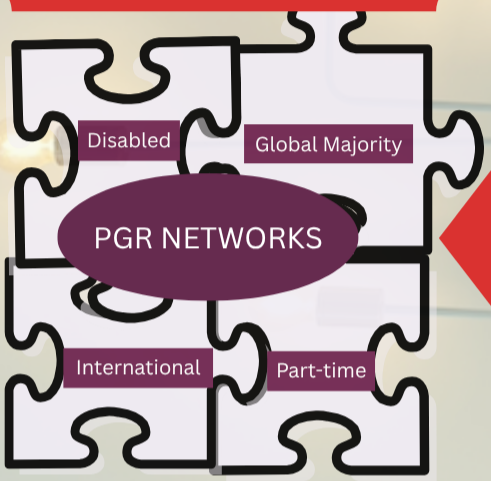
Inspiring Leaders from Underrepresented Doctoral Communities

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This project aims to develop strong doctoral networks, inspire and train doctoral leaders from the four Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) networks that have been jointly formed by two Scotland-wide Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs), i.e. the Scottish Graduate School of Social Science (SGSSS) and the Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities (SGSAH) to support underrepresented postgraduate researcher (PGR) groups.

234 PGR network members
(a 585% and climbing increase in eight months)



EDI Leads & PGR Co-Leads
Representing four networks and being supported by EDI Leads, two PGR co-leads co-organised all ten activities.

10 network events
(focusing on social, academic, well-being)

November 2025 (a) Webinar on supporting neurodivergent authors and researchers to publish by Dr Katherine Hewlett; (b) Webinar on Part-time PhD students' learning journeys in UK universities by Dr Jennifer Jones; (c) Mock viva for one of the network members by Dr Dely Elliot	**December 2025** In-person December Gathering by the project team members	**January 2026** Webinar on Academic Publishing as PGRs by Dr Marina Garcia-Morante
February 2026 Discussions on EDI matters affecting our network members by Dean Smith & Ebenezer Ishola	**March 2026** Webinar on Dealing with the Imposter Phenomenon among PGRs by Dr Devasmita Chakraverty	**April 2026** Three-day Writing Retreat at the University of Stirling
May 2026 Managing your Digital Footprint by Dr Kirsty Ross	**June 2026** Impact Discussion and Social Event in Edinburgh	**August 2026** Picnic in Botanic Garden [upcoming]

Research

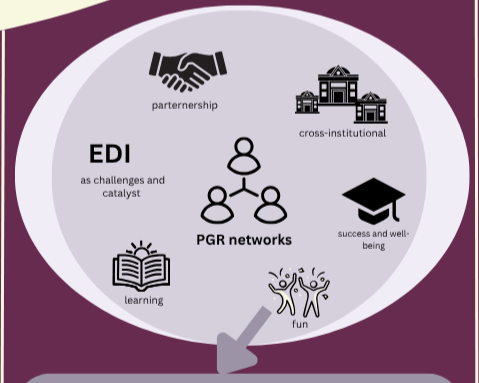
To understand what works and what does not, with a view to sustaining the networks, we collected research data through interviews, focus groups and video diaries.



Reflections on how to develop thriving EDI PGR communities

- Developing future leaders by co-leading network activities and events
- Organising active and regular social activities and network interactions
- Fostering support, collegiality and camaraderie
- Having sustainability as the networks' built-in legacy

Research findings



PGR networks as effective platforms for learning, sharing, connecting, and having fun.

PGR -staff partnership as an ethical approach for PGR networking and community building.

Cross-institutional PGR networks cultivating regional collaboration and inclusive research culture.

EDI as both challenges and catalyst in community building and network developemnt.

Outputs & Impact

Practice Briefs: a) Enhancing Cross-Institutional Doctoral Networks through a Co-Partnership Model; and b) On Building Effective EDI Doctoral Networks.

Case studies: illustrating two exemplars of active EDI PGR network participation.

Blogposts: a) on lessons learned from organising a Writing Retreat; and b) the hidden curriculum in the context of doctoral camaraderie.

Conference presentations – two UKCGE presentations will be the bases for drafting papers in which audience feedback will be incorporated when further developing them into journal manuscripts.

Journal articles: a) Propellers and barriers on EDI network participation; b) the perspectives, voices and experience of EDI members; c) Novelty and value of combined textual, audio and visual elements.

Peer support, collegiality and camaraderie, and doctoral wellbeing achieved through active network participation.

PGR network leaders demonstrating strong leadership measured by initiating and co-organising activities in their network and active involvement in SGSSS/SGSAH workshops, seminars or other activities.

Increased awareness of each network group's distinct needs and proposed models for empowering EDI PGR groups.

Scottish Graduate School of Social Science
Sgoil Cheumnaichean Saidheans Sòisealta na h-Alba
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Scan for a Sway page for the project

Scan for an accessible version of the poster