

# ANNUAL REVIEW

2024

GO  
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GLOBAL OER  
GO  
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GRADUATE  
NETWORK

# GO-GN

# Annual Review 2024

v 1.0

18 February 2025

The Global OER Graduate Network (GO-GN) is a network of PhD and EdD candidates around the world whose research projects include a focus on open education. These doctoral researchers are at the core of the network; around them, over two hundred experts, supervisors, mentors and interested parties connect to form a community of practice that:

- Raises the profile of research into open education
- Offers support for those conducting PhD research in this area
- Develops openness as a process of research
- Promote equity and inclusion in the field of open education research.

GO-GN is currently funded through the Open Education program of [The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation](#) and administered by the [Open Education Research Hub](#) from the [Institute of Educational Technology](#) at The Open University, UK



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## Introduction

The last year has for many been a time of transitions, and GO-GN has been no exception. Our outgoing Director, Martin Weller, provided leadership for GO-GN since the coordination responsibilities migrated to The Open University (UK) in 2015. The network has grown substantially during this time, and also weathered the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. We're grateful for the contributions Martin has made (and continues to make) to the network!

It's a time of renewal for us and, as we celebrated our 10th anniversary in 2023, for the network as a whole. Our [strategic review](#), which was published in June 2024, was an opportunity to hear from members about what they would like to see from the network in the future, as well as a chance to look back and offer a definitive history of GO-GN for the first time. We're continuing these conversations and hope to be able to put some new activities into practice in 2025.

We continue to foreground equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in open research, and held an insightful workshop on this theme in Brisbane, Australia ahead of Open Education Global 2024. Our ongoing engagement with EDI continues to refine and improve our strategy for developing the network. (Our EDI work was shortlisted for an [Award for Excellence](#) for the second successive year.)

2024 also saw the publication of our latest resource, [The GO-GN Guide to Doctoral Supervision](#). This contribution is relevant to all our members involved with doctoral study and will prove to be a lasting contribution to the network - many thanks to those who contributed!

We are both thrilled to be in a position to support the ongoing successes of GO-GN and its members as Co-Directors going forward! It's a privilege to lead this network and we hope to continue to build on our achievements. Here's looking at an awesome 2025!

Rob Farrow and Beck Pitt

## 2024 Highlights

### Network Reach

The GO-GN network has grown by 10% since our 2023 report and we currently have 191 members and alumni from 29 countries. We welcomed 18 new members from 9 different countries to the network throughout 2024. As members continue to successfully complete their doctorates, our membership currently comprises around 31% alumni. Our wider network also increased over the past year with 35 new friends and experts joining the wider GO-GN network.



GO-GN continues to make a significant contribution to international research on open education with over 36,000 citations of individual members and alumni (excluding the team) as at mid-December 2024 according to [Google Scholar](#).

### Conferences and Events

GO-GN held two workshops during 2024. In March 2024 we headed to Cork, Ireland for OER24. Our one-day workshop prior to the conference brought together 12 GO-GN'ers to connect and share more on their research. We were also thrilled to hold our first workshop in Australia, prior to OE Global 2024. This two-day event brought together more than 13 GO-GN members and alumni from around the world, and we welcomed a number of international guests on the second day of the workshop, to collaborate together and progress our equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) work.

GO-GN member and alumni research was well represented at both OER24 and OE Global 2024. 12 GO-GN members and alumni, in addition to the GO-GN team, shared their research in 17 sessions at OER24. 27 conference sessions featured GO-GN members, alumni and/or the team at OE Global 2024.

### Network Activities

During 2024 we continued to diversify our activities and support for membership. A key new activity was the introduction of online sprints to foster timebound, rapid collaboration between researchers in the network whilst connecting members with

an interest in specific topics and activities. More than 50 members took part in three sprints of the course of the year.

Five GO-GN doctoral researchers shared more on their research during two of our regular member research specials during 2024. Alumni and recent graduate Dr. Stanislaus Agava joined us in February to discuss data literacy services in Kenyan private university libraries. Members of the wider network also shared more on their research in the first of our expert and friend research specials. We were also delighted to host Dr. Kyungmee Lee (Seoul National University) to discuss *A dialectical speculative method for re-imagining educational futures with artificial intelligence* and James Glapa-Grossklag (College of the Canyons) on *Open for anti-racism: leveraging open education to support antiracism in the classroom*.

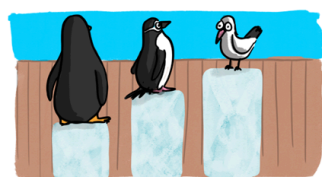
During February 2024 we launched our GO-GN scholarship scheme. This scheme is open to both current doctoral researcher members and alumni. Our first round awarded three scholarships. Our two scholarship awardees for round two will be announced in early 2025.

