

# NERUPI *network*

Evaluating & Researching University  
Participation Interventions



1. Design



2. Evaluate



3. Report

NERUPI.CO.UK

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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](https://nerupi.co.uk/events).

- ◆ **Convention: Transitions (September '21)**
- ◆ **Pedagogy for outreach initiatives**
- ◆ **Engaging parents and carers as key influencers**
- ◆ **Inclusive and culturally sensitive curricula**



- ◆ **(Dis) Abilities and higher education**
- ◆ **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.

<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 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

**\*We are developing an online toolkit based on the NERUPI Reflexive Cycle for planning and evaluating WP and equity initiatives.**

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** 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, develops resources and supports members in applying the Framework.

**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 elected biennially by members. The group meets at least three times per year. 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.

See overleaf for NERUPI member organisations, Advisory Board and Steering Group members.

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

## NERUPI Steering Group

Renata Albuquerque  
SOAS, University of London  
Kirsty Allen  
Aim Higher London Uni Connect  
Andrew Bengry  
Bath Spa University  
Berekhet Berakhy  
University of Westminster  
Stuart Bottomley  
University of Sussex  
Sophie Cloutterbuck  
London Met University  
David Dobraszczyk  
University of Reading  
Marva De La Coudray  
SOAS, University of London  
James Ferguson  
University of East Anglia  
Sally Griffin  
Bath Spa University  
Rebecca Harland  
FutureHY Uni Connect

Annette Hayton  
NERUPI, University of Bath  
Kate Holmes  
NERUPI, University of Bath  
Scott McKenzie  
Cardiff University  
Helen Smith  
FutureHY Uni Connect  
Sally Tazewell  
WIN Uni Connect  
Dave Thomas  
University of Kent  
Heidi Yeandle-King  
Reaching Wider Wales

\* 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 Jaqueline Stevenson MBE, University of Leeds

And also includes:

Professor Paul Ashwin  
Lancaster University

Dr Richard Waller  
UWE Bristol

Professor Vikki Boliver  
Durham University

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,  
Buckinghamshire New University

Professor Nicola Ingram  
Manchester Metropolitan University

Professor Marie-Pierre Moreau  
Anglia Ruskin University

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

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



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

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UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**