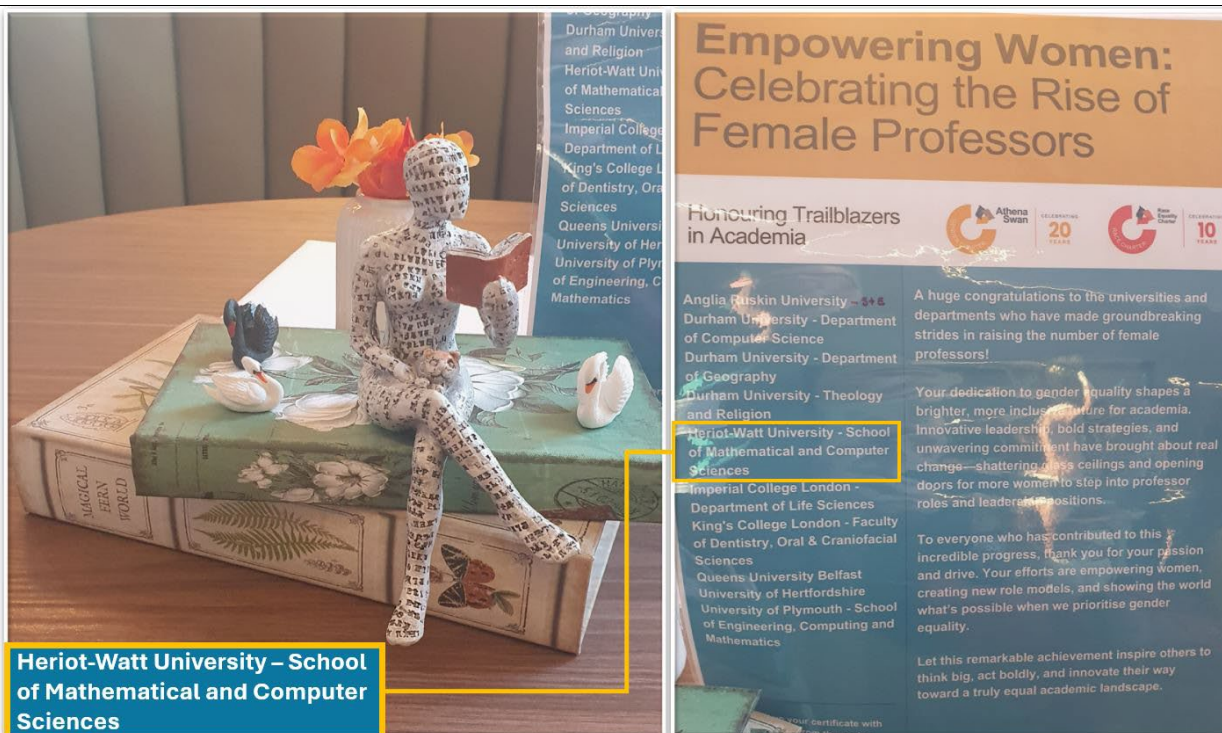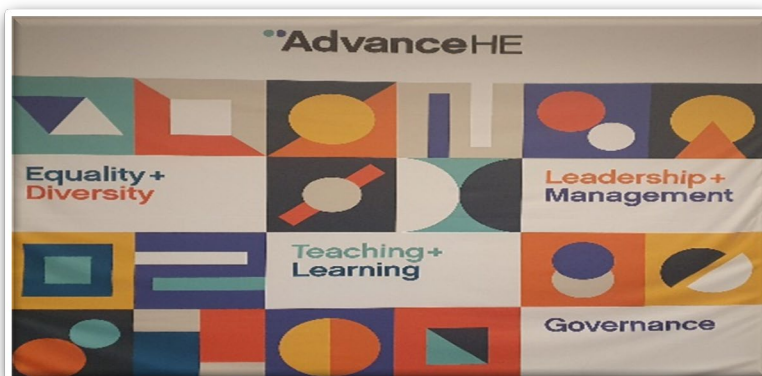# MACS Athena SWAN Newsletter

The Athena SWAN (Scientific Women's Academic Network) Charter was established in 2005 with the aim of *"Encouraging and recognising commitment to advancing gender equality"* within STEM subjects, i.e., science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The Athena SWAN agenda has grown overtime to promote equality in general. Scan the QR code opposite for more background about Athena SWAN at Heriot-Watt, including guidance and resources.

