

NERUPI Convention
Wednesday 14 September 2022

Getting the Grades: Working together to raise attainment

Welcome

#NERUPConvention22
Wifi: FH Conferencing
Thelight20!



Growth of HE

The 1960s saw the number of UK Universities more than double from 22 to 45.

- 1930 – 9,129
- 1950 – 17,337
- 1960 – 22,426
- 1970 – 51,189
- 2011 – 350,800

A-levels

Number of top A-level grades falls sharply as north-south divide grows

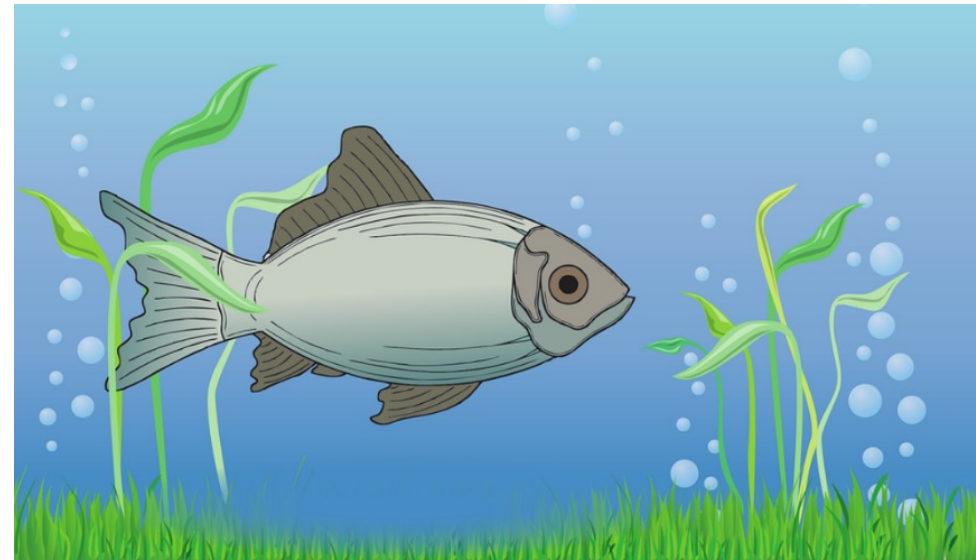
The number of top grades at A-level has fallen sharply this year after a return to examinations, with ... a “stark” divide between the **state sector and private schools**, where pupils were almost twice as likely to get an A or A*.

The attainment gap between the more affluent London and south-east regions and the north-east is growing ...the gap between the south and the north-east was between **4 and 5 percentage points** in 2019, it now stands at more than **8 percentage points**.

Differences in attainment

‘Students’ attitudes towards learning and their degree of confidence and entitlement in relation to academic knowledge have been found to be important and is shaped by their familial surroundings and the institutions they attend’
(Reay et al., 2010, p. 109)

fish in water ?



