

Designing for Belonging: Transforming Student and Staff Experience

1st April 2026 - University Square Stratford - University of East London

9:00 USS Foyer, USG:19	Registration, Welcome & Refreshments					
9:15 USG:17	Opening: Dr Jummy Okoya (5 mins) Welcome note: Professor Bugewa Apampa and Professor Matt Bellgard					
9:30 USG:17	Keynote 1: Paulette Williams					
10:15 Parallel Sessions	Workshop - US2:30	Workshop - US2:31	Presentations - US1:10 Societal & Institutional strategies for Belonging	Presentations - US1:11 Wellbeing & Health	Presentations - US1:12 Barriers & Policy Innovations	Presentations - US1:09 EDI Themes: PGR & Access to Career Development, Opportunities and Decolonising Institutions
	<p>'I see you: Going beyond superficial engagement measures and increasing students' sense of belonging in HE. Zainab Nurji</p> <p>Chair - Andrea Didier</p>	<p>Practical ways to support neurodivergent students' learning in higher education Anna Bienkowska Professor Julie, Wall and Dr Parisa Saadati</p> <p>Chair - Dr John Macklin</p>	<p>10:15 - From Academic Idea to Commercial Impact: Designing Inclusive Pathways for Innovation in Higher Education - Halima Kure</p> <p>10:55 - Improving Inclusivity in Higher Education through Academic Support Systems - Anjana Nanayakkara</p> <p>Chair - Dr Naida Redgrave</p>	<p>10:15 - MAPPING the Wellbeing of Students and Staff - Ayse Burcin Baskurt and Dr Rita Lopes</p> <p>10:35 - Anaemia and Women's Mental Health: Hidden Burden Identified Through the SHINE Screening - Afroja Khan</p> <p>10:55 - Increasing transparency about bullying harassment and sexual misconduct in our department by publishing a report with local data - Prof Tim Levine</p> <p>Chair - Winston Morgan</p>	<p>10:15 - Breaking Down Barriers: How Access and Participation Plan Projects Foster Belonging and Academic Success at UEL - Dr. Romanda Miller</p> <p>10:35 - Reframing Academic Misconduct Processes Through Equity, Diversity and Inclusion - Savion Nye and Dee Bozacigurbuz</p> <p>10:55 - Research to Practice: A Model of Residential Engagement Addressing Social and Economic Barriers to Belonging in Higher Education - Sophia Alves and Cienna Simmie</p> <p>Chair - Dr Lucian Tipi</p>	<p>10:15 - Conditional Belonging: Institutional Structures and the Inclusion of International Researchers in UK - Elhadj Moussa Benmoussa</p> <p>10:35 - Critical Citation Practice for Researchers - Maria Preshaw & Ben Carson</p> <p>10:55 - Conditional Belonging and Epistemic Struggle: International Doctoral Candidates in UK Universities - Amina Adan Chair - Precious Ogbonna</p>

