana*

*Primary theme: Innovations in supervision practices and pedagogies*  
*Secondary theme: Wellbeing, belonging and mental health in postgraduate education*

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**Preliminary Findings from an Instrument Examining Postgraduate Students' Mental Health Experiences: A Data-Driven Path to Take Postgraduate Students from Surviving to Thriving**

Sarah Jane Bork | *University of Georgia*  
Joeseph Mirabelli | *University of Michigan*

*Primary theme: Wellbeing, belonging and mental health in postgraduate education*  
*Secondary theme: Hidden, under-described, and DIY postgraduate communities and cultures*

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**Enhancing the wellbeing of online doctoral researchers**

Kathy Chandler | *Lancaster University*

*Primary theme: Wellbeing, belonging and mental health in postgraduate education*

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**SGSSS Core: An Innovative Cross-Institutional Collaboration for Postgraduate Researcher Training**

Roxanne Connelly | *University of Edinburgh / Scottish Graduate School of Social Science*  
The SGSSS Team

*Primary theme: Learning environments for postgraduates and access to research culture in pedagogical spaces*

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**Liberating AI Literacy in PGR skills development at Sheffield Hallam University**

Marjory Da Costa, David Smith & Elizabeth Scanlon | *Sheffield Hallam University*

*Primary theme: Learning environments for postgraduates and access to research culture in pedagogical spaces*

*Secondary theme: Connecting to society and doctoral education for public good*

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**'Difference is not something to overcome but to build from': the importance of intercultural sensitivity training for PGR supervisors.**

Malgorzata Drewniok | *University of Bristol*

*Primary theme: International and cross-cultural perspectives on postgraduate cultures*

*Secondary theme: Innovations in supervision practices and pedagogies*

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**GW4 Connect – Evidencing the impact of inclusive support for UK Postgraduate Research**

Sabrina Fairchild | *GW4 Alliance*

*Primary theme: Wellbeing, belonging and mental health in postgraduate education*

*Secondary theme: Co-creation – postgraduates as colleagues*

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### **Workshop: Enhancing Supervision for Racially Minoritised Postgraduate Researchers**

Sally Hancock, Vanita Sundaram, Sahana Arun Kumar & Constantino Dumangane Jr | *University of York*

*Primary theme:* *Innovations in supervision practices and pedagogies*  
*Secondary theme:* *Wellbeing, belonging and mental health in postgraduate education*

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### **Building community, connection and career development opportunities for PGR: considering practical solutions**

Rachel Handforth, Sherran Clarence & Lauren Nixon | *Nottingham Trent University*

*Primary theme:* *Building inclusive and equitable research communities*

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### **Inclusion and equality in internationally diverse postgraduate classrooms: perceptions of students and lecturers**

Debra Jones | *University of Bristol*

*Primary theme:* *International and cross-cultural perspectives on postgraduate cultures*  
*Secondary theme:* *Third space professionals (including practitioner-researchers, research-enabling staff and professional services colleagues) – interconnectedness across roles, remits and functions*

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### **Reimagining Boundaries: Identity, Agency, and Collaboration Among Third Space Professionals in Higher Education**

Amir Keshtiban, Louise Donaghy & Cassie Price | *York St John University*

*Primary theme:* *Third space professionals (including practitioner-researchers, research-enabling staff and professional services colleagues) – interconnectedness across roles, remits and functions*  
*Secondary theme:* *Co-creation – postgraduates as colleagues*

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### **Formation of role identity of doctoral students: A non-western context**

Muhammad Atif Khalil | *University of Waikato*

Mubashara Akhtar | *Thames High School*

*Primary theme:*                      *Connecting to society and doctoral education for public good*

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### **From Sink-or-Swim to Scaffolded Success: Revitalising Staff Engagement and Student Independence in Rapidly Expanding MSc Cohorts**

Joe Latimer, Sarah Withers, Zeljka Krpetic & Natalie Ferry | *University of Salford*

*Primary theme:*                      *Improving the PGT transition into HE*

*Secondary theme:*                      *International and cross-cultural perspectives on postgraduate cultures*

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### **Reconfiguring doctoral admissions through competency: a multi-institutional ethnography of equity-in-practice: a multi-institutional ethnography of equity-in-practice**

Bing Lu | *Nottingham Trent University*

Michelle Palmer & Craig Hinds | *University of Newcastle*

Anna Plassart Clare Warren Inma Alvarez & Kim Kullman | *The Open University*

Caroline Muellenbroich, Sandra Dopico Arddao, Ross Forgan, Caroline Gauchotte-Lindsay,