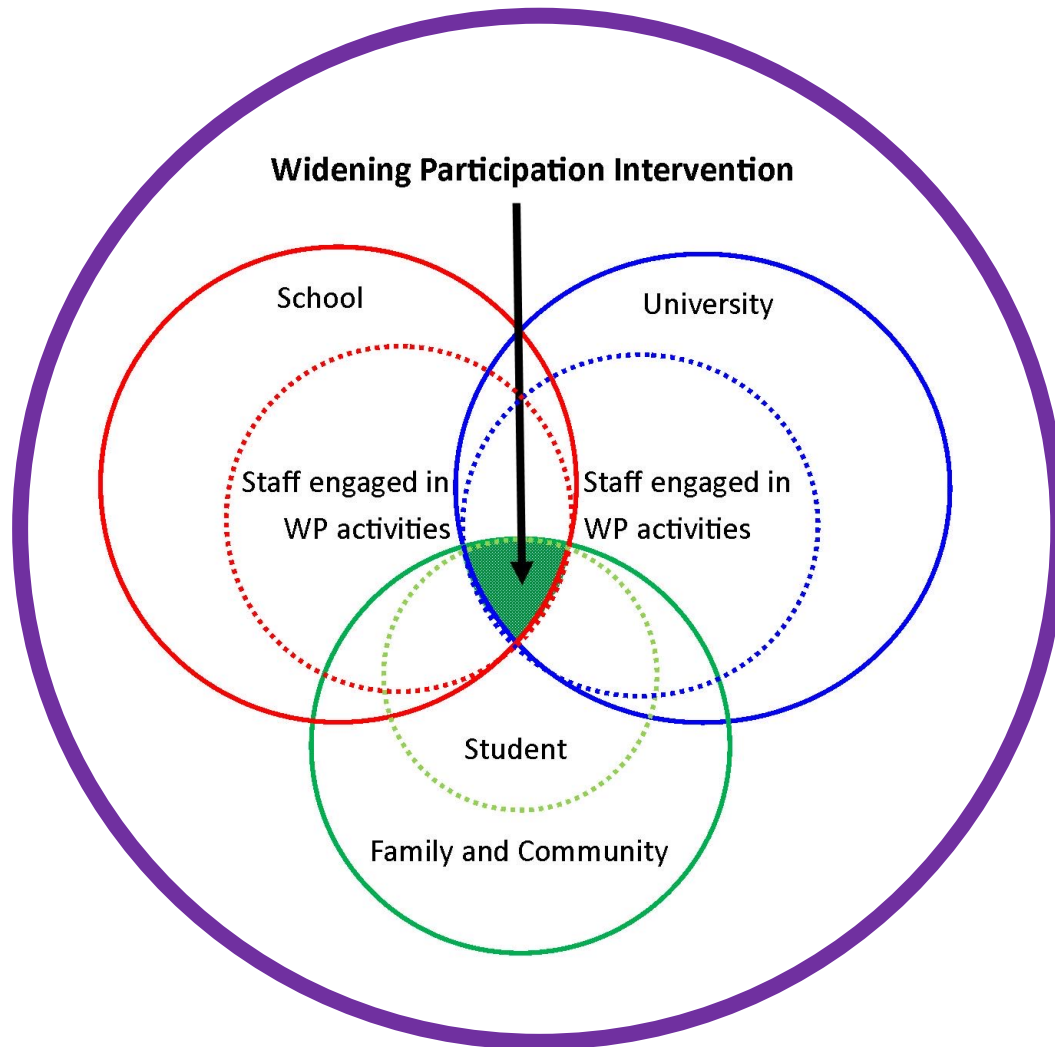
habitus

The NERUPI Aims

SOCIAL AND ACADEMIC CAPITAL		HABITUS	SKILLS CAPITAL	INTELLECTUAL & SUBJECT CAPITAL
PROGRESSION CURRICULUM		STUDENT IDENTITIES	SKILLS CURRICULUM	KNOWLEDGE CURRICULUM
KNOW	CHOOSE	BECOME	PRACTISE	UNDERSTAND
Develop students' knowledge and awareness of the benefits of higher education	Develop students' capacity to navigate Higher Education sector and make informed choices	Develop students' confidence and resilience to negotiate the challenges of university life	Develop students' study skills and capacity for academic attainment	Develop students' understanding by contextualising subject knowledge