11:15 (15mins)	Comfort Break				
11:30 USG:17	<p>Where to with EDI? A Conversation Stimulus: Dr. Jeffery K. Grim - "The Organizational and Personal Implications of Anti-DEI Action in the U.S." Conversation: Dr. Michelle Morgan, Dr. Jummy Okoya & Dr. Jeffery K. Grim</p>				
12:20 Parallel sessions		<p>Presentations - US1:10 Societal & Institutional strategies for Belonging: Belonging and Intersectionality</p>	<p>Presentations - US1:11 Wellbeing & Health: Equitable Healthcare</p>	<p>Presentations - US1:12 Barriers & Policy Innovations: Institutional Voice and Support Systems</p>	<p>Presentations - US1:09 EDI Themes: Loss and Empathy</p>
		<p>12:20 - Belonging: The paradox of intersectionality in EDI - Wayne A Mitchell</p> <p>12:40 - Intersectionality and its impact on disparities: Exploring how overlapping identities affect experiences, outcomes, and inclusion - Solomon Alexis</p> <p>Chair - Andrea Didier</p>	<p>12:20 - Creating Inclusive Scientific Spaces: Lessons from Organising a Conference Rooted in Equity and Representation - Dr Donald Palmer</p> <p>12:40 - Sex and Gender Representation in Cardiothoracic Surgical Textbooks - Dr. Emma Prescott</p> <p>Chair - Rebecca Page-Tickell</p>	<p>12:20 - Uplifting the Student Voices to be Policy Change Makers - Reagan Brill and Dr Romanda Miller</p> <p>12:40 - Student Voices on Early Transitions: Thematic Insights from a Peer-Led Podcast Booth - Amy Bennett</p> <p>13:00 - Designing for Belonging: Inclusive Decision-Making in Student Conduct - Kibria Sakhi</p> <p>Chair - Regina Everitt</p>	<p>12:20 - Enhancing Belonging: Reflections on Facilitating Grief Workshops for Staff - Dr Lucy Poxon</p> <p>12:40 - Life after loss: returning to work after pregnancy and baby loss. - Jenna Quinn</p> <p>Chair - James Grenfell</p>
1:20 Garden, USG19	Lunch, Staff Networks Fair				
14:00 USG19	Stretch Session by Tristan Parkes				

	Workshop - US2:30	Presentations - US1:10 Societal & Institutional strategies for Belonging: Identity and School Impact	Presentations - US1:11 Wellbeing & Health: Equitable Healthcare - Teaching Practices	Presentations - US1:12 Barriers & Policy Innovations: Leadership and Representation	Presentations - US1:09 EDI Themes: Neurodiversity
<p>14:20 Parallel Sessions</p>	<p>Intersectional Solidarity using the tool of Mantras Suryia Nayak, Patience Udonsi, Maxine Hamilton-Bell, and Mojibola Odusanya, Kathleen Kwakye-Donkor</p> <p>Chair - Samson Olagbami</p>	<p>14:20 - Schools as Sites of Inclusion and Exclusion of (Future) Leaders - Monica Wirz</p> <p>14:40 - Empathy in Practice: A Reflective Tool for Collegial Understanding - Dr Naida Redgrave</p> <p>15:00 - Identity-Match Mentoring for International Trainees: Advancing Belonging, Inclusion and Professional Confidence in Initial Teacher Education - Sheeba Viswarajan and Tara Elie</p> <p>Chair - Rebecca Page-Tickell</p>	<p>14:20 - Walking, writing and becoming: Creative pedagogies for belonging and equity at UEL - Anthony Hudson</p> <p>14:40 - Gamifying Quality Improvement: Promoting Inclusive Learning and Closing Attainment Gaps in Undergraduate Nursing Education- Stephanie Ozezin</p> <p>15:00 - Utilising Integrated learning in the Nursing Associate Programme - Lilian Ngwu and Odinaka Ani</p> <p>Chair - Dr Lucian Tipi</p>	<p>14:20 - Mirror, Mirror: Leadership Representation in UK Academic Libraries - Regina Everitt</p> <p>14:40 - Intersectional analysis of Muslim women's experience in politics - Nafisa Kiani</p> <p>15:00 - Care and the reparative in higher education: discussion we should be having - Angie Voela</p> <p>Chair - Dr Jummy Okoya</p>	<p>14:20 - Exploring Neurodiversity and Addiction: A descriptive study in an adult population in recovery under the Cranston Drug and Alcohol Organisation - Kamila Ujkaj</p> <p>14:40 - Professional Identity, Belonging and Intersectionality: The Experience of Neurodivergent Academics and Researchers - Liz Aylott</p> <p>Chair - John Macklin</p>
<p>15:20 USG:17</p>	<p>Keynote 2: Prof Christian Harrison - "Courageous Conversations - Leadership Skills for Addressing Inequalities"</p>				
<p>16:00 USG 17</p>	<p>Closing Remarks & Introduce Belonging Tool: Rebecca Page-Tickell</p>				