

GENDER.ED Timeline

Key Highlights: How We Got Here,
Where We Are Going

Prior to 2014: Incubation

Global Justice Academy, Dangerous Women, Ad-hoc Gender Strategy Group Gender Politics Research Group and other individuals and networks identify need to work together “to be more than the sum of our parts”.

2014 – 2015: Step change

EUSA Vice President of Academic Affairs Dash Sekhar launches student campaign for creation of a University-wide introductory course on gender, and a gender studies centre or hub.

November 2014: Getting institutional buy-in

Heads of College Of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CAHSS) and SPS (School of Social and Political Science) agree to support grassroots University-EUSA Gender Initiative. SPS agrees to lead development and delivery of new Ordinary Level course (to become Understanding Gender in the Contemporary World), and explore idea of interdisciplinary hub (to become genderED).

August 2015: A key new actor

New Lecturer in Politics and Gender appointed (Meryl Kenny) tasked with leading creation of new course.

January 2016: Experiment in co-production

Group of 12 students work with Meryl Kenny and then-Head of SPS (Fiona Mackay) to co-create elements of new gender course. Using platform of SPS in Practice (20 credit framework for staff-student collaboration) they work with University-wide Reference Group, including EUSA.

Spring 2016: Picking up prizes

SPS in Practice wins University of Edinburgh Students' Association Teaching Award, Best Course; runner up, *Innovative Assessment Award* 2016.
'I cannot emphasize enough how much of a difference it makes that this course has a real-life impact, that every step of the way I know I am doing something for a purpose, for a cause.' EUSA Teaching Award Nomination, 2016.

September 2016: Reaching across the University

Understanding Gender in the Contemporary World (UGCW) launched, recruiting students from Fine Arts to Cognitive Science, and from Physics to Social Anthropology. Led by SPS (Meryl Kenny) with contributions from across the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, and from EUSA.

May 2017: creating genderED

Work starts by Christina Neuwirth (previously with IASH Dangerous Women Project) on creating online directories bringing together gender and sexualities scholarship and teaching from across the University, and Fiona Mackay (then- HoS SPS) leads work on new interdisciplinary hub.

September 2017: UGCW hits its stride

UGCW runs a second time to popular acclaim.

October 2017: Launching genderED

Formal launch of genderED - a new hub and on-line directories to connect gender and sexualities research and teaching across the University. Directed by Fiona Mackay and coordinated by Christina Neuwirth. Hosted by IASH, supported by CAHSS and EUSA, and powered by SPS.

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April 2019: Building capacity

Feminist methods workshop for postgraduate research students delivered on behalf of the Scottish Graduate Schools (SGSSS and SGSAH Spring into Methods programme) in partnership with Strathclyde University.

Spring 2019: How are we doing?

Stakeholders Survey conducted with 120 responses, providing insights and fresh ideas (see Key Findings Poster).

January 2019: strengthening the curriculum

Introduction to Queer Studies launched, Edinburgh College of Art (ECA), SPS.

November – December 2018: international partners

genderED curates 2nd blogathon to raise awareness of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence - this time with international partners, Australian Human Rights Centre and Ambedkar University Delhi).

October 2018: Showcasing excellence

genderED 1st Anniversary! Interactive showcase with more than 100 attendees celebrating diverse projects from Feminist Judgements to creating Vote 100 Banners with women prisoners.
'...the buzz felt like genderED had turned from an online directory into a live community'.

September 2018: UGCW is three

UGCW runs a third time; becoming established as a popular and oversubscribed course.

January 2018: Defining mission

Steering Group (comprising academics from across CAHSS, and professional services) meets for first time and agrees mission statement.

Mission Statement

- The purpose of genderED is to showcase and promote the range, significance and excellence of teaching, research and knowledge exchange in gender and sexuality studies at the University of Edinburgh; to highlight current work and amplify its influence and impact; and to identify gaps in provision and work to build new capacity.
- genderED seeks to support connectivity and inter-disciplinarity across the University, to encourage co-production, and to build and sustain communities of interest at all stages of student, researcher, academic careers.
- In its role as Critical Friend, genderED will contribute to policy debates and developments institutionally and externally, and will facilitate access to expert commentary.
- It seeks to make leading contributions to ongoing gender and intersectionality campaigns, and to decolonise the academy.
- It will work with the University to meet its commitment to making significant, sustainable and socially responsible contributions to the world; equipping students to become critical citizens at global and local levels; and to promoting values of equality and diversity.

