

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

# ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The Society for Research into Higher Education is a charity registered with the UK Charity Commission (313850). The Society is also a Company Limited by Guarantee (868820). SRHE's registered (and principal and sole) office is: Society Building, Regents Wharf, 8 All Saints Street, London, N1 9RL.

## TRUSTEES (GOVERNING COUNCIL OFFICERS) AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

### Chair:

Professor Pauline Kneale, University of Plymouth

### Vice-Chair:

Professor Jacqueline Stevenson, Novus

### Honorary Treasurer:

Professor Andrea Cameron, Abertay University

### Governing Council Members:

Professor Dina Belluigi, Queen's University Belfast

Professor Liz Bennett, University of Huddersfield

Dr Joy Garfield, Aston University

Dr Karen Gravett, University of Surrey

Professor Camille Kandiko Howson, Imperial College London

Professor Chris Millward, University of Birmingham

Professor Gina Wisker, University of Bath

### SRHE Executive Team at 31 December 2025

Dr Clare Loughlin-Chow, Chief Executive Officer

Franco Carta, Finance Officer

Rob Gresham, Manager: Operations & Finance / Company Secretary

Mariam Ismail, Manager: Engagement and Development

Dr Rihana Suliman, Manager: Conferences and Events

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL CHAIR



Financial year August 2024 – July 2025  
Reporting year January 2025 – December 2025

Thank you for taking the time to read the Annual Report of our activities in 2025. It has been a very busy and special year as we celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society.

As promised last year, we revived SHRE Fellowships, aiming to fill the gap in awards since 2014, and update the procedures for future years. The Fellowship process was reviewed and revised to reflect and celebrate the Society's commitment to honouring excellence and innovation in Higher Education. Fellowship is awarded to individuals who have made a substantial and enduring contribution to research into higher education. Each Fellow demonstrates a reputation of academic distinction and a dedication to shaping the future of higher education research. Three external advisors kindly helped with the deliberation process. We were able to make 23 awards representing the 2014-2024 period, notifying the new Fellows over the summer. Very happy and appreciative acceptances followed. The new Fellows were all invited to the 2025 conference and happily fifteen were able to join us to receive their certificates in person. We hope that those who could not make it this year will join us in the future. The revised nomination process is now in place, with the expectation that we will return to the previous pattern of making between one and three fellows awards a year.

This September a record number of members stood for Governing Council trustee positions, resulting in eight new members including Professor Maria-Ligia Barbosa from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, our first trustee from South America, and Dr Carolina Guzmán Valenzuela from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. We aim to continue to increase the international diversity of Council, in line with our efforts to diversify the membership that it serves. Meanwhile Dr Karen Gravett and Professor Jacqueline Stevenson, Vice-Chair of the Society, will both leave Council. Both will be greatly missed. Before departure Karen gave the opening conference plenary which set the stage for our discussions. Jacqueline has been active in networks, on committees and chairing for the last twelve years. I am going to miss her very much and hope that when she has more time she stands again for office. We are working with the seven unsuccessful Council nominees to make sure their talents are best utilised for the benefit of the Society.

The Annual Conference was the highlight of our year. The 2025 theme 'Compassion, collegiality and communities in higher education: challenging the discourse' proved to be empowering and thoughtful. We had 200 people online for the first day, with 24 parallel sessions and 75 presentations. Retaining these online sessions is hugely important. We then convened at the East Midlands Conference centre in Nottingham for the second year. This spacious and convenient site received plenty of compliments from delegates; we will be back in 2026. Three days of papers posters, network presentations and plenty of space to chat was thoroughly appreciated, as evidenced by members' feedback. The conference dinner and Fellows awards were particularly memorable, as was the disco!

Can I encourage you to read the [Newsletter](#) and the [Blog](#) to keep in touch with Society activities and ideally let us know what you think and are doing through these forums. This year Rob Cuthbert provided a decade by decade history of the Society which was a delight to read and appreciated by all. If you missed it, do have a look. As always I am extremely grateful to the entire London team, to fellow Trustees, and the Officers for all their work for the Society throughout the year, and especially to our CEO, Clare, for her expert collegial leadership. We are looking forward to 2026 and new challenges.

# SRHE CEO'S INTRODUCTION



**Financial year August 2024 – July 2025**  
**Reporting year January 2025 – December 2025**

2025 marked SRHE's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and has been a time for celebrating and reflecting upon our history, but also for moving forward with the ambitious objectives set out in the [Strategic Plan 2024-2029](#). With our revived vision, mission, and values as a foundation, we've made further progress on the 5 main objectives of research, visibility, accessibility, sustainability, and influence. The year's work on the plan will be detailed throughout this report, but I'd like to highlight here our revival of fellowships, the activities of the EDI working group and networks, increased fundraising activity, participation in the OfS consultation on quality regulation, preparation for our member survey, and increased external engagement, including outreach to HE networks in Europe, India, and Africa.

We have continued to see active network and professional development engagement, the funding of SRHE award projects, increasing open access journal outputs, and a well-attended and engaging conference. Our programme of events, grants, and journal and book publishing activities represent the Society's core activities, but within this context, we continue to seek new approaches in our activities and broadening our connectivity within global higher education.

The theme of our 2025 annual conference was Compassion, collegiality and communities in higher education, and centred around the value of the collective efforts of teaching to transform students, research to push the boundaries of disciplines, and the power of higher education to improve local communities, create global connections and improve society. The popular 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary plenary session featured SRHE newer researcher awardees across several decades, with our first award winner from 1993, Professor Heidi Mirza, also being awarded a fellowship for her work on EDI in Higher Education. The preservation of online and in-person conference formats continued to be appreciated by members – with strong international participation leading to new connections being forged amongst delegates.

SRHE proudly operates as a UK-registered charity, and we are committed to acting responsibly and transparently. Over the past year, we have continued to strengthen guidance for trustees, and to enhance our governance through regular sector updates to Council, the committees, and the EDI working group. We encourage members who are interested in joining a Society committee or standing for election to Council to get in touch, as we are always pleased to explore these opportunities with you.

The Society's executive team works to support our members and progress the Society's mission. It has been another busy and productive year, and I would like to once again express my sincere thanks to the team for their dedication, professionalism, and hard work. Their efforts have contributed to the strong outcomes for the Society and its members highlighted in this report.

I look forward to continuing our work with colleagues, members, and external partners throughout 2026 and beyond, making our resources available to a wider and more diverse body of colleagues. Building on the strong foundations described in this report, we will continue to implement our strategy to deepen understanding of higher education through the insights, perspectives, and knowledge generated by high-quality research and scholarship.

**Dr Clare Loughlin-Chow, CEO**

# KEY METRICS



**664**

Members



**235**

Conference presentations



Conference delegates

**211 198**

in-person online



**96%**

delegates rated  
Conference  
excellent or good



**34**

events held

**1152**

attendees



**2**

books published

**292**

articles published



**1.7M**

article downloads



Awards

**9**

research awards  
(worth 59K)

**23**

Fellowships



**1**

Consultation response

# STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2029

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## Our Vision

*Higher Education research is valued, supported, and promoted worldwide, and is used to advance knowledge, enhance practice, and inform policy.*

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## Our Mission

*To advance understanding of higher education, through the insights, perspectives and knowledge offered by high-quality research and scholarship. SRHE supports and promotes research, aiming to be the leading international higher education learned society.*

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The 2025 calendar year represents the second year of the Society's 5-year strategic plan, established by Council and the CEO to guide and develop the Society's activities from 2024-2029. We have striven throughout to keep the Society's refreshed vision and mission in the foreground, and to work in line with its shared values centring around knowledge, rigour, criticality, engagement, EDI, integrity, and sustainability.

Ultimately we aim to develop research capacity and enhance support for research and researchers, better promote our activities and resources to an increased and diversified membership, foreground EDI in all that we do, work to safeguard our future as a society, and enhance our relevance more widely and effectively in the higher education sphere (both in the UK and internationally).

The plan is therefore organised into a series of strategic objectives with a subset of priority actions designed to drive the objectives forward. What follows is a summary of key activity that has taken place across Year 2, building on the progress established in the plan's first year, and looking ahead to Year 3.

# STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 1

## Research: Developing Research Capacity and Enhancing Support

### Publications

The Society continues to develop its Open Access (OA) support and capacity. The CEO participates in the British Academy Forum on OA, and engages with Publications Committee and our publishers to continue to develop OA provision across our publications, with attention to equity for authors in countries without transformational agreements. We continue to see an increase in our OA research outputs via the SRHE journals. See under [SRHE Publications](#) below for more detail.

Another major project across 2025 was the reinvigoration of Research into Higher Education Abstracts, with the clearance of a two-year backlog, and the addition of over 3000 abstracts to the database. In 2026 the editorial team will engage in a strategic review, and make further efficiencies to manage an increasing workflow.

