

**Gender in HE Conference 2022**

**Current, complex, contested: Conversations about Gender in HE**

**16 June 2022, The Studio, Birmingham**

**Unconference Session - Bar Camp**

**Introduction**

At the Gender in HE conference 2022, we want to provide delegates with the opportunity to hear from key speakers on a range of topics relevant to the current complex and contested topics around gender equality in higher education. However, we also want to provide the opportunity for delegates to discuss the topics they wish to discuss, to collaborate with peers, to discuss, debate, challenge and progress topics relevant to the conference theme and to shape the day.

You may be familiar with the concept of an ‘unconference’ session or event if you’ve heard of or taken part in a ‘World café’. The purpose of an unconference is to give delegates an opportunity for peer-to-peer learning, collaboration and creativity.  More than just ‘networking’, the unconference is a participant driven meeting where delegates decide what to talk about, with whom and in what ways. At the conference, we’ve allocated one hour to this space. All sessions/ideas for discussion and collaboration are welcome.

**How does it work?**

**Before the event**

**First - Get your ideas in**

Please use this form XX Insert BOS link XX to send in your idea. We will publish these on the website [here](https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/programmes-events/conferences/gender-higher-education-conference-2022) and onto Advance HE Connect XX Insert Link to Page XX to give prospective delegates a sense of the range of topics that people are suggesting – and give you an opportunity to connect and collaborate with others who have a similar topic.

At this stage, these are only suggestions – the agenda for the Bar Camp will only be created at the event itself. We have limited physical space at the conference, so we encourage collaboration/merging of sessions – but the decision is up to you and the final topics will be agreed by us all on the day.

**Second - Think about convening a session**

If you have submitted a topic then you may wish to give a little thought to how you might lead this discussion on the day. You do not need to do preparation to convene a session, you may get an idea the day of the event, but if you have ideas beforehand you can think how you might best put these across to other delegates and open up discussion. There is no ‘right way’ to lead a session, however, there is a bias towards interaction and discussion. Choose a format for your session that will help you achieve your vision and to achieve the learning you want from the session. Here are some examples:

* **My Big (or Little) Question**
You have a question you want to know the answer to, and you think others in the group could help you answer it. This format could also just be the seed of a conversation.
* **Lightning talk**

Participants present to the group for a short period of time, typically around five minutes

* **Charette**

Give participants a problem to solve and allow them to self-organize and create working solutions.

*You’re encouraged to take photos of different elements relevant to your session so you can share them with others in advance of the session, during a session you lead or in sessions led by others that are on similar topics. This creates lasting artifacts from the conferences and shares learning between peers. These can also be shared on Advance HE Connect XX insert Link to Page XX or via twitter on #GenderHEConf22 pre, during or post conference.*

**At the event**

**If you’re leading a session:**

* You ‘hold the space’ by leading a discussion, posing a question etc. Stay visible and be the guide on the side if necessary
* Ask for help to hold the space – for example get someone to help facilitate the discussion. This can be someone you know – or another delegate interested in the discussion
* Don’t make assumptions about knowledge and experience – you may know more/less or just as much as the next delegate. If in doubt – ask first
* Don’t try to fill the time – if your session finishes ahead of time – end it.
* Be brave! Others are interested in making your session work
* Think about the ideas you want to cover, and how you want to do this – but don’t over prepare.
* Experiment – there’s no such thing as failure at an unconference.

**If you are a delegate for this section**

* + - Be patient – we are learning and trying something new. The focus is on finding the time and space to talk to one another
		- Follow your passion – go to the session which interests you
		- Take responsibility for your own learning – if a topic interests you – and it’s not on the agenda – put those lead sessions first and respect their areas of interest.
		- We may not have the physical space to run all the events, but we will try to facilitate 3 sessions on the day grouping topics as closely as we can to try and allow as much participation and diversity of discussion as space and time will allow.