Finally, 2024 saw the publication of our [GO-GN at 10: Strategic Review](#) in June 2024 and [Guide to Doctoral Supervision](#) in October 2024. Our collaborative outputs are a key aspect of the network's activity, with high levels of interest and engagement from both within and outside the network.

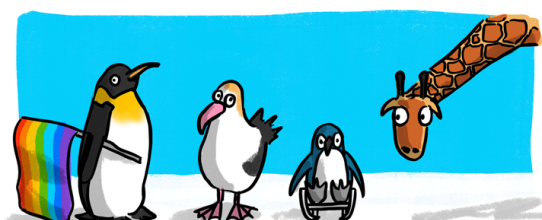
The website recorded 1,041,173 visits from 40,065 unique users over the last year. These statistics reflect visits from many countries around the world. Some of the countries who provided the most visitors in 2024 included the USA, France, Germany, UK, Canada, China, India, Singapore, The Netherlands and Russia as the countries sending the most online visitors.



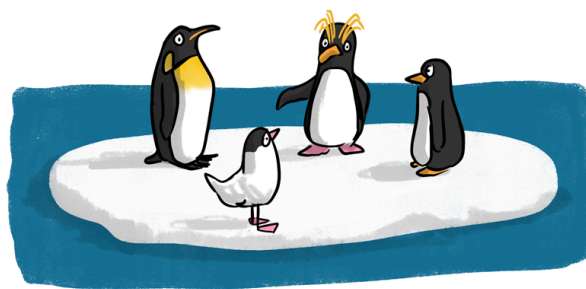
## GO-GN Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)