Pressures upon editorial teams and peer reviewers created by a substantial increase in journal submissions has been seen throughout 2025. The Society continues to work with its publishers to address this, eg. exploring ways in which the use of AI as an initial screening option might reduce some of this burden. In 2025 the Society also liaised with T&F to produce two information sessions on peer review aimed at early career researchers. The publication experience and skills of ECRs also continue to be developed via the initiative of establishing a parallel ECR Editorial Board for Higher Education Quarterly.

### Conference

The Society has continued to revitalize its annual international conference, which remains a vital source of developing research capacity and enhancing support. The 2025 conference theme of Compassion, collegiality and communities in higher education, particularly resonated with delegates. By popular demand of our members, we continue to retain a mixed provision of in-person and online elements to facilitate participation from a wider body of delegates. EDI provision was expanded at the 2025 conference, and additional support provided for first-time attendees. We continue to act upon feedback from our conference survey. See under [SRHE Conference 2025](#) below for more details.

### Fellowships

A revival of the fellowships programme was launched at Conference 2024, and was promoted until the close of nominations in March 2025. Following consultation with a subgroup of the Governance and Appointments Committee, a list of 23 fellows was approved by Council to address the gap in awards from 2014 to 2024. The fellows were contacted over the summer, and all accepted their nominations, with 15 fellows attending Conference 2025 in person to receive their awards. As part of this revival, existing fellows were also contacted, and the process of their re-engagement with the Society has begun.

# STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 2

## Visibility: Promoting our Activities and Resources

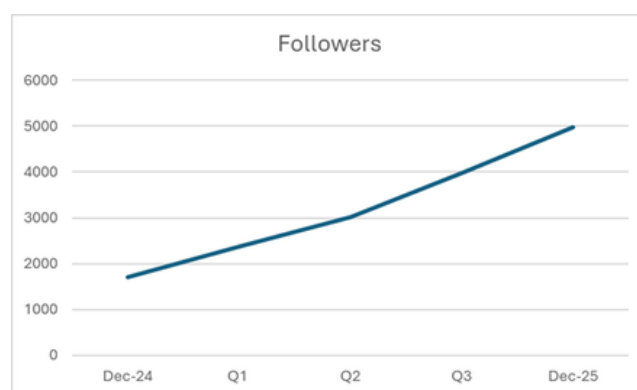
### Branding

Across 2025, we have focused on making our branding more consistent and consistently-applied. This included the adoption of a temporary 60th anniversary logo and consistent conference branding, much of this produced in-house. We have worked to improve the appearance of our monthly mailings by the increased use of visuals and eye-catching imagery to promote upcoming events, society news and vacancies, and making other publications more visually appealing (eg. the Annual Review and the conference programme).

### Social Media

Following a successful launch, Bluesky has experienced a period of less active usage, so we have directed most of our social media activity towards LinkedIn, which is increasingly developing as a highly active engagement and promotional platform for academics and HE institutions. We have firmly established and expanded upon our LinkedIn presence and have seen a significant increase in our following and engagement rates. There has been a rapidly-increasing and highly-positive reception to updates on our activities, conference, publications, and awards.

Overall, for the period of January-December 2025, we had 116,667 post impressions, and 3,712 page views. Our LinkedIn follower count nearly tripled, with 3,284 new followers, and a total of 4984 followers by the end of 2025. We continue to monitor the shifts in the social media landscape to consider other avenues for digital engagement.



Our increased engagement with external organisations with allied interests has expanded our cross-promotion of events and conference across other memberships. Organisations who have promoted our events to their memberships across 2025 include: the Academy of Social Sciences (AcSS), the British Academy (BA), WonkHE, the Global Centre for Higher Education (GCHE), the Association of HE Professionals (AHEP), the UK Council for Graduate Education (UKCGE), the SoTL Alliance, the Consortium of Higher Education Researchers (CHER), and the India Higher Education Research Network (IHERN).

# STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 2

## Visibility: Promoting our Activities and Resources (cont.)

### Network Activity

Across 2025, the Executive Team has worked with network convenors to encourage and support advance network planning allowing for improved advance promotion of events. We have also continued to expand our promotional activity to support network events online and outside of London. The discontinuation of the “HE and the COVID-19 Pandemic” limited life network allowed for the development of a specially dedicated EDI network, the activities of which are outlined below, and which are also regularly promoted by members of the EDI working group.

#### SRHE Networks

- Academic Practice
- Digital University
- Employability, Enterprise and Work-based Learning
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Higher Education Policy
- International Research and Researchers
- Learning, Teaching And Assessment
- Multilingual University
- Newer Researchers
- Postgraduate Issues
- The Student Access and Experience Network

### 60th Anniversary

Throughout 2025, the Society used the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding to visibly promote its activities and resources. In addition to the celebration of the fellowships outlined above, Professor Rob Cuthbert’s popular celebratory blog series, 60 years of the Society for Research into Higher Education, featured musically-referenced accounts of the state of HE in each decade of SRHE’s operation. We also released an issue of SRHE News (normally a restricted member benefit) more widely to the public via our expanded mailing list and social media platforms, which resulted in additional views and exposure.

Also part of the anniversary celebrations was the highly-regarded conference session highlighting 40 years of support for Early Career Researchers. It showcased the journeys of 4 recipients of SRHE Newer Researchers awards, illustrating the impact that these opportunities had for them, and continues to shape their contributions to the field of HE research. Convened by Professor Pauline Kneale, it featured the following speakers:

- Professor Heidi Mirza
- Professor Kelly Coate
- Professor Camille Kandiko Howson
- Dr Charlie Davis

# STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 3

## Accessibility: Foregrounding Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

### EDI Working Group

This limited-life working group continued its activities across 2025, which included the development of the EDI page on the website, further expansion of EDI provision at conference, the development of standardised equalities monitoring across various processes, the establishment of formalised two-way EDI representation and communication on and between all committees/Council and the working group. It also facilitated Council's engagement with AdvanceHE's Success on the board: unlocking the power of underrepresented voices in research, a trustee/governor development programme for academics. It continues to develop and refine the Society's EDI strategy (a key priority for 2026).



### EDI Network

This new network was launched on 24 October (Launching the SRHE EDI Network: 'Sharing is caring': Co-designing the SRHE EDI network's content). It held two further events at Conference 2025, and has two more scheduled in 2026, addressing key themes emerging from its launch discussion: the demand for a repository of EDI good practice, concerns about representation, Global North/South perspectives, politicisation of EDI, and the importance of intersectionality (e.g. race and class, race and disability).

The network is also liaising with other networks including the Higher Education Policy network, with a view toward future shared events.

*“What an amazing turnout we had today at our launch event! Lots of incredible input was collected through our Padlet and it was superb to hear summaries of the discussions that evolved in each one of our 5 breakout rooms!*

*A huge thank you to everyone who attended, to SRHE for supporting us in bringing this network and event to life and to my amazing co-convenors, Dr Yetunde Kolajo and Dr Nidhi Sadana Sabharwal. Keep your eyes peeled for our next events and sessions and how we will close the feedback loop to support our commitment to co-creating our actions with our audiences.”*

# STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 3

## Accessibility: Foregrounding Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (cont.)

### External engagement and outreach

The CEO continues to participate in the AcSS working group on EDI issues, and regularly promotes activities and events to the working group members.

Across 2025, the Society advised the India Higher Education Research Network (IHERN) on its inaugural conference. Professor Camille Kandiko Howson (chair of the Research and Development Committee) was a programme chair, and the SRHE Executive Team provided logistical advice and promotion.



Professor Kandiko Howson and the CEO attended the conference, with the CEO presenting on the work of the Society, and engaging in a panel discussion on “Research in HE”. The Society also had a table to promote our publishing activities. The CEO has since agreed to serve on IHERN’s Steering cum Governance Committee, and has introduced its founder, Professor Pankaj Jalote, to the convenors of the UK SoTL alliance, for additional advice on establishing an Indian Teaching and Learning network.

In 2025, the CEO also offered advice and support to Dr Yaz Osho regarding the 2026 conference “Holding the Space: Shining a Light on Black Academics”, and SRHE is listed as a partner for the conference. The Society is promoting the conference for delegates (and in future years will push out the Call for Papers as well).

The Society has also established contact with the Association of African Universities via Professor Juliet Thondhlana, Coordinator of the Associate of African Universities European Office, and our two organisations have begun cross-promotion of activities and resources.

# STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 4

## Sustainability: Safeguarding our Future

### Income Generation

Over the course of 2025, the Society has continued to develop its approach to additional fundraising and income generation. The “Support Us” webpage was linked to the conference registration page, where the Society’s new “Student and ECR Conference Support Fund” has been established. This was also promoted at Conference 2025. In 2026, this fund will be used to support a number of applications for assistance with conference registration and attendance.

The Society continues to promote its legacy programme, and registration with “easyfundraising”, an organisation which partners with retailers to donate part of the consumer’s spend to SRHE at no additional cost to themselves. Any income raised in this way is being dedicated to this new support fund.



Scan to visit  
the Support  
Us page

We have also continued to take advantage of continued training opportunities from the [Directory of Social Change/The City Bridges Foundation](#), and have begun to develop bids for funding to charitable trusts and foundation. We have not yet been successful, but we are at an early stage and still developing our activity in this area. We have established a presence on the Royal Voluntary Service’s GoVo website and will be advertising for assistance in 2026. In December 2025 we were also successful in obtaining a charity place for the 2027 London marathon.

