

The University of York's **Researcher Festival** is an opportunity to collectively celebrate the contribution that early career researchers (both postgraduate researchers and postdocs) make to research, culture and community at York. The Festival provides opportunities for researchers to come together across disciplines to share experiences, learn, network and develop new skills.



# Researcher Festival

17 - 21 October 2022

The primary audience for the festival is researchers (including postgraduate researchers) but all who are interested are warmly invited and welcome to attend. All events are online unless otherwise stated.

| Day           | Morning   | Afternoon  |
|---------------|---|--|
| 17<br>October | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>09:30 - 12:30</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fundamentals of Academic Writing: Laying the Foundation for Clear Writing</b><br/><a href="#">Matt Lane</a></p> <p>Module 1 uses participatory activities to explore what is meant by 'logical argument' by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ clarifying 'first principles', such as what actually is 'research' and 'academic writing'</li> <li>❖ examining how English 'works' in terms of the 1 Fact and 4 (implicit) Influences that have shaped what constitutes a logical argument</li> <li>❖ showing participants a simple yet fundamental organising principle to create clarity – itself a vital feature for publication – at different structural levels from the sentence to the article or thesis.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">PGRs / Staff</a></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>12:00 - 15:00</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Early Career Fellows Afternoon</b></p> <p>Early Career Fellows form a core part of our postdoctoral research community, undertaking innovative research and bringing new ideas to the University. At this event, Fellows from across the University will have a chance to network, socialise and think about their professional development plans for the next year. This event is aimed at all early career Fellows, both those new to the University and those who have been at York for years.</p> <p>This event is for researchers who currently hold a Research Fellowship at the University. Please email <a href="mailto:fellowships@york.ac.uk">fellowships@york.ac.uk</a> if you are interested in attending.</p>                     |
|               | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>11:00 - 12:30</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>I'm a Researcher - How do I Develop a Teaching and Civic Profile?</b><br/><a href="#">Professor Caroline Hunter</a> (York Law School), <a href="#">Dr Glenn Hurst</a> (Chemistry), <a href="#">Dr Aimee Little</a> (Archaeology) &amp; <a href="#">Dr Jennifer Brown</a> (Health Sciences)</p> <p>In this session each of the experienced researchers/academics will share their experiences and provide hints and tips on how to get teaching experience, the training they valued and recommended opportunities that support evidence of civic responsibility.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">PGRs / Staff</a></p>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>13:30 - 15:00</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Being a Researcher at York: For new and existing researchers</b><br/><a href="#">Dr Karen Clegg</a> (BRIC), <a href="#">Jonny Lovell</a> (Equality and Diversity) and <a href="#">Laura McIlroy</a> (HR Operations)</p> <p>Find out more about how the policies and procedures at York work for you. This session will cover a wide range of different topics including: Dignity@work, bullying and harassment procedures, EDI initiatives (including an introduction to staff equality networks and forums), flexible working, maternity/paternity policy, redeployment and will also provide an opportunity to ask questions of professional services colleagues.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Book via Eventbrite</a></p> |
|               | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>11:00 - 12:30</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Effective Time Management</b><br/><a href="#">Dr Dominika Butler</a> (BRIC)</p> <p>This session presents various time management tools, tips and good practice in considering how your time is used so that you can make the most efficient use of your time, avoid falling behind and/or lax time, and work more effectively. By the end of these sessions, participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Understand the tools needed to identify time wasting activities and good practice in their own behaviours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Develop a personal strategy for improved time management</li> <li>❖ Evaluate tips on improving use of their time</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">PGRs / Staff</a></p>    |  |

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October

**09:30 - 12:30**  
**Fundamentals of Academic Writing: Strategies for Effective Drafting**

[Matt Lane](#)

Module 2 helps participants write more efficiently and effectively by:

- ❖ Uncovering the implicitly expected patterns in Introductions, Conclusions and Abstracts, which then become models to help participants write, think, and persuade more effectively and efficiently
- ❖ Appropriately exploring participants' feelings about writing to increase effective drafting by reducing possible psychological barriers
- ❖ Featuring a 1 hour Writing Work Out, in which participants learn and apply simple writing strategies to help them 'warm-up' and calm anxieties; 'work out' by outlining the large-, medium-, and small-scale structures of their article/thesis; 'cool down' by setting themselves up for the next time they write.

