UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge Centre for
Teaching and Learning

Annual Meeting for Directors of Postgraduate Education & Postgraduate Tutors 2026

Thursday 15 January 2-5pm
Faculty of Education, 184 Hills Road
Seminar Rooms GS4 and 5

14:00	**Welcome** Dr Annette Mahon, Deputy Head, Cambridge Centre for Teaching & Learning
14.10	**Keynote: 'Being an interdisciplinary academic in Cambridge: Leveraging a Big Picture approach to AI for sustainability** Dr Ramit Debnath, Department of Architecture; Assistant Professor, Mathematics and Complex Design; Deputy Director, Centre for Human-Inspired AI; Director of Studies and Fellow, Churchill College; Director, Cambridge Collective Intelligence & Design Group and Cambridge climaTRACES Lab; Visiting academic, Caltech and Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability *Abstract:* Navigating the academic landscape between disciplines often feels like swimming in unfamiliar waters. Reflecting on my journey at Cambridge, first as a student pivoting between fields and later as a faculty member leading a pioneering course bridging the Arts and Sciences, I explore the complex dynamics of interdisciplinary identity. I share how initial struggles to find common ground evolved into a 'Big Picture' pedagogy, where translating technical concepts becomes a bridge rather than a barrier. Using AI for Sustainability as a case study, I demonstrate how mutual learning and embracing holistic perspectives can unlock innovative solutions and transform disciplinary isolation into impactful collaboration. Q&A with Dr Ramit Debnath
14.50	**Panel: AI and the Doctoral Journey** Reflections on AI and the doctoral journey from: - **Chair**: Prof. Deborah Longbottom, Co-Chair, Postgraduate Committee; Professor of Chemistry, Yusuf Hamied Department of Chemistry - Dr Jonnie Penn, Associate Teaching Professor, AI Ethics & Society; Faculty Affiliate, Berkman Klein Centre, Harvard University; Senior Research Fellow, Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence; Research Fellow,

Teaching Associate, Department of History & Philosophy of Science

- Amira Moeding, PhD Candidate, Faculty of History; Fellow, Cambridge Digital Humanities

- Dr Ariel Goldstein, Assistant Professor in Cognitive Science and AI, Centre for Human-Inspired Artificial Intelligence

Q&A with panel members

15.35	**Coffee break**
15.55	**Inclusive practice in the doctorate: Admission to submission** Consideration of inclusive practice in the doctorate led by Dr Melanie Keene, Co-Chair, Postgraduate Committee, Senior Postgraduate Tutor, Homerton College; Kerri Gardiner, Head, Postgraduate Research Office; Dr John Harding, Head, Accessibility & Disability Resource Centre. *Contributions will include:* • an introduction to the 'Close the Gap' toolkit by Prof. Sonia Ilie, Prof. Sara Baker and Nuala Murray (10 min) • case studies discussion (35 min) • an introduction to the Postgraduate Module for the Inclusive Education Moodle course by Dr John Harding (15 min)
16.50	**Concluding comments and reflections** • Dr Annette Mahon
17.00	**Close** We would be grateful if you could respond to our short feedback form (hard copies can be found on the tables if preferred):