



Presents

Improving Access in Higher Education: How to Dismantle Barriers Faced By Black Talent in Academia

Friday 28 August 14:00 BST

In the UK, fewer than 1% of university professors are Black. In the United States, about 10% of academics are Black, with the numbers thinning up the academic ladder. The numerical minority of Black academics has led to consistent exclusion, marginalisation, and a signal that their ideas are not equally valuable in academia. Such pervasive marginalisation of any group is detrimental to research and to the academic experience, for educators as well as students.

Professors Without Borders aims to challenge the barriers to and within quality higher education, for students and professors alike. In this conference, it invites Black members of the academic community to shine a light on their experience of the application and recruitment process for lecturing positions; the role of race and intersection of gender in promotions and in inter-collegiate relationships; and the impact of under-representation and discrimination on their research aspirations.

Guests will also consider how institutions of higher education in the UK and the USA can share best practices and develop tools to dismantle visible and invisible barriers with the aim of increasing their impact, representation, and opportunities at universities worldwide.

Agenda & Speakers

14:00 -14:05

Opening Speech: Majeks Walker, Co-founder, Professor Without Borders

14:05 - 15:05

Panel 1: Black In The Ivory: Understanding the Black Experience in Higher Education

Moderator Majeks Walker, Co-founder Professor Without Borders

- Charlie Dove-Edwin, Richmond the American International University in London (UK)
- Edward Gonsalves, Regent's University London (UK)
- Dauda Abubakar, University of Michigan-Flint (USA)
- Faith Musyoka-Gahamanyi, Education Coordinator (Rwanda)

Some guiding questions:

- How does the disproportionately small number of Black academics affect higher education as a whole?
- At your current/previous institution were there any measures or initiatives in place to ensure inclusivity or combat institutional whiteness?
- What inclusivity measures or initiatives have you heard of that could serve as models of best practice or a roadmap of lessons learned?
- Black academics are often marginalised and obstructed within higher education. How can we best help combat this, as supporters to the community of Black academics?

15:05 - 15:25

Audience Q&A

15:25 - 16:25

Panel 2: Intersectionality: The Dual Barriers of Racism and Sexism

Moderator Mandy Sanghera, Philanthropist, Community Consultant, International Human Rights Activist

- Yanoh Jalloh, Senior Project Officer, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Board member of SUDU and Volunteer Lecturer Prowibo (USA)
- Lorna Mae Johnson, Democratic National Committee (DNC) Assistant Treasurer and Prowibo Trustee (USA)
- Loreen Chikwira, Sociology lecturer, Birmingham City University (UK)
- Shirley Hills, Executive Management Consultant, Brand & Leadership Coach, Speaker, & Trainer (Nigeria)

Some guiding questions:

- How do the combined effects of gender and racial bias inhibit Black women from pursuing/continuing/succeeding in an academic career?
- What are the main changes higher educational institutions need to undertake to ensure Black women equal opportunities within academia?
- Based on your personal experience what were the greatest obstacles you faced in becoming a Black woman in academia?
- What advice do you have for Black women considering or beginning a career in academia?

16:25 - 16:45

Audience Q&A

16:45 - 17:50

Closing notes: Mariam Radi, Thinktank Manager, Professors Without Borders

*The guiding questions are there to give general guidance for the conference discussion. Panellists do not need to address all the questions raised and can discuss other issues related to higher education and Black academics.

*Please note conference timing will follow British Summer Time (BST)