

Tackling Degree Awarding Gaps in Higher Education

Persistent disparities remain in UK higher education outcomes across race, class, disability and other intersecting identities. The 'degree awarding gap' particularly between Black and White students continues to reflect systemic inequities across universities. This conference brings together practitioners and researchers to interrogate causes, explore solutions, and share practical approaches to closing these gaps.

- ◆ **9:15 Coffee & Registration**

- ◆ **9:45 Welcome**
Annette Hayton, NERUPI Co-Convenor, University of Bath
Fatmata Daramy, Research Associate, University of Bath

- ◆ **10:00 Keynote: Advancing Inclusive Practice During Sector Turbulence**
Professor Zainab Khan, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic Resources and Transformation), London South Bank University
Professor Tony Moss, Pro Vice-Chancellor Education and Student Experience, London South Bank University

- ◆ **11:00 Coffee Break**

- ◆ **11:30 Presentations: Exploring Contributing Factors**
 1. **No Gaps: An institution wide approach to closing continuation, completion and awarding gaps for all equity groups**, Jill Webb, Liz Thomas, Jan Ball-Smith, Jess Penn, University of York
 2. **Developing academics as Diversity Mark Practitioners**, Lucy Panesar, University of Kent
 3. **TEF Black: (Re-)defining Teaching 'Excellence' as Commitment to Educational Justice**, Josephine Gabi, Manchester Metropolitan University, Yetunde Kolajo, University of Kent
 4. **Applying Intersectional Discrimination to Understanding BAME Male Awarding Gaps**, Dami Folayan, Tim Robson, Arden University
 5. **Building Blocks for Inclusive Practice: Embedding Equity to Improve Progression, Retention, Awarding Gaps and Student Success**, Dipa Kamdar, Kingston University
 6. **From Diagnosis to Design: Using the Working Diagnosis Model to Close Disability-Related Awarding Gaps**, Charlotte Stewart, Buckinghamshire New University
 7. **From Insight to Action: Using Staff Voice to Address Degree Awarding Gaps**, Dan West, University of Derby,
 8. **Bridging the Gap: From Structured Intervention to Student Agency**, Tamar McPherson, SOAS

- ◆ 12:30 **Lunch**

- ◆ 13:30 **Panel Discussion: Understanding the Gaps**
 1. **Chair: Marva de la Coudray**, Director of the Centre for Teaching Enhancement and the Centre of Equity and Inclusion, London Metropolitan University
 2. **Louise Banahene** PFHEA, MBE, Director of Student Success and Educational Engagement, University of Leeds
 3. **Dr Shames Maskeen**, Associate Director of The Race Institute and Senior Lecturer in Psychology, Leeds Trinity University
 4. **Professor Kathleen M Quinlan**, PhD PFHEA, Associate Dean for Student Experience, College of Health and Life Sciences, London South Bank University
 5. **Professor Ian Turner**, Interim Head of Biomedical and Forensic Science, University of Derby

- ◆ 14: 30 **Tea and Cake Break**

- ◆ 14:45 **Workshops: Practice and Solutions:**
 1. **Addressing the ethnicity awarding gap by creating psychologically safe spaces** Kierra Bunting, Vanessa Dodd, University of Staffordshire,
 2. **The cost of learning**, Becky Hart, Rosie Jones, Kings and Sussex,
 3. **Impact Evaluation in Higher Education: From Problem Tree to Theory of Change**, Bilal Hazzouri, ARU - Interactive workshop
 4. **Supporting BTEC Student Success: A model for academic staff development**, Nikki Anghileri, Julia Brennan, St Mary's University

- ◆ 15:45 **Next Steps: Building Sector-wide Commitment**

- ◆ 16:00 **Close**