**Access and Geopolitics Next Steps in   
Tackling the Equity Crisis in Global Higher Education**

**A WAHEN, CGHE & SKOPE research conference**

**Date:** 3rd June 2025 (Tue)

**Time**: 10am to 5pm (BST)

**Location:** [15 Norham Gardens, Oxford, OX2 6PY](https://maps.app.goo.gl/sTcHBUhyWqAryWqi8) & Online

# Event Programme

| Time (in BST) | Panel | Venue |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 9:15am | Guest arrival for registration |  |
| 10am | **Welcome & Introductions**  **Dr David Mills**, Director of the Centre for Global Higher Education (CGHE) | Seminar Room A  [Click to join on Teams](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MmI3MDA5ZmEtYTM5OS00MDMwLWE0ZTctNjQ0ODNkN2U3NWVl%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229ce55838-90e0-4c40-a57d-9144c5146fc6%22%7d) |
| 10:10am  *15-20min speech* | **Opening Plenary**  **Chair: Professor Graeme Atherton**, Director of World Access to Higher Education Network (WAHEN)   * **Dr Jamil Salmi**, Global Tertiary Education Expert |
| 10:30am  *15-20min speech* | * **Professor Rachel Brooks**, Professor of Higher Education, University of Oxford & President of British Sociological Association * **Professor Johanna Waters**, Professor of Human Geography, UCL |
| 10:50am  *15-20min speech* | * **Professor Shamit Saggar**, Executive Director of Australian Centre for Student Equity and Success |
| 11:10am  *20min Q&A* | **Questions & Answers** |
| 11:30am  *15min* | **Break** | Pring’s Café |
| 11:45am | **Paper Session 1A:**  Financing Equity | Seminar Room A  [Click to join on Teams](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OGRjZDA0MTctZTZmZC00YzAxLTllMzQtZWY3NDE0MjA5ZjM4%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229ce55838-90e0-4c40-a57d-9144c5146fc6%22%7d) |
|  | **Paper Session 1E:**  Lived Experiences, Student Journeys, and Promoting Inclusion Across Systems | Seminar Room E  [Click to join on Teams](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MWQxMmFhN2MtNjA5Ny00YjIwLTgwMjAtNzlhODRmZjY2YjFk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229ce55838-90e0-4c40-a57d-9144c5146fc6%22%7d) |
|  | **Paper Session 1G:**  Politics and Policy: Rethinking Systems and Strategies in Higher Education | Seminar Room G  [Click to join on Teams](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NWNjNzJhNzUtZDI5NC00NDQxLTg2OWUtOTM5ZTRlMTQ4ODUw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229ce55838-90e0-4c40-a57d-9144c5146fc6%22%7d) |
|  | **Paper Session 1K:**  Geopolitics and Global Mobility | Seminar Room K  [Click to join on Teams](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NjZhNzI1MDAtNDU0MS00MTg3LTg4ODEtYTllNTU5ZWIzZGY1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229ce55838-90e0-4c40-a57d-9144c5146fc6%22%7d) |
| 1:05pm  *1 hour* | **Lunch** | Pring’s Café |
| 2:05pm  *40min discussion* | **Panel Discussion: What can the UK learn from global discussions about widening access?**  **Chaired by Dr James Robson**, Director of the Centre for Skills, Knowledge, and Organisational Performance (SKOPE)   * **John Blake**, Director for Fair Access and Participation at the Office for Students * **Dr Samina Khan,** Director for Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach, University of Oxford (TBC) * **Professor Graeme Atherton**, Director of World Access to Higher Education Network (WAHEN) * **Danielle Watkis**, DPhil student, Department of Education, University of Oxford | Seminar Room A  [Click to join on Teams](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YjkzNTIyMTctYTRlNC00ZWI0LTgwZGUtZWVmNGEwYzYwZjU2%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229ce55838-90e0-4c40-a57d-9144c5146fc6%22%7d) |
| 2:45pm  *20min Q&A* | **Questions & Answers** |
| 3:05pm  *15min* | **Break** | Pring’s Café |
| 3:20pm | **Paper Session 2A:**  Private Provision and Equity | Seminar Room A  [Click to join on Teams](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OWFiODYzOWQtZDg2Ni00YWZiLTkzMGItMjcwNGU5NTNlOTBk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229ce55838-90e0-4c40-a57d-9144c5146fc6%22%7d) |
|  | **Paper Session 2E:**  Lived Experiences, Student Journeys, and Promoting Inclusion Across Systems | Seminar Room E  [Click to join on Teams](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ODNhMGZhOTItOTRjZC00NTExLTgxN2YtZWY1YTgwMmNjYmZi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229ce55838-90e0-4c40-a57d-9144c5146fc6%22%7d) |
|  | **Paper Session 2G:**  Politics and Policy: Rethinking Systems and Strategies in Higher Education | Seminar Room G  [Click to join on Teams](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MTZmOTQ1NTQtMjI3Yy00MDMyLTgyNDctZmY4ZjMwNWJiZmMx%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229ce55838-90e0-4c40-a57d-9144c5146fc6%22%7d) |
|  | **Paper Session 2K:**  Data and Inclusion: Supporting Equity in Global Higher Education | Seminar Room K  [Click to join on Teams](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YmRmNDQ0MTgtY2M4NC00MTY1LTgyYTMtZTM4YWMxNTA3MTE5%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229ce55838-90e0-4c40-a57d-9144c5146fc6%22%7d) |
| 4:40pm  *10min remarks* | **Closing remarks**  **Dr David Mills**, Director of the Centre for Global Higher Education (CGHE) | Seminar Room A  [Click to join on Teams](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_M2RhMjQ0ODMtYTU3MC00MDhmLTg3NzctMjc2NmY3MTJjMGNk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229ce55838-90e0-4c40-a57d-9144c5146fc6%22%7d) |
| 4:50pm | **End of event** |  |