Outreach



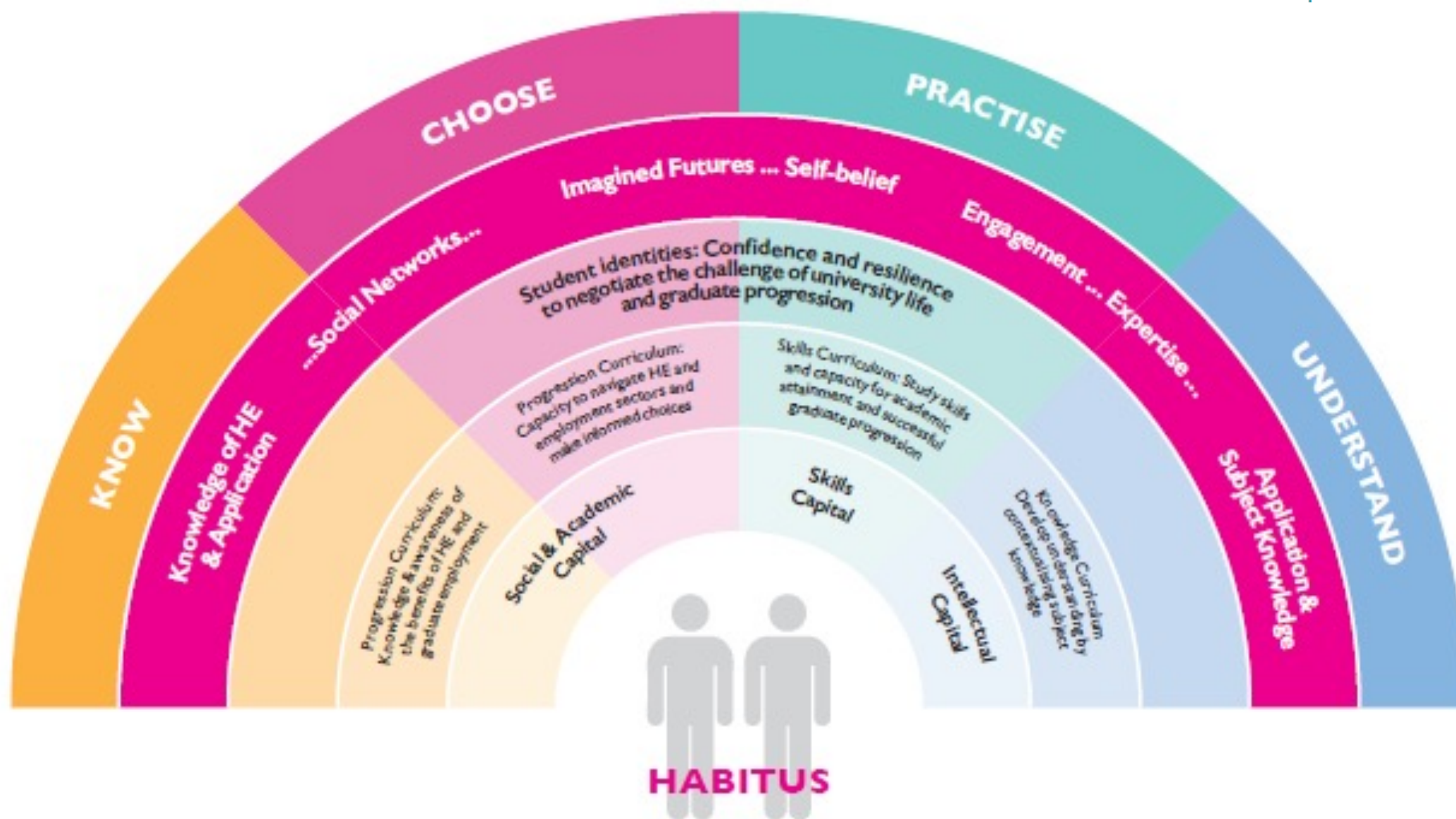
NERUPI Indicators

- **Imagined Futures**
 - links to concept of possible selves
- **Self Belief**
- - aims to capture concepts of self & is linked to motivation
- **Application**
 - situating & adapting new information to own context
- **Engagement**
 - participation & interest in learning
- **Expertise**
 - knowledge of a subject or proficiency in a technical skill
- **Social Networks**
 - linked to social capital of family & community

