

Inclusion by Design:

The Future of Energy Research

16 September 2026

IET, London





EDI+ offers a comprehensive two-year fellowship programme for colleagues working in the energy research community, as well as regular networking and training events. The Cohort 1 Fellowship programme started in October 2023, and Cohort 2 started in September 2024.

The EDI+ team is comprised of colleagues from Durham University and Northumbria University, all with a passion for improving EDI. We also have an advisory board, who constructively challenge and champion the work of EDI+. Find out more on the [EDI+ web-site](#).



The UK Energy Research Centre carries out world-class, interdisciplinary research into sustainable future energy systems. Our whole systems research programme addresses the challenges and opportunities presented by the transition to a net zero energy system and economy. UKERC is funded by the UK Research and Innovation, Energy Programme. Find out more on the [UKERC web-site](#)



The Supergen Energy Networks Hub (SEN) is a £9m research project funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). The hub brings together collaborative teams from Industry, Academia, Government and Civil Society to carry out highly impactful, interdisciplinary research, to enable energy networks to become a driving force towards a rapid, safe and just transition to net zero.

The Supergen Energy Networks Hub (SEN) impact focused research programme has been designed around the concept of research missions. Our grand challenge, for energy networks to become a driving force towards a rapid, safe and just transition to net zero. Our multi-disciplinary mission focussed challenge requires collaborative teams from Industry, Academia, Government and Civil Society to work together to Accelerate, Scale and Deliver real impact. Find out more on the [Supergen Networks Hub web-site](#).



The IGNITE Network+ [Innovation and Growth Needs Inclusion and engagement of all Talent in Energy] is a four-year, £1.25M EPSRC funded initiative aimed at addressing the lack of diversity in energy research by harnessing the talents of researchers from diverse backgrounds.

Led by the University of Strathclyde with partners Imperial College London, the University of Nottingham, the University of Manchester, the University of Bristol, and Brunel University London. Our mission is to support sustainable, abundant, clean and equitable energy for all, by harnessing the talents of energy researchers from all backgrounds. To achieve the changes to energy systems needed to meet net-zero carbon by 2050 requires innovation, and its translation into industry, at pace. Research has shown that diversity in the workforce, if managed effectively, increases innovation, brings greater scientific impact and improves economic growth. Increased diversity in energy researchers will significantly improve our chances of successful transition to net zero by 2050.

Our goal is to foster an inclusive and welcoming culture within the energy research community, ensuring equal opportunities for all, where everyone can thrive regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, family structure, nationality, sexuality, socio-economic background, age, or religious beliefs.

Please consider joining the network if you aren't already a member
www.ignitenetplus.ac.uk/jointhenetwork (membership is completely free).

Find out more on the [IGNITE Network web-site](http://www.ignitenetplus.ac.uk) and follow IGNITE on social media @IGNITENetPlus – BlueSky, LinkedIn and YouTube.

9:30-9:50

Registration, coffee & networking

9:50-10:05

Welcome- Professor Simone Abram

10:05-10:35

Keynote-Professor Patricia Thornley

10:40-11:40

New Research and what works for EDI- **EDI+ Fellows**

11:40-12:00

Presentation-Dr Yara Evans

12:00-12:45

Lunch and Posters/Installations

12:45-13:00

Live Sci Fi Reading -Dr Nora Wuttke

13:00-13:30

Flash writing workshop -Dr Nora Wuttke

13:30-14:05

Keynote-Rachel Van Krimpen

14:10-15:10

Discussion panel Q&A-What next for EDI in Energy

Chair: Prof Simone Abram

Dr Jim Flemming

Prof Mustafa F. Ozbilgin

Helen Stockton

15:10-15:30

Get your Coffee

15:30-16:30

Conversation Stations with coffee

16:30-16:40

Final Remarks- Prof Simone Abram

Accessibility

As part of our commitment to our EDI it is important that our events are accessible to all. Please let us know if you have any accessibility requirements.

There is a Sesame lift at the front entrance and a removable ramp at the side of the building. All floors are fully accessible via two lifts.

Accessible toilets
Hearing loop available
Level access

The IET provides an [accessibility guide](#)

Recording

Please note the event will be streamed and recorded, and parts may be published on organiser websites and YouTube subject to speaker approval.

Questions

There will be an opportunity to ask the speakers questions after the presentations and during the panel discussion. In person participants will be able to use the roving mic; online participants can use the chat function which will be read out by a member of the organising team.

In Person Participants

The IET is located in Savoy Place [\[View Map\]](#)
Further location information is available [here](#)

2 Savoy Place
London
WC2R 0BL

For general enquiries about the IET please email: savoyplace@ietvenues.co.uk
The event is taking place in the: Maxwell Library

Online Participants

Zoom

Online attendance will be hosted by IET.tv's Productions Personal Meeting Room

[link to access zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 976 649 1403

Passcode: 314159

Your account will initially be placed into a waiting room. You will join the event at the official start time of. Please note that your camera will be turned off and your account will be muted. You will be able switch your camera on and unmute during the networking session.

