

19.11.2026 – 12h-13h15

Building Safer Academic Environments

Keynote on “Understanding Gender-Based Violence in Higher Education: Recognising, Responding and Protecting Yourself” 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: Recognising, Responding and Protecting Yourself

Intended for early-career researchers, 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. It further aims to strengthen participants’ ability to navigate and respond to GBVHE. In particular, it will explore how to recognise problematic situations - with the support of the *violentometer*, an awareness-raising and prevention tool adapted to the academic context- and identify available support and reporting mechanisms

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 – **Dominika Hens** (Personal Integrity Office)

University of Berne – **Gaia Fortunato** (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 Lugano – **Francesca Scalici** (Office for Equal Opportunities)

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

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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](#)