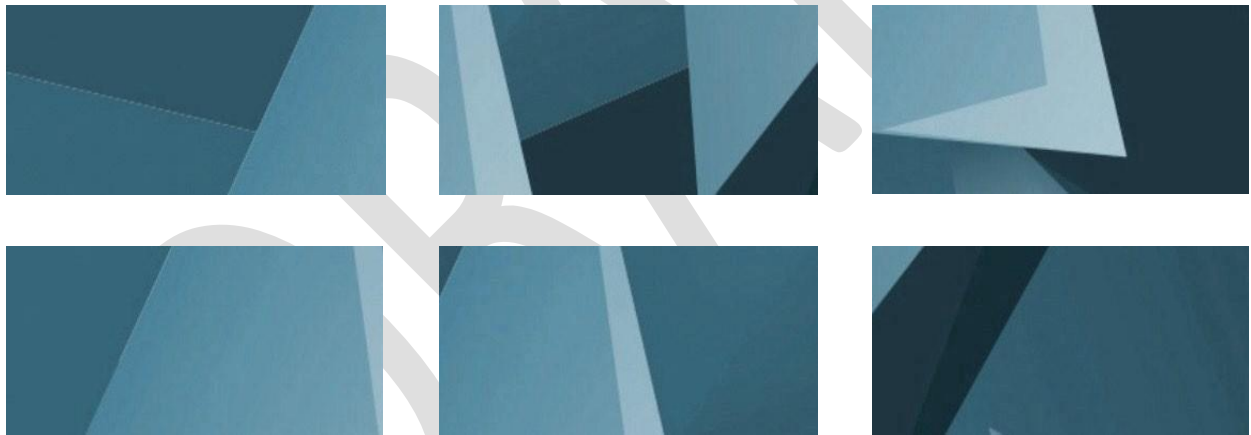


# Institute for Equity, University Centre

Annual Conference on  
*'Equity in Education & Society'*



**London Metropolitan University**  
**166-220 Holloway Road, London,**  
**N7 8DB**  
**25 June 2026**

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Professor Paul Miller  
CEO & Principal  
Institute for Equity, University Centre

### **Welcome from the Board, Staff, and Fellows**

On behalf of the Board, staff, and Fellows of the Institute for Equity, University Centre, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our annual **"Equity in Education & Society"** conference. Whether you are returning to share your continued insights or joining the IEUC community for the very first time: you are welcome. You matter. You belong here.

At the IEUC, we operate on the fundamental truth that Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) are not peripheral luxuries - they are everybody's business. We are profoundly grateful that so many of you, spanning a vast spectrum of sectors, industries, and organisational types, have found solidarity with our message, movement and mission.

### **Navigating Global Winds**

Our gathering this year takes place against a backdrop of significant global turbulence. In 2026, we find ourselves navigating complex geopolitical shifts, socio-political polarisation, and macroeconomic pressures that directly impact education, funding, and social mobility. No country, industry, or individual is insulated from these forces. Too often, equity initiatives are the first to be questioned in times of economic tightening or political division.

Yet, it is precisely within this volatile landscape that the IEUC's work becomes critical. We refuse to view these challenges as a mandate for retreat. Instead, this is a moment of unprecedented opportunity to reframe social justice work - not merely as a moral imperative, but as a strategic stabilisation mechanism for a fractured world.

### **Turning Resistance into Renewal**

Doing systemic EDI work within resistant or indifferent national and organisational contexts is exhausting, requiring intellectual rigor, emotional resilience, and structural courage. The IEUC remains dedicated to equipping you with the empirical research & scholarship, policy and other analytical frameworks, and collaborative networks necessary to drive true systemic change.

We should take immense hope from the leaders, practitioners, and grassroots stakeholders among us who continue to build inclusive, equitable spaces against the current.

Over the course of this conference, through our keynote addresses and individual and collaborative presentations, I hope you find the space to also engage in light-hearted conversations, crucial to renewing our collective energy.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this event possible. We see your dedication. We value your courage. **We are, because of you.**

#EquityIn Education #EquityInSociety



Liselle Terret  
Associate Professor, Arts & Creative  
Industries, University of East London,

Liselle Terret is an Associate Professor in Performance, at University of East London, and Associate Artist at Access All Areas.

She is a socially engaged theatre practitioner, educator, and performance artist who foregrounds her neurodivergent identity. Her practice disrupts theatrical and pedagogical norms through a radical crip, queer, feminist, and collaborative approach.