Parking

No on-site parking is available at IET London: Savoy Place. Limited metered street parking is available nearby, with the closest public car park being [NCP Covent Garden \(Drury Lane\)](#).

Please note that the venue is located within the [London Congestion Charge Zone](#), and charges may apply when driving in central London. We recommend travelling by public transport, with Embankment, Charing Cross, Temple and Covent Garden stations all within walking distance of the venue.

Photography

We will be taking photos during the event. These images will be used to share news about the event, and to publicise our work. Images may be used in press releases,

printed publicity and published on our web-site and social media. If you would prefer not to be photographed, please let the registration desk know on arrival. If you would like to see your images, or would like us to delete them, please email us ediplus@durham.ac.uk

Wi-Fi

The venue Wi-Fi is available to all attendees-please select IET-Guest. To login simply accept terms and conditions to be automatically connected.

Chair

Prof Simone Abram | EDI+ Director & Director of Durham Energy Institute | Durham University



Professor Simone Abram leads the EPSRC EDI+ Network for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Energy Research. She is professor in Social Anthropology and a Director of Durham Energy Institute with responsibility for embedding social science and humanities in energy research. Current research projects include the Research Centre for Socially Inclusive Energy Transitions, GEMS Geothermal Energy from Mines and Solar-geothermal Heating, Zero-Carbon Emission Integrated Cooling, Heating and Power (ICHP) networks, and Understanding Energy Poverty in Norway (PowerPoor). She has a DPhil in Social Anthropology and an MEng in Electrical Engineering, and has an extensive record of publications and research on participatory practice in policy-making. She is a founder member of the Fair Energy Consortium, the European Energy Anthropology Network, and was a member of the European centre for women and technology (ECWT). She is Chair of the UK Association of Social Anthropologists and a member of the Academy of Social Sciences/ESRC EDI working group. Keynote Speakers

Prof Patricia Thornley | Chief Scientific Adviser | Department of Transport



Professor Patricia Thornley is the Chief Scientific Adviser for the UK Government's Department for Transport and Professor at the Energy and Bioproducts Research Institute at Aston University, from where she leads a national doctoral training centre in negative emission technologies. A fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, with 30 years' experience in industry and academia, she has led £38M UKRI research projects with particular focus on sustainable fuels for electricity, heat and transport sectors and has had advisory roles for DfT, DESNZ, Defra, CCC, the Royal Academy of Engineering and Royal Society, as well as many overseas funding agencies.

Presentation: Inclusion in the Engineering and Physical Sciences: A Personal Perspective on What Works.

Dr Rachel Van Krimpen | Faculty Director of People and Culture for Science | University of Nottingham



Dr Rachel Van Krimpen is Faculty Director of People and Culture for Science at the University of Nottingham and co-theme lead for Gender Equality. She leads initiatives focused on equality, diversity and inclusion, including work on neuro-inclusivity, inclusive research cultures, bullying and harassment, and widening participation in postgraduate research. Rachel is a member of the Research England Expert Advisory Group on EDI and served as a Trustee of the UK Council for Graduate Education from 2021–2025.

Presentation: Addressing Bullying and Harassment in STEMM: Lessons from Two Change Programmes

Abstract: Universities are high-risk environments for bullying and harassment. Hierarchy and power imbalances, competition, role ambiguity, job insecurity and significant workloads combine with low levels of reporting to create environments in which undesirable behaviours have the potential to thrive.

In this presentation, Rachel Van Krimpen will share insights and learning from two programmes of work focusing on anti-bullying and harassment in academia, focusing on STEMM disciplines – the Office for Students-funded STEMM Bullying and Harassment Intervention Project and the University of Nottingham’s Faculty of Science Anti-Bullying and Harassment Programme.

Dr Yara Evans | Research Associate Centre for Environmental Policy - Faculty of Natural Sciences



Dr Yara Evans is a Human Geographer who has worked as a Research Associate at the Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London, since 2018. Her work at Imperial has focused on the social sustainability of biofuels, bioproducts, the bioeconomy and energy transitions, examining public and stakeholder perceptions alongside questions of gender, justice and distributional impacts. She has used mixed methods, combining surveys and qualitative research with participatory stakeholder workshops, policy analysis and sustainability assessment. A central interest has been understanding how sustainability trade-offs are governed and how the benefits, costs and risks of technological change are distributed across communities and social groups.

Presentation: Designing Gender into Energy Research: The Gendered Innovations Approach in Practice

Abstract: Energy research shapes how the energy transition is understood and pursued: which problems receive attention, which technologies and policies are developed, whose knowledge informs them, and whose needs may be overlooked. When research design overlooks gender and intersectional differences, the resulting evidence may reproduce inequalities embedded within existing energy systems.

