

Speaker Biographies

Diana Laurillard is Professor of Learning with Digital Technologies at the UCL Knowledge Lab. She was formerly Head of the e-Learning Strategy Unit at Department for Education and Skills (2002-5) and Pro-Vice Chancellor for Learning Technologies at the Open University (1995-2002). Her research areas cover MOOCs for professional education in challenging contexts, learning design, and digital games for dyscalculia. Current projects include the Transformational Potential of MOOCs in the Centre for Global HE at UCL-IOE; the project on Future Education in the RELIEF Centre at UCL-IGP. . Diana has received a Lifetime Contribution Award from the E-Assessment Association and an Honorary Life Membership from the Association for Learning Technology.



Gurnam Singh is Associate Professor of Attainment at Coventry University where he was previously Associate Professor of Social Work. Dr Singh is also Honorary Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Warwick, Visiting Professor of Social Work at the University of Chester and Visiting Fellow in Race and Education at the University of the Arts, London. Prior to entering academia in 1993, he worked as a professional social worker and community activist. He completed his PhD from the University of Warwick on anti-racist social work and has been awarded with a National Teaching Fellowship from the UK Higher Education Academy. His expertise and research interests include race, racism, critical pedagogy, social inclusion, educational disparities, critical social work and higher education development. He describes himself as an academic activist in that what inspires him in both teaching and research is the desire to transform individuals and society.



Julie McLeod joined Birmingham City University in January 2020 as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning & Teaching). Prior to that Professor McLeod was interim Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education) at Bucks New University and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience) at Oxford Brookes University. She has been a QAA assessor and, more recently, was an assessor for the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) subject plots for the Medical Health subject panel. She has worked with the Department of Health in implementing Modernising Scientific Careers and is an executive member of the Heads of Biomedical Sciences. She has been invited to speak on a range of aspects related to enhancing the student experience. Outside of academic life she lives in Bristol with her husband and son and is a Bath Rugby supporter.



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Chris Millward is Director for Fair Access and Participation at the Office for Students. He was previously Director of Policy at HEFCE, where he was responsible for harnessing HEFCE's expertise on research, education and knowledge exchange to inform its funding to universities and colleges, and its advice to government. Prior to this, Chris served for five years as Associate Director, leading HEFCE's relationships with universities and colleges in the North of England, and for two years as Regional Consultant for the East of England. Chris joined HEFCE from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, where as Head of Research Programmes he was closely involved in its transition to full Research Council status in 2005.



Jacqueline Stevenson is the Director of the Lifelong Learning Centre at the University of Leeds and a Professor of the Sociology of Education. Her background is in community education and she has also held a number of academic and professional services roles in HE. Jacquie is a member of the Governing Council of the Society for Research into Higher Education and chair the Society's Research and Development Committee, as well as the Academic Advisory Board of NERUPI. She is a Principal Fellow of the HiE Academy and was previously Professor of HE at Leeds Beckett University and Professor of Education Research at Sheffield Hallam University. She is interested in policy and practice relating to equity and diversity in HE, WP, student success, pedagogic diversity and the enactment of HE policy in practice.



Zainab Khan is Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Outcomes and Inclusion at London Met University where she leads on the improvement of student outcomes and EDI. She is Director of the University's new Centre for Equity & Inclusion, drives the Learning & Teaching strategy and also oversees Careers and Employability, Student Services and the Centre for Professional and Educational Development. She is a multi-award-winning advocate for race equity in Higher Education. Her work has received national recognition including at the Guardian University Awards 2019 and she is shortlisted for the 2020 Asian Women of Achievement Award (Public Service). She has held a number of strategic management roles and, prior to her academic career, Zainab trained as a barrister.



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Matt Lumb and **Rhyall Gordon** are the Associate Director and Praxis Officer respectively for the Centre of Excellence for Equity in Higher Education at the University of Newcastle, Australia. Matt has been involved in projects of equity research and practice in higher education for about ten years, coming to the work from a background in community development and high school teaching. His PhD explored the unintended consequences of a university outreach program and the pressure to produce evidence of impact. Rhyall has over 20 years' experience of working in community development research and practice. His role in CEEHE involves developing initiatives to support the exchange between theory and practice in the context of equity projects in higher education both with the University of Newcastle and the wider community.



Richard Shiner has been Head of Access and Participation Evaluation at the Office for Students since 2018. He is responsible for improving the quality of evaluation of A&P activities in the sector. He previously worked at the Office for Fair Access where he was Head of Evidence and Effective Practice. Richard spent five years working in various policy roles at OFFA and three years in the Planning Team at The Higher Education Funding Council for England. He also worked in the Office for Research and Postgraduate Studies at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand as well as a number of different roles in Bristol City Council. Richard completed a part-time secondment at the University of Bristol where he undertook research into effective ways to encourage more White British Males from disadvantaged backgrounds to the University.



Annette Hayton is Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Education at the University of Bath and convenes the NERUPI Network on behalf of the University; she co-developed the NERUPI Evaluation Framework. Annette was previously Head of Widening Participation at the University of Bath and Goldsmiths, University of London and so has many years' experience managing activities designed to support successful progression to higher education