

Meet our Speakers, Panellists and Presenters

Dr Gurnam Singh

Hon Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Warwick
Visiting Fellow in Race & Education, University of the Arts London
Visiting Professor, Social Work, Liverpool Hope

Dr. Gurnam Singh is activist researcher, writer, educator, public speaker and broadcast journalist who has dedicated his personal and professional life to exposing and challenging systems of power, privilege, and violence that perpetuate human suffering and inequality. In career exceeding 30 years in Higher Education, he has held various teaching, research and leadership roles. He has contributed significantly to the field of higher education policy and practice on anti-racism, decoloniality and critical and transformative pedagogies. Dr Singh has received several prestigious awards for his work in HE, most notably, in 2009 he was awarded a National Teaching Fellowship from the UK Higher Education Academy, and in 2018 he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts (FRSA)

Dr Deborah Husbands

Reader (Associate Professor) in Race & Sociocultural Psychology, University of Westminster.

Chartered Psychologist, FHEA, Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society

Dr Deborah Husbands is a Chartered Psychologist and Reader (Associate Professor) in Race and Sociocultural Psychology at the University of Westminster. She is also a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and an Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society. She is Co-Chair of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, a founding member and Co-Chair of the Black and Minority Ethnic Colleague Network, and the Lead for the Black History Year Steering Group, all at the University of Westminster. Deborah's research focuses on the experiences of minoritised people using qualitative research methods and critical race theories, such as intersectionality, to understand constructions of identity in higher education and society.

Fatmata K Daramy

Doctoral Researcher, University of Leicester
SsREE Co-lead, NERUPI

Fatmata K Daramy is a Widening Participation Specialist who has contributed significantly to shaping institutional approaches to equity, diversity, and inclusion. Fatmata has been integral to the creation of inclusive and anti-racist curriculum design, and fostering a sense of belonging, at several universities. Additionally, Fatmata serves as the Co-chair lead of the NERUPI Student and Staff Race and Ethnic Equity working group. She actively shapes and implements the group's strategies and spearheads projects which create positive change in the sector. Currently a Doctoral Researcher at The University of Leicester, she is engaged in a research project exploring mental wellbeing for domicile Black, Asian, and minority ethnic students in Higher Education.

Megha Kashyap

Decolonising Research Fellow, London South Bank University

Megha's work at LSBU involves leading the institutional commitment to decolonise the university. In being able to eliminate racial awarding gaps and promote fair access & participation for all students, building an anti-racist university, she works closely with LSBU Schools, professional services structures, to lead on the development, implementation and, interventions aimed at decolonising LSBU. Megha is a feminist decolonial scholar and a

gender rights activist from the Global South. Alongside her role at LSBU, she is pursuing a PhD at SOAS, University of London. Her PhD project is a culmination of a decade of work in the gender and development space in the Global South. Prior to joining LSBU, Megha worked as a Policy Specialist on Women's Economic Rights at Action Aid UK. I have also worked with Oxfam, Global Partnership for Education, Global Fight Inequality Alliance and with State Government's in India, National and Regional Women's Rights organisations and community based organisations in India.

Dr Eileen Pollard

Senior Lecturer in Academic Development, Manchester Metropolitan University

Eileen Pollard previously worked as a Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Chester and then as a Learner Developer at Manchester Metropolitan University. She has over ten years' experience teaching in HE and she joined the University Teaching Academy at Manchester Met in February 2022. She has published on teaching and learning practice, including in the THE and Wonkhe, as well as journal articles, blogs and podcasts, and she is an Associate Editor at the Journal of University Teaching & Learning Practice. One of her proudest achievements to date is her TEDx on 'Teaching English Using Compassion', which has been viewed over 10,000 times on youtube. Eileen is a Relational and Critical Pedagogue who is passionate about widening participation in and access to HE, and she is committed to the values of equity, social justice and anti-racism becoming behaviours across campuses.

Dr Constantino Dumangane Jr,

Assistant Professor/Senior Lecturer in Education, University of York

Constantino is an Assistant Professor/Senior Lecturer in the University of York's Education Department where he is Programme Lead for the Masters in Social Justice and Education. In 2020 Constantino developed an option module on Race, Equity, Equality and Difference which is now a core requirement for all Social Justice Masters students to complete. As a member of the Centre for Research on Education and Social Justice (CRESJ), he has an interest in developing transparent and comprehensive understandings of how the intersectionality of race, class, gender and faith impact Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) student's educational trajectories. Constantino is founding member of the Decolonising Education Collective that works to decolonise curricula, improve inclusivity and recognition of BAME contributions to education.

Dr Syra Shakir

Associate Professor Learning and Teaching, Leeds Trinity University

Syra Shakir is an Associate Professor in Learning and Teaching and Strategic Lead on Race Equity at Leeds Trinity University. Syra works on decolonisation, anti-racist pedagogy, co creation with students and delivers anti racist CPD for universities and external organisations. Syra collaborated with film maker Ricardo Barker to develop an anti-racist toolkit for tackling racism in higher education using film and the aftermath debate. Syra is also a qualified social worker with children and families.