This presentation draws on the Horizon Europe gEneSys project, which examined gendered power relations and inequalities across energy transition pathways. Evidence gathered across UK postgraduate education and academic practice revealed strong interest in interdisciplinary energy research and education grounded in societal purpose. However, gender and intersectional perspectives remained only partially and inconsistently integrated into teaching, research and institutional practice. Addressing this disparity was a central aim of

gEneSys, which adapted the suite of Gendered Innovations methodologies developed at Stanford University to energy research through what the project termed the Gendered Innovations Approach, or GIA. Its practical application is demonstrated through a research redesign exercise based on published empirical energy studies, showing how GIA can reshape a study from its initial questions through to its conclusions.

A further example shows how gEneSys combined GIA with the SHAPE framework to analyse European University Association recommendations on energy research and education. These applications demonstrate how GIA can embed gender and intersectional analysis systematically within research design, strengthening the quality, relevance and societal responsiveness of energy research.

Dr Nora Wuttke | Postdoctoral Research Associate in Engineering | Durham University



Nora's research draws on architecture, social anthropology and energy studies, informed by professional practice in China and Myanmar. Her EDI+ project asks how energy researchers imagine the worlds their work helps create, and how making these assumptions explicit can shape more reflective, inclusive approaches to energy technologies, histories and policies.

Presentation: Live Sci Fi Reading: Imagining the Future of Energy

EDI+ Fellow Presentations

Dr Claudia Matz | Centre Manager – Doctoral Training Centre (Engineering) | Nottingham University



Claudia's research is on inclusive postgraduate education and student experience, informed by expertise in research management and doctoral training. Her EDI+ project asks what specific requirements, barriers and bottlenecks are faced by mature postgraduate students, and how institutional practices can be redesigned to better support their progression and success.

Presentation: Lived experiences of mature and part-time postgraduate students

Dr Sanchari Deb | Academic Researcher | Newcastle University



Sanchari's research focuses on electric mobility, user experience and sustainable urban systems, with interests in EV infrastructure, smart energy and AI-driven planning.

Her EDI+ project asks what barriers international academic staff face in accessing funding and promotion, and how targeted institutional interventions can improve equity, progression and inclusion within academia.

Presentation: Inclusion in Practice: Reflections from EPSRC EDI+ Fellowship

Dr Oliver Fisher | Assistant Professor in Chemical and Environmental Engineering | Nottingham University



Oliver's research focuses on digital bioprocess engineering, AI, non-invasive sensing and circular economy approaches. His EDI+ project asks how a large language model, ChatEDI, can support researchers to embed equality, diversity and inclusion considerations across the full research lifecycle, from funding applications through delivery to dissemination.

Presentation: More Than A Prompt: Making AI work for everyone

Chair



Prof Simone Abram | EDI+ Director & Director of Durham Energy Institute | Durham University

Panelists

Dr Jim Flemming | Head of Energy Theme | EPSRC



Dr Jim Fleming has a degree and PhD in Chemistry from the University of Bristol. After a few years of postdoctoral work, he joined EPSRC at the end of the last millennium. He has worked in a variety of roles across EPSRC before becoming Head of the Energy Theme in 2017. This role is now Joint Head of Clean Energy in Energy, leading primarily on Renewable & Nuclear Energy

Professor Mustafa F. Ozbilgin | Associate Dean for Equity and Inclusion | Brunel University



Mustafa F. Ozbilgin is Professor of Organisational Behaviour and Associate Dean for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at Brunel Business School, Brunel University of London. His research examines how inequality is produced and sustained in organisations, professions and sectors, and how accountability for it can be built into governance rather than left to goodwill. He works on recognition based accountability, intersectionality and the sociology of ignorance, and has applied these ideas to workplaces, infrastructure and crisis and disaster settings. He has published widely on equality, diversity and inclusion, served as editor of the British Journal of Management, and co-founded the EDI International Conference in 2008. He has supervised more than 40 doctoral students and advises public bodies on equality practice.

Helen Stockton | Head of Research | National Energy Action



Helen leads and oversees programmes of social research and evaluation at National Energy Action (NEA), the national fuel poverty charity. As a member of the Charity's leadership team her efforts and focus are on the strategic value and vital insight social research can bring to NEA's mission: to ensure that everyone can afford to live in a warm, safe and healthy home. The work of the Research Team brings a deep understanding of how energy poverty affects people's lives, particularly those in vulnerable circumstances. By capturing data, evidence and lived experiences, our research helps NEA to identify the barriers households face to living well in warm and healthy homes. An experienced social researcher and manager, with over 20 years' applied experience, Helen is passionate about the role of social research in bringing about enduring change. Her areas of expertise and interest include energy and social policy issues relating to poverty, social justice and energy transitions, and the ways that knowledge can be better brokered between research and those working in policy and practice

The Conversation Stations offer a relaxed and informal setting to connect with colleagues while exploring the exciting projects within the EDI+ and IGNITE Network+. Each table will feature a specific project and accommodate up to six participants. Sessions run for one hour, divided into two 30-minute rotations, giving you the chance to join different discussions and broaden your insights.

