

Report for Race and Leadership Research Interest Group
2024-2025

Co-convenors: Dr. Claire Stewart-Hall, Stephen Francis, Olayinka Ogunnusi, Viv Grant

The Overview

The main focus this year has been identifying and establishing a convening group for the RIG and establishing roles, responsibilities and relationships. Due to circumstances beyond everyone's control, we were not in a position to have a handover from the previous convenors, Professor Paul Miller and Prof. Christine Callender, due to extenuating personal circumstances.

Claire and Stephen were initially engaged in discussions about convening the race and leadership group following meetings with Deb Outhwaite, who kindly smoothed the transition and has supported the group with the handbook and with the administrative infrastructure necessary to get it up and running again.

Once situated in post, Claire and Stephen set about engaging other co-convenors to share the RIG's roles and responsibilities. They advertised RIG Co-Convenors roles on Linked in and other social media sites, engaging 10 people in the role. Each person was emailed, sent the handbook and invited to an online presentation whereby Claire and Stephen explained the roles and aims of the RIG. People who could not attend were sent the zoom recording and or were met online separately by Claire. All attendees were strongly encouraged to apply according to the handbook process. From the people who applied for the role, it was felt Viv Grant and Olayinka Ogunnusi made the strongest applications and were welcomed in June 2025 as co-convenors.

The team met Cynthia and Kelly Rushton and it has been arranged that there would be representation at Conference in person by Dr. Claire Stewart-Hall, and our colleagues working internationally would join online. Viv Grant was unable to attend having only just been made convenor and having an existing extended international stay and person responsibilities to attend to that were previously planned.

Meetings

- January 10 2025 Claire and Stephen met
- 4 February 2025 and Claire met re: RIG and Stephen
- 6 March 2025 Claire and Stephen met again
- 31 March 2025 Claire and Stephen again
- 4 April 2025 – hosted interested parties for Co-Convenors
- April 8 2025 – hosted interested parties for co-convenors (CSH online)
- May 13 2025 – Met re: conference representation - Stephen Francis, Claire Stewart-Hall, Deb Outhwaite, Kelly Rushton, Cynthia Akinsanya

Appointed new co-convenors:

Dr. Claire Stewart-Hall, Stephen Francis, Olayinka Ogunnusi, Viv Grant

Conference

July 4 2025 – It was agreed that Dr Claire Stewart-Hall would attend in person, Stephen Francis would join online from Jamaica and Olayinka Ogunnusi would join online from Lagos, Viv Grant sent her apologies. It was much appreciated that at such short notice new and international co-convenors made time to attend conference.

Race and Leadership Research group

We have agreed that we will launch a reading group to begin on 29 October 2025 and to run three reading sessions throughout the year. The reading group is aimed at members and practitioners who are sharing learning and discourse about race and leadership in proactive ways and to stimulate discussion about the salience of race in research about leadership. A wider aim is to increase participation and presence in the RIG and engage new membership.

RIG relaunch date - October 29 2025