

York Graduate Research School newsletter - 7 March 2024

Update from the Dean



This week, I attended a thought provoking and inspiring event as part of [International Women's Day](#). Two of my colleagues in Environment and Geography bravely shared their personal perspectives on their career 'journeys'. Most of us have wiggly careers that stop, start and go off on tangents. Certainly, I never had 'a plan', although I have tried to stay true to my core values throughout. Talking to our PGRs, it is clear that we need to 'humanise' the [academic career](#) pathway which involves acknowledging, accepting and even celebrating failure. With the benefit of hindsight, every one of my 'failures' (being rejected by Cambridge - and York! - at BSc level, unsuccessful job and PhD applications) resulted in me unexpectedly trying roles that ended up being fun, interesting or at least

okay.

But I realise that I am speaking from my position of privilege as a white, middle class, educated woman. So, I am pleased that YCEDE colleagues are running an event in April for PGRs entitled '[Navigating a career in Higher Education as an ethnic minority](#)' to discuss the unique challenges and experiences faced by people from ethnic minority backgrounds in academia and beyond. Prepare to be inspired, challenged and supported by researchers from across Yorkshire!

Best wishes,
Kate

YGRS and University news

Research at York: a catalyst for change

As we celebrate 60 years of research that confronts challenges head-on, we've produced a video exploring [the future impact our research community is driving](#) in the arts, humanities, social sciences and sciences.

Small change, big impact: use energy wisely

[Help us to reach a £1 million energy saving target](#). Over the coming 12 months we aim to make valuable, sustainable and meaningful changes toward energy conservation throughout our community.

Easter building closures trial

We are continuing with our [building closures trial](#) over the Easter vacation (Friday 22 March to Sunday 7 April inclusive) to help reduce our carbon footprint. This will not affect most buildings that students use - communal student areas such as the Library, study spaces, colleges and sports centres will remain open. However, the Alcuin Research Resource Centre and Research Centre for the Social Sciences will have limited opening over the vacation.

Sustainability Week: book now

There is still chance to join us for activities, events and workshops to raise awareness about environmental and social issues. Join an online discussion on food production and consumption, take a nature walk or join the Climate Club 2.0 live action role playing game! [Book your free place at Sustainability Week events](#).

Win £500 during National Student Money Week

We know that juggling finances and studying can be difficult. That's why it's important to have the tools to keep you safe and mentally healthy. For National Student Money Week, we have loads of financial tips as well as information to help you understand more risky financial behaviour. [Grab free noodles at our money advice drop-ins and enter the Blackbullion prize draw to win £500!](#)

Celebrating International Women's Day

Celebrate [International Women's Day](#) on Friday (8 March) with events on campus including talks on women as human rights defenders, as composers, and overcoming obstacles to achievement. You can also explore the programme of [York International Women's Week](#) which runs until Sunday (10 March).

Discover venues across campus with the MyUoY app

There is a brand new feature on the MyUoY app - you can now use Campus Explore to find places to eat and drink as well as opening times and menus. You can also locate key buildings across campus and plot your route out. If you haven't already, [download the MyUoY app now!](#)

Creative Encounters exhibition launch

Discover and celebrate the research culture in the Arts and Humanities at York, as depicted by local artists in a diverse range of styles and mediums. Experience the artwork, hear from the artists, and stay for the drinks reception at the [Creative Encounters exhibition launch event](#) on Wednesday 20 March.

Support and wellbeing

Student misconduct: Report + Support

If you experience harassment, violence or sexual violence, it's important you report it to the University using our [Report + Support](#) tool, so that you get the support you need, and where appropriate, we can investigate the reported incidents. When you report an incident, an appropriate member of staff will make contact within five working days to discuss what you would like to happen next and the support available. You can also report anonymously if you wish - we can still use this information to better understand the issues impacting our community, to monitor trends and inform proactive and preventative work.

25 Apr: Navigating a career in Higher Education as an ethnic minority

Join YCEDE for an insightful event to discuss the unique challenges and experiences faced by people from ethnic minority backgrounds in academia and beyond. Gain valuable tips, advice, and support from our guest speakers who have successfully navigated their way through the system. Travel funding available to UK PGRs from an ethnic minority background [Book your place](#).

Researcher development

12 Mar: [Managing Your Research Data](#) (online)

A brief overview of research data management with time for your questions.

13 Mar: [What is Public Engagement of Research?](#) (in-person)

Learn about Public Engagement in Research, the benefits, and how to design a Public Engagement activity.

