

NERUPI *network*

Evaluating & Researching University
Participation Interventions



1. Design



2. Evaluate



3. Report

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Evaluation and equity

The imperative to assess the impact of widening participation and equity interventions is growing. Managers, practitioners, teachers, lecturers, researchers and funders are all keen to know where activities are having a positive effect. The Office for Students and HEFCW require higher education institutions and outreach consortia to publish and submit impact reports and action plans demonstrating how their activities will contribute to meeting their targets.

But measuring impact is not straightforward, particularly in this field where context is so critical and activities are frequently tailored for certain groups. NERUPI provides opportunities for evaluators to develop their expertise through a community of practice centred on the praxis-based NERUPI Framework.

Insights from both academic research and practical delivery combine to offer a rigorous yet flexible approach to programme design and evaluation that can meet the requirements of funders, practitioners and managers.

Read more about the NERUPI Framework

Theory, evaluation and practice in widening participation: a framework approach to assessing impact: <https://doi.org/10.18546/LRE.14.3.04>

*Clear but flexible aims; good bridge between practitioners and evaluation team;
strong community - University of East Anglia Member*



Network Aims

The Network for Evaluating and Researching University Participation Interventions (NERUPI) is a collaboration of HEIs working together to:

- ♦ **Develop** members' expertise and capacity in evaluating widening participation interventions using the NERUPI Framework, underpinned by theory and research
- ♦ **Explore** innovative and rigorous approaches to evaluation
- ♦ **Collaborate** on research and evaluation projects to increase knowledge and understanding about VPP

Office for Students and Higher Education Funding Council for Wales Guidance

Membership of NERUPI and implementing the NERUPI Evaluation Framework enables partners to meet main stakeholder requirements including:

- ♦ Setting outcome focussed targets to capture the impact of work
- ♦ Planning creatively, evaluating robustly and reporting clearly
- ♦ Using evidence of outcomes achieved and lessons learned to support continuous improvements
- ♦ Setting collaborative targets in partnership with other providers

NERUPI does such a great job leading and supporting the sector
- University of East London member 



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Events for Members

Most NERUPI events are offered exclusively and free of charge to staff at our member organisations, helping to build a community of practice. Combining insights from theory and research with practical workshop sessions, a typical session starts with an expert presentation which introduces the broad theme followed by practice examples illustrating the links to everyday practice. Workshops to plan and develop your own evaluation resources follow, with the opportunity to share the outcomes with the wider group at the close of the day. We schedule lunch and refreshment breaks throughout allowing time for further discussion and networking – for online events there are breakout rooms where you can discuss with a smaller group.

Events 2021-2022

Events will be online until at least March 2022. Event themes are listed here but please visit the website for up-to-date information on all events: nerupi.co.uk/events.

- ◆ **Convention: Transitions (September 2021)**
- ◆ **Pedagogy for outreach initiatives**
- ◆ **Engaging parents and carers as key influencers**
- ◆ **Inclusive and culturally sensitive curricula**



- ◆ **Subject specific widening participation: access to the arts**
- ◆ **Access and student success from BTEC and vocational routes**

Past Events

Presentations and materials from past events are available to members on the website including recordings wherever possible. Past event themes and keynote speakers include:

- ◆ **Addressing the BAME awarding gap (Jason Arday, Nona McDuff)**
- ◆ **Online pedagogy (Diana Laurillard, Gurnam Singh)**
- ◆ **Collaborative outreach (Anna Mountford-Zimdars)**
- ◆ **Student ambassadors (Clare Gartland)**
- ◆ **Admissions (Vikki Boliver)**
- ◆ **Knowledge, learning & attainment (Paul Ashwin)**
- ◆ **Possible selves (Jacqueline Stevenson)**
- ◆ **Graduate progression (Nicola Ingram, Richard Waller)**
- ◆ **Geographies of WP (Michael Donnelly)**
- ◆ **Capability approach (Monica McLean)**
- ◆ **Science & subject capital (Louise Archer)**
- ◆ **Planning evaluations (Murray Saunders)**

I found the discussion in my breakout room very interesting and the whole event was really helpful for facilitating some 'bigger picture' thinking - Study Higher Member



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NERUPI Framework

NERUPI supports practitioners and evaluators in designing, evaluating and reporting on their widening participation interventions - in outreach, student success and graduate progression. The NERUPI Framework is underpinned by a robustly theoretical and evidence-based rationale and has clear and relevant over-arching aims and learning outcomes which allows for demonstration of impact using a range of indicators.

Five Overarching Aims

The Framework's overarching aims are broken down into sub-aims organised according to the stage of the participant and the level of intensity of the activity.

Know	develop knowledge of HE / grad employment
Choose	develop capacity to navigate HE / grad employment
Become	develop confidence and resilience in HE / grad employment
Practise	develop skills and capacity for student and career success
Understand	develop understanding through contextualised subject knowledge and attainment raising

I like the fact that 5 pillars of the evaluation are easy to understand and easy to explain to staff and students alike - FutureHY Uni Connect Member



NERUPI Resources

Staff at member organisations can sign up for free to the NERUPI members' website where they can explore a wealth of resources related to widening participation theory, practice, research and evaluation. Online resources include:

- ◆ The full NERUPI Framework
- ◆ A wide range of resources based on the NERUPI Reflexive Cycle including tools, templates and interactive exercises
- ◆ NERUPI practice examples and materials from members
- ◆ Presentations from past events and workshops
- ◆ Links to WP books, articles and blogs
- ◆ WP guidance documents, policy briefings and reports

NERUPI is also endorsed by **HEAT** — the Higher Education Access Tracker Service.