### Governance and Leadership

The Society’s cycle of governance assessment has seen good results in improving the way in which the Society operates. The Society’s enhanced trustee induction programme has received positive feedback from new trustees and was highlighted in the recently-adopted exit interviews for departing trustees. The skills audit has now completely bedded in as a regular self-assessment feature, and was used to inform promotion of Council elections in 2025, with expertise gaps emphasized in the call for candidates. We saw a significant increase in interest in Council participation, with 15 candidates standing in the 2025 elections for seven spaces on the board. The Governance and Appointments Committee has also engaged in a thorough review of the Society Bye-Laws across 2025.

# STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 4

## Sustainability: Safeguarding our Future (cont.)

### Environmental Sustainability

The Society continues to support remote attendance and mixed-model delivery of events/conference. These options minimise environmental impact while also increasing international engagement and accommodating members with access issues and/or caring responsibilities. As universities develop and enhance their own green policies, restrictions on funding for our members' domestic travel make these options additionally important. The Society also joined CAFA (Climate Action for Associations) in December 2025, and looks forward to engaging with them on ways in which we can further reduce our carbon footprint.

### Accountability

The Society continues to develop and improve upon its reporting processes for both internal and external audiences. The ongoing enhancement of the Annual Report represents one step in this direction, as does additional material uploaded to the public website, including our consultation responses.

A formal complaints process has been developed across 2025, to formalise existing internal procedures. This will be considered by the Governance and Appointments Committee in 2026.



# STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 5

## Influence: Enhancing our Relevance

### Increased External Engagement

We have increased our outreach to organisations including the AcSS, the British Academy (BA), BERA, WonkHE, HEPI, the GCHE, AHEP, and the UKCGE. As outlined under Objective 3, we have also engaged with organisations in India, Africa and Europe. We have established regular attendance at other organisations' conferences (with a mutual waiving of registration fees where possible), in order to encourage better networking and awareness of the Society and its research outputs.

The CEO has initiated (or re-initiated) contact with the directors of several of these organisations with a view towards greater policy engagement and research-informed influence. In particular she has engaged with the QAA on a proposed research support project, and with the British Academy's ECR network.

The CEO has attended and presented at various conferences across 2025, including IHERN in Delhi, WonkHE's Festival of Education in London, and CHER's annual conference in Poznan, Poland. She also participated via invitation in "Dales Dialogue", a conference dedicated to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL), and the development of a UK "SoTL Alliance" – SRHE was represented prominently in discussions over the 3-day period, and is a signatory to its founding document.

### Consultation responses

The Society continues to engage in public and governmental consultation responses, and in late 2025 the Research & Development committee oversaw the drafting of the Society's response to the consultation on quality regulation conducted by the Office for Students: The Society's response can be viewed at: [SRHE Governance | Consultation Responses](#)

### Policy Reviews in Higher Education

The journal continues to develop its activity and its board, and has implemented its plans to disseminate research findings of its articles via more public-facing media such as blogs and other social media platforms. See [Policy Reviews in Higher Education](#) below for more details



# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

## Membership benefits

- Reduced rate delegate place at the in-person 2025 SRHE Annual Conference (2-4 December) plus free place at the online conference (28 November)
- Free attendance at any SRHE Seminars and SRHE supported events
- Free subscription to Research into Higher Education Abstracts, including on-line access to the current issue and the full on-line archive of Abstracts
- On-line access to Higher Education (HE) journals such as Teaching in HE, Assessment & Evaluation in HE, European Journal of HE, Innovations in Education and Teaching International, Journal of Marketing for HE, Perspectives: Policy and Practice in HE, and Quality in HE
- Reduced rates for Studies in Higher Education (over 50% reduction on subscription rates) and free on-line access to the journal archive
- Free copies of SRHE News, providing an international review of all that is current in research into HE
- 30% discount on all books published by Routledge/Taylor and Francis
- 20% discount on all books and journals published by Wiley Publishing
- The opportunity to apply for SRHE's annual research grants
- Application Library: Access to a member-only resource of detailed examples of previously successful applications for SRHE Award funding
- A reduced Article Processing Charge (APC) for Gold Open Access publication in Studies in Higher Education and Policy Reviews in Higher Education

## Membership rates

Membership Categories 2025	Rates 1 Aug–31 Dec
Standard membership	£120.00
Retired (annual subscription)	£77.00
Retired (lifetime membership)	£325.00
Student	£55.00
ODA*	£30.00
ODA Student*	£15.00

\*For residents of Official Development Assistance countries - as defined by the OECD's [Development Assistance Committee](#) - the above reduced rates of membership apply.

# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

## Membership category breakdown

The table below shows the membership mix across the 3 main categories over the past 3 years

	Individual	Student	Retired
2023	*73%	*18%	9%
2024	*73%	*17%	10%
2025	*71%	*20%	9%

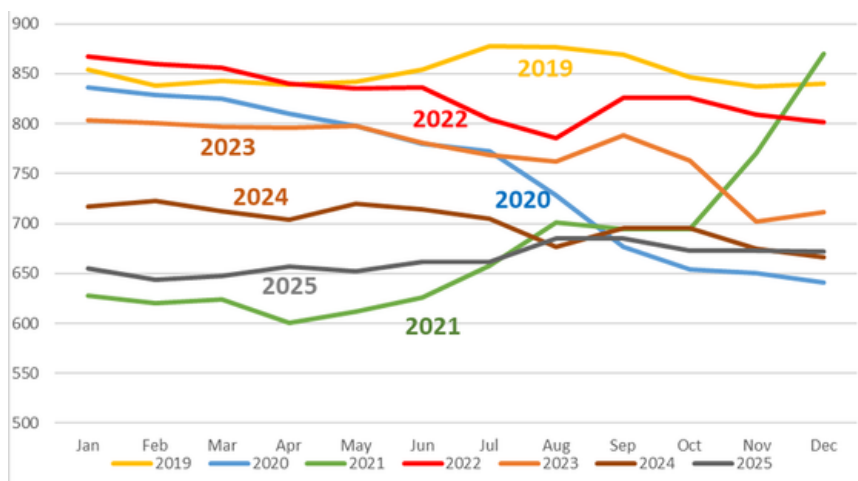
\*Including ODA members

## Membership Numbers (in comparison with the previous year)

Member Group	as at 31/12/2024	at 31.12.2025	% Change
Individual	449	455	+1
Retired	66	61	-7
Student	116	115	-
From ODA countries	35	34	-
TOTAL	666	665	-

Membership numbers have been static over the past year. It remains a difficult climate in which to grow the SRHE membership, and whilst the events, conference, and award activity – along with new marketing activity (especially internationally) helps, the value of word-of-mouth recommendations within institutions should not be under-estimated.

The table below of memberships from 2019 to 2025 gives a month-by-month picture of membership fluctuations.



# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

SRHE has an international membership, with members based in 39 countries. According to addresses provided at registration, the majority of members are based in the UK (77%), followed by Other Europe (9%), Asia & Oceania (8%), North America (4%), Africa (1%), and Central and South America (1%).

## Membership Income

In net cash terms, the Society received £55,727 between 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 and 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025. This is just above both the budgeted figure for the year of £55,000 and the previous year's figure of £53,237 for 2023/24. As membership payments are always made in advance, the audited figure for membership income over this same 2024-5 period is higher at £63k and above the equivalent figure of £56k for the previous year (2023-24).

Taking into account the variations relating to the timing of actual membership payments, the overall trend is a slight increase in income from membership. The team continue to look at different ways to attract new members and retain existing members too.

## Membership Survey

Our first member survey was held in July 2022, and we had planned to conduct another survey in 2025, but this has been delayed to 2026 to enable suitable staffing resource to be put in place to manage this and other projects.

**Rob Gresham, Manager: Operations and Finance**

# SRHE CONFERENCE 2025

## Compassion, collegiality and communities in higher education: challenging the discourse

28 November (online) and 2-4 December (in person, East Midlands Conference Centre, University of Nottingham, UK)



The 2025 conference invited delegates to rethink how higher education is portrayed and practised. While Higher Education aspires to transform lives, advance knowledge, and uphold freedom of thought, it is often portrayed as elitist and disconnected from society. This theme asked how such narratives are shaped by politics, media, and culture, and how we might reclaim them. By foregrounding compassion, collegiality, and engagement with wider communities, we explored how higher education can renew public trust, foster inclusion, and reaffirm its role as a force for social and intellectual good.

These topics were discussed in depth by a range of keynote and plenary speakers:

- “Thinking with care: untangling the ambivalences and complexities of contemporary care discourses in higher education”, [Dr Karen Gravett](#), University of Surrey.
- “The Race Against Time for Compassionate Teams Development in HE”, [Professor Theo Gilbert](#), University of Hertfordshire.
- “Celebrating SRHE 60th Anniversary Symposium”, which showcased the journeys of 4 recipients of SRHE Newer Researchers awards, illustrating the impact that these opportunities had for them and continues to shape their contributions to the field of HE research: [Professor Heidi Mirza](#), [Professor Kelly Coate](#), [Professor Camille Kandiko Howson](#), and [Dr Charlie Davis](#).