14 Mar: [Copyright for Researchers](#) (online)

This workshop is for researchers from any discipline who are preparing material for a thesis or scholarly publication. Participants in this session will explore the legal terms and licences which permit the re-use of third party materials, consider strategies for requesting additional permissions and review the licences available for releasing your own material.

20 Mar: [Enhancing research culture: Why every lab needs a handbook](#) (in-person and online)

A lab handbook is a flexible document created by all members of a lab that outlines the ethos of a research group. It can summarise the different roles within the lab, give an overview of the culture the lab would like to create, describe how the lab supports development of its members and is therefore a potentially powerful tool to create team equity.

28 Mar: [From Manuscript to Publication: A Workshop for International Early Career Researchers in the Social Sciences](#) (in-person)

Develop and enhance writing skills in preparation for peer review and the wider written communication of research. Hear from a panel of academic speakers with experience editing journals, reviewing and submitting journal articles.

XR Accelerator

XR Network+ is running a free, part-time [XR Accelerator](#) for people working in extended reality (XR) and virtual production (VP) technologies at UK universities. It's an opportunity to develop entrepreneurial skills and explore what goes into creating a tech product business.

Careers

18 Mar: [Academic Careers: What's involved?](#) (online)

Gain a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities involved in an academic career (including research, teaching, and academic citizenship/administration). Participants will consider the realities of an academic career - what is involved, and what skills and strengths it will take to succeed - in order to help them decide if this is a career they would like to pursue.

20 Mar: [Understanding your Strengths](#) (in-person)

Explore the strengths approach and you will begin the process of identifying your unique strengths and considering how you could develop them further. We will also explore why some things you consider to be strengths might not be; how to minimise use of weaknesses; and how understanding your strengths can support good career decision making.

External events:

12 Mar: [Career options for Law PhDs](#) (online)

25-26 Mar: [Careers in international affairs and diplomacy](#) (online)

Innovation & Entrepreneurship Project Manager role

Apply for a part-time [Innovation & Entrepreneurship Project Manager](#) role to help deliver a flagship AI accelerator programme, working with the UoY Commercialisation Manager for Physical Sciences. You will also have the opportunity to help create one-off events of your own to help engage the academic community in commercial activities and also get hands-on experience with early stage commercial opportunities. Application deadline: 12 March.

Teaching

Introduction to Teaching and Learning training

If you're planning to teach as a GTA at York, you need to complete [Introduction to Teaching and Learning training](#) first. There are three different workshops; you should complete the one recommended by your department. For any queries, please contact the Academic Practice Team: academic-practice@york.ac.uk.

PGR public engagement activities

3 Minute Thesis: apply now!

Could you explain your research effectively and concisely to a non-specialist audience in just three minutes? [Apply to take part in 3 Minute Thesis](#) to develop your presentation and research communication skills. In a challenge against the clock, our 10 finalists will have just three minutes to explain 'The Power Of' their research - with the winners taking home prizes! Application deadline: Tuesday 2 April

Call for papers: 2nd 'Race' and Socially Engaged Research: Open and Inclusive Conference for PGRs and ECRs

[Submit a paper/poster/visual display to this interdisciplinary PGR-led conference](#) for researchers in the early career stages who conduct critical research pertaining to 'race', racialisation, racism, in a socially engaged, liberatory and/or transformative manner. Application deadline: 31 March.

News from the Graduate Students' Association

Get involved with single students' union elections

Nominations for the Students' Union Elections 2024 are now open. If you're thinking of running, you can catch up on the [Writing a Manifesto webinar](#). Find out more and submit your nomination on the [YUSU elections web pages](#).



Don't forget there are many [GSA Networks](#) you can join. There is a PhD Network and the Online and Part Time Students Network has a weekly Monday Motivation and Wellbeing Wednesday you can join.

Celebrating our PGRs

[Butterflies mimic each other's flight behaviour to avoid predators](#) - Edd Page (Biology)

[Taylor Swift deepfakes: a legal case from the singer could help other victims of AI pornography](#) - Jade Gilbourne (Sociology)

Events and opportunities:

- A chance to [win £1000 with the Santander Universities Brighter Futures Grants](#)
- [British Postgraduate Network for Chinese Studies 2024 Annual Conference call for papers](#)
- [Sheffield 2023: Generation Delta 1st PGR Network Conference](#)

More news and opportunities can be found on the [Research Student Community blog](#)

[YGRS newsletter archive](#)

www.york.ac.uk/YGRS

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