



# Education, Inequalities and Democracy

Early Career Researcher conference

23 June 2025, Roehampton University, London

## Call for Abstracts

We are delighted to announce that the call for abstracts is now open for our **Early career researcher conference** sponsored by the [Faculty of Business and Law](#) and the [School of Education](#) at the [University of Roehampton](#) in collaboration with Professor Hoskins' two EU/UKRI research projects; [Gender Empowerment Through Politics in the Classroom](#) (G-EPIC) and [Strategies for Achieving Equity and Inclusion in Education, Training and Learning in Democratic Europe](#) (STRIDE). We are pleased to invite submissions from early career researchers working on the conference topic: **"Education, Inequalities and Democracy."**

The conference theme is in response to the growing challenges to modern democracy—including the rise in anti-democratic ideologies, far-right movements, and populism. European countries have prioritized citizenship education, and political and media literacy to combat disinformation, foster democratic competencies and maintain socio-political cohesion (Janmaat 2018; Schulz et al. 2023). Research highlights how classroom interactions, particularly open discussions on socio-political issues, can enhance student engagement in democratic processes (e.g., Torney-Purta 2002; Campbell 2008; Kahne et al. 2013; Persson 2015). Yet, social norms as to who can participate in the classroom have engagement (Hoskins and Janmaat 2024 and Garcia-Albacete and Hoskins 2024). To reduce these inequalities more specific pedagogies that include small group work, counter narratives and use of imagery and creativity are being trialled within the EU/UKRI G-EPIC



([www.g-epic.eu](http://www.g-epic.eu)) research project and the results of this work will be discussed at the conference.

Scholars also examine the associations between socio-economic inequalities, inequalities in education outcomes and the democratic crisis exploring the extent that socioeconomic inequalities, contribute to education inequalities and differences in life chances that can foster polarized visions of the world (e.g., Janmaat and Mons 2011). Policy makers across Europe have in the past spent significant sums trying to reduce social gaps in education performance with limited knowledge and research on their effectiveness. In addition, years of economic and cost of living crises, COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine have contributed to European countries being less able to finance and less political interest in attempting to put in place the education policies needed to reduce inequalities in education outcomes. The EU/UKRI STRIDE ([www.stride-research.eu](http://www.stride-research.eu)) project, in collaboration with national and European stakeholders, develops methodologies and policy-learning tools, equipping policymakers with resources to improve educational outcomes over time and results from this research will be presented at the conference.

This conference aims to advance academic research on citizenship, education, inequalities, and democracy while fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and international collaboration. Hosted by Roehampton University's vibrant research community, the event will take place on **Monday, June 23, 2025**, in an intensive format featuring panel presentations and moderated discussions to generate new research perspectives.

We warmly invite internal and external **early career scholars** from diverse disciplines—including PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, and academics within 10 years of earning their doctorate—to contribute and engage in this one-day event.

### Submission Guidelines

- **Abstract:** Submit a 250-word abstract by **April 10, 2025**.
- **Keywords:** Include five keywords summarizing your paper's main themes.
- **Topics** (not limited to):

- Citizenship education
- Open classroom climate
- Gender and sexuality
- Intersectionality
- Educational and socio-economic inequalities
- Early childhood education
- Democratic challenges, including polarization, authoritarianism, populism, and the far-right
- **Structure:** Abstracts should clearly outline the **topic, research questions, methods, and results**. Please make sure you provide:
  - **Title** – A clear and concise title that reflects your research topic.
  - **Background/Context** – A brief introduction to the research problem and its significance.
  - **Objective/Research Question** – The main aim and/or research question of your study.
  - **Methods** – A summary of the methodology used (e.g., experimental design, data collection, observations, interview, analysis techniques).
  - **Results** – Key findings or expected outcomes of your paper (if applicable, even preliminary results/hypotheses can be included).
  - **Conclusion/Implications/Limitations** – The significance of the findings and their contribution to the field.
- **NO Fee & Funding:** The conference offers **fee-free attendance**. Research Culture Funding Scheme of [Faculty of Business and Law](#), the [School of Education](#), University of Roehampton and the EU/UKRI G-EPIC & STRIDE projects will cover conference fees and lunch for confirmed participants. **Attendees must cover their own travel and accommodation expenses.**
- **Submission & Queries:** Email [athina.mara@roehampton.ac.uk](mailto:athina.mara@roehampton.ac.uk) with the subject line: *Early Career Researcher Conference on Education, Inequalities, and Democracy*.
- **Notification of Acceptance:** April 25, 2025.



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This will be an **in-person conference only** with a select number of participants. Creative presentation formats are encouraged within standard paper sessions.

We look forward to your submissions and hope to see you in London!

The organizing committee

Dr Bryony Hoskins, Professor of Comparative Social Sciences, Faculty of Business and Law, University of Roehampton

Dr Athina Mara, Lecturer in Strategy and Social Policy, Faculty of Business and Law, University of Roehampton

Dr Arif Mahmud, Senior Lecturer in Education, School of Education, University of Roehampton

Afsana Hamidy, Research Assistant- [GEPIC](#) Project, Faculty of Business and Law, University of Roehampton



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