

Dr Anna Anthony

Senior Analyst, Higher Education Access Tracker (HEAT)



Anna is the Senior Research Analyst for HEAT, where she manages the Monitoring, Evaluation and Tracking aspects of the HEAT Service. Since 2014, Anna has worked with national educational agencies to negotiate access to data on participant outcomes and HEAT Service member organisations to provide meaningful reporting on these data. Anna provides guidance on methodologies that can be applied to tracking data to evaluate outreach, to help Service members use their data to its full potential. In 2019 Anna successfully completed a PhD in Social Policy, investigating the potential for outreach to raise attainment in schools. Findings from the thesis have been published by WonkHE (2022).

John Blake

Director for Fair Access and Participation, Office for Students



John took up his position at the Office for Students in January 2022. Prior to joining the Office for Students, he was a senior leader and researcher in the schools sector, leading on public affairs and curriculum research and design for Ark, policy and strategy for Now Teach and History initial teacher education for the Harris Federation. He has also worked as Head of Education and Social Reform for the think tank, Policy Exchange, was a founder governor of Oak National Academy, and served as an advisor to the government on reforms to initial teacher training and continuing professional development.

Annette Hayton

NERUPI Convener, University of Bath



Annette convenes NERUPI (Network for Evaluating and Researching University Participation Interventions) She was previously Head of Widening Participation at the University of Bath and at Goldsmiths, University of London. She has many years of experience in managing activities designed to support successful progression to higher education as well as developing strategies to ensure that all students have a positive experience of university study. Annette is interested in how educational theory, research and evaluation can be developed and applied in practice to promote positive change within the education system, aiming to combine theory and practice in her work. She is co-developer of the NERUPI Framework and has published a number of books and articles on widening participation and is Innovative Practice Editor for the journal 'Widening Participation and Lifelong Learning'. Annette is a member of ICHM (International Centre for Higher Education Management) at the University of Bath and a Trustee of Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership (MNSP) and leads on the Bath Hub.

Professor Nicola Ingram

Director of the Education and Social Research Institute



Nicola is a professor of sociology of education with an interest in analysing social class based educational inequalities across the whole education sector and how these connect to labour market outcomes. Nicola's research is politically motivated by her own history of growing up on a council estate with multiple markers of deprivation in Belfast, and conflictual experience of social mobility through education. Prior to working in academia Nicola was a school teacher and taught Art and Design in secondary schools, including two boys' secondary schools in Belfast that included pupils from the same estate in which she grew up. One of these schools was a selective grammar school and the other a secondary school, and the stark contrast between these two state funded schools in the same education system fired both her sociological imagination and anger at social injustice. Nicola's PhD study of working class boys' navigation of success won the British Educational Research Association's annual thesis prize in 2012. Since then, Nicola has been interested in research that connects the systemic, institutional and subjective domains of inequality. Nicola has published widely on these issues, including an award-winning co-authored monograph on higher education and social mobility, a co-edited book on inequalities in educational transitions in Europe, and an edited book on inequalities in higher education.

Sheree Palmer

Head of Access and Student Success, University of Manchester



Sheree is currently Head of Access and Student Success at the University of Manchester leading on increasing access to higher education for talented students from underrepresented groups and supporting their success once there, leading to good graduate outcomes. Prior to leadership in higher education, Sheree led and trained teams of teachers in secondary education delivering on Ofsted and government metrics and transforming students' educational experience. Sheree's career in education began in the secondary system following her PGCE at the University of Oxford, and whilst Head of Department she worked as part of a best practice group for Kent County Council's Advisory Service raising attainment across the county of Kent. She is an expert in raising standards in teaching and learning and student engagement and she has extensive experience of supporting sixth form students to transition successfully into higher education. Sheree is a passionate advocate for equity and excellence in education, is a panellist for Advance HE's Race Equality Charter and is recognised as a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. Sheree was formerly Student Success and Attainment Manager for the Division of Law, Society and Social Justice at the University of Kent.

Professor Mary Stuart

Leadership Development Consultant, Minerva Search



Mary Stuart has had a long career in Higher Education covering most academic roles. She spent 15 years at the University of Sussex moving from a lecturing role to becoming Pro Vice Chancellor for Students and Professor of Continuing Education. In 2005, she moved to Kingston University as Deputy Vice Chancellor and in 2009 was appointed the Vice Chancellor at the University of Lincoln, UK. At Lincoln she led the transformation of the institution from 2009 to 2021. Alongside her leadership experience Mary has a long track record of researching and writing about Higher Education. Mary also contributed to and supported the UCL/Institute of Education's Higher Education MBA from 2014-2018. She is now Director of Leadership Development at Minerva, UK. She is also a Vice Chancellor's Fellow at La Trobe University, in Australia, Visiting Professor at the University of Sussex, a member of the Advisory Board of the Higher Education Policy Institute and is a Director of the UPP Foundation and of the National Centre for Entrepreneurial Education.