Qammer Abbasi | *University of Glasgow*

*Primary theme:*                      *Building inclusive and equitable research communities*

*Secondary theme:*                      *Third space professionals (including practitioner-researchers, research-enabling staff and professional services colleagues) – interconnectedness across roles, remits and functions*

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### **The Paper That Never Happened: Narrating the Structural Barriers to Producing EDI Scholarship in a STEM Research CDT**

Chrissi McCarthy | *Centre of Behavioural Equality*

Alison Harvey | *University of Manchester*

Gwendolen Reilly | *University of Sheffield*

*Primary theme: Building inclusive and equitable research communities*

*Secondary theme: Co-creation – postgraduates as colleagues*

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### **The doctorate as a common good - in an age of intellectual insularity**

Sioux McKenna | *Rhodes University*

Lillian Omondi | *Maseno University*

Esther den Hartog | *Vrije Universiteit*

Colette Gerards | *Vrije Universiteit*

*Primary theme: International and cross-cultural perspectives on postgraduate cultures*

*Secondary theme: Connecting to society and doctoral education for public good*

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### **Supporting the Postgraduate Taught Student Experience using a Pre-arrival Academic Questionnaire**

Michelle Morgan | *University of East London*

Paul Wakeling | *University of York*

*Primary theme: Improving the PGT transition into HE*

*Secondary theme: Wellbeing, belonging and mental health in postgraduate education*

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### **Supporting Supervisory Practice: Reflections on Developing PhD Supervisor Training Across a Doctoral Training Programme**

Jemina Napier | *Scottish Graduate School of Social Science*

*Primary theme: Innovations in supervision practices and pedagogies*

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**Supporting the Wellbeing and Belonging of International Postgraduate Students:  
A Staff-Student-Industry Collaborative Initiative**

Uchenna Nweke & Janet Cash | *Buckinghamshire New University*

*Primary theme: Wellbeing, belonging and mental health in postgraduate education*

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**An online study exploring doctoral student mental health: Project burnout**

Shelley O'Connor | *LJMU*

*Primary theme: Wellbeing, belonging and mental health in postgraduate education*

*Secondary theme: Hidden, under-described, and DIY postgraduate communities and cultures*

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**Inter-institutional supervisor CPD: piloting a joint peer mentoring circle to  
support 'replacement supervisors'**

Nicola Palmer & Laura Herriman | *Sheffield Hallam University*

Heather Sears & Victoria Rios Castano | *Coventry University*

*Primary theme: Innovations in supervision practices and pedagogies*

*Secondary theme: Wellbeing, belonging and mental health in postgraduate education*

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**From Induction to Onboarding: A structured, community-building framework for  
developing confident, collaborative new supervisors**

Julia Rayner & Roisin Astell | *University of York*

*Primary theme: Innovations in supervision practices and pedagogies*

*Secondary theme: Building inclusive and equitable research communities*

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### **Thinking otherwise: Surfacing research cultures and imagining interdisciplinary futures**

Cora Salkovskis & Louise Whiteley | *University of Copenhagen, Medical Museion*

*Primary theme: Building inclusive and equitable research communities*

*Secondary theme: International and cross-cultural perspectives on postgraduate cultures*

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### **Engaging Doctoral Researchers Without Having Any: The Role of the Czech National Library of Technology in Doctoral Support Ecosystems under NCIS R&D&I**

Eliška Skládalová | *National Library of Technology, Prague*

*Primary theme: Third space professionals (including practitioner-researchers, research-enabling staff and professional services colleagues) – interconnectedness across roles, remits and functions*

*Secondary theme: Power and value of collaboration beyond the obvious: digital, hybrid and place-based communities of practice*

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### **Meddling with Purpose: Empowering Postgraduates to Co-Create and Deliver Researcher Development**

Michele Underwood | *University of Warwick*

*Primary theme: Co-creation – postgraduates as colleagues*

*Secondary theme: Learning environments for postgraduates and access to research culture in pedagogical spaces*

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### **Global Cohorts, Local Realities: What Happens When Cultures Meet in Postgraduate Study?**

Ellen Wang | *Leeds University Business School*

*Primary theme: International and cross-cultural perspectives on postgraduate cultures*

*Secondary theme: Third space professionals (including practitioner-researchers, research-enabling staff and professional services colleagues) – interconnectedness across roles, remits and functions*

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