

School of the Arts

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Update

Introduction

Happy May!

We are so excited to share a selection of EDI initiatives that are currently in progress across the School. Initiatives range from concerns on buildings named after controversial figures, student focused issues, staff events, new modules as well as outreach activities. We hope you find them inspiring and please support the School in making it a more inclusive and diverse environment for all!

Athena SWAN

The School's Athena SWAN application draft has now gone to an internal panel for review, with the final application due for submission at the end of the month. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the narrative and analysis so far! You can find out more about Athena SWAN on [our intranet site here!](#)

EDI projects

Architecture

Last summer, as Black Lives Matter activism saw renewed momentum following the murder of George Floyd by a white police officer, it came the School of Architecture's attention the problematic name of our building, named after Lord Leverhulme. At the same time, the University took the decision to remove Gladstone's name from Greenbank Halls, following discussions initiated by the Guild of Students in 2017. As the University launches a new Naming Framework later this year, we eagerly anticipate the outcome of a formal review of our building's name.

English

English have surveyed undergraduate and PGT students to investigate their perceptions and experiences of their courses, from an EDI perspective. The survey collected, among other things, students' opinions of gender equality, ethnic diversity and representation among staff, students and English module content. Building on a pilot survey from last year, the response rate this year was significantly higher (+79 responses) and yielded data for use for our Athena Swan project and our Decolonizing the Curriculum initiative. Thus far the data has informed EDI-related events we held during the department's 'Skills Week' in March.

Music

Music is going to discuss the decolonisation of curriculum plans during the Music Away Day. The department is in conversation with the Wirral Music Service, Edsential on developing inclusion on the Yoko Ono Lennon centre and Tung auditorium. Music is also working on the need for new composition towards the film being made of Abercromby's association with the Slave Trade.

Communications and Media

Communications and Media completed the Minerva's Owl project to provide an informal and anonymous space for staff members to reflect on their experience living through the COVID-19 pandemic, and challenges associated with working from home. Suggested actions have addressed work-life balance, particularly for those with child-care responsibilities, as well as Zoom-fatigue.

Philosophy

This week we have seen Liverpool Philosophers, Yiota Vassilopoulou and Rachael Wiseman, giving talks on 'Women in the History of Philosophy' at the British Society for the History of Philosophy (BSHP).

In other news, a new 'Philosophy of Race' module has been approved and will be taught next year (2021/2022). There will be a Philosophy of Race reading group over the summer to support the development of the new module.

Professional Services

The PS team coordinated a series of talks this Spring entitled 'Making a difference in the real world'. In the first talk on April 13th, podcaster Cassie Delaney spoke about Ireland's Magdalene Laundries and the ongoing justice campaign for those forced to work there. The following week on the 27th April Professor Karen Boyle spoke about the #Metoo campaign, Media, feminism and Harvey Weinstein. On the 6th May Dr Leona Vaughn discussed anti-colonial inquiry, and her journey into academia, with the final event on the 11th May, featuring Lorna Campbell who discussed the editation of Wikipedia relating to the history of HIV/AIDS activism.

Join the SOTA Parents and Carers Network



Teams code

Wellbeing Week

This week is Wellbeing Week!

[Have a look at the programme and sign up to a few events!](#)