Liselle co-creates politicised, inclusive, co-led performance projects, alongside mentoring and consultancy work.



Dr Syra Shakir  
Associate Professor Learning and Teaching,  
Strategic Lead Race Equity, Leeds Trinity  
University

Dr Syra Shakir is an Associate Professor in Learning and Teaching and Strategic Lead on Race Equity and the Race Equality Charter Silver. Syra co-chairs the Leeds Learning Alliance Equity Network and is a convenor for the Race and Ethnicity study group for the British Sociological Association.

Syra works on embedding race equity in the curriculum, decolonisation, anti-racist pedagogy, and co-creation with students to build belonging. Syra designs and delivers a range of training on anti-racism and race equity to universities, organisations, and schools.

Syra is a qualified social worker and registered with Social Work England. Syra works in community activism, and is a co-convenor for Stand Up To Racism.

## Conference Schedule

Item	Time	Room
Registration	08:15 am - 9:15 am	Conference Room
Welcome Marva de la Coudray, Director of Centre for Teaching Enhancement and Director for the Centre for Equity & Inclusion  Professor Paul Miller, CEO & Principal, Institute for Equity, University Centre	09:20 am - 09:30 am	Conference Room
Keynote Speaker 1: Liselle Terret, University of East London  Chair: Dr Kenisha T. Linton	09:30 am – 10:15 am	Conference Room
Concurrent Session 1	10:15 am – 12: 15 pm	Room(s): 1, 2, 3, 4
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>12:15 pm – 13:00 pm</b>	<b>Conference Room</b>
Concurrent Session 2 (Symposiums and Roundtable Sessions)	13:00pm – 14:00 pm	Room(s): 1, 2,3, 4
Concurrent Session 3	14:00pm – 15:30 pm	Room(s): 1, 2, 3, 4,
<b>Refreshment Break</b>	<b>15:30pm- 15:45pm</b>	<b>Conference Room</b>
Keynote Speaker 2: Dr Syra Shakir, Leeds Trinity University  Chair: Dr James Lane	15:45 pm - 16:30 pm	Conference Room
Closing and Thanks	16:30 pm – 17:30 pm	Conference Room
<b>Networking Reception</b>	<b>16:30 pm - 17:30 pm</b>	<b>Conference Room</b>

## Concurrent Session 1 – 10:15am – 12:15pm

**Room: 1** | Chair: Kimberly Ochs

**Theme: Inclusive Learning & Belonging**

Presenter	Title of Paper
<b>Haroon Bashir,</b> University College Birmingham	<i>Working towards an Inclusive Curriculum at UCB</i>
<b>Deeba Parmar,</b> BPP University <b>Kate Coulson,</b> University of Northampton	<i>Equity as Culture: Partnership Working with Academics to Build Inclusive Learning and Teaching Foundations</i>
<b>Hayley Connell &amp; Julie Langan Martin</b>  University of Glasgow	<i>Student Belonging and the Hidden Curriculum of Isolation</i>
<b>Evelyn Corrado</b>  University of Roehampton	<i>Exploring the experiences of international students in neo-liberal UK Higher Education Institutions</i>

**Room: 2** | Chair: Benedicte Yue Vincent

**Theme: Assessment, Inclusion & Decolonisation**

Presenter	Title of Paper
<b>Jacqueline Gibbs &amp; Karen Graham</b>  City St George's, University of London	<i>Pedagogical approaches to addressing the equity implications of AI (mis)use in student assessment</i>
<b>Vijesh Bhute &amp; Dez Mendoza</b>  Imperial College London	<i>A critical analysis of assessments for inclusion of neurodivergent students and recommendations for designing inclusive assessments in Higher Education</i>
<b>Stacey Motthershaw, Rachael O'Connor, Nadine Cavigoli</b>  University of Leeds	<i>Class-Conscious Scholar Activism: Transforming curriculum, culture and equity in Higher Education</i>
<b>Matthew Rich-Tolsma</b>  ArtEZ University of the Arts	<i>Decolonising EDI Practice: From Compliance to Living Governance</i>