EQUITY



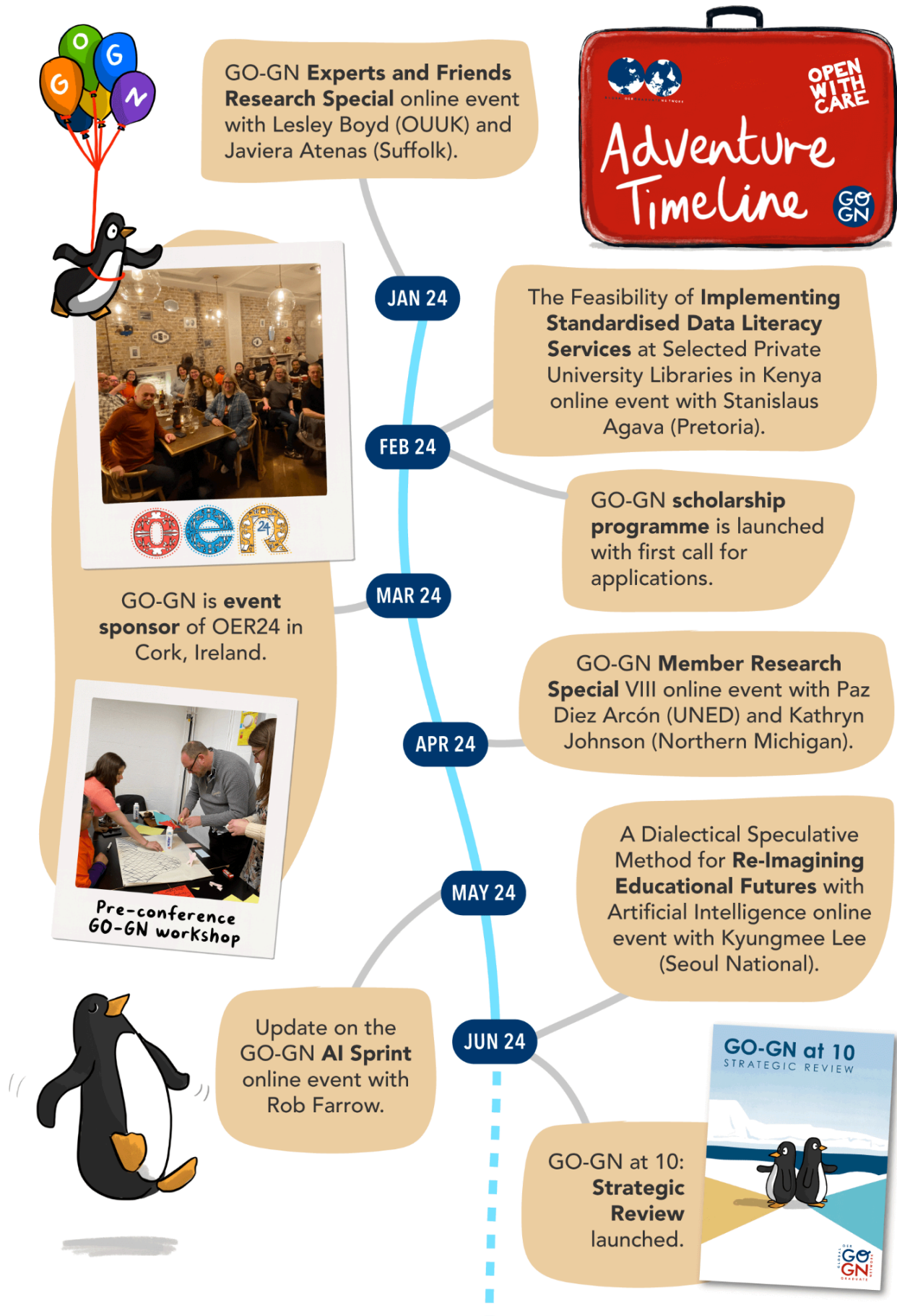
DIVERSITY

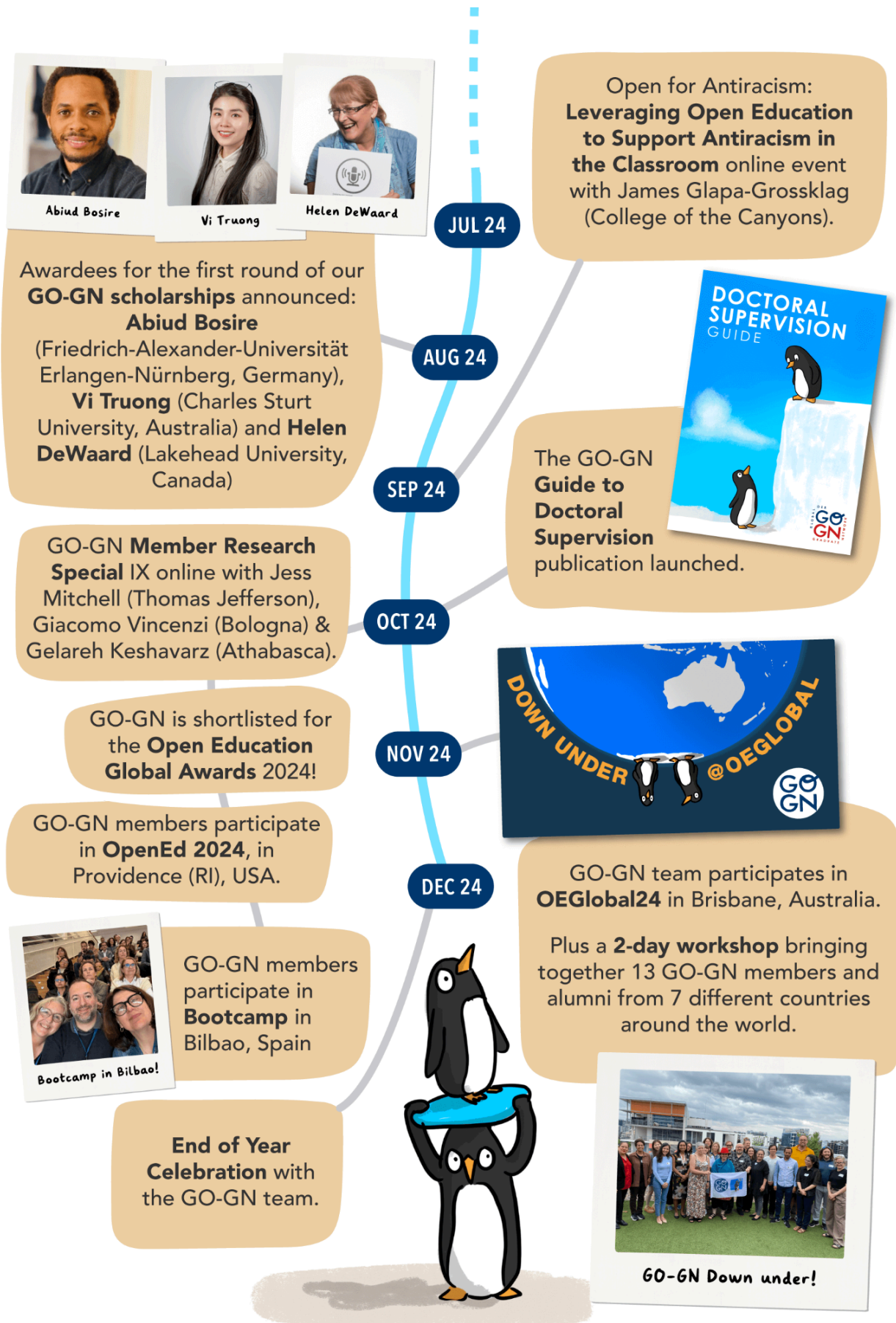


INCLUSION

The EDI strand aims for 2024 were to build on the EDI work that took place in previous phases, and at the GO-GN 10th anniversary workshop in Edmonton, Canada (summary available in the [GO-GN at 10: Strategic Review](#)). This year we also expanded our reach and operation in the Asia-Pacific region. We presented this work at two conferences, OER24 and Open Education Global 2024, where GO-GN workshops were run prior to the conferences. Day two of the GO-GN workshop prior to Open Education Global in Brisbane, Australia, was solely focused on building evidence, collating data and fostering discussion around issues in the Asia Pacific region and beyond. You can read more about Open Education Global on page 15.