November – December 2017: Research in action

genderED curates blogathon to raise awareness of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

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May 2019: Supporting dialogue on topical issues

genderED co-sponsors at the University a workshop on decolonising feminist knowledge and a conference on transgender studies

July – November 2019: genderED as a critical friend

Internal consultancy underway to support University to integrate gender/ gender equality into Global Challenges Research Funding research bids.

September 2019: Building a portfolio

UGCW runs for fourth time; Intro to Queer Studies for second time; LLC begin developing third Ordinary course on Gender and Visual Culture (facilitated by genderED).

October 2019: Now we are two

2nd Anniversary interactive research showcase and speed networking.

January 2020: Connecting researchers, cataloguing courses

Our [searchable directory](#) of gender and sexualities researchers and courses now has 340 entries (from 165 at launch).

March 2020: Recognising learning excellence

genderED co-funds [Yuan Changying Prize](#) awarded to top two gender observations on UGCW, winning entries published on genderED blog.

April 2020: Putting expert knowledge to use

Our new institutional research project, '[Getting to Sufficiency](#)' (PI Fiona Mackay and Project Manager and Research Lead Dr Rosalind Cavaghan) to provide rapid response to UKRI new gender requirements for GCRF and Newton funding bids. Builds upon Integrating Gender into Interdisciplinary Research Bids pilot project.

May 2020: EDI and Covid-19 in the academy

As critical friend of the University, genderED develops dynamic [resource list on EDI impact of COVID-19](#), keeps watching brief on University's Recovery and Adaptation Plans, and offers advice to the University's Future of Hybrid and Home-Working Working Group.

July 2020: Sponsoring innovation

genderED co-sponsors creation of comic book, [Feminist Struggles in the Academy in India and the UK](#), inspired by British Council-funded '[Teaching Feminisms, Transforming Lives](#)' project (PI Radhika Govinda).

September 2020: UGCW is 5!

genderED's flagship course, *Understanding Gender in the Contemporary World* runs for the 5th time, and continues to be highly popular and successful.

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Autumn 2020: Delivering digital content and communications

With COVID-19 disrupting our activities and events programme, our focus shifts to delivering digital content and communications, including the [16 Days international blogathon](#).

March 2021: Tracing roots, chronicling narratives

Our oral history project, ['Voices from the Early Days'](#) (taken forward by Steering Group member Radhika Govinda) chronicles journey of introducing and institutionalising gender and sexualities studies at the University of Edinburgh, captures voices of feminist academics who made it happen. [Series of blog-posts](#) launched to mark completion of 1st phase of project.

May 2021: Renewing the curriculum

Principal's Teaching Award Scheme (PTAS) grant won! The grant, led by genderED's Education Advisor, Meryl Kenny, to support research into ways to 'refresh' UGCW's co-produced elements with students.

July 2021: Supporting interdisciplinary and networking

With its sister network, RACE.ED, genderED maps multi- and interdisciplinary research across the College of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences (CAHSS) and beyond in the broad field of identities and inequalities (for CAHSS Research Office).

August 2021: Spotlighting research

genderED launches the [ECR Spotlight Series](#) on its blog to showcase cutting-edge research by Early Career Researchers at the University of Edinburgh.

October 2021: Improving research with a gender sensitive approach

Our [Gender Sensitive Research Toolkit](#) attracts interest and praise from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Scottish Funding Council, UK Research and Innovation, and the British Academy, adopted by several Universities including Glasgow and Bristol.

January 2022: Leadership transition

Inaugural Director, Fiona Mackay stands down to step up as Interim Head of School of Social and Political Science. Senior Lecturer in Sociology, Radhika Govinda takes over as Interim Director.

April 2022: Celebrating students' achievements

[genderED-EUSA Undergraduate Feminist Trailblazers Awards introduced to highlight impactful work by University of Edinburgh-based undergraduate students to further the cause of feminism](#)

May 2022: Supporting research and research training, building our communications programme

genderED's annual showcase returns in hybrid form after a hiatus in the pandemic. Scottish Graduate Schools-funded feminist research methods workshop in collaboration with Strathclyde University too returns, in person. genderED also launches its first newsletter the same month.