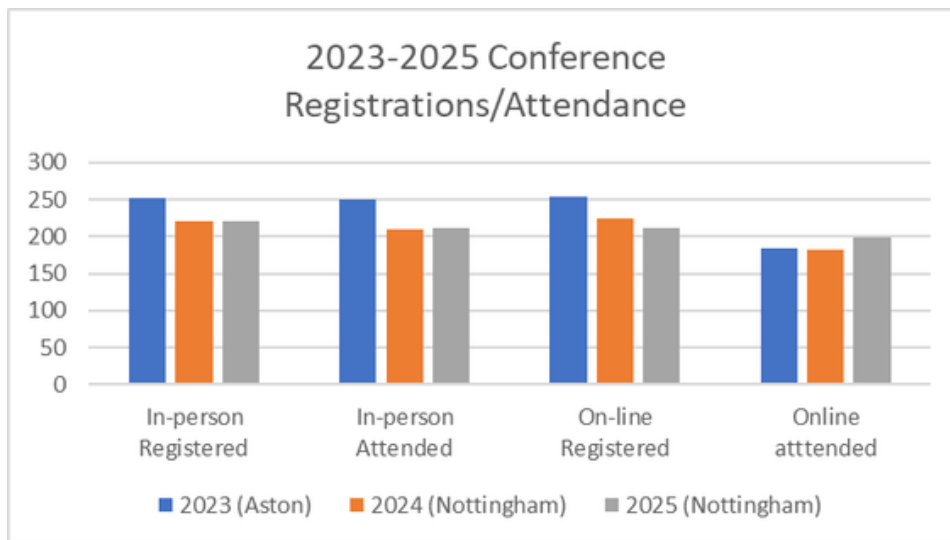
Watch the online conference presentations here:  
[2025 Plenaries and Recorded Presentations](#)



# SRHE CONFERENCE 2025

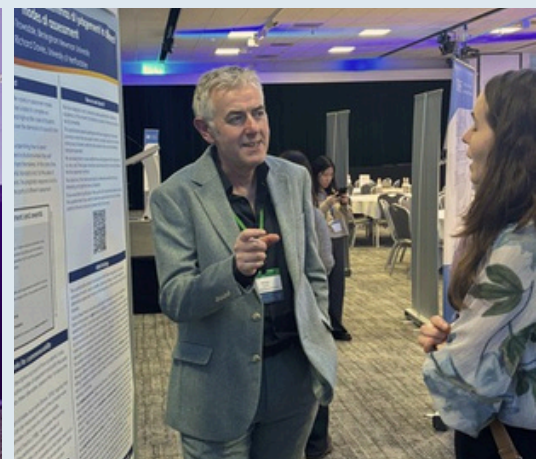
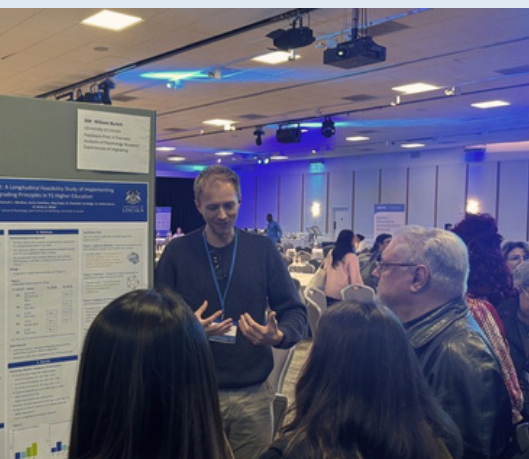
274 submissions, including 7 symposia, and 13 posters were accepted for presentation at the 2025 conference across a range of research domains and from authors at a variety of career stages.

As illustrated in the table below, 221 delegates registered for the 2025 in-person segment of the conference (221 in 2024) and 211 delegates attended (210 in 2024). In 2025 the online conference had 211 registrations (224 in 2024) and 198 online delegates (182 in 2024).



432 of conference registrants were from 29 countries\*, with the UK the largest percentage (68% of delegates), Europe (13%), Asia and Oceania (14% each), North America (3%), South America (1%), and Africa (2% each). \*based on home institution at registration.

We're very pleased to congratulate Ifeoma Dan-Ogosi (University of the West of England) on winning the delegates' vote poster prize for 'Beyond Borders: Critical and Courageous Compassionate Pedagogies for Transforming Higher Education Learning Through a Multicultural Approach' ([view here](#)).



# SRHE CONFERENCE 2025

## Conference Feedback Survey

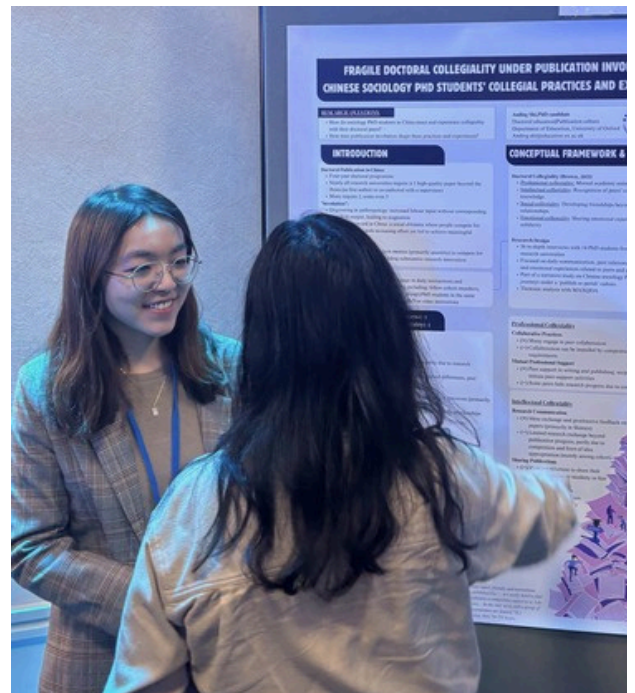
Conference delegates were surveyed on their experience of Conference, and we had a 24% response rate. The survey has been analysed in detail by The Research and Development Committee, and EDI-related questions examined by the EDI Working Group.

Overall, delegates were very satisfied with the quality of the papers and there was positive feedback on the venue. The conference attracted a good number of new delegates; 34% of respondents indicated this to be their first SRHE conference experience. Delegates gave their main reason for attending as: to present or co-present a paper (63%), to find out about current research (14%), and to network with colleagues (11%).

Delegates commended the increased diversity of presenters and participants and recognised the Society's efforts in providing an inclusive, encouraging and supportive platform for all delegates, particularly early-career researchers. 96% of respondents were satisfied with the overall experience of conference in 2025.

*This is a truly compassionate and collegial conference that seems to pull in a range of academics - from PGR to professors - from around the world. It feels like a very safe and encouraging space, and it's really welcoming to new researchers.*

*The sessions were all well-organised, there was plenty of time for networking and a really positive feel throughout.*



*I would like to express my sincere gratitude to SRHE for organizing such an excellent academic conference that brings together scholars in higher education research and provides us with a wonderful platform for exchange and learning. Especially for doctoral students like me, this conference has offered many valuable suggestions for the development of my dissertation and given me the opportunity to meet many new friends. I look forward to seeing everyone again next year!*

# SRHE RESEARCH AWARDS

Following peer review, selection panel discussion and consensus, the Society made the following awards in 2025:

- Four Member-only awards of £10,000 each for research focused on any aspect of higher education
- Two Scoping awards of £5,000 each for the exploration of any new or emerging area of higher education research, leading to a plan for further research. Scoping awards were open to all and applications were received from members and non-members of the Society.