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**13:00 - 14:30**  
**Making the Most of your Postdoc**  
[Dr Francina Clayton](#) (BRIC)

This session will help you to make the most of the support and resources available to plan your professional and career development as a researcher. All researchers, including postgraduate researchers, are welcome to attend this session. Whether you are considering a career in academia or other sectors this session will help you to identify:

- ❖ The value of gaining experience beyond your own research
- ❖ The variety of opportunities available
- ❖ Opportunities that connect with your interests and career plans
- ❖ Factors to consider when planning opportunities

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**11:00 - 12:30**  
**Queer Voices on Research, Networking and Support at York**

Facilitated by members of the LGBTI+ Matters Staff network:

[Hannah Smith](#) (Interim Director of Student Careers and Systems), [Liz-Wands Murray](#) (HoDs office manager and PG Researcher), [Dr Hannah Roche](#) (Senior Lecturer in 20th Century Literature and Culture), [Dr Derek Wann](#) (Senior Lecturer in Physical Chemistry). Chaired by [Professor Rachel Cowgill](#) (Professor of Music and Research Champion for Creativity).

Being a researcher can be isolating, and has been especially so over the last couple of years. Coming together physically to find our community and engage in scholarship, support and activism can be important. Starting out as an LGBTI+ postgraduate or postdoctoral researcher perhaps in a new context or in a new country, it can be hard to connect with others. The University of York's LGBTI+ Matters staff network and student groups are open and welcoming. This session provides an opportunity to meet convenors and members of the LGBTI+ Matters staff network and hear about the work of LGBTI+ members of the research community at York. All are welcome.

[Book via Eventbrite](#)

**15:00 - 16:30**  
**Do you want to form your own postdoc society?**

[Dr Jennifer Chubb](#) (School of Arts and Creative Technologies), [Dr Heather Leggett](#) (Health Sciences) & [Dr Liz Rylott](#) (Biology)

Research Staff Associations and Postdoc Societies support and empower research staff across all schools and faculties to develop inspiring, progressive and fulfilling research career experiences, in an environment that maximises academic and research opportunities. These societies are developed by you and for you. They might host facilitated workshops enabling research staff to develop and reflect on individual career paths; plan informal gatherings and networking events facilitating social and professional connections to bring about cross-cutting research opportunities; put on social events and opportunities to meet other research staff across all disciplines whilst also providing important representation on the Researcher Concordat Implementation Group. This session will give a few examples of societies set up at the university and provide an opportunity to find out more.

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**09:30 - 12:30**  
**Fundamentals of Academic Writing: Strategies for Effective Editing**

[Matt Lane](#)

Module 3 helps participants make their writing clear by:

- ❖ Showing them a range of practical, time-efficient strategies to help them edit their work effectively
- ❖ Deepening and embedding participants' understanding of how to write clearly by revisiting the principles in Module 1
- ❖ Examining, through practical examples, two fundamental features of academic language – Nominalisations and Hedging – to help participants use them effectively and with confidence.

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**13:00 - 13:30**  
**Introduction to Intellectual Property & Commercialisation Support Available**

Luke Souter ([Commercialisation Team](#))

The course provides a brief overview of what IP is and most importantly how it can be used to benefit your research. Coming away from the session you will understand how IP and commercialisation processes can be used to increase your research impact, develop new funding opportunities and strengthen your grant applications.

The course will also highlight common mistakes researchers make with IP and how they can easily be avoided in the future.

The commercialisation team at the University of York are here to support researchers by helping turn research ideas into products and services that have societal benefit. That does not mean that every product or service needs to be sold necessarily. In this talk we will show you what we can do to help support your research and what that support looks like.

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**13:30 - 15:30**  
**The Creative Researcher: Using Creative Writing to Explore Your Topic, Enhance Your Knowledge, and Write Your Way Out of a Slump**

[Dr Janine Bradbury](#) (Senior Lecturer in Literature, Department of English and Related Literature)

Creative writing can be a tremendous tool for wellbeing, catharsis, and critical thinking. It can also be a supplementary practice for academic researchers that can help us work through our relationship to research and our research topics, that can help us work our way out of slumps, blocks, and frustrations, and it can stimulate new ways of approaching a project which may feel overly familiar or 'tired'.