Information collected from these events will help to continue informing the future directions of the EDI research in GO-GN, which has been well received by the network and broader community. Our EDI research was shortlisted for the Open Education Global Awards for Excellence 2024 in the category of [Special Awards - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#).





## Membership Overview

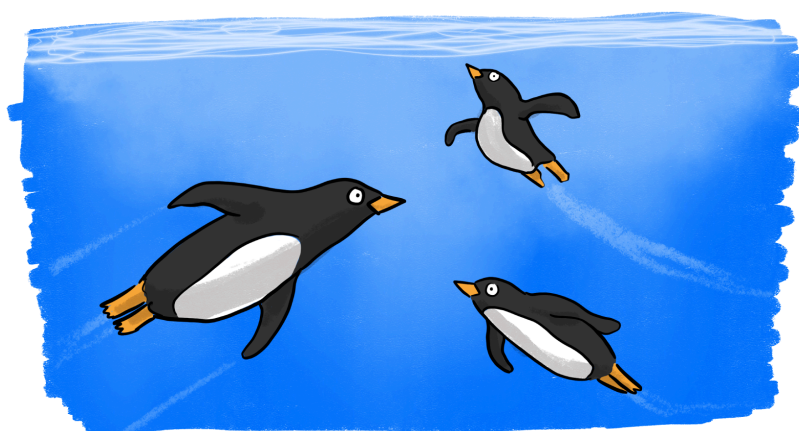
The GO-GN network has grown 10% since our last report. We currently have 191 members based at institutions in 29 different countries around the world. An estimated 31% of our membership are now alumni and 28% of our membership is based in the Global South. We also increased our wider network to more than 265 during 2024. Welcome to our 18 new doctoral researcher members and 35 friends and experts that joined the network during 2024!

This year we celebrated a number of GO-GN members who successfully passed their vivas. Warmest congratulations to everyone! If you are a current doctoral researcher, please do keep us updated as to when your viva is, and if we can support you.

Work to support members to share their research with the network and wider community continues. Activities this year included our two member research specials and an experts and friends research special in addition to our sprint activities, the scholarships and our collaborative publications.

We continued work on our communications refresh throughout 2024. Recommendations from [GO-GN at 10: Strategic Review](#) and subsequent discussions and feedback from and with our membership, including our post-workshop and annual surveys, have been key to informing our next steps.

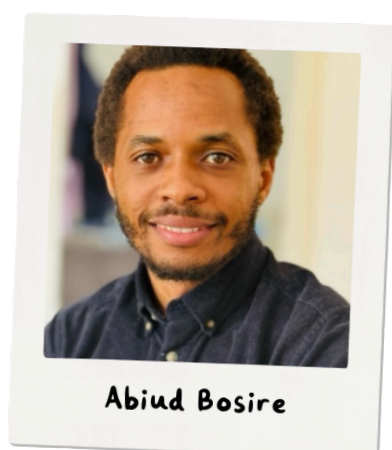
We held two face-to-face GO-GN workshops, including hosting our first face-to-face event in Australia, during 2024. More than 22 GO-GN members and alumni participated in these events.



## 2024 Scholarships

In February 2024 we were delighted to launch the first round of our new GO-GN scholarship scheme. This opportunity builds on the successes of the previous [fellowship scheme](#) for alumni. The new scholarship scheme is aimed at both GO-GN doctoral researcher members and alumni and supports a wider range of activities, including presenting research at a conference, fostering connections to other networks and targeted open education related research.

We announced our first round of scholarship awardees in August 2024:



Abiud Bosire  
(Friedrich-Alexander)  
*Workshops to  
empower and support  
postgraduate students  
in Kenya*



Dr. Helen DeWaard  
(Lakehead)  
*Internationalisation at a  
distance*



Dr. Vi Truong  
(Melbourne)  
*Raising awareness of open  
education in Vietnam*

Find out more about the work of our scholarship awardees:

- [Introducing our GO-GN scholarship awardees](#)
- [Empowering Postgraduates in Southwestern Kenya: A Journey of Learning and Global Connections](#) (Abiud Bosire)
- [Attending the International Symposium on Global South Studies 2024](#) (Vi Truong)

We will be announcing our round two fellowship awardees in early 2025 and the third and final round of applications for fellowship funding closes 1 May 2025. If you're GO-GN alumni or a current doctoral researcher [please do consider applying to the scheme](#).

## OER24



On 25 March 2024 we were delighted to bring together 12 of our GO-GN members and alumni from eight countries around the world for a one-day workshop in Cork, Ireland prior to OER24.