## Research Awards 2025: Four awards of £10,000 each

**(Mis)recognition and Inclusion: An exploration of the experiences of care-experienced insider researchers in UK higher education**

*by Dr Zoe Baker, University of Sheffield*

**From Words to Access: A Study of Demographic Inequalities in Personal Statements**

*by Dr Angus Holford, University of Essex*

**Academic and Psychosocial Adaptation in HE: A photovoice study with refugee students**

*by Dr Rebecca Georgis, University of Exeter, with co-applicants Dr Agata Vitale, Bath Spa University & Dr Katie Howard, University of Exeter*

**Just Giving? A critical overview of philanthropic activity in UK universities**

*by Dr Kirsty Finn, University of Manchester, with co-applicants Professor Steve Jones & Professor Diane Harris, University of Manchester*

## Scoping Awards 2024: Two awards of £5,000 each

**National Demographic Decline and Institutional Survival: A Scoping Review of Internationalisation Strategies among Precarious Universities**

*by Dr Evelyn Min Ji Kim, UCL*

**Mind the Last Mile: Mapping the University–Industry Engagement Gap for UK University Graduate Employability (A Scoping Study)**

*by Dr Daria Luchinskaya, University of Strathclyde, with Dr Zihao Liu, University of Nottingham*

[Further information on the Society's Awards is available on our website](#)

# AWARDS UPDATE

Research Awards 2024	Status
<b>Navigating Microaggressions and EDI Initiatives: Lived Experiences of Chinese Academics in England</b> <i>by Professor Ming Cheng, Sheffield Hallam University</i>	<a href="#">Read full report</a>
<b>The role of cultural institutions in the UK's higher education research system</b> <i>by Dr Ning Baines, University of Leicester &amp; Dr Federica Rossi, Birkbeck, University of London</i>	In progress
<b>Exploring the experiences of students originally from the EU newer member states in Eastern Europe in UK Higher Education</b> <i>by Professor Charlotte Chadderton, University of Derby &amp; Dr Agnieska Bates, Bath Spa University</i>	<a href="#">Read full report</a>
<b>Surveillance imaginaries among Chinese postgraduate students studying in the UK</b> <i>by Dr Anna Wilson, University of Glasgow</i>	In progress
Scoping Awards 2024	Status
<b>Understanding and Developing Deliberative Approaches to University Governance</b> <i>by Professor Jeffrey Kennedy, McGill University &amp; Professor Simon Pek, Gustavson, University of Victoria</i>	In progress
<b>'I'm an impostor! Get me out of here!': Mapping the impostor phenomenon and sense of unbelonging among minoritised university students</b> <i>by Dr Orkun Yetkili &amp; Dr Deborah Husbands, University of Westminster</i>	In progress

Research Awards 2023	Status
<b>Gatekeepers of knowledge production on higher education: journal editorial board networks and working practices</b> <i>by Rita Hordosy and Martin Myers, University of Nottingham</i>	<a href="#">Download full report</a>
<b>Locating women in the Singaporean higher education sector: challenges, knowledge gaps and future directions</b> <i>by Sarah Aiston, Teesside University</i>	<a href="#">Read full report</a>
<b>Class-Based Disablism in Higher Education</b> <i>by Alison Wilde, Leeds Trinity University</i>	<a href="#">Read full report</a>
Scoping Awards 2023	Status
<b>Learning to manage rejection? Investigating the lived experiences of former professional male athletes who have engaged in higher education</b> <i>by Vicky Hunter, University of Sheffield</i>	<a href="#">Read full report</a>

# NEWER RESEARCHER AWARDS

SRHE's Newer Researcher awards provide funding to Newer Researchers intending to pursue a career in higher education research, with which to undertake an initial research project. Successful award holders are provided with the support of a mentor, and are invited to become a member of the Society's Research and Development Committee which enables a wider involvement in higher education research developments.

*"The project I did was really career-changing for me, because I had been in post-doc positions and this was my first opportunity to do my own project... The award was an opportunity to grow my networks... I was able to connect my institutional work and international comparative research"*

*-Professor Camille Kandiko Howson  
Award Winner 2011*

*"The opportunities that this award has brought me have been immense... in terms of my own intellectual development, career development and seeing my work go out into the world... the whole experience has opened up a wealth of opportunities to me... one of the biggest things out of this work has been the ability to make connections... and allowing me to work across disciplines"*

*-Dr Charlie Davis  
Award Winner 2021*

In 2025, the Society was delighted to make three awards of £3,000 as follows:

## **Attentive love as critical pedagogy for science teacher education**

*by Betzabe Torres Olave, University of Leeds*

Betzabe Torres Olave has been a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Leeds since completing her PhD in Science Education at the University of Bristol (2018-2022). In this SRHE-funded project, Betzabe will introduce Simone Weil's concept of attentive love to transform epistemological foundations of science teacher education in higher education. Through theatre-based methods inspired by Weil's philosophy and Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed, she will work with science teacher educators from global North and South contexts, examining how educators engage with and potentially transform dominant science narratives. By centring love for the world and its needs, this project aims to disrupt hegemonic epistemologies and contribute to more socially just understandings of science education amid pressing global challenges while advancing the theoretical foundations of critical pedagogies through Weil's philosophy.

# NEWER RESEARCHER AWARDS

## **Understanding research culture at the level of the personal: Interactions between academics and non-academic staff in UK HE**

*by Jess Pilgrim-Brown, University of Bristol*

Jess is a Senior Research Associate at the University of Bristol and a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Oxford where her work spans equalities and access in higher education, research on research, research cultures, the experiences of professional services staff and the marginalisation of underrepresented groups in the academy.

In this SRHE-funded project, Jess will explore the complex and multifaceted relationships professional services and administrative staff have with their academic counterparts across the landscape of UK higher education. This exploration will focus on the collection and analysis of insights and data from across jurisdictions, roles and responsibilities, and HEI provision. Such relationships are absolutely critical to the development and expansion of positive and impactful research cultures within the scope of UKHE; by exploring these further it is hoped that recommendations can be made for improving these relationships and creating better, positive and collaborative research environments across the academy.

## **Early Career Researchers in Hong Kong: Nascent Academic Identity Formation amidst Internationalisation-driven Context of Hong Kong Academia**

*by Yabing Liu, The Education University of Hong Kong*

Yabing is a doctoral candidate in the Department of International Education at The Education University of Hong Kong. She is also a doctoral associate research fellow at The Centre for Higher Education Leadership and Policy Studies (CHELPS).

Her SRHE-funded project investigates how early career researchers (ECRs) develop their academic identities while working in Hong Kong's highly internationalised and increasingly competitive higher education sector. Drawing on narrative inquiry and thematic analysis, the study explores ECRs' motivations for choosing Hong Kong, the challenges and opportunities they encounter, and the strategies and support systems they employ to manage their professional development. By foregrounding ECRs' lived experiences and identity trajectories, the project aims to generate practical insights to inform institutional policies on academic talent attraction, retention, and development, while also contributing theoretically to scholarly debates on academic identity and international academic mobility.

[Find out more about this year's Award Winners on our website](#)

# PUBLICATIONS



## Studies in Higher Education

**Published by:** Taylor & Francis

**Frequency:** Ten issues per year plus two special issues

Studies in Higher Education is a leading international journal publishing research-based articles dealing with higher education issues from either a disciplinary or multi-disciplinary perspective. Empirical, theoretical and conceptual articles of significant originality will be considered. Manuscripts are expected to be grounded in the higher education literature and contribute to it through substantive new empirical findings or novel insights.

**Editor in Chief:** Professor Creso Sá, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto.

**Senior Editor:** Professor Maria Slowey Higher Education Research Centre (HERC), Dublin City University.

### Associate Editors:

Professor Luca Cattani, Department of Law, Politics and International Studies, University of Parma, Italy.  
Dr Emma Harden-Wolfson, Department of Integrated Studies in Education (DISE), McGill University, Canada.

Professor Molly Lee, School of Educational Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, Malaysia.

Dr Giulio Marini, Department of Economics and Business, University of Catania, Italy.

Dr Christine Teelken, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands.

### Special issues Editors:

Professor Kate Black, Newcastle Business School, Northumbria University, UK.

Professor Ming Cheng, Sheffield Institute of Education, Sheffield Hallam University, UK.



**200**  
articles  
published



**3.2**  
impact factor

**11.1**  
CiteScore

ranked  
**84/762**  
Education and Educational  
Research category



**46%**  
articles  
published Open  
Access



**1.5M**  
downloads\*

**45/1620**  
Education category

\*most downloaded article: [Human-AI collaboration patterns in AI-assisted academic writing](#)

# PUBLICATIONS



## Policy Reviews in Higher Education

**Published by:** Taylor & Francis

**Frequency:** Two issues per year

Policy Reviews in Higher Education (PRiHE) is an international peer-reviewed journal publishing high-quality policy-focused and in-depth articles on higher education and related postsecondary and tertiary education. It encourages authors from a range of national and disciplinary backgrounds to analyse higher education from fresh perspectives, including by drawing on concepts and theories from other academic fields and disciplines. Authors are urged to evaluate the implications of their findings for the development and implementation of policy and policymaking.

### Joint Editors:

Professor Ellen Hazelkorn, Higher Education Policy Research Unit (HEPRU), Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland.

Professor Hamish Coates, Australian National University, Australia; Tsinghua University, China.

Professor Hans De Wit, Centre for International Higher Education, Boston College, US.

### Associate Editor:

Dr Tessa DeLaquil, Danish School of Education (DPU), Aarhus University, Denmark.



**53%**  
articles  
published Open  
Access



**1.7**  
impact factor  
(2024)

**13**  
CiteScore

\*most downloaded article: *University, professional staff roles, identities, and spaces of interaction*



**63.7K**  
downloads\*

**28/1620**

Education category

# PUBLICATIONS



## Higher Education Quarterly

Published by: Wiley

Frequency: Four issues per year

Higher Education Quarterly (HEQU) is an international educational research journal publishing articles on policy, organisation, leadership, governance, management and the professions in higher education. It aims to develop our understanding of higher education and its current challenges from a diversity of approaches and in an international context. It welcomes all research methodologies (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods) and all forms of scholarly contributions (empirical, conceptual, and methodological) which contribute to contemporary debates and have potential to impact policy and practice.