**Room: 3** | Chair: Richard Race  
**Theme: Access, Achievement & Leadership**

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Title of Paper</b>
<b>Christopher Lewis &amp; Paul Morgan</b> Buckinghamshire New University	<i>Improving Student Outcomes Through Equity and Institutional Assurance</i>
<b>Sola Adesola</b> Oxford Brookes University	<i>'CIMSRS: Community Instrumental Music Service for Rural Scotland: The marvelous impact of providing accessible (upper strings) music tuition for adults in rural Scotland'</i>
<b>Moni Akinsanya, Phil Bakstad, Helen Cooper</b> Liverpool John Moores University	<i>Transitioning from Sight to Sight Loss: Moving Through Adversity to Achievement - Life as a Female Pakistani Psychologist</i>
<b>André Harper</b> Institute for Equity, University Centre	<i>Advancing Equity in Leadership: Reimagining Executive Coaching for Black C-Suite Leaders in Racially Homogenous Organizational Contexts</i>

**Room: 4** | Chair: Martin Oliver  
**Theme: Identity, Culture & Leadership**

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Title of Paper</b>
<b>Farnaz Rais</b> The Open University	<i>What does political neutrality mean for institutions committed to equity, inclusion and anti-racism?</i>
<b>Mariam Hammoud</b> Queen Mary University London	<i>Intersecting Spaces: Exploring the Intersectional Leadership Experiences of Lebanese Women Leaders in Higher Education</i>
<b>Jon Down &amp; Kim Karenga</b> Grit Breakthrough Programmes	<i>What are the implications of the 'SEN support' label in the journey to permanent exclusion?</i>
<b>Doirean Wilson</b> University of East London	<i>No awareness, no understanding, no respect for cultural identity': The Key to Surviving in the Millennium Age</i>

## Concurrent Session 2 – 13:00pm – 14:00pm

### Room: 1 | BERA-IEUC Roundtable

**Theme:** BERA - IEUC Roundtable: Sustaining the impact of EDI work in times of change

Presenter	Title of Paper
Janet Cash*, Christine Callender, Sheine Peart, Richard Race, Kenisha Linton (Chair)*	

### Room: 2 | London Metropolitan University Symposium

**Theme:** Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: teaching and research in higher education

Presenter	Title of Paper
Mabel Encinas*, Aurora Herrera, Hilda Mulrooney, Ricardo Eversley, Damilola Makanju (Chair)*	

## Concurrent Session 3 – 14:00pm – 15:30pm

**Room: 1** | Chair: Veronica Martin

**Theme: Health, Community & Social Equity**

Presenter	Title of Paper
<b>Tyler Mills &amp; Philip Kerrigan</b> University of Hull	<i>Breaking siloes, building equity: A multi-stakeholder approach to redesigning crisis care pathways</i>
<b>Benedicte Yue Vincent</b> River Learning Trust	<i>How can we design a funding model that incentivises inclusion?</i>
<b>Kim Ochs</b> MindKin	<i>Making a Case for Geragogy: Age Inclusive Equity through Educational Technology and Cognitive Training</i>

**Room: 2** | Chair: Sanchia Alasia

**Theme: Education, Society & Policy**

Presenter	Title of Paper
<b>Carl Parsons</b> Canterbury Christ Church University	<i>It's the rich what gets the pleasure - poverty, pain and poor prospects: who's to blame</i>
<b>Gözde Yılmaz Çıldır</b> Ege University	<i>Para-Educational Capture in Unitary States: Local Governance, Capital, and Far-Right Pedagogies in France and Turkey</i>
<b>Haroop Kaur Sandhu</b> Lead With One & Institute for Equity, University Centre	<i>Seeing the Pattern: Power, Judgement and Leadership Under Pressure</i>

**Room: 3** | Chair: Kenisha T. Linton  
**Theme: Voice, Participation & Belonging**

Presenter	Title of Paper
<b>Ayisja Moss &amp; Tyler Mills</b> University of Hull	<i>From seats at the table to keys to the office: Youth-led approaches for research and healthcare equity</i>
<b>Fengling Tang</b> University of Roehampton	<i>Democracy in higher education institutions: a critical interrogation</i>
<b>Sheeba Viswarajan</b> University of East London	<i>Identity-Match Mentoring for International Trainees: Advancing Belonging, Inclusion and Professional Confidence in Initial Teacher Education</i>

**Room: 4** | Chair: Andre Harper  
**Theme: Institutional Change & Neurodiversity**

Presenter	Title of Paper
<b>Jummy Okoya, Samson Olagbani, Precious Ogbonna</b> University of East London	<i>Inclusive by Design: Localising Equity Through Data-Informed Autonomy and Institutional Accountability</i>
<b>Vijesh Bhute</b> Imperial College London	<i>How do Neurodivergent Students Learn? Lessons learned from listening to Neurodivergent University Students</i>

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