The NERUPI aims can be easily incorporated into HEAT, allowing quick and consistent coding

Anna Anthony, HEAT Senior Data Analyst

It is very intuitive for those who have been working within any form of WP remit, as it validates and theorises what many practitioners may feel is a ... 'just what we do' approach - WIN member



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Membership Benefits

The full range of benefits include:

- ◆ Free attendance at expert workshops combining presentations on key issues for widening participation with practical sessions focussed on developing members' own evaluation resources — a minimum of six events are offered per year exclusively to members
- ◆ Access to resources, tools and case studies from the members only section of the NERUPI website designed to support the planning, evaluation and reporting process using the full NERUPI Framework
- ◆ Engagement in working groups and workshops to develop members' expertise and capacity in evaluation approaches and methods
- ◆ Opportunities to collaborate and share best practice including participation in the annual NERUPI Convention where members can present their findings, develop the Framework and keep up to date with national developments.

Costs 2021-22

- ◆ Organisations with 3,000+ students: £1,575 per annum
- ◆ Organisation with under 3,000 students: £630 per annum
- ◆ Membership costs for Uni Connect consortia and other groups vary according to their size and number of members. Please enquire.



Network Organisation

Annette Hayton, Senior Research fellow in the Education Department at the University of Bath convenes and manages the Network

Chantelle Cummings is NERUPI Development Officer leading on student voice, race and gender equality and parental influence.

Sally Griffin is NERUPI Development Officer leading on UniConnect, Student Ambassadors and school partnership

Kate Holmes is NERUPI Development Officer leading on evaluation support and resources in the members area of the website

Joanne Moore is a Visiting Fellow and NERUPI Researcher who supported development of NERUPI Resources and collaborative research.

Harriet Penrose is the NERUPI Administrator who deals with event bookings and membership admin and finance as well as NERUPI news and the website.

Steering Group: NERUPI is organised by a Steering Group nominated by members. All members are eligible to send a representative to the annual meeting (normally taking place at the NERUPI Convention) which contributes to the on-going review and development of the Network.

Academic Advisory Board: Our Academic Advisory Board is chaired by Professor Jacqueline Stevenson MBE. It meets with the Steering Group regularly and provides ongoing advice and support to the Network.

The first session explained the research methods, the second put them in context and this showed us how to apply them. Great! - University of Essex member





Our NERUPI Network Members*

AECC University College	Northumbria University
Anglia Ruskin University	Oxford Brookes University
Aston University	Queen Mary University London
Bath Spa University	Ravensbourne University College
BIMM Institute	Reaching Wider Partnership Wales
Birkbeck University	Sheffield Hallam University
Brunel University	SOAS, University of London
Bucks New University	South Essex College
Canterbury Christ Church University	South West Wales Partnership
Cardiff University	Staffordshire University
City University London	St Mary's University London
Conservatoire of Dance & Drama	Study Higher Uni Connect
Cosmos Engagement Ltd	Teesside University
Coventry University	The Open University
Durham University	University of Bath
First Campus Partnership	University of Bristol
FutureHY York & North Yorkshire	University College London
Go Higher West Yorkshire	University of Derby
Guildhall School of Music and Drama	University of East Anglia
Humber Outreach Programme	University of East London
Imperial College London	University of Essex
Kingston University London	University of Exeter
Leeds Beckett University	University of Hull
Leeds Conservatoire	University of Kent
Leeds Trinity University	University of Law
LincHigher Uni Connect	University of Leeds
London Metropolitan University	University of Lincoln
London NCOP Uni Connect	University of Manchester
London School of Economics	University of Oxford
London South Bank University	University of Reading
Loughborough University	University of Suffolk
Make Happen Essex Uni Connect	University of Sunderland
Manchester Met University	University of Sussex
Newcastle University	University of Westminster
Next Steps South West Uni Connect	University of York
North & Mid-Wales Reaching Wider Partnership	Wessex Inspiration Network
	York St John University

NERUPI Steering Group

Renata Albuquerque
SOAS, University of London
Andrew Bengry
Bath Spa University
Stuart Bottomley
University of Sussex
Sophie Cloutterbuck
London Met University
David Dobraszczyk
University of Reading
Marva De La Coudray
London Met University
Rebecca Harland
FutureHY Uni Connect

Annette Hayton
NERUPI, University of Bath
Kate Holmes
NERUPI, University of Bath
Scott McKenzie
Open University Wales
Helen Smith
FutureHY Uni Connect
Sally Tazewell
WIN Uni Connect
Dave Thomas
University of Kent
Amy Burt
University of Kent
Emily Warwick
Cardiff University

* Correct at time of going to press. Please see the NERUPI website for the most up to date list.

Academic Advisory Board

Dr Andrew Bengry, Bath Spa University, co-developer of the NERUPI Framework, sits on the board permanently as Academic Advisor

The board is Chaired by Professor Jacqueline Stevenson MBE, University of Leeds

And also includes:

Professor Paul Ashwin
Lancaster University

Professor Marie-Pierre Moreau
Anglia Ruskin University

Professor Vikki Boliver
Durham University

Dr Richard Waller
UWE Bristol

Dr Matt Dickson
University of Bath

Dr Mark Walmsley
University of East Anglia

Dr Constantino Dumangane Jr
University of York

Annette Hayton
NERUPI, University of Bath

Dr Clare Gartland
University of Suffolk

Kate Holmes
NERUPI, University of Bath (Secretary)

Professor Margaret Greenfields,
Anglia Ruskin University

Professor Nicola Ingram
Manchester Metropolitan University

For further information, alternative formats or to book a place on a workshop

please email nerupi@bath.ac.uk



Postal Address:
Department of Education
1 West North
University of Bath
Claverton Down
Bath BA2 7AY

www.nerupi.co.uk

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