In addition, 12 GO-GN members and alumni, as well as the GO-GN team, shared their research in 17 sessions at the OER24 conference, which was

hosted by Munster Technological University (MTU). You can review our curated GO-GN presentation list here: <https://go-gn.net/gogn/join-go-gn-at-oer24/>

Some member and alumni feedback from our OER24 workshop:

"The presentations were diverse and fostered new thinking about OER and open education. Furthermore, the structure of [the] rest of the event (including the use of Discord) supported continuing the conversations about presentations and building deeper relationships."



"With the pre-workshop activity Monday eve the group started to get shape. Somehow we became quickly a 'community'. How did you guys do that? I felt appreciated and welcomed, I really enjoyed it a lot!"



"This was an incredible experience in my doctoral journey that I will be forever grateful for."

"GO-GN feels like a home community to me now, where I feel safe and confident. This is a transformation from a few years ago, when I first joined being unsure about my research or where I belong. I really appreciate the spirit of inclusiveness, interesting questions, friendly

feedback, and collaboration opportunities because they helped develop a sense of belonging despite different fields, areas of research, age differences, cultural differences, etc...."

Read more about our member and alumni workshop and conference experiences:

- [Finding my tribe: Reflections on my first GO-GN workshop and OER24 conference](#) (Abuid Bosire, Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen Nürnberg)
- [Embracing Learning and Community in Cork: Reflections on the GO-GN workshop and OER24 conference](#) (Lucas Johnson, Lakehead)
- [The Librarians have entered the chat](#) (Kathy Essmiller, Oklahoma State & Leo Havemann, Open/UCL)



## GO-GN at Open Education Global 2024



2024 saw GO-GN host our first workshop in Australia! More than 13 GO-GN members and alumni from 7 different countries around the world joined us for a two-day workshop prior to the conference.

Day 1 of the workshop supported in-depth discussions, networking and research sharing activities. On Day 2 we were thrilled to welcome a number of external guests to join us to progress GO-GN's work on

equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), with a focus on the Asia and Pacific regions. It was an honour to welcome guests Kori Besgrove, Steven Chang, Melody Chin, Dr. Johanna Funk, Prof. María Soledad Ramírez-Montoya, Nazimah Ram Nath and our Hewlett programme officer, Dr. Angela DeBarger to the workshop. Following a panel discussing EDI and openness in different contexts, we conducted an evidence café style workshop focused on discussing selected contributions from workshop participants on EDI in open education. We will be sharing more on the outcomes from this collaborative work in our February 2025 webinar and in forthcoming outputs.

The image below shows the participants of the EDI panel that took place on Day two of the GO-GN workshop. From left to right: Abiud Bosire, Melody Chin, Dr.

Johanna Funk, Kori Besgrove, Prof. María Soledad Ramírez-Montoya and the panel chair Carina Bossu.



GO-GN has a long-standing relationship with Open Education Global and we were honoured to be a partner for the 2024 conference. The GO-GN network continues to have strong representation at the conference, with 27 conference sessions featuring GO-GN members, alumni and/or the team in 2024.

During the conference we were delighted to host a panel session on Wednesday with Steven Chang, Melody Chin, Prof. Glenda Cox, Dr. Mais Fatayer, Dr. Johanna Funk and Prof. María Soledad Ramírez-Montoya on *Is equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in open education everyone's business?* and on Friday showcase GO-GN members and alumni Bokyung Go (Seoul National University), Bethany Eldridge (University of Michigan) and Leo Havemann (The Open University) to talk about their research during *Open is our Business: The Global OER Graduate Network (GO-GN)*. You can find out more about these presentations on our blog:

<https://go-gn.net/gogn/go-gn-at-oe-global-2024/>

The picture below was taken after the Open Education Global 24 panel on EDI (from left to right: Prof. Glenda Cox, Dr. Johanna Funk, Dr. Mais Fatayer, Carina Bossu (chair), Melody Chin, Steven Chang and Prof. María Soledad Ramírez-Montoya).



We will be publishing more on Open Education Global shortly. In the meantime, you can read the first of our member and alumni blog posts on their experiences:

- [A Week Down Under: Reflections from the Open Education Global Conference in Brisbane 2024](#) (Abuid Bosire, Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen Nürnberg)

Some participant feedback on our workshop:



"I appreciated the focus on our individual work on the first day and then the focus on the "big picture" of how our work in open education intersects with EDI on the second day. That balance was helpful to learn about each other's work while still thinking about the future of open education."

"My highlight from the two days was the five-minute thesis presentation. This was new to me but a great learning experience."

"Workshop was great - again I have learned so much about what everyone is doing, as well as made and reconnected with GO-GN friends. I think the potential future collaboration of this network is amazing. We are already doing good stuff together but I think as more of us become alumni and start new projects it's fantastic we already have this pool of international researchers to work with."



## Annual Survey

Whilst there are a number of ways members, alumni and the wider community can feedback to us throughout the year, our annual survey is a key opportunity for us to understand how we can better serve our membership, alumni and the wider open education community. We conducted our fifth annual survey in 2024.