In this creative writing workshop, drawing upon her own experience of pivoting from traditional academic writing to creative writing, Janine will facilitate group discussion about how creativity may reinvigorate, refresh, or stimulate research practice before offering you the time, space, and support to produce some creative work of your own prompted by your current research project, challenge, obstacle, or idea.

Please bring any materials that you feel will help you with writing (pens, paper, laptop...) AND please bring something relating to your research (e.g. a chapter/article/report/review you are working on, a piece of secondary criticism/theory you're working with, or even a reviewer's report you're working through).

This workshop is open to researchers of all stages, backgrounds, and disciplines. Absolutely no prior experience of literary study or creative writing is needed, and there is no pressure to share your work.

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**11:00 - 12:00**

**Identity, Engagement and Inclusion in Research**

Thomas Compton (PGR, School for Business and Society), Ciara Loughrey (PGR, Hull York Medical School/Biology), Sam Hinrichs (PGR, School for Business and Society)

Across all fields of research, academics recognise that their work impacts on various groups of people in different ways, whilst awareness of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Justice (EDIJ) is also increasing in academic spaces. This session will explore the intersections of identity between 'the researcher' and 'the researched', to understand the roles identity plays in research across the sciences, arts and humanities.

This workshop will take the form of a panel-based discussion, examining topics such as how our own identities have shaped our research practices; engagement, inclusion and recruitment of marginalised groups in research; and how we can reduce the bridge between researchers and participants. This discussion is intended to be safe, open and inclusive, especially for those from groups traditionally underrepresented in academia and research. All are welcome, regardless of field or career stage. Please do bring any questions, contributions or musings along to discuss.

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**14:00 - 15:00**

**Mentoring and Coaching: What's in it for me?**

[Dr Karen Clegg](#) (BRIC, University of York)

This session will look at the power of mentoring and coaching in achieving goals and overcoming obstacles (real or imagined) that are stopping you from achieving your potential. We will explore what you can gain and what you can give to others who may be seeking a mentor to support their progress.

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**09:30 - 12:30**

**Fundamentals of Academic Writing: Getting the Writing Written**

[Matt Lane](#)

Module 4 helps participants increase their productivity and decrease their procrastination around writing by covering a range of 'tricks and tips' and topics, including:

- ❖ The impacts of multi-tasking on your focus
- ❖ Your motivations for doing research, whether at PhD or postdoctoral levels
- ❖ Taking a dive into managing your procrastination
- ❖ The mechanisms of habit-formation, so that you can turn productive writing actions into consistent effective habits

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**13:00 - 14:30**

**Impact through industry: Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) and Commercialisation**

[Melanie Race-Mellin](#) and [Rukmal Abeysekera](#) (Knowledge Transfer Partnership Team), and [Luke Souter](#) (Commercialisation Team)

Working in collaboration with external stakeholders enables researchers and academics to develop real-world applications for research and tangible knowledge exchange (and tap into funding) and impact opportunities. In this session the University's [Knowledge Transfer Partnerships](#) (KTPs) Team and the [Commercialisation Team](#) will give an overview of commercialisation opportunities and Innovate UK funded KTPs and the opportunities they present for collaboration with industry and business partners. There will also be opportunity to hear about other services from the Research and Enterprise Directorate.

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**10:00 - 11:00**

**Women in Research Network**

**14:00 - 15:00**

**ECR Research Culture Cafe - what does and should a good research culture look and feel like ?**

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[Dr Lorna Warnock](#) (Equality & Diversity Coordinator - Gender Equality)

The Women in Research Network is open to women of all backgrounds and this includes people who identify as trans women or non-binary. We recognise that women's experiences, while often common or similar, are different depending on their background, heritage and life experiences.

This session will provide an introduction to the Women in Research Network, how the network came about and what this interdisciplinary network could do to support your research and career progression. Importantly, we will discuss how you can join and contribute your ideas and experience to the network to support others.

Meet some of our existing members and hear why they value being part of the network and let us know the topics that you would like to see addressed in our future programme of training and events.