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May 2023: Celebrating our 5th year anniversary

Our annual interactive showcase of research and change projects returns for the first time in person since the pandemic and in time to celebrate our 5th year anniversary.

Spring 2023: Building community

GENDER.ED relaunches the Gender and Sexualities Reading Group as a University-wide interdisciplinary collective dedicated to reading and discussing gender and sexualities scholarship.

January 2023: New director

GENDER.ED welcomes Radhika Govinda as its new Director.

October 2022: A new postdoctoral opportunity

GENDER.ED turns 5! We launch the [GENDER.ED Postdoctoral Fellowship](#) in partnership with IASH.

September 2022: Co-founding a new European network

GENDER.ED is part of a successful bid of gender centres/networks for seed-corn funding to create the [Una Europa Gender and Equality Network](#) (UGEN). This solidifies our friendship with institutions across Europe and paves way for new collaborations. This includes Uniwersytet Jagiellonski w Krakowie, Freie Universitat Berlin, Helsingfors Universitet, KU Leuven, University College Dublin, Université Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne, University of Edinburgh and Universitat Zurich.

August 2022: Another key new actor

New Lecturer in Gender and Global Politics, Hemangini Gupta joins as an Associate Director of GENDER.ED from the School of Social and Political Science. Runs GENDER.ED's first workshop on academic writing for publication.

July 2022: Design refresh

GENDER.ED gets a design refresh in advance of its 5th year anniversary. The new design is inspired by a Bangladeshi saree pattern and the idea of a Celtic knot. The dotted and double lines are intended as a nod to GENDER.ED's original fabric design. The coloured points are to establish the familiar link with our sister network, RACE.ED's design. All GENDER.ED communications, including [website](#) to be updated with new design. Our name changes from genderED to GENDER.ED

June 2022: Deep diving into scholarship

genderED co-sponsors its first annual, month-long ['Deep Dive'](#), enabling time-strapped academics to engage thoroughly with a well-known gender and sexualities scholar's body of work.

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June 2023: Supporting institutional work on climate change

GENDER.ED agrees a multi-year programme of work with the Edinburgh Earth Initiative (EEI) to promote gender sensitive approaches to climate change, including offering training and consultancy to EEI Fellows.

June-August 2023: Mapping footprint of women in veterinary science research

New collaboration with Dick Vet School to map footprint of women in European veterinary science research, launching GENDER.ED undergraduate project interns. Findings presented at International Day of Women and Girls in Science event.

September 2023: Offering student development opportunities

GENDER.ED hosts its 12th intern! [GENDER.ED's undergraduate and PhD internships programme](#) provides students the opportunity to engage with diverse research, teaching and knowledge exchange work on gender and sexualities at the University and beyond.

October 2023: How are we doing at 5+?

Another Stakeholders Survey conducted, with 118 responses, to gauge how GENDER.ED has performed in the last 5 years in terms of achieving its vision and mission, and aspirations its key stakeholders have for its next 5 years.

November 2023: Closing a chapter, opening a new one

GENDER.ED curates its final blogathon with University of New South Wales and Ambedkar University Delhi and guest partners this year, Freie Universitat Berlin and UGEN. After a successful run over 6 years, focus to shift to bringing out an edited collection based on a selection of blog posts.

Spring 2024: Our core team is expanding

GENDER.ED gets two new Associate Directors, Wannas Dupont from School of History, Classics and Archaeology, and James Bell from Edinburgh College of Art, and a much-awaited Network Coordinator, Claire Edminson.

March 2024: Strengthening our European connections

GENDER.ED to host in-person UGEN meeting in Edinburgh, which was preceded by an institutional visit from network coordinators from Uniwersytet Jagiellonski w Krakowie.

June 2024: Commemorating 50th anniversary of WLM Conference

We are collaborating with Women's History Scotland, Scottish Oral History Centre Strathclyde and James Gillespie's High School to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Women's Liberation Movement Conference held at the School in June 1974.

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list!