**Paper sessions arrangements**

| Paper Session 1 (11:45am – 1:05pm) ***Each paper has 15 min to present and 5 min for questions and answers.*** | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Session** | **Paper Session 1A**  [Click to join on Teams](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OGRjZDA0MTctZTZmZC00YzAxLTllMzQtZWY3NDE0MjA5ZjM4%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229ce55838-90e0-4c40-a57d-9144c5146fc6%22%7d) | **Paper Session 1E**  [Click to join on Teams](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MWQxMmFhN2MtNjA5Ny00YjIwLTgwMjAtNzlhODRmZjY2YjFk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229ce55838-90e0-4c40-a57d-9144c5146fc6%22%7d) | **Paper Session 1G**  [Click to join on Teams](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NWNjNzJhNzUtZDI5NC00NDQxLTg2OWUtOTM5ZTRlMTQ4ODUw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229ce55838-90e0-4c40-a57d-9144c5146fc6%22%7d) | **Paper Session 1K**  [Click to join on Teams](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NjZhNzI1MDAtNDU0MS00MTg3LTg4ODEtYTllNTU5ZWIzZGY1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229ce55838-90e0-4c40-a57d-9144c5146fc6%22%7d) |
| **Theme** | **Financing Equity** | **Lived Experiences, Student Journeys, and Promoting Inclusion Across Systems** | **Politics and Policy: Rethinking Systems and Strategies in Higher Education** | **Geopolitics and Global Mobility** |
| Paper 1 (11:45am – 12:05pm BST) | **The Failures of Capitalism in Promoting Equitable Access to Higher Education**  *Mohamad Taufiq Morshidi, University of Malaya (Asia-Europe Institute)* | **Navigating Whiteness in Education: A Pasifika Perspective**  *Vaoiva Natapu-Ponton, Pathways in Place, Griffith University* | **Intersectionality in Higher Educational Institutions: Design and implementation strategies. The University of Malta experience**  *JosAnn Cutajar and Nadia Abdilla, University of Malta* | **The Expansion of Higher Education: Contextual Influences on Outcomes**  *Golo Henseke, UCL* |
| Paper 2 (12:05pm -12:25pm BST) | **Breaking Barriers: Enhancing Financial Access for Low-Income Students in Indonesian Higher Education**  *Elva Retnawati, Huazhong University of Science and Technology* | **Relative privilege: the politics of widening participation at lower-tier higher education institutions in China**  *Yushan Xie, University of Oxford* | **Balancing Worlds - Navigating Pacific Wellbeing and Cultural Integrity within Australian Higher Education**  *Tofa Amanda Moors-Mailei, University of Technology, Sydney; Bronwyn Williams, Western Sydney University; Vaoiva Natapu-Ponton, Pathways in Place, Griffith University; Paniani Patu, The Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, University of Sydney* | **Is It Worthwhile to Study Abroad? The Experiences of Self-Funded Students from a Non-Double First-Class University in the Less-Developed Region of China**  *Yan Deng and Aijing Song, Yunnan Normal University* |
| Paper 3 (12:25pm – 12:45pm BST) | **Aid to higher education during the SDGs: Donor interests trump recipients' access needs**  *Savo Heleta, Nelson Mandela University; Logan Cochrane, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Doha, Qatar* | **Strongarmed by Silence: How Inaction Sustains the Exclusion of Students with Vision Impairment from STEM Education?**  *Emmanuel Sasu Boakye, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology* | **Steps Required for Tackling the Equity Crisis in Higher Education in India**  *Bipin Kumar Thakur, University of Delhi* | **Bridging the Divide: Enhancing Student Success in Accounting Education Through Open Distance e-Learning (ODeL) Institutions**  *Sedzani Musundwa Musundwa, University of South Africa* |
| Paper 4 (12:45pm - 1:05pm BST) | **Perspectives of Elite University Students on the Distribution of Higher Education Opportunities in England**  *Paulina Rodriguez and Gonzalo Hidalgo, University of Oxford* | **Multiple Inequalities at the Beginning of University Life: The Case of Southern Patagonia, Argentina *(translated name)***  *Lucrecia Agustina Sotelo, Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia Austral* | **Reforming the ‘Right’ Way: Market, Hypernationalism, and Curriculum Vigilantism in Indian Higher Education**  *Manasi Thapliyal Navani, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi* | *Discussion* |