A key addition to our 2024 annual survey was a section on future GO-GN activities. This set of questions focused on recommendations made as a result of our collaborative work with members, alumni and the wider community during our 10th anniversary year (2023). The outcome of this work, which offers a reflection and basis for strategising the network's next steps, in addition to reviewing our achievements over the past decade, was published in [GO-GN at 10: Strategic Review](#) in June 2024. During 2024 we continued to engage with our membership and the wider GO-GN community regarding potential activities and network preferences, including during our workshop prior to OE Global 2024.

Our 2024 survey had 15 survey respondents, with 67% of these reporting that they had finished their doctorate and were GO-GN alumni (n=10). Current doctoral researcher members were either midway through their doctorate (20%, n=3) or in the final stages of completing (13%, n=2). 80% of respondents had been a member of GO-GN for more than 3 years (n=12). Please make sure you respond to future surveys so we can include your point of view!

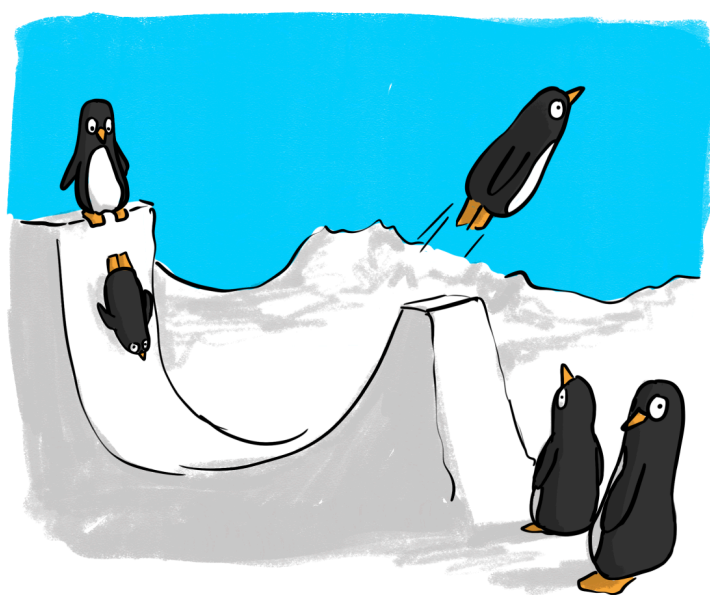
## GO-GN Activities During 2024

100% of survey respondents reported reading and/or sharing GO-GN reports or publications over the past year (n=15). 93% of respondents described reading a GO-GN report or publication as "very useful" in 2024 (n=14). Just over half of respondents reported contributing to a GO-GN collaborative output over the past 12 months (53%, n=8). More generally, the opportunity to contribute to collaborative outputs was perceived as "very useful" by 67% of respondents (n=10). GO-GN collaborative publications continue to be a popular opportunity for members to network and work together. Our resources are considered relevant and useful by our membership and others, whether participating in their creation or not. Notably, there are high levels of sharing GO-GN outputs with others - an activity not actively 'pushed' by the network but which illustrates the perceived wider benefit of GO-GN publications beyond the immediate network by our membership.

67% of respondents had attended a GO-GN online event during 2024 (n=10) and 73% had engaged with the network on social media (n=11). Whilst we continue to reflect on the changes to social media platforms and feedback from our membership, our monthly newsletter and website remain central to our

communication strategy and continue to be positively perceived. The top three “very useful” GO-GN activities over the past year were our newsletter (100%, n=15), reading a GO-GN report or publication (93%, n=14) joint second with the GO-GN website (93%, n=14) and online events (73%, n=11). 100% of respondents described the frequency of GO-GN communications as “about right” (n=15).

71% of 2024 survey respondents considered GO-GN to have supported them “very well” over the past 12 months, with the remaining respondents describing support as “okay” during this period (n=10 and n=4, respectively).



For the fifth year running “community of peers” was reported as a key feature of GO-GN by respondents. 100% of survey respondents in 2024 described the GO-GN community as a “very important” feature of the network (n=15). Our role in facilitating and fostering connections, both explicitly (e.g. through workshops or online events) and organically (through members

self-organising), is a key function for both current doctoral members *and* alumni. Similarly, 93% of respondents in the 2024 survey described “networking opportunities” as a “very important” feature of the network (n=14).

Our aim to foster open research practices and overall focus on open education research continue to be positively perceived by members. 73% of respondents described advice on open practices as a “very important” feature of GO-GN (n=11). Similarly 73% of respondents noted research communications as a “very important” feature (n=11). 60% of respondents also reported research advice as a “very important” feature of the network (n=9). Our community of care approach, which has been foregrounded in particular from 2019 onwards, was also considered an important aspect of the network with 60% of respondents reporting they found personal, non-academic support a “very important” feature of GO-GN (n=9).



