

SUSTAINAWHAT?!

Building powerful online
collaborations around sustainability



Professor Fiona Cownie

EMC Education conference

SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY



- Bringing the sustainability agenda to PGRs' research thinking
- Enhance rationale for and impact of research
- Advance HE Sustainability Symposium – SustainaWHAT?! Pilot at University of Newcastle
- Following this up promptly

SUSTAINAWHAT?!



- Collaboration between universities of Bournemouth, Cardiff and Newcastle
- Recruitment of two PGRs at BU – paid roles
- Co-created by PGR leads supported by academic leads – implementation and evaluation teams

TEAM SUSTAINAWHAT?!



**Michael
George**



**Jack
Olley**



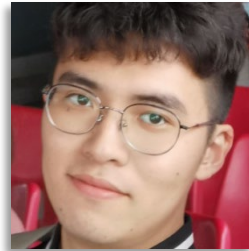
**Dr Fiona
Cownie**



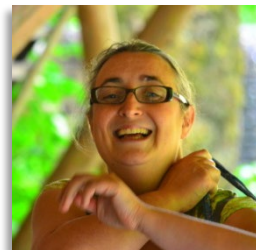
**Sian
Gardiner**



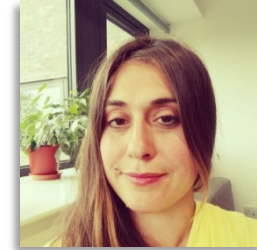
**Omar
Mohammed**



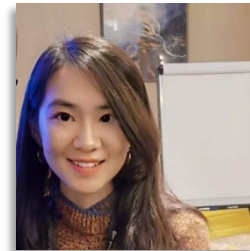
**Ran
Zhang**



**Dr Julie
Gwilliam**



**Melisa
Maida**



**Chang
Liu**



**Rosalind
Beaumont**



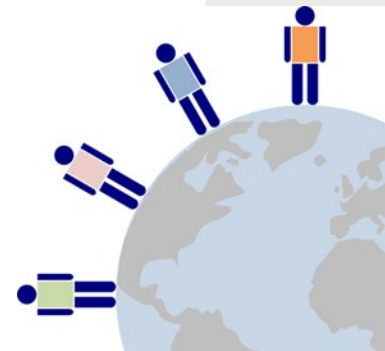
**Charlie
Osborne**



**Anand
Roy**



**Tinatin
Meparishvili**



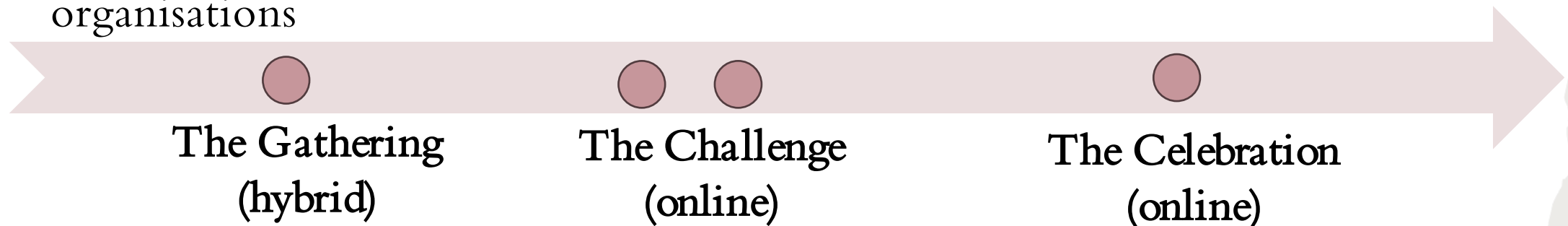
AIMS

Aims for PGR participants:

1. To bring a **sustainability** lens (via SDGs) to their research to inform the rationale and potential impact
2. To develop a range of competencies applicable to their own research and personal/ professional contexts, including **interdisciplinary collaboration**
3. To **develop a network** of PGRs and ECRs interested in sustainability

Aims for PGR leads:

4. To develop skills in **sustainability, event organisation and facilitation**
5. To develop competencies to **collaborate effectively** across teams and organisations



EVALUATION



How likely are you to now.....



VALUE OF PGR COLLABORATION

“My project began by only focussing on one of the SDGs but I’m now aware that several more are linked. It’s also really beneficial to hear the perspectives from people with different academic backgrounds.”

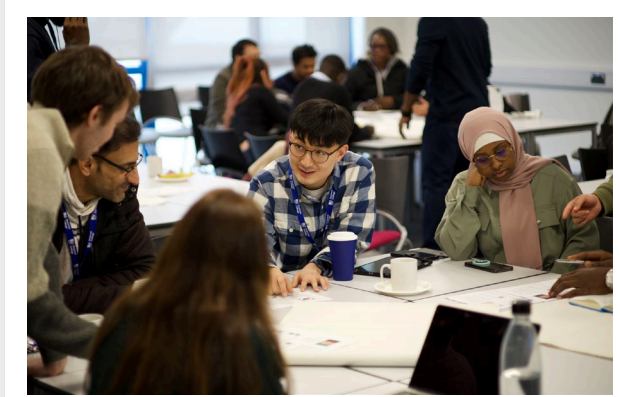
(PGR participant – The Challenge, April 2023)

*“I think we have created a **strong collaborative culture** in the way we planned and the manner that we supported each other, **respected and valued** each other.”*

(PGR lead – SustainaWHAT?! 2023)



SUSTAINAWHAT?! LEGACY



PGR network focused on sustainability
Launched Jan 2024 – Monthly online events
Driven by academics and PGR leads
Aim to extend network across sector

SPROUT'S MISSION

1. To build **confidence** amongst PGRs, aspiring PGRs and ECRs in engaging with sustainability.
2. To provide opportunities within a **community of practice** to develop peers' understanding about sustainability.
3. To increase awareness of sustainability's role in **employability and funding** opportunities.
4. To provide **collaborative opportunities** for PGRs and ECRs to develop a range of competencies applicable to their own **research and personal/ professional** contexts.