### Editor in Chief:

Dr João M. Santos, Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (ISCTE-IUL), Portugal.

### Associate Editors:

Dr Ritesh Chugh, Central Queensland University, Australia.

Dr Bariş Uslu, Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Türkiye.

Dr Weiyan Xiong, The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK), Hong Kong.

Dr Lili Yang, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong.



**97**  
articles  
published



**2.3**  
impact factor



**219k**  
downloads



**55%**  
articles  
published Open  
Access

\*most downloaded article: *Fostering self-directed learning in blended learning environments: A constructivist perspective in Higher Education*

# PUBLICATIONS



## Research into Higher Education Abstracts

**Published by:** Taylor & Francis

**Frequency:** Three issues per year

This publication and its associated database exists to propagate knowledge about, and encourage discussion of, significant research into higher education. It provides a regular survey of international periodicals relevant to the theory and practice of higher education and also offers a selective coverage of books and monographs. More than 600 abstracts are produced each year

### Editor:

Dr Roz Collings, University of Wolverhampton, UK.

### Associate Editor:

Dr Shweta Mishra, Deutsches Institut für Interdisziplinäre Sozialpolitikforschung (DIFIS), Universität Duisburg-Essen, Germany

Research Into Higher Education Abstracts has seen a positive trend in international reach, with a distribution of users across the globe. In recent years the publication and its database have experienced delays in updating as a result of illness in the editorial team. Additional temporary resource was provided to the team in 2024/2025, and 3 issues were published in 2024. A strict schedule of publication over the course of the past year has brought the journal up to date by the end of 2025 with the publication of 6 further issues .

In 2026, the editorial team plans to focus on creating efficiencies to better manage the workload, and to look strategically about the publications covered in the database.



**20,724**  
abstracts on  
database

Research Into Higher Education Abstracts has seen a positive trend in international reach, with a distribution of users across the globe.

# PUBLICATIONS

The first book in the SRHE/Routledge series was published in February 2012, and by the end of 2025 a total of 36 books have been published. An additional four titles are in development. The series editors' book *Reimagining the Higher Education Student* which is available via open access has had 17K downloads, across approximately 46 countries and 269 institutions.

New editions of three books in the series *Designing Effective Feedback Processes in Higher Education* (Winstone & Carless), *Writing in Social Spaces* (Murray) and *Reconstructing Identities in Higher Education* (Whitchurch) are currently in development.



Jingran Yu, *Mobile Educational Spaces and Imaginative Student Experiences: The Case of Transnational Higher Education* (September 2025)



Heléna Stakounis, *Language Matters at the Internationalised University: From Practice to Policy* (November 2025)

## Submissions to the SRHE Series

The publisher and the series editors are keen to have as wide a spread of authorship as possible and encourage Society members to promote the series to their colleagues to submit proposals for it. As the series develops critical mass, increased visibility can help encourage academics to write for the series. We welcome submissions from single authors, co-authors, and editors of collections.

Initial enquiries on possible submissions may be addressed to the series editors:

**Professor Rachel Brooks**  
[rachel.brooks@education.ox.ac.uk](mailto:rachel.brooks@education.ox.ac.uk)

**Professor Sarah O'Shea**  
[soshea@csu.edu.au](mailto:soshea@csu.edu.au)

**Publisher: Sarah Hyde, Routledge Books**  
[sarah.hyde@tandf.co.uk](mailto:sarah.hyde@tandf.co.uk)

# PUBLICATIONS

## SRHE News and Blog



SRHE News is an in-house, quarterly publication, which is sent electronically to all members of the Society. It provides a comprehensive overview of higher education research and policy in the UK and beyond, features contributions from members across the globe, and promotes upcoming events as well as reports on recent activities. To mark the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the SRHE, six editorials in 2025 looked back at the world of HE research over 10-year intervals, starting with 1965-75, and ending with 2015-25. Back issues are available from the members' section of [www.srhe.ac.uk](http://www.srhe.ac.uk).

**Editor:** Professor Rob Cuthbert, University of the West of England [Rob.Cuthbert@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Rob.Cuthbert@uwe.ac.uk)

The SRHE blogsite [www.srheblog.com](http://www.srheblog.com), launched in January 2014, has grown significantly in terms of articles and readership over the past eleven years. It features short, topical articles on issues from policy to learning and teaching to the student experience and beyond, written by SRHE members as well as from further afield.

The Blog published 57 articles in 2025 (59 in 2024). Overall the blog has published 540 posts since its founding and now has 644 dedicated followers.

The Blog has now been read in more than 200 countries worldwide. In the calendar year 2025 there were 33,700 views by 23,400 visitors. 18 blogs, newly published in 2025 or late 2024, had more than 250 views, and a further 49 had 100 views or more.

The most viewed posts published in 2025:

- [Rebelling together against the myth of the lone creative genius: how arts-based pedagogies enhanced community learning](#) by Katherine Friend and Aisling Walters, March 2025 (936 views)
- [Branch campuses and the mirage of demand](#) by Kyuseok Kim, July 2025 (552 views)
- [Will GenAI narrow or widen the digital divide in higher education?](#) by Lei Fang and Xue Zhou, April 2025 (484 views)

The 2025 SRHE Conference provided an opportunity to invite contributions for the blog and we have a healthy pipeline for 2026.

**Editor:** Professor Rob Cuthbert, University of the West of England [Rob.Cuthbert@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Rob.Cuthbert@uwe.ac.uk)

# SRHE NETWORKS

The Society's special interest networks and its professional development programme are key elements in its provision for members and its support for research and researchers into Higher Education.

The Society hosts eleven special interest networks, providing a space for events and meetings to discuss research issues, exchange ideas, and review current thinking and new developments in various areas of the Higher Education sector – areas covered in 2025 were: academic practice; the digital university; employability; EDI; HE policy; international research and researchers; learning, teaching and assessment; the multilingual university; and student access and experience.

All networks also serve to support newer and early-career researchers, and provide a valuable opportunity for all in terms of networking, knowledge exchange, and collaboration. There are also two networks specifically dedicated to the development of newer researchers and the discussion of postgraduate issues.

Each network is overseen by a small group of network convenors, volunteers who are essential to their running. Individual convenors normally take responsibility for the organisation and promotion of one event per year and also assist with the review and moderation of conference submissions. The work of convenors is formally acknowledged through membership subsidy.



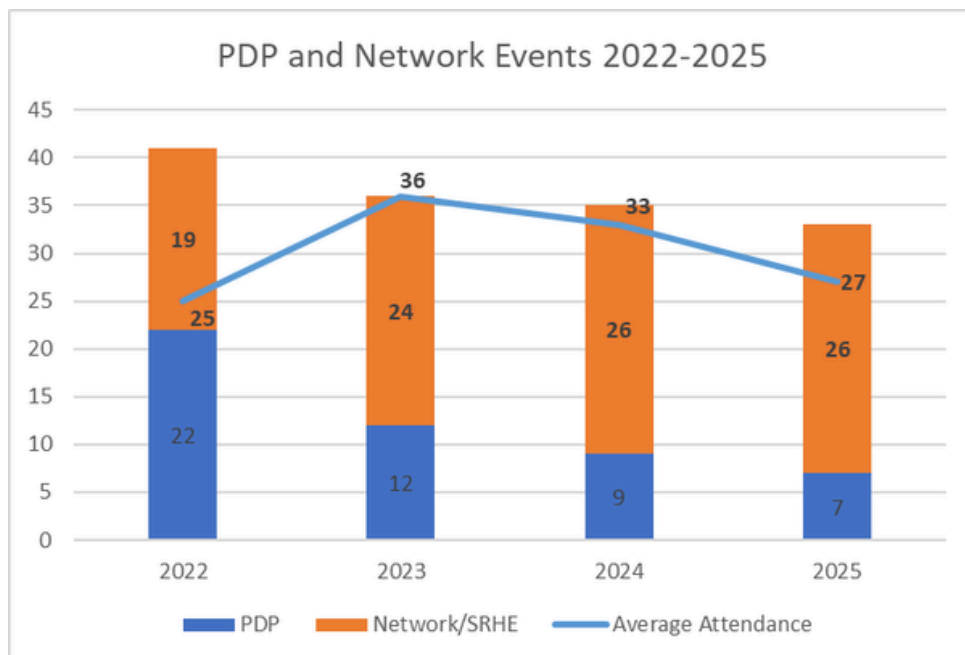
# SRHE EVENTS 2025

SRHE's re-implementation of a guest fee (£45) for online events from 1 August 2024, has had the effect of reducing "no-shows", that is, those who have registered but who do not attend the event. It has also had the intended effect of accounting for the cost of such events. We continue to hope that long-term this may also represent an incentive to membership, as it represents a more economical option than repeated non-member attendance.

Over the past calendar year (1st Jan – 31st Dec 2025) SRHE hosted 7 Professional Development Programme events, and 26 Network and SRHE events (33 in total). A total of 919 delegates attended these sessions, an average of 27 per event. While the number of PDP events has decreased, we continue to attract good numbers to our events, and we will be looking at PDP offerings again in 2026.

