

# NERUPI *network*

Evaluating & Researching University  
Participation Interventions



1. Design



2. Evaluate



3. Report

[NERUPI.CO.UK](http://NERUPI.CO.UK)

# NERUPI network

Evaluating & Researching University  
Participation Interventions

## 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 WP

## 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



# NERUPI *network*

Evaluating & Researching University  
Participation Interventions

## Events for Members

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 practice with practical workshop sessions, a typical session starts with a presentation from a researcher which introduces the broad theme for the event followed by a case study illustrating the links to everyday practice. Practical workshops to plan and develop your own evaluation resources are next on the agenda with the opportunity to share the outcomes with the wider group at the close of the day along with suggestions for further activities. We schedule lunch and refreshment breaks throughout allowing plenty of time for further discussion and networking. For online events there are breakout rooms where you can discuss with a smaller group.

## Past Events

Materials and recordings from past events are available to members on the NERUPI website including presentations by **Penny-Jane Burke, Jacqueline Stevenson, Louise Archer, Michael Donnelly, Vikki Boliver, Nicola Ingram, Clare Gartland, Paul Ashwin, Julian Crockford, Monica McLean and the Office for Students.**

*The pace and structure of the delivery and discussions was perfect -*  
University of Lincoln Member



## Events 2020-21

Events will be online until at least Spring 2021. Visit the website to book and for up-to-date information on all events: [nerupi.co.uk/events](http://nerupi.co.uk/events).

### NERUPI Convention 2020

Our Convention takes place in September and this year's themes are :

- ◆ **Day 1: Online Learning: Quick Fixes or New Beginnings?**
- ◆ **Day 2: Evaluating for Equity: A Praxis-based Approach**

Speakers include **Diana Laurillard, Gurnam Singh, Richard Shiner, Matt Lumb, Liz Thomas**

### **Reducing the BAME outcome gap: changing cultures and practices in higher education**

Our first series of events takes place in the autumn and focuses on the vital topic of the BAME degree outcome gap. Speakers include **Nona McDuff, Jason Arday, Dave Thomas, Dorrie Chetty and Berekhet Berakhy**.

### Other Events

Events for the rest of the year will draw on themes including:

**Possible selves, belonging & student wellbeing ◆ Community-based outreach & student success ◆ Inclusive pedagogies to support student success ◆ Progression to employment & postgraduate study ◆ Engaging parents & carers in outreach ◆ Research & evaluation methods ◆ Mature students' access, success and progression in HE ◆ Widening participation in subject provision: STEM, Creative Arts, Humanities**

*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*



# NERUPI network

Evaluating & Researching University  
Participation Interventions

## 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.

<b>Know</b>	develop knowledge of HE / grad employment
<b>Choose</b>	develop capacity to navigate HE / grad employment
<b>Become</b>	develop confidence and resilience in HE / grad employment
<b>Practise</b>	develop skills and capacity for student and career success
<b>Understand</b>	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 plus related tools and templates\*
- ◆ NERUPI case studies and materials from members
- ◆ Presentations from past events and workshops
- ◆ Links to WP books, articles and blogs
- ◆ WP guidance documents, policy briefings and reports

**\*We are developing a NERUPI Toolkit based on the NERUPI reflexive evaluation cycle, a Theory of Change model**

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*



# NERUPI *network*

Evaluating & Researching University  
Participation Interventions

## 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 events 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 2020-21

- ◆ Organisations with 3,000+ students: £1,500 per annum
- ◆ Organisation with under 3,000 students: £600 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** convenes and manages the Network on behalf of the University of Bath which provides office space, employment and financial services.



**Kate Holmes** is the NERUPI Development Officer and coordinates activities, updates the website and supports members in applying the Framework.



**Suzi Symons** is the NERUPI Administrative Assistant who deals with enquiries, event bookings and membership admin and finance.

**Steering Group** NERUPI is organised by a Steering Group elected annually 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. See overleaf for Steering Group members.

**Academic Advisory Board** NERUPI is advised and supported by an Academic Advisory Board chaired by Professor Jacqueline Stevenson MBE, University of Leeds and including Dr Andrew Bengry, Bath Spa University; Professor Vikki Boliver, Durham University; Professor Nicola Ingram, Manchester Metropolitan University; Dr Richard Waller, UWE Bristol; Dr Mark Walmsley, UEA; Professor Margaret Greenfields, Buckinghamshire New University

*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*



# NERUPI *network*

Evaluating & Researching University  
Participation Interventions

## Our NERUPI Network Members

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



## Steering Group Members

Marva De La Coudray

Head of WP

SOAS, University of London

Sam Dunnett

Head of WP

University of Sussex

Sally Tazewell

Lecturer / HE Learning Adviser

Weston College for WIN NCOP

James Ferguson

WP Officer

University of East Anglia

Helen Smith

Uni Connect Director

FutureHY York & North

Yorkshire

Fiona Elsted

Director of Recruitment /

Lecturer

University of Essex

Sophie Clutterbuck

Director of London Engagement

London Met University

Andrew Bengry

Senior Lecturer

Bath Spa University

Annette Hayton

Senior Research Fellow and NERUPI Convenor

University of Bath

Stuart Bottomley

Evaluation & Evidence Manager

University of York

Sally Griffin

WP & Access Manager

Bath Spa University

Claire Cooke

Head of UK Recruitment & WP

Oxford Brookes University

Scott McKenzie

Head of WP & Community Outreach

Cardiff University

Kate Holmes

NERUPI Development Officer

University of Bath



**For further information, alternative formats or to book a place on a workshop**  
please email [nerupi@bath.ac.uk](mailto:nerupi@bath.ac.uk)



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

[www.nerupi.co.uk](http://www.nerupi.co.uk)

*All information correct at time  
of going to press (Aug-2020)*

