

HOLDING THE SPACE: SHINING A LIGHT ON BLACK ACADEMICS

Join us in holding the space

15th of January 2025

Join us for the first annual conference, Holding the Space: Shining a Light on Black Academics.

The [conference](#) will be held at the University of Westminster, Regents Street campus, on the 15th of January 2025.

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Black academics are underrepresented within the higher education sector, most notably in senior leadership and in Professorial positions (HESA, 2024). Although, rates of representation differs across ethnicities, Black scholars, in particular, are over-represented in universities where institutional priorities are less on activities fulfilling promotion criteria (e.g. research output, research funding award generation, and research impact), and more on the fulfilment of teaching allocations, student contact hours and administration (Baltaru, 2024). This imbalance and challenge impacts upon areas of recognition, progression and promotion.

In full acknowledgement of racial and intersectional inequity, this conference aims to provide a vibrant platform for Black academics, students, practitioners and professional services colleagues to amplify their voices in sharing research in areas addressing the conference themes.

Conference themes include, but are not limited to:

- Career trajectories: Career precarity, promotion, progression and/or strategies for success in the higher education sector
- Journeying through academia: Strategies and accounts of navigating, surviving and thriving in higher education spaces
- Critical pedagogies: Social justice, decolonial and anti-racist work in higher education
- Shielding and self-care: Cultural taxation, mental health and wellbeing
- Identity: Intersectionality, its form and implications
- Addressing racial equity: Tackling systemic inequities and advocating for change in higher education

By holding the space, we hope that delegates can foster a powerful and inspiring exchange of ideas while providing greater visibility for Black staff and students within the academic community. Join us for a much-needed space to learn, collaborate and network.

All academics, professional services colleagues, students, senior leaders in higher education, charity and third-sector colleagues welcome to attend.

Sponsored by the “[Westminster for All: Equity, Inclusion and Belonging](#)” EDI programme of the University of Westminster. The programme is led by the University’s EDI Committee and sponsored by Quintin Hogg Trust. The event is also closely connected to the University commitment to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5: “Gender Equality” and to SDG 10 “Reduced Inequalities.”

Organised by Dr Yaz Iyabo Osho | **Endorsed by GEMWA** | **Powered by Black Academic Consultancy** | Sponsored by the University of Westminster and CETI, University of Westminster.