Some of our member and alumni feedback from this year's survey:

"GO-GN has been instrumental in offering a sense of belonging and encouragement, especially in moments when the challenges of academic and professional growth felt overwhelming. The network has cultivated a supportive environment where sharing successes, challenges, and even uncertainties is met with understanding and encouragement from peers and mentors who truly understand the journey of researchers and practitioners in open education.

The personal interactions and pastoral care provided by the community have helped me navigate periods of self-doubt and reinforced my confidence in contributing meaningfully to the field. Knowing that there is a network of like-minded individuals willing to share their experiences and advice creates a sense of resilience and optimism in pursuing ambitious goals.

Additionally, the camaraderie within GO-GN fosters a unique form of emotional support, making me feel valued as both a professional and an individual. It reminds me that I am part of a larger, shared mission, which helps to reenergize my efforts in moments of fatigue or discouragement." (GO-GN alumni and member for more than 3 years)

"I have made wonderful connections with colleagues around the world thanks to the support of GO-GN, folks I can email and or text and connect with for sounding boards and support." (GO-GN current doctoral researcher and member for 1-3 years)

"Interaction with GO-GN members and alumni is always energizing and restorative. I am grateful for the opportunity to hear others' questions and how they are going about finding answers. It is also encouraging to hear about peoples' projects as they

make their way through them, and discover work taking place elsewhere.” (GO-GN alumni and member for more than 3 years)

“Always caring, friendly, compassionate, also ambitious and supportive. Thank you.” (GO-GN alumni and member for more than 3 years)

“The GO-GN network is managed and/or organized extremely well and management always takes into consideration our personal needs and challenges.” (GO-GN alumni and member for more than 3 years)

## GO-GN Future Activities

As noted above, this year’s survey featured additional questions regarding recommendations from our collaborative report [GO-GN at 10: Strategic Review](#). We presented a range of potential GO-GN activities to survey respondents, to assess their interest in these ideas. The top three proposed activities that respondents would be interested in participating in are:

- Hubs to support local/regional/thematic GO-GN related activities (87%, n=13)
- A GO-GN annual conference (80%, n=12) and/or
- Special issue of a journal dedicated to GO-GN research (80%, n=12).

To reflect the development of GO-GN over the past 10 years, and as the landscape of open education has matured and diversified, we have also been engaging with the network regarding a proposed name change for GO-GN. During our workshop in Brisbane we discussed changing our name from *The Global OER Graduate Network* to *The Global Open Graduate Network*. This suggestion was positively received and we further explored a potential name change in this year’s annual survey. A majority of survey respondents were similarly supportive of a variant on our proposed name change. So, our name will be changing soon... though we will have to establish the timeline for this!

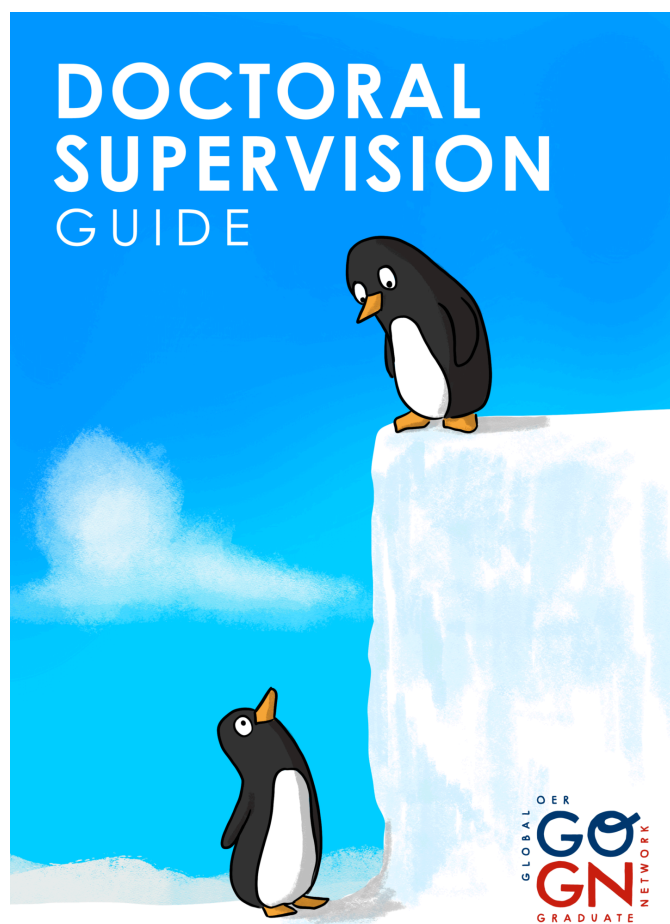
In addition, we continue to assess changes and trends across the social media landscape. We asked respondents from this year’s survey to give their preferences on our social media platform current or potential usage. The top four preferred social media platforms for GO-GN to have a presence on were: LinkedIn (80%, n=12), WhatsApp (73%, n=11), Instagram (47%, n=7) and Bluesky (40%, n=6). Consultation on our social media presence continued throughout 2024. There is not an easy solution for this yet, and a variety of new possible spaces for interactions have emerged. Stay tuned for updates on our social media strategy!