| Paper Session 2 (3:20pm – 4:40pm) ***Each paper has 15 min to present and 5 min for questions and answers.*** | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Session** | **Paper Session 2A**  [Click to join on Teams](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OWFiODYzOWQtZDg2Ni00YWZiLTkzMGItMjcwNGU5NTNlOTBk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229ce55838-90e0-4c40-a57d-9144c5146fc6%22%7d) | **Paper Session 2E**  [Click to join on Teams](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ODNhMGZhOTItOTRjZC00NTExLTgxN2YtZWY1YTgwMmNjYmZi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229ce55838-90e0-4c40-a57d-9144c5146fc6%22%7d) | **Paper Session 2G**  [Click to join on Teams](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MTZmOTQ1NTQtMjI3Yy00MDMyLTgyNDctZmY4ZjMwNWJiZmMx%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229ce55838-90e0-4c40-a57d-9144c5146fc6%22%7d) | **Paper Session 2K**  [Click to join on Teams](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YmRmNDQ0MTgtY2M4NC00MTY1LTgyYTMtZTM4YWMxNTA3MTE5%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22cc95de1b-97f5-4f93-b4ba-fe68b852cf91%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229ce55838-90e0-4c40-a57d-9144c5146fc6%22%7d) |
| **Theme** | **Private Provision and Equity** | **Lived Experiences, Student Journeys, and Promoting Inclusion Across Systems** | **Politics and Policy: Rethinking Systems and Strategies in Higher Education** | **Data and Inclusion: Supporting Equity in Global Higher Education** |
| Paper 1 (3:20pm – 3:40pm BST) | **Private provision and higher education as a public good in Africa: Implications for equity and quality**  *Edward Mboyonga, University of the Free State* | **Understanding Rural Youth Journeys to and through University in Ghana**  *Papa Kojo Botsio, University of Oxford* | **The current right-wing government's reaction to free access to Argentine public universities *(translated name)***  *Mario Villarreal, Universidad Nacional de Villa María* | **Universitas 21 - A Global Perspective on Collecting Data to Support Staff and Students from Marginalised Communities**  *Tara Sutton, Universitas 21* |
| Paper 2 (3:40pm – 4:00pm BST) | **The Impact of Private Higher Education Provision on Equity and Access: A Comparative Analysis of East Africa and Europe**  *Fredrick Githui, KCA University* | **Financing Equity: Racialized Financial Burdens and Global Pathways for African American and Latino Students in U.S. Higher Education**  *Karla Fraser, Roseapple Global, LLC; Craig DeLarge, WiseWorking LLC* | **Progress in the implementation of the National Strategy on the Social Dimension of Higher Education in Austria. What promotes and what challenges the process?**  *Maria Keplinger and Helga Posset, BMFWF - Federal Ministry of Women, Science, and Research Austria* | **Experience of the UNESCO Chair of Inclusion in Higher Education in Chile**  *Karla Moreno Matus, Universidad de O'higgins* |
| Paper 3 (4:00pm – 4:20pm BST) | **(Elite) Private Higher Education in Malaysia and Pakistan: Contributions, Insights, Nuances, and Transformative Possibilities**  *Brendan Ch'ng, Taylor's University; Phan Le Ha, UCL; Muhammad Adil Iqbal, National University of Sciences & Technology; Mohammod Moninoor Roshid, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh* | **Pathways into and through Higher Education for young people with experience of children’s social care**  *Leon Feinstein, University of Oxford* | **Equity at a Crossroads: Rethinking Private Provision in Ghana’s Higher Education**  *Naomi Alabi, Accra Metropolitan University* | **From Limitations to Deprivations: Examining Challenges, Global Policies, and Geopolitical Factors Affecting Afghan Refugee Women's Access to Fair Higher Education in Host Countries (Pakistan and Iran)**  *Ayeda Sediqi, formerly University of Oxford and currently University of Benaloud, Iran; Baseer Ullah Quraishi, Institute of Management Science Peshawar Pakistan* |
| Paper 4 (4:20pm – 4:40pm BST) | **Private funding for public good and public funding for private good? Thinking of the democratization of Higher Education in Brazil in terms of access, success and belonging**  Ester Macedo, National Institute of Studies and Research in Education (INEP) – Brazilian Ministry of Education​ | **Providing meaningful access for success: A case study**  *Britta Zawada, Formerly Council on Higher Education, South Africa* | **Reexamining the Quota System in Bangladesh’s Higher Education: Trends, Gaps, and Policy Implications**  *Nowreen Yasmin, University of Pennsylvania* | *Discussion* |