

# 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

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](http://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



# 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
- ◆ 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*



# 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 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 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*



# NERUPI *network*

Evaluating & Researching University  
Participation Interventions

## Our NERUPI Network Members\*

- AECC University College
- Anglia Ruskin University
- Aston University
- Bath Spa University
- BIMM Institute
- Birkbeck University
- Brunel University
- Bucks New University
- Canterbury Christ Church University
- Cardiff University
- City University London
- Conservatoire of Dance & Drama
- Cosmos Engagement Ltd
- Coventry University
- Durham University
- First Campus Partnership
- FutureHY York & North Yorkshire
- Go Higher West Yorkshire
- Guildhall School of Music and Drama
- Humber Outreach Programme
- Imperial College London
- Kingston University London
- Leeds Beckett University
- Leeds Conservatoire
- Leeds Trinity University
- LincHigher Uni Connect
- London Metropolitan University
- London NCOP Uni Connect
- London School of Economics
- London South Bank University
- Loughborough University
- Make Happen Essex Uni Connect
- Manchester Met University
- Newcastle University
- Next Steps South West Uni Connect
- North & Mid-Wales Reaching Wider Partnership
- Northumbria University
- Oxford Brookes University
- Queen Mary University London
- Ravensbourne University College
- Reaching Wider Partnership Wales
- Sheffield Hallam University
- SOAS, University of London
- South Essex College
- South West Wales Partnership
- Staffordshire University
- St Mary's University London
- Study Higher Uni Connect
- Teesside University
- The Open University
- University of Bath
- University of Bristol
- University College London
- University of Derby
- University of East Anglia
- University of East London
- University of Essex
- University of Exeter
- University of Hull
- University of Kent
- University of Law
- University of Leeds
- University of Lincoln
- University of Manchester
- University of Oxford
- University of Reading
- University of Suffolk
- University of Sunderland
- University of Sussex
- University of Westminster
- University of York
- 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](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 (Jun-2021)*