More broadly, and in response to the developing needs of the network, we have also developed a code of conduct which is currently being reviewed by members. Developing this included a review of existing codes of conducts used by other open education initiatives and events. We will continue to iterate this in the coming months in response to member feedback.

In order to better accommodate our members in different geographical areas, we are planning at least two webinars which are more compatible for those in Asia/Pacific timezones during the coming year. We will also be sharing an updated member pack in early 2025. As always, we remain open to feedback throughout the year. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with suggestions or if we can support, at any time.

## Publications

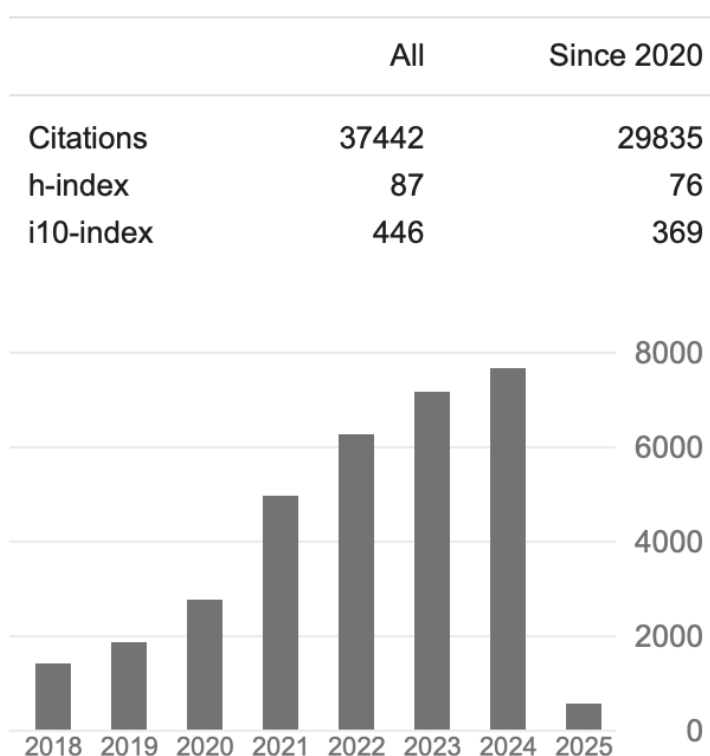
We continued to add to the collaboratively authored resource library that GO-GN is creating with [The GO-GN Guide to Doctoral Supervision](#). *The GO-GN Guide to Doctoral Supervision* provides an overview of the doctoral supervision process and has a wealth of material relevant to both students and supervisors. This Guide was collaboratively written with GO-GN members and draws on a wide range of experiences: both good and bad! The Guide provides a brief history of doctoral supervision and sets out strategies for managing expectations and establishing effective working relationships. We provide a range of different ways to conceptualise and reflect on the process of supervision, as well as practical advice on making it work (and what to do if things aren't working). In the latter sections, you can hear directly from our members as they reflect on their own experiences of supervising and being supervised. There are also many links to other resources and further reading. We hope that members (and others) will find this Guide useful! Like our other publications, it has a natural audience beyond our network. Feel free to share with anyone you think relevant, but especially those involved in doctoral research.



*The GO-GN Guide to Doctoral Supervision* was presented in draft form in a workshop at the Nordic Conference on PhD Supervision ([CoPhS](#)). This conference provided a window into an area of scholarship which is rapidly growing: research into doctoral supervision processes and practices. This could be an area where GO-GN could make a real contribution in the future.

We anticipate producing one or two more guides during this phase of GO-GN, which ends in 2026. Look out for more information on how to get involved! They are great opportunities for collaboration with other network members and our publications are valued by those currently on their doctoral journeys.

The research output from GO-GN as a network continues to impress. The *GO-GN Google Scholar* account tracks publications from network members, and, as you can see, the network as a whole continues to generate very high rates of citation. This is evidence of the ongoing efforts, professionalism and influence of network members and should be a source of pride for us all!



*If you are a member who would like to include your publications in this data then please get in touch with the team! (You will need a Google Scholar profile).*

## Looking Forward

### January - March 2024

- Drop-in session (29 January 2025)
- EDI update (26 February 2025)
- Member Research Special X (18 March 2025)

### April - June 2024

- OTESSA, Victoria, Toronto, Santa Fe & Online

### July - September 2024

- PCF11, Gaborone, Botswana

### October - December 2024

- Open Education 2025, Denver, Colorado, USA (October 2025)
- Open Education Global Regional Events

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