Shaid Parveen

Associate Dean for Enterprise & Engagement, Aston Law School

Shaid Parveen is a qualified lawyer and the Associate Dean for Enterprise and Engagement for Aston Law School and the School of Social Sciences and Humanities at Aston University. Shaid is a Senior Teaching Fellow and leads the Aston Law Clinic which advises businesses and entrepreneurs.

Shaid has a proven track record in EDI in academia and practice. She chairs the Birmingham Law Society, Race, Ethnicity and Cultural Heritage subcommittee and is a committee member of the Law Society of England and Wales, Women Solicitor's Network.

Sumaya Ahmed

Senior Lecturer & Course Leader, London South Bank University

Sumaya is a senior lecturer of Chiropractic in the School of Allied and Community Health (ACH). As well her teaching and learning role, she has experience in the following: community engagement and marketing lead for the student-led Chiropractic clinic in Croydon, admissions and outreach. Her interests are in marginalised communities, such as minoritised ethnic students and those who come from low socio-economic backgrounds. Sumaya has researched how this can affect their engagement and attendance within an educational setting. Her future research plans include the impact of colonialism on the health of South Asians.

Dr Amita Nijhawan

Educational Developer (Social Justice and Student Co creation), University of the Arts London

Amita is an Educational Developer with a focus on decoloniality and social justice, at the University of the Arts London. Her key project is to explore decoloniality to disrupt forms and hierarchical structures of academic writing, to help writers develop a writing voice, and to explore decoloniality alongside feminist and social/climate justice. Her academic writing has appeared in *New Theatre Quarterly*, *South Asian Popular Culture* and *Media Culture*. Her creative writing has appeared in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, *Wasafiri*, *Aesthetica*, *Berkeley Fiction Review*, *Brand* and others. She has been a writer-in-residence with *Spread the Word*, *Literature Works*, *British Council*, *Leverhulme*, *University College London* and *Plymouth University*.

Gihan Ismail

Associate Lecturer, Oxford Brookes University

Gihan is an Associate Lecturer at Oxford Brookes University, a teaching assistant at the University of Bath and a doctoral researcher at its Department of Education. Gihan's research interests include, but not limited to, internationalisation, knowledge power and ethics. Gihan is also interested in the theorisation of epistemic justice within the global order. Besides, Gihan has the following roles: BERA book review editor | Research Intelligence Reviewer for a number of journals of Star Scholar Network.

Dr Meghna Nag Chowdhuri

Research Fellow, University College London

Meghna is a research fellow at IOE, UCL focusing on educational inequalities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. Her research explores why these patterns of inequalities persist and how these can be disrupted. She completed my PhD in Education from the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge in 2020. Meghna's PhD study explored how primary school teachers in state schools in Delhi, interpret and use reformed mathematics textbooks developed to make mathematics inclusive and accessible for all children.

From 2019-2022, she was the lead researcher for the Primary Science Capital Teaching Approach research project. The research focused on developing social justice-oriented teaching pedagogies that can be used by primary school science teachers.

Meghna is currently leading the Making Spaces research and development project, which is an international collaboration between seven Makerspaces across five countries - including UK, USA, Nepal, Palestine and Slovenia. The research project explores how these informal STEM learning spaces can develop equitable youth practices, to support diverse young people to engage meaningfully with STEM (within their educational trajectories, careers as well as their home lives and communities). She is also a member of the Early Career Research Network at the Collaborative Social Sciences Domain and an IOE Early Career Impact Fellow (2021-22).

Dr Dave S. P Thomas

Associate Professor of Inclusive Curriculum, Solent University

Dr. Dave S.P. Thomas, is an Associate Professor at Solent University, Southampton. He is also a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA), with over two decades of experience in leadership, management, teaching and research in the educational sector as well as private and public sector organisations globally.

Dave has a range of publications pertaining to inclusive leadership, racial justice, equality and inclusion, educational psychology, occupational justice and social justice. He is a co-editor of *Diversity, Inclusion and Decolonization: Practical tools for research and scholarship* (2022) Bristol University Press; the lead editor of *Doing Equity and Diversity for Success in Higher Education* (2021) Palgrave Macmillan; and *Towards Decolonising the University: A Kaleidoscope for Empowered Action* (2020) Counterpress Oxford.

Dave conceptualised and developed the novel set of Culturally Sensitive Curricula Scales (CSCS) and Educator Self-reflection tool as quantitative tools to assess the extent to which higher education curricula are culturally, sensitive and support curricular enhancement.

Dave is a co-developer of the esteemed collaborative Santander Universities and Open University anti-racism course *Union Black: Britain's Black Cultures and Steps to Anti-racism*.