1. MACS Empowering Women: Celebrating the Rise of Female Professors

Heriot-Watt University – School of Mathematical and Computer Sciences

At the **2025 Advance HE Conference** (Newcastle upon Tyne in April) there was a reception for **Athena Swan** and **Race Equality award winners**. From the award application feedback, the **Advance HE Awards Team** distilled a set of attributes where applicants had excelled. They translated these attributes into a set of small-scale installations. For MACS, we were highlighted as *trailblazers in academia* for **"Celebrating the Rise of Female Professors"** — the image above captures the associated installation.

https://advance-he.ac.uk

2. London Hopper Colloquium 2025

UCL and the BCS Academy of Computing will be presenting the 19th London Hopper Colloquium on Thursday 22nd May 2025. London Hopper is for female academic researchers across the UK who are building a career in computing. The Colloquium event includes a Research Spotlight competition focuses on female research Masters and PhD students, providing them with a friendly forum for communicating the essence of their work. To find out more and register, please scan QR code or follow the link: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/london-hopper-colloquium-2025-tickets-1112619537989?aff=oddtdtcreator

3. Women in Data Science (WiDS) Dubai 2025

On Saturday 31 May we will be hosting WiDS UAE 2025, Eventbrite Registration is open:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/women-in-data-science-uae-2025-tickets-1224389504969?aff=ebdssbdestsearch

The sessions will be streamed on the day, though not recorded. If you are planning to join online, please register with that option so you will be sent details for joining nearer the time.

4. Women in Data Science (WiDS) Edinburgh 2025

Women in Data Science Worldwide | Edinburgh

Register now for WiDS Edinburgh 2025 (in-person event)!

📝 **Registration closes: 14th May 2025**

🔗**Registration link (https://lnkd.in/e8b-zQMS) or via QR code above.**

📊 **Women in Data Science Edinburgh 2025: Empower, Learn, and Connect**
🗓 **Date:** Wednesday, 28th May 2025
📍 **Location:** National Robotarium, Heriot-Watt University

Whether you're new to data science, growing your career, or supporting the future of the field, WiDS Edinburgh is your space to connect, learn, and be inspired.

Why not submit a poster?

Event Highlights:

- 🎞 **Keynote on data visualisation by an industry expert**
- 💼 **Business Pitch Workshop — prize for the best pitch!**
- ✏️ **Panel: Career advice and pathways in data science**
- 📊 **Poster Session — prize for the best poster!**
- 🎲 **Data Science Trivia Session — fun + prizes!**

Join us for an inspiring day of talks, workshops, and networking as part of the global Women in Data Science (WiDS) initiative, hosted in collaboration with Stanford University and celebrated in over 200 locations worldwide.

5. **MACS Athena SWAN Summer Bursary Awards for 2025!**

Dubai:

- Project title: AI Career Compass:
    - o Student: Mufliha Shake Dawood
    - o Supervisor: Dr Cristina Turcanu
- Project title: Comparing two Large Language Models (LLMs) to build a fitness mobile application prototype tailored for pregnant women, including prenatal and postpartum routines
    - o Student: Nicelin Printo
    - o Supervisor: Dr Drishty Sobnath

Edinburgh:

- Project title: Exploring Biomarkers for Data Visualisation
    - o Student: Helen Pui-Sarn Chang
    - o Supervisor: Dr Marta Vallejo
- Project title: Designing Inclusive Computer Science Materials for Additional Support Needs Education
    - o Student: Lola Sheehy-White
    - o Supervisor: Dr Alistair McConnell
- Project title: Learning dependent type theory
    - o Student: Lolita Hasanova
    - o Supervisor: Dr Swaraj Dash
- Website for Women@cs / Events at schools
    - o Student: Precious Onuora
    - o Supervisor: Jeevani Goonetillake
- Project title: Developing Shared Mental Models with Topic Visualisations
    - o Student: Maria Kirilova
    - o Supervisor: Dr Pierre Le Bras
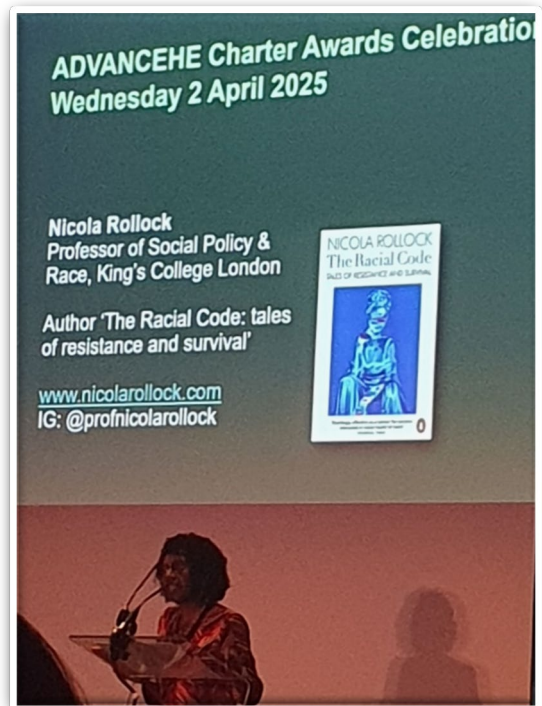
Malaysia:

- Project title: Learning Quantum through Interactive Resources
    - o Student: Onn Qi Pah
    - o Supervisor: Kai Lin Ong

Summer 2025 😎

Nicola Rollock is Professor of Social Policy and Race at King's College London. She gave the keynote address at the 2025 Advance HE Conference Dinner in Newcastle (image above).

***

If you have suggestions or questions related to Athena SWAN, or an event that you would like to advertise, then please send them to us via athena-macs@hw.ac.uk. In addition, if you would like to be part of the MACS Athena SWAN Team (a.k.a. the Self-Assessment Team (SAT)) then please do get in touch.

Audrey Repetti and Andrew Ireland
(MACS Athena Swan Coordinators)

Funds available for women in STEM groups!

Thanks to the generous support of our University's 1821 Appeal, we have been allocated funds from the Mary Burton Project to coordinate women in STEM initiatives across the University, which is being centrally coordinated by the HWU STEM Inclusivity Network. These funds are available for groups and societies at HWU to deliver activities for women in STEM. Please submit your request for funds through this form. All requests submitted will be considered on a rolling basis.

QR code for Form

QR code for STEM IN

Please note the following conditions:

- You must be applying from a society, group, project or initiative with a primary focus on supporting women in STEM.
- Possible use of funds include event catering, speaker fees, and relevant training and development. Funds may not be used for staff time.
- A maximum of £500 may be requested by a single group, per academic year.
- To report to the fund's Governance Group, we are required to report on impact, including number of beneficiaries reached, gender of beneficiaries, number of students from widening access background, etc. You will be expected to share these details after your activity is complete, along with photos if possible.
- We will inform you of the final decision on your application within approximately five weeks.

If you have any questions, contact STEMinclusivity@hw.ac.uk

And Finally …

This is the last issue of the Athena SWAN Newsletter for academic year 2024-25. If you have an event or an initiative starting in the next academic year (2025-26) that relates to *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion* (EDI), then please feel free to send an advert to be included in our September **– Welcome Week –** Issue of the Athena SWAN Newsletter!

Have a Restful Summer!