BECOME

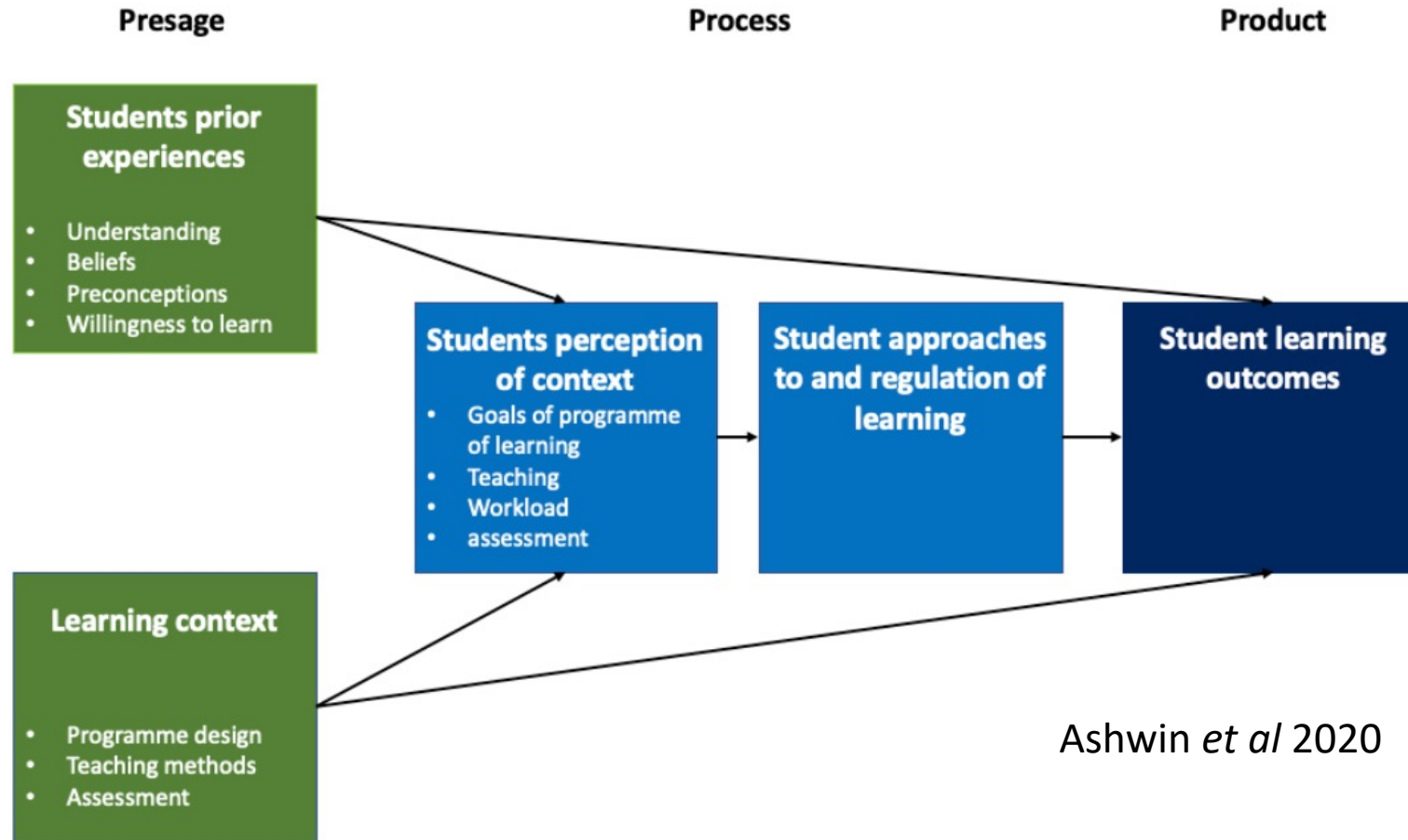
NERUPI *network*

Evaluating & Researching University
Participation Interventions



A model of student learning

<https://www.nerupi.co.uk/members/resources/a-model-of-student-learning>



Ashwin *et al* 2020

<https://www.nerupi.co.uk/members/toolkit/basics/theory-of-change>

OfS Key Messages

- **Raising attainment is a key aspiration- but its not the only one**
- **Take a broad view of what attainment consists of**
- **Not just GCSE outcomes - wider acquisition of knowledge tested in other ways**
- **Causal change between Year 7 and HE hard to prove – use appropriate intermediary objectives**
- **Clear hypothesis of causation**
- **- aims to capture concepts of self & is linked to motivation**
- **Acess & Participation Plans**
- **Record evaluation plans**
- **Publicise them as is standard in Social Science research**
- **For all APP interventions not just raising attainment.**