



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Open Research & Research Cultures at Edinburgh

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What is Research Culture?

- **Royal Society definition:** Research culture encompasses behaviours, values, expectations, attitudes and norms of our research communities. It influences researchers' career paths and determines the way that research is conducted and communicated.
 - [Research Culture | Royal Society](#)
- **Research culture** is a broad term that includes individual values and organisational culture; equality, diversity and inclusion; management practices and policies; research ethics and integrity; open research; research impact and how all these areas inter-relate with each other.



What is Research Culture?

- **Every** organisation, university, department, School, Institute, group and discipline has a **culture**
- You are probably both contributing to, and experiencing, **several cultures**
- **Good culture** benefits everyone
- **Bad culture** disproportionately affects early career researchers, research support staff, technicians, PGR students etc. and can undermine the integrity of research



Head of Research Cultures role

- I was appointed as Head of Research Cultures in March 2024
- Previously...
 - Research Strategy Manager in the Usher Institute, CMVM
 - Head of Regional Engagement, EPSRC (secondment for 14 months)
 - Lead of pre-award team at Heriot-Watt, and EPS School Research Admin
 - EPSRC portfolio manager in Physical Sciences
- My new role is based in Institute for Academic Development, but have a University wide role supporting, developing and connecting activity to improve research cultures



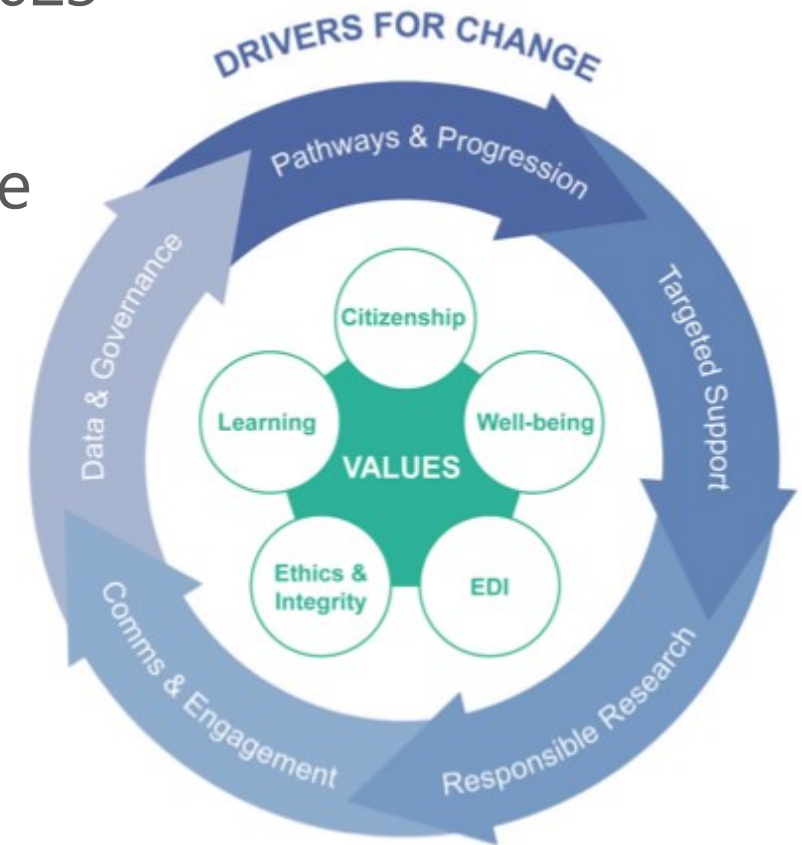
UoE Research Cultures

- There has been a lot work, now called research cultures, that's happened across UoE for a long time...
 - Open Access publishing and [Open Research](#)
 - Health & Safety actions and compliance
 - Responsible metrics
 - [ED&I, Athena SWAN, Race Equality Charter...](#)
 - Ethics, integrity, misconduct policies and processes
 - Supervision training, management and leadership training
 - [Technician Commitment](#) and more...



UoE Research Cultures Action Plan

- [Research Culture Action & Delivery Plan](#) published in 2023
- Head of Research Cultures in post March 2024
- [Research Culture Delivery Group](#) are delivering on these actions
- [Research Cultures Forum](#)
 - Sukanya Krishnamurthy & Timm Krüger Co-Chair
- [UoE Research Cultures website](#)



UoE Research Cultures Action Plan

Progress so far

- HR have initiated a review of the Academic Promotions Process
- PGR Cultures Plan has been approved
- New Technician Lead role will be advertised this summer
- New training in development for Principle Investigators
- New Careers Consultants for researchers in post
- Review of ethics and integrity training is underway
- Sustainability Framework has been piloted and UoE has signed the UK Concordat for Sustainable Research Practice

Progress tracker will be publicly available [here](#), updated quarterly



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Open Research & Culture Change

- Embracing open research methods requires a change to the way research is both **undertaken and communicated**
- OR is similar to Responsible Research & Innovation, Sustainable Research Practice, Participatory Research and Responsible Use of Metrics in that researchers themselves can embrace these methods, changing how research happens
- I'll be working across the University to embed recognition of these practices into reward structures such as promotion and make connections between open research and other areas.



InFrame Project



- Led by University of Glasgow, with Edinburgh and St Andrews, and funded by Wellcome
- Aiming to uncover, support and develop new ideas of research leadership
 - **Recognition Campaign** will be launched over summer 2024
 - **Leadership toolkit** will be developed
 - Research Cultures **Challenge fund**, £1.3M across the 3 Unis
 - Calls open in October 2024, March 2025
 - **Community Knowledge Hub** to support projects, access and analyse data, evaluate activities (UoE lead: Dr Sara Shinton)
- Website: [InFrame project site](#)
- Email: Inframe@ed.ac.uk



Thank you

[Research Cultures](#)



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