

27.10.2026 – 12h-13h15

Leading towards Safer Academic Environments

Keynote on “Understanding Gender-Based Violence in Higher Education” followed by presentations of Higher Education Institutions’ procedures for cases of personal integrity violations

Keynote by [Giorgia Magni](#)

Understanding Gender-Based Violence in Higher Education: Leading towards Safer Academic Environments

Designed for researchers in leadership and with supervisory roles, this presentation offers an in-depth analysis of gender-based violence in higher education (GBVHE), aiming to better understand its underlying mechanisms and identify effective levers for prevention.

Drawing on recent research conducted in higher education institutions in Switzerland, it highlights the systemic nature of these forms of violence, their prevalence, and their consequences for academic, social and personal trajectories. It also examines the institutional dynamics that contribute to the normalisation and underreporting of such violence.

Building on these insights, this presentation focuses on the responsibilities, challenges and levers available to those in leadership and supervisory roles in higher education institutions in preventing and addressing GBVHE. It will address practical questions such as responding to disclosure, supporting affected individuals while ensuring confidentiality and fairness, preventing the normalisation of inappropriate behaviours and encouraging reporting, and mobilising institutional resources.

About Giorgia Magni

Giorgia Magni is a lecturer and researcher at the University of Geneva, within the G-RIRE research group. She defended her dissertation in June 2025, analysing how gender-based violence experienced in higher education affects students' academic trajectories and career choices. Her research primarily focuses on gender-based violence in educational settings and on critical pedagogies. Previously, she worked as a researcher at UNESCO, where she contributed to projects on gender-based violence in schools, inclusion in education, and youth disengagement from schooling.



Presentations by Higher Education Institutions

Internal procedures for cases of harassment, discrimination and other violations of personal integrity

In breakout groups the participants will have the opportunity to learn more about the existing procedures to report about harassment, discrimination and other violations of personal integrity in different Higher Education Institutions across Switzerland. They will also have the possibility to exchange with experts from different institutions.

EPFL – **Helene Fügler** (Equal Opportunities Delegate)

University of Basel – **Cora Dollinger** (Personal Integrity Office)

University of Berne – **Gina Vega** (Office for Equal Opportunities)

University of Lausanne – **Christelle Rigual** (Work and Study Climate Delegate)

University of Lucerne – **Matthias Luterbach** (Office for Equal Opportunities)

University of Zurich – **Karin Gilland Lutz** (Office for Equality, Diversity, Inclusion) and **Sophia Waigel** (Protection against Sexual Harassment)

Practical information: event overview, agenda and link to register for the event

27.10.26	12:00 -13:15	Leading towards Safer Academic Environments Keynote on Understanding Gender-Based Violence in Higher Education by Giorgia Magni followed by presentations of HEIs' procedures for cases of personal integrity violations
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Keynote

12:00 – Understanding Gender-Based Violence in Higher Education by Giorgia Magni

12:30 – Q&A session with Giorgia Magni

Breakout groups

12:45 – Presentations of existing procedures in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

13:00 – Q&A session with HEIs' experts

The event will take place online, please register [here](#)