JUNE EVENT - GETTING YOUR FIRST SUSTAINABILITY JOB



SPROUT
PGR SUSTAINABILITY COLLECTIVE

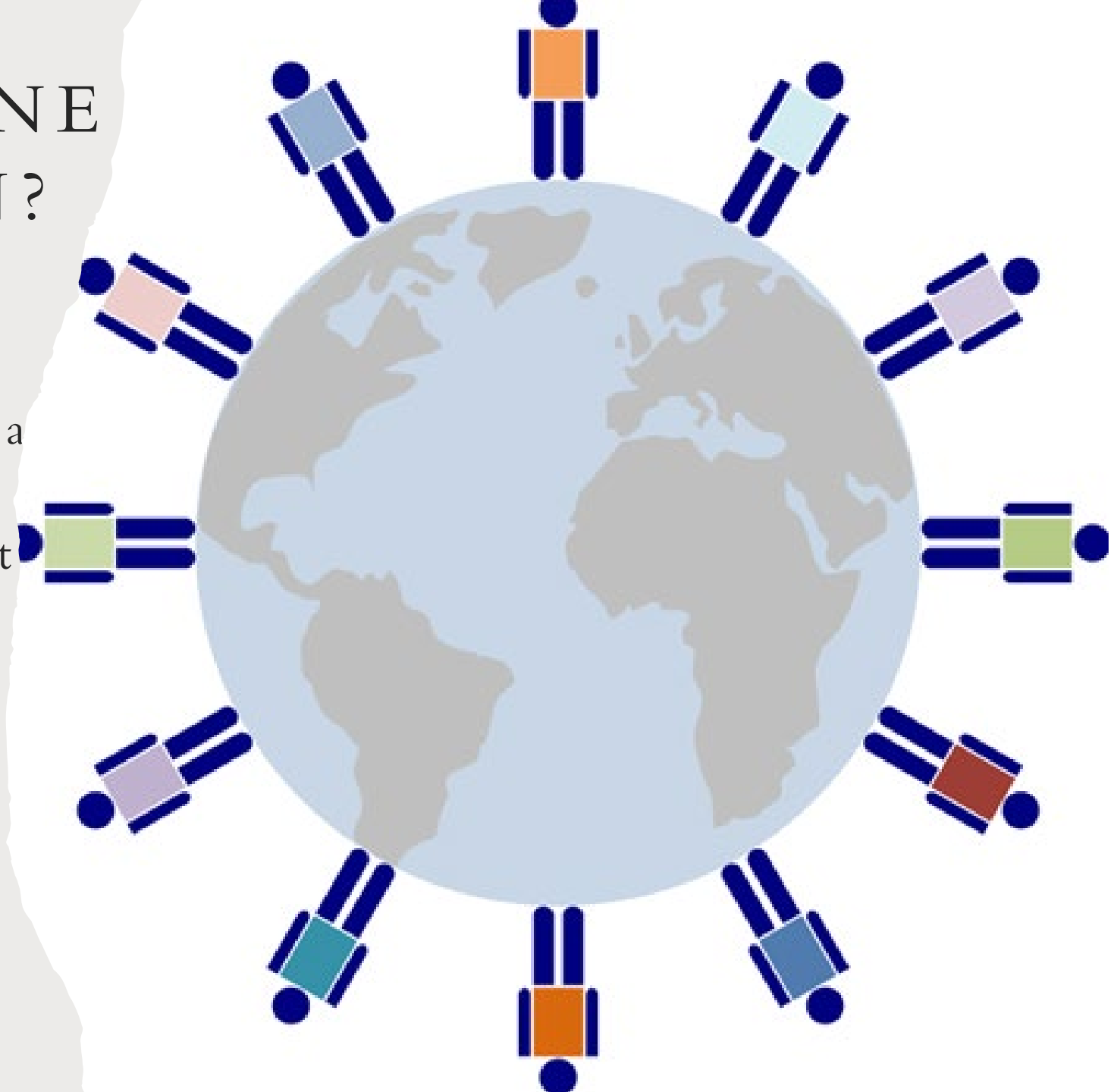
A collaboration between PGRs and staff from
Bournemouth, Cardiff and Newcastle universities

Join us for our next SPROUT event to learn from Prof Adrian Newton whose research examines human impact on the environment.

The session aims to help you to explore the sustainability skills employers are seeking and what you can offer and develop. Izzy Chalk, sustainability officer Bournemouth University will join us and share her experiences.

POWERFUL ONLINE COLLABORATION?

- We have only met online (professionally)
- We have worked across institutions in a highly functional manner
- Co-creation at the heart of the project with benefits for PGR leads
- Established a legacy - power of the collaboration
- Punctuation through future hybrid SustainaWHAT?! Events may be important to retain momentum
- We aim to extend the SPROUT collaboration across the sector



SUMMARY



- Online Collaboration between Bournemouth, Cardiff and Newcastle Universities
- Recognised with the Creativity award at BUVC Staff awards.
- Legacy through SPROUT
- Co-created by PGR leads supported by academic leads – key but ££ helps
- Do you or your PGRs or PGTs want to get involved?



THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

fjcownie@bournemouth.ac.uk sprout@bournemouth.ac.uk