

## Call for Proposals

### **“Reframing validity for inclusion and social justice.”**

**Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) SIG Meeting. Siena, Italy.**  
Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, 14.00 – 17.00

The aim of this SIG meeting is to bring together colleagues interested in EDI: test providers, administrators, educators and researchers, to share knowledge and research in the field, promote best practice and discuss present and future developments in:

1. research, policies, processes and resources related to accessibility and the validity of test accommodations;
2. practices in test development, production and quality review, with a focus on validity and EDI considerations in assessment processes.

We especially encourage proposals that deal with the following subthemes:

- Accent diversity: multilingual validity, bias in scoring, and ‘standard Englishes’
- High-stakes decision-making: how tests reinforce or mitigate inequities in migration, education, and employment pathways
- Inclusive design for neurodivergent test-takers: universal design, cognitive load, and alternative evidence of proficiency
- Accessibility, discrimination and diversity in AI-powered assessment and automated scoring
- Validity models: revisiting models of validity (socio-cognitive, assessment use, etc.) integrating identity, affect, and lived experience into validity arguments
- Impact: how tests shape migration, employability, and teaching and learning
- Assessment literacy to promote awareness and enable valid score interpretation among stakeholders

Proposals on other topics related to equality, diversity and inclusion are also welcome. Following the presentations, there will be a panel discussion on the main theme.

Presentations are scheduled for 20 minutes. Proposals will be evaluated based on their relevance, clarity and potential impact.

Submit your proposal by **27 March** to: Richard Spiby:  
[richard.spiby@britishcouncil.org](mailto:richard.spiby@britishcouncil.org) and Gemma Bellhouse:  
[gemma.bellhouse@speaknow.co](mailto:gemma.bellhouse@speaknow.co).

Please include the following:

- Name of the presenter(s)
- Title of the presentation
- Abstract (approx.250 words)
- Biodata (max. 50 words)

Accepted proposals will be notified by **10 April**. The meeting agenda will be circulated by **20 April**.