We will be running a 20 minute conversation station for online participants, following this time will be allocated to general networking and continuing any conversations

Conservation title: Who Coaches the Leaders? Rethinking Support in Higher Education

Dr Dominika Zabiega | Assistant Professor | Northumbria University



Dominika is an Assistant Professor in Mechanical and Construction Engineering at Northumbria University, with She specializes in porous material development, nanotechnology, and environmental sustainability. Her collaborative ethos, aligned with EDI values, is evident in commitment to ethics in engineering, contributing to academic citizenship, innovative teaching and leadership roles, as well as in research. She is actively involved in EDI initiatives internationally and holds an EPSRC EDI+ Energy Fellowship.

Conservation title: The right thing at the right time; interventions in STEM education and careers

Dr Stewart Beattie | Senior Teaching Fellow & Associate Dean for Culture & Inclusion in Engineering | University of Strathclyde



Stewart's research explores recruitment pathways, attainment and success within civil engineering degree apprenticeships. His EDI+ project asks whether diversifying work_{OBJ}-based higher education can widen access to energy education and strengthen diversity within the future energy research workforce.

Conservation title: Making STEM More Inclusive: Learning from Disabled Students' Experiences

Dr Litka Milian | Associate Professor | Durham University



Litka's research focuses on inclusive education and curriculum transformation within the chemical sciences, with particular attention to student belonging, representation, and decolonisation. Her EDI+ Fellowship investigates how structural inequalities shape the experiences of minority ethnic and disabled students in chemistry, particularly in institutions and communities in the North East.

Conservation title: Making STEM More Inclusive: Learning from Disabled Students' Experiences

Dr Nora Wuttke | Postdoctoral Research Associate in Engineering | Durham University



Nora's research draws on architecture, social anthropology and energy studies, informed by professional practice in China and Myanmar. Her EDI+ project asks how energy researchers imagine the worlds their work helps create, and how making these assumptions explicit can shape more reflective, inclusive approaches to energy technologies, histories and policies.

Online Conservation title: Can we change the energy sector by changing our recruitment?

Molly Westby | EDI+ Network Project Manager



Molly Westby is Project Manager for the EDI+ Network at Durham University, overseeing the Fellowship and Network project for the past 4 years. She has worked to connect people, ideas and evidence to advance equality, diversity and inclusion across the sector. With a background spanning healthcare, research and project management, she is committed to turning collaboration into meaningful chan

Dr Anna Chatzimichali | Associate Professor of Engineering Design | Bath University



Anna's research focuses on systems engineering, design cognition, home energy and circularity, with a strong emphasis on human-centred and inclusive design. Her EDI+ project asks how energy devices and energy-related decision-making processes can be more inclusive, accessible and responsive to diverse user needs across homes and communities.

Dr Lennie Foster | Centre Manager – UK SCALE Project | University of Loughborough



Lennie's research focuses on the practical embedding of equity, diversity and inclusion in research design, education and industry engagement. As Centre Manager for the UK SCALE Centre, and an EDI+ Fellow she leads applied, co-created research that translates EDI principles into everyday practice

Dr Katy McKenzie | Fellowship Manager | Nottingham University



Katy's research interests span physical chemistry, chemical and environmental engineering, and research career development. Her EDI+ project asks how awareness of doctoral study pathways can be raised among undergraduate and postgraduate taught students, empowering and encouraging them to pursue research-focused careers within the energy sector.

Dr Hannah Mullings | Manchester University



Hannah's research focuses on offshore renewable energy, including tidal stream and offshore wind, with interests in fluid mechanics, turbulence and metocean loading. Her EDI+ project asks how recruitment and development practices across all career stages—from students to academics—can be improved to address gender imbalances within engineering education and academia.

Dr Nur Sarma | Asst Prof and Director of EDI & Wellbeing, Dept of Engineering | Durham University



Nur's research focuses on reliable and efficient renewable energy technologies, including condition monitoring and fault diagnosis of electrical machines and power system modelling. Her EDI+ project evaluates engineering mentoring schemes to identify gaps for underrepresented groups, including women, international and early-career academics.

The IET, Location Map



IET London: Savoy Place

IET London: Savoy Place

4.7 ★★★★★ (248)

Events Venue

Overview

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2 Savoy Pl, London WC2R 0BL

Closes soon · 5 pm · Opens 9 am Thu

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