[Book via Eventbrite](#)

[Megan McLoughlin](#) (Research Culture Coordinator)

Have your say on how we can create the most supportive, inspiring research environment for early career researchers at York. What would an ideal research culture look like for you? What do you like about York, and what can we do to make it better? This session will offer the opportunity for a small group discussion with your early career peers about research culture which will help to inform a research culture action plan for the University. Bring your thoughts and ideas about career progression, healthy working environments, equality and diversity in research and much more to this relaxed and informal discussion space.

[Book via Eventbrite](#)

**16:15 - 17:00**

**An introduction to Academic Publishing for ECRs**

[Dr Luke Telford](#) (Lecturer in Criminal Justice & Social Policy)

This session offers advice and tips on getting started with academic publishing, particularly journal articles and turning a thesis into a monograph. Drawing upon the presenter's publishing experience, it outlines steps around thinking strategically and how to navigate the challenging and competitive terrain of academic publishing.

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**10:00 - 11:30**

**What are Early Career Fellowships, and how can they help you develop your career?**

[Dr Tobias Nyumba](#) (Environment and Geography), [Dr Katherine Bridge](#) (Biology), [Dr Cobi van Tonder](#) (School of Arts and Creative Technologies), [Dr Andrew Vidali](#) (History) and [Dr Taryn Bell](#) (BRIC)

If you're an early career researcher, it can feel difficult to set yourself apart from your supervisor or PI. How do you develop your own niche, and how can you create your own independent research identity?

In this session, you'll find out about research Fellowships, and hear from current and former researchers at the University of York who will discuss how undertaking a Fellowship helped them to become independent researchers. You'll also find out about how you can apply for a Fellowship, and what you can do to increase your chances of success.

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**13:00 - 14:30**

**Developing Interdisciplinary and International Collaborations**

[Dr Tabitha Kabora](#) (LCAB), [Dr Angela de Bruin](#) (Psychology) and [Dr Hanne Cottyn](#) (History)

This session will feature talks and discussion from researchers across the University who have developed interdisciplinary and/or international collaborations in their work. You'll hear about the exciting research taking place at the University, learn what support the University offers, and there will be the opportunity to ask questions about how you can kickstart collaborations of your own.

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**10:30 - 12:00**

**Looking After your Mental Health in Academia**

[Liz Wands-Murray](#) (Health Sciences) and [Dr Jelena O'Reilly](#) (Education)

Dr Jelena O'Reilly completed her PhD at York in 2019 and is now a Lecturer in Psychology in Education at York. She hosts an [Academia & Mental Health](#) blog. Liz Wands-Murray is completing her PhD and is the HoDs Office Manager in Health Sciences. Both have facilitated discussions and developed resources to support researchers' mental health. In this session they explore the issues faced by researchers and identify some practical tips to maintain wellbeing.

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**15:00 - 16:00**

**Open Research Practices and Principles**

[Thom Blake](#) (Open Research Team) and [Dr Maddy Power](#) (Health Sciences)

This session will provide an overview of open research practices and principles, including:

- ❖ What open research means and how it benefits research across a range of disciplines
- ❖ Various methods which can help open up the research lifecycle (including pre-registration, preprint sharing, open data/code and open access publication) and examples of how these have been used by York researchers in different areas
- ❖ How open research is supported at York and where further help and guidance can be found.

Dr Maddy Power will provide a researcher perspective; describing how transparency and accountability were built into the Covid Realities research programme and the new Changing Realities project, and how open research continues to be part of the team's broader research ethics.

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**11:00 - 12:30**

**Introduction to Sustainable Research**

[Joanne Morris](#) (Environmental Policy Officer at Stockholm Environment Institute, Environment and Geography)

The University is committed to making its activities more sustainable, including reducing emissions on campus and producing research for how industry and policy can become more sustainable, but what about making the research

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we do more sustainable? We are familiar with the idea of reducing emissions for climate action using carbon footprint calculators to provide insights on emissions from travel, energy and water use, and material consumption. But beyond climate action, sustainability includes considering ecosystem health and social wellbeing. In this session we will discuss and share ideas on how to apply sustainability thinking to our individual research practice. I will also give an overview of where you can find out more about sustainability research and teaching at the university, including the new Environmental Sustainability Academy at York (ESAY).

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