

# NERUPI *network*

Evaluating & Researching University  
Participation Interventions



1. Design



2. Evaluate



3. Report



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## An Evaluation Network

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. Guidance from the Office for Students and HEFCW requires higher education institutions charging higher fees and outreach consortia to publish and submit impact reports and action plans outlining any necessary next steps.

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 widening participation and equity 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 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>



## 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

## Our Members

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



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## 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 day 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.

## Past Events

Materials from past events are available to members on the NERUPI website ([nerupi.co.uk/members/past-events](http://nerupi.co.uk/members/past-events)) including presentations by **Professor Penny-Jane Burke - University of Newcastle Australia**, **Professor Jacqueline Stevenson - Sheffield Hallam University**, **Professor Louise Archer - UCL** and **Dr Alex Wardrop - OfS**.

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



## Events 2019-20

We are running events throughout the year and have a range of exciting themes and speakers lined up, all based on feedback from our members.

### Themes

- ◆ Evaluation Strategies and A Mixed Methods Approach (Sep)
- ◆ Knowledge, Learning and Attainment (Nov)
- ◆ Admissions, Choice and Student Diversity (Jan)
- ◆ Impact of Student Ambassadors & Mentors in WP (Mar)
- ◆ Reducing the BAME Student Attainment Gap (May)
- ◆ Collaborative Outreach and Partnership Approaches (Jun)

### Confirmed Speakers

- ◆ Professor Vikki Boliver, Durham University (Admissions)
- ◆ Dr Claire Gartland, University of Suffolk (Student Ambassadors)
- ◆ Professor Paul Ashwin, Lancaster University (Curriculum & Knowledge)
- ◆ Nona McDuff OBE, Southampton Solent University and Dr Jason Arday, Durham University (BAME Attainment Gap)

Visit the NERUPI website to book and for the most up-to-date information on all our events: [nerupi.co.uk/events](https://nerupi.co.uk/events)

**The NERUPI Convention will take place in September 2020.**



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## NERUPI Framework

NERUPI supports practitioners and evaluators in designing, evaluating and reporting on their WPI interventions and maximising the impact of their work by providing a framework which is underpinned by a robustly theoretical and evidence-based rationale, has clear and relevant overarching aims and learning outcomes, rationalises and integrates evaluation processes across programmes and 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"* - York & North Yorkshire NCOP Member





## 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, evaluating and reporting robustly
- ◆ Using evidence of outcomes achieved and lessons learned to make continuous improvements
- ◆ Setting collaborative targets in partnership with other providers

*“The NERUPI framework provides a very rigorous theoretically-informed methodology for linking WP aims and objectives to impact evidence”*

OFFA publication ‘Evaluation of the Impact of Outreach: Proposed Standards of Evaluation and Associated Guidance’ (OFFA 2017)

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



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## Membership Benefits

Membership of NERUPI includes a number of benefits:

- ◆ 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 2019-20

- ◆ Organisations with 3,000+ students: £1,500 per annum
- ◆ Organisation with under 3,000 students: £600 per annum
- ◆ Membership costs for NCOP consortia and other groups vary depending on the number and size of organisations included in the membership.





## 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 coordinate activities, updates the website and supports new members in applying and using the Framework.

**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 Jaqueline Stevenson MBE, Sheffield Hallam University and including Dr Andrew Bengry, Bath Spa University; Professor Vikki Boliver, Durham University; Professor Nicola Ingram, Sheffield Hallam University; Dr Richard Waller, UWE Bristol; Dr Mark Walmsley, UEA.

*“We're re-assessing our brief existing progression framework created from a mix of other sources to look at how well it fits with the (incredibly neat and common sense!) NERUPI framework” - Essex NCOP Member*



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## Steering Group 2019-20

Annette Hayton

Senior Research Fellow and NERUPI Convenor  
University of Bath

Stuart Bottomley

Evaluation & Evidence Manager  
University of York

Julian Crockford

Manager WP Research & Evaluation Unit  
University of Sheffield

Sally Griffin

WP & Access Manager  
Bath Spa University

Christina Cooper

Evaluation Manager  
North East Collaborative Outreach Programme (NECOP)

Claire Cooke

Head of UK Recruitment & WP  
Oxford Brookes University

Scott McKenzie

Head of WP & Community Outreach  
Cardiff University



Marva De La Coudray  
Head of WP  
SOAS, University of London

Sam Dunnett  
Deputy 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  
NCOP Director  
York & North Yorkshire NCOP

Fiona Elsted  
Director of Recruitment / Lecturer  
University of Essex

Emily Warwick  
Evaluation Coordinator  
Oxford Brookes University

Andrew Bengry  
Senior Lecturer

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

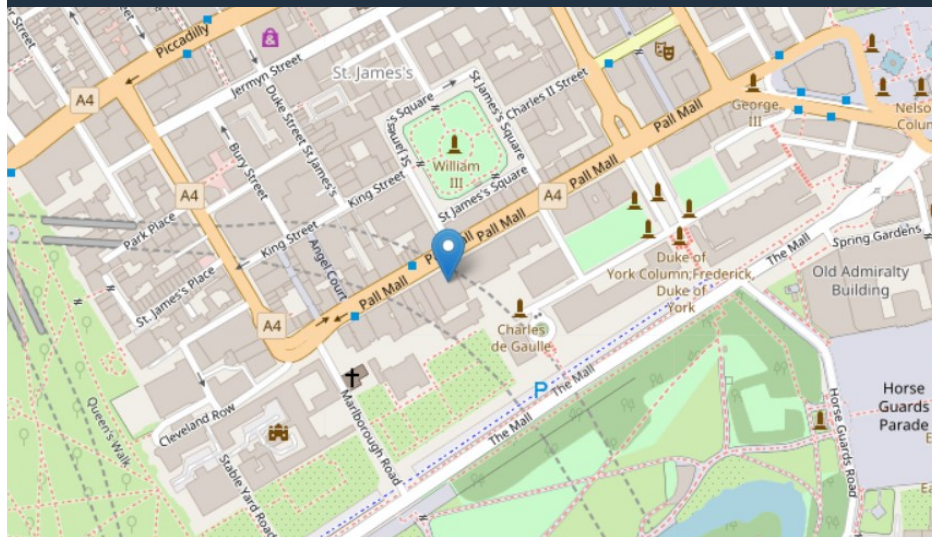


For further information, alternative formats or to book a place on a workshop

please email [nerupi@bath.ac.uk](mailto:nerupi@bath.ac.uk)

**NERUPI Events are usually held at**

University of Bath in London  
83 Pall Mall  
London  
SW1Y 5ES



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*All information correct at time  
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