## Network and SRHE Events

732 delegates attended our 26 Network events in 2025 (21 on average) across the 11 networks. 7 events listed as SRHE on the following page were events devised as part of the SRHE seminar programme led by other partners and individuals in the SRHE community. Further details of SRHE's past and forthcoming events are available from [www.srhe.ac.uk/networks](http://www.srhe.ac.uk/networks) and <https://www.srhe.ac.uk/events/>



# SRHE EVENTS 2025

Event title	Date	Network
Inclusive AI	15/01/2025	Academic Practice
When using GenAI is not Cheating – developing an inclusive GenAI policy at LSBU	09/04/2025	
Socrates in the time of AI: taking HE back to human reflection	30/04/2025	Digital University
Generative AI and personalised AI-bots: What's left for educators to do?	14/05/2025	
Inclusive Learning in the Age of AI: Opportunities for Undergraduates	11/06/2025	
From 'hard science' to pedagogical research	19/06/2025	
AI and inclusion in education – the literacies approach	24/06/2025	
Technology, shortcuts and the future of 'graduateness'	16/07/2025	
Earning while learning: student employment, gender and higher education	27/01/2025	Employability, Enterprise and Work-based Learning
Launching the SRHE EDI Network: 'Sharing is caring': Co-designing the SRHE EDI network's content	24/10/2025	Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
Responding to the challenges posed by precarity in higher education teaching	17/03/2025	Higher Education Policy
Who works best? Public and Private Sectors, Efficiency and Equity in Latin American Higher Education	06/06/2025	
International student mobility from and to India	16/05/2025	International Research and Researchers

# SRHE EVENTS 2025

Event title	Date	Network
The value of dialogue for Learning, Teaching & Assessment	18/02/2025	Learning, Teaching And Assessment
Re-thinking student identities and their impacts on learning, teaching and assessment	23/05/2025	
The AECED project: Transforming Education for Democracy through Aesthetic and Embodied Learning, Responsive Pedagogy and Democracy-as-becoming – the experiences of AECED within higher education settings	30/10/2025	
Generative AI and the Work of Knowledge Production in the Multilingual University	17/01/2025	Multilingual University
Bridging Linguistic and Epistemological Divides in Higher Education	14/03/2025	
The Complexities of Multilingualism in Higher Education	28/04/2025	
In Conversation with Syed Farid Alatas: Re-thinking Knowledge, Intellectual Canons, and the Decolonisation of Academia	02/07/2025	
Researching on a non-research focused contract	26/03/2025	Newer Researchers
AI tools for Newer Researchers	20/06/2025	
In(ter)dependence in doctoral education	15/05/2025	Postgraduate Issues
Integrating research and teaching – opportunities and pitfalls, as seen by students and staff	07/02/2025	Student Access and Experience
The research and teaching nexus in diverse subject areas and contexts	07/03/2025	
The research and teaching nexus from novel perspectives	03/04/2025	
Campus Geographies of the Student Experience	29/04/2025	

# SRHE EVENTS 2025

Event title	Date	Network
Newer Researchers Awards 2025: Webinar/Q&A	22/01/2025	SRHE
Rents, assets and governance in digitalised education – launch of the special issue in Learning, Media and Technology (1:2)	20/03/2025	
Rents, assets and governance in digitalised education – launch of the special issue in Learning, Media and Technology (2:2)	27/03/2025	
The Heart of Research: Exploring the Aims, Nature and Values of Education Research Centres - Project Report Launch	02/05/2025	
SRHE / Taylor & Francis Peer Reviewer workshop	07/05/2025 (AM)	
SRHE / Taylor & Francis Peer Reviewer workshop	07/05/2025 (PM)	
Career progression for academics focused on SoTL	03/10/2025	

## Professional Development Workshops 2025

The Society's professional development events are designed to support student and postgraduate researchers, and to help build capacity in higher education. Below is a list of the 7 workshops offered during 2025, which were attended by 109 delegates, an average of 12 delegates per workshop. For more information about our forthcoming programme visit <https://www.srhe.ac.uk/events/>

Title	Date
Evaluating UK doctoral degrees: how shall we know them?	24/01/2025
Planning and Preparing for Success in the Final Assessment of the Doctorate	15/02/2025
Writing a book proposal	12/03/2025
SRHE AcWriMo (Academic Writing Month)	
Space to Write: SRHE AcWriMo 2024 (1:4)	05/11/2025
Space to Write: SRHE AcWriMo 2024 (2:4)	10/11/2025
Space to Write: SRHE AcWriMo 2024 (3:4)	12/11/2025
Space to Write: SRHE AcWriMo 2024 (4:4)	17/11/2025

# ACCOLADES AND FELLOWSHIPS

The SRHE Accolades are range of awards recognising the contributions of our members to the field of Higher Education, to the academic community, and to SRHE itself. These awards recognise a range of exemplary work by members at multiple career stages and in a variety of professional roles. There were no nominations received for Accolades in 2025 – this is likely as a result of our emphasis on the revival of the fellowship programme, as well as with Council's decision that self-nomination for Accolades is no longer permitted. We will continue to monitor this situation to determine if this is a larger trend, or an anomalous year.

## Fellows

Our fellows represent a way in which the Society can formally recognise significant contributions of its members in the field of research into higher education. Fellows have a reputation of substance in the field, and act in an advisory capacity for the Society, consulting on its activities, strategy and development.

As part of the Society's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, 23 new Fellows were appointed from within the Society's membership and announced at the Conference in December. The appointment of new Fellows reflects a renewed dedication to recognising achievement, supporting career development, and building collaborative networks that enrich the field of higher education research. This has re-established the Society's Fellowship programme as an annual exercise which will continue with 1-3 appointments each year.



# FELLOWS

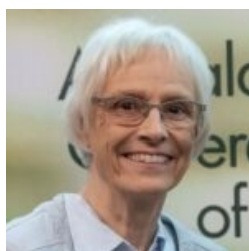
Name	Affiliation	Appointed
Professor Emerita Gerlese Akerlind	Australian National University	January 2025
Professor Paul Ashwin	Lancaster University	January 2025
Professor Kalwant Bhopal	University of Birmingham	January 2025
Professor Penny Jane Burke	Newcastle University Australia	January 2025
Professor Jennifer Case	Virginia Tech, USA	January 2025
Professor Emeritus Sue Clegg	Leeds Beckett University	January 2025
Professor Kelly Coate	Richmond American University in London	January 2025
Professor Emerita Pam Denicolo	University of Reading	January 2025
Professor Joëlle Fanghanel	GEDU Global Education	January 2025
Professor Emeritus George Gordon	University of Strathclyde	January 2025
Professor Helen Higson OBE DL	Aston University	January 2025
Professor Jill Jameson	University of Greenwich	January 2025
Professor Sylvie Lamoureux	University of Ottawa	January 2025
Professor William Locke	UCL	January 2025
Professor Emerita Heidi Safia Mirza	UCL, Goldsmiths, and LSE	January 2025
Professor Sarah Montano	University of Birmingham	January 2025
Dr Michelle Morgan	University of East London	January 2025
Professor Rajani Naidoo	University of Exeter	January 2025
Professor David Palfreyman	University of Oxford	January 2025
Professor Christopher Pole	University of Brighton	January 2025
Professor Maria Slowey	Dublin City University	January 2025
Dr Paul Temple	University College London	January 2025
Professor Celia Whitchurch	University College London	January 2025
Professor Lynn McAlpine	University of Oxford/ McGill	January 2012
Professor Rob Cuthbert	University of West of England	January 2011
Professor Claire Callender	University of London, Birkbeck & UCL	January 2011
Professor Paul Trowler	Lancaster University	January 2011
Professor Ian McNay	University of Greenwich	January 2011
Professor Rosemary Deem	Royal Holloway, University of London	January 2010
Professor Kerri-Lee Krause	Avondale University	January 2010
Professor Robin Middlehurst	University of Kingston	January 2010
Professor Ulrich Teichler	University of Kassel	January 2009
Professor Angela Brew	Macquarie University	January 2008
Professor Gunnar Handal	University of Oslo	January 2008
Professor Dai Hounsell	University of Edinburgh	January 2008
Professor Louise Morley	University of Sussex	January 2008

# FELLOWS

Name	Affiliation	Appointed
Professor Michael Shattock	UCL, Institute of Education	January 2008
Professor Mantz Yorke	Lancaster University	January 2008
Professor John Brennan	Open University	January 2006
Professor Oliver Fulton	Lancaster University	January 2006
Professor Malcolm Tight	Lancaster University	January 2006
Professor Simon Marginson	University of Oxford	January 2004
Professor Gareth Parry	University of Sheffield	January 2004
Mr John Skelton	Open University Press	January 2004
Professor Noel Entwistle	University of Edinburgh	January 2002
Professor David Dill	University of North Carolina	January 2001
Professor James Ratcliffe	Pennsylvania State University	January 2001
Ms Harriet Croft	University of the West of England	January 2000
Dr Peter Maassen	University of Oslo, Norway	January 2000
Professor Ronald Barnett	UCL Institute of Education	January 1998
Dr Marianne Bauer	University of Gothenburg	January 1997
Professor Ingrid Moses	University of Canberra	January 1996
Professor Sheldon Rothblatt	University of California	January 1996
Professor Sinclair Goodlad	Imperial College London	January 1993
Professor Ference Marton	University of Gothenburg	January 1992
Professor David Boud	Deakin University	January 1991
Professor John Pratt	University of East London	January 1991
Professor Sir Peter Scott	UCL Institute of Education	January 1991
Professor Alan Smithers	University of Buckingham	January 1991

Honorary Fellows		
Professor Christine Musselin	Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris	2014
Professor Jurgen Enders	University of Bath	2011
Professor Michael Peters	Beijing Normal University	2010

## Professor Angela Brew 1943 - 2025



We report with sadness the death of Angela Brew, an outstanding figure in academic development, student learning and academic practice. Angela was remembered with great affection and respect by her Australian colleagues Peter Kandlbinder, Lilia Mantai and Denise Wood in [their tribute to her](#) on the HERDSA website on 7 May 2025, 'Fighting for a revolution in student learning'. Read the full tribute [here](#).

