

**Speaker Biographies****24 March 2021**

**Professor Murray Saunders** is Co-founder and now member of **HERE@lancaster**, and Professor of Evaluation in Education and Work, Lancaster University. Murray has directed or co-directed some 40 separate evaluation and research projects over the last 20 years in areas of change, policy and strategic development and vocational education. In the HE environment, he has worked (as both evaluator and developer) on six R&D projects which have tested various types of learning support in international consortia of HEIs [Higher Education Institutions]. Murray was Head of the Department of Educational Research, Lancaster University from 1997-2000 and currently holds a visiting professorship in Evaluation at Freiburg University, Switzerland. Murray has acted as a consultant to, and undertaken a wide range of evaluation projects for the British Council, DfES [Department for Education and Skills], DFID [Department for International Development], UN, UNRWA, ESRC [The Education and Social Research Council], HEFCE [Higher Education Funding Council], SFC (the Scottish Funding Council) and a variety of regional agencies as well as carrying out evaluation and research projects in a wide range of cultural contexts, including in Asia: China, Japan, Singapore and India; in Africa: Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana and Ethiopia; in Latin America: Mexico and Chile; In the Middle East: Jordan as well as other member states of the EU and Russia.

Murray enjoys promoting and developing evaluation practice as past president and Council member of the UK Evaluation Society, Board member and past President of the European Evaluation Society, chair of the co-ordinating committee for the establishment of the IOCE (International Organisation for Cooperation in Evaluation) and current vice president [and an associate editor of the only international multidisciplinary academic journal in the field - Evaluation]. Murray continues to have research interests in the nature of evaluative practices, the relationship between education and the workplace and the connection between social change and development and evaluative practice.

**Rebecca Harland** is the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer for [FutureHY](#), the York & North Yorkshire Uni Connect Partnership (UCP). She is the lead for the NERUPI Uni Connect Working Group. Before moving into evaluation, Rebecca was a Widening Participation Officer, working across North and East Yorkshire and the Humber region on the National Network for Collaborative Outreach programme (NNCO) and Uni Connect (formally known as NCOP). Rebecca's own experience as a 'first in family' HE student has shaped her professional interests. She completed her BA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics part-time whilst working in the education sector and has recently undertaken an MA in Education and Social Justice at Lancaster University as a part-time distance learner.

**Beth Issac** is a Senior Evaluation Officer working in Access, Inclusion & Skills at the Office for Students, where she manages the externally commissioned Uni Connect programme evaluation. Beth also works part-time at UWE Bristol in an inter-disciplinary team conducting the formative evaluation of an 8-year BIG Lottery funded project in Bristol.

**Annette Hayton** is Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Education at the University of Bath and convenes the NERUPI Network on behalf of the University; she co-developed the NERUPI Evaluation Framework. Annette was previously Head of Widening Participation at the University of Bath and Goldsmiths, University of London and so has many years' experience managing activities designed to support successful progression to higher education. She aims to combine theory, research and practice, making praxis the foundation of her work to promote equity and foster progressive change within the education system. Annette is currently Innovative Practice editor for the journal *Widening Participation and Lifelong Learning* and a member of the International Centre for Higher Education Management at the University of Bath.

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**Dr Anthea Rose** is a Research Fellow at the Lincoln Higher Education Research Institute (LHERI), University of Lincoln and is currently leading the local Lincolnshire evaluation of the Uni Connect programme funded by the Office for Students (OfS). Anthea specialises in qualitative methods, especially case studies and is particularly interested in social justice and issues around equality, gender and the impact of government policy on education practices. Recent areas of investigation include the effectiveness of school improvement initiatives and mental health and wellbeing across the education sector. Anthea is a co-convenor of BERA's mental health and wellbeing special interest group.

**Dean Biddulph** is Senior Research Manager and part of the research team at Cosmos, responsible for a variety of research and evaluation projects in the education sector that typically involve evaluating activities by other providers. For the purposes of this evaluation and presentation, Dean will report the impacts of Cosmos' own Marginal Gains Programme, on behalf of the SUN (Southern Universities Network) for whom the project was previously delivered.

**Daniel Todd** is Senior Account Manager and part of the Engagement team at Cosmos and is responsible for developing and delivering a number of engagement programmes for a variety of young people including the Marginal Gains programme that is the subject of this presentation.