## Professor Claire Callender 1954 - 2025



We report with sadness the death of Professor Claire Callender OBE on 15 April 2025. Claire held joint professorships at UCL Institute of Education and Birkbeck, University of London. Claire's research gave her an unrivalled understanding of the consequences for students of higher education funding methods, and she had a rare ability to communicate clearly with both the academic community and with policymakers, reflecting her experience of working in government as well as in academe. Read the full tribute [here](#).

# HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT



## Financial year August 2024 – July 2025

The accounts of the Society for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025 confirm that the Society continues to be in good financial health mainly thanks to royalties from our main journal package over 2024 and sustained prudent management by the SRHE team, cognisant of the difficult operating climate in the HE and charity sectors. Membership has held steady with 672 subscribed members generating a steady £55k annually for the Society.

In December 2024, and in-line with a format that has proved popular post-Covid pandemic, the Society hosted a successful conference with one day held online, and three days in-person at the East Midlands Conference Centre. There were 221 registrations for the in-person event in Nottingham and 224 registrations for our online conference. This was a little lower than the numbers attending the 2023 conference at Aston and required a subsidy of £30K in 2024. The Society has a desire to keep delegate price levels as low as possible given the pressure on university budgets, particularly in the UK. This level of support is currently manageable for the Society, and we continue to monitor the costs associated with the conference ensuring that we remain conservative in managing these.

Seminars and workshops are a key membership benefit and a platform for dissemination activity, and these persist in online and in person formats. Online events are the most popular, specifically those which are attuned to evolving sector challenges however, participation levels at in person events remain lower than we would ideally prefer. Aware of the fiscal challenges that HE institutions are facing but being attuned to membership feedback we will continue to host a subset of events in-person where we recognise the topic would most benefit from this format. We recognise that many still want the networking that face-to-face events facilitate, but this needs to be balanced with the reach, including to international members, that online events support.

In keeping with SRHE aims to support new research and to acknowledge the Society's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, a slightly increased pot of £59k was disbursed to advance these endeavours. The main source of income (c.£400k) continues to come from periodicals and associated royalties. The Society remains alert to the changes within academic publishing around open access and is working with its publishers to ensure there is resilience in this funding stream.

Over the 2024-25 session the Society's investments showed modest growth with them all now being managed within one portfolio. The accounts and the risk register are presented routinely to Council, cognisant of the volatility of financial markets. This allows SRHE to be responsive should this be required. Noting increased operating costs, a decision was made to raise the reserves to £350k (from £300k) should there be a need to wind up operations.

The annual audit of the SRHE accounts confirmed that these were compliant with the requirements of financial reporting and gave no ongoing concerns about the Society's financial stability.

As stated at the outset the Society continues to be in a healthy financial position, and one which enables it to deliver on its objective of the advancement of understanding of higher education through the support and dissemination of research and scholarship.

**Professor Andrea Cameron, Honorary Treasurer**

**SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH INTO HIGHER EDUCATION**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
<b><u>Income from:</u></b>							
Donations and legacies	3	15,190	-	15,190	15,063	-	15,063
Charitable activities	4	790,447	-	790,447	791,044	-	791,044
Investments	5	13,974	739	14,713	12,430	869	13,299
<b>Total income</b>		<u>819,611</u>	<u>739</u>	<u>820,350</u>	<u>818,537</u>	<u>869</u>	<u>819,406</u>
<b><u>Expenditure on:</u></b>							
Raising funds	6	6,443	-	6,443	5,899	-	5,899
Charitable activities	7	729,390	-	729,390	668,695	-	668,695
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>735,833</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>735,833</u>	<u>674,594</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>674,594</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	13	21,937	-	21,937	20,007	-	20,007
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		105,715	739	106,454	163,950	869	164,819
Fund balances at 1 August 2024		<u>561,100</u>	<u>58,477</u>	<u>619,577</u>	<u>397,150</u>	<u>57,608</u>	<u>454,758</u>
<b>Fund balances at 31 July 2025</b>		<u><u>666,815</u></u>	<u><u>59,216</u></u>	<u><u>726,031</u></u>	<u><u>561,100</u></u>	<u><u>58,477</u></u>	<u><u>619,577</u></u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes numbered 3-21 refer to the more detailed breakdown of income and expenditure provided in pages 17-29 of the full accounts. These are available from Companies House <https://www.gov.uk/get-information-about-a-company>.

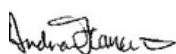
**SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH INTO HIGHER EDUCATION**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 JULY 2025**

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	15		1,564		1,839
Investments	16		496,806		513,504
			<u>498,370</u>		<u>515,343</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	17	67,206		118,864	
Cash at bank and in hand		460,169		282,808	
		<u>527,375</u>		<u>401,672</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	18	<u>(299,714)</u>		<u>(297,438)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>227,661</u>		<u>104,234</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>726,031</u>		<u>619,577</u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Restricted income funds	20		59,216		58,477
Unrestricted funds	21		666,815		561,100
			<u>726,031</u>		<u>619,577</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 24th October 2025



Professor Pauline Kneale - Chair of the Governing Council  
**Trustee**



Professor Andrea Cameron - Hon Treasurer  
**Trustee**

Company registration number 868820 (England and Wales)

# STANDING COMMITTEES

(as at 31 December 2025)

## Governance and Appointments Committee

**Chair:** Professor Jacqueline Stevenson

Ms Harriet Barnes

Dr Omolabake Fakunle

Mr Sol Miah

Dr Simon Pratt-Adams

Novus

Medr, Commission for Tertiary Education and Research

University of Edinburgh

University of Cambridge

Anglia Ruskin University

## Management and Finance Committee

**Chair:** Professor Pauline Kneale

Professor Andrea Cameron

Professor Camille Kandiko Howson

Professor Jacqueline Stevenson

University of Plymouth

Honorary Treasurer Governing Council; Abertay University

Chair, Research & Development Committee; Imperial College

Vice-Chair Governing Council; Novus

## Publications Committee

**Chair:** Professor Rob Cuthbert

Professor Liz Bennett

Professor Gayle Brewer

Professor Rachel Brooks

Professor Hamish Coates

Dr Roz Collings

Professor Hans de Wit

Dr Karen Gravett

Professor Ellen Hazelkorn

Professor Sarah O'Shea

Professor Creso Sá

Dr João Santos

Professor Maria Slowey

Professor Gina Wisker

University of the West of England

University of Huddersfield

University of Liverpool

Editor: SRHE/Routledge Book Series, University of Oxford

Joint Editor: Policy Reviews in Higher Education, Tsinghua University/ANU

Editor: Research into Higher Education Abstracts, University of Wolverhampton

Joint Editor: Policy Reviews in Higher Education, Boston College

University of Surrey

Joint Editor: Policy Reviews in Higher Education, TU Dublin

Editor: SRHE/Routledge Book Series, Charles Sturt University Institute of Technology

Editor in Chief: Studies in Higher Education, University of Toronto

Editor-in-Chief: Higher Education Quarterly, Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (ISCTE-IUL)

Associate Editor (UK & Ireland): Studies in HE, Dublin City University

University of Bath

## Research and Development Committee

**Chair:** Professor Camille Kandiko Howson

**Vice Chair:** Professor Anesa Hosein

Professor Dina Belluigi

Dr Joy Garfield

Professor Neil Harrison

Professor Sam Illingworth

Dr Yetunde Kolajo

Dr Agata Lambrechts

Dr Jennifer Leigh

Dr Joanne McDowell

Professor Chris Millward

Professor Namrata Rao

Dr Ruth Squire

Dr Rebecca Turner

Mr Steve Woodfield

Imperial College London

University of Surrey

Queen's University Belfast

Aston University

University of Exeter

Edinburgh Napier University

University of Kent

Università della Svizzera italiana

University of Kent

University of Hertfordshire

University of Birmingham

Liverpool Hope University

Leeds Trinity University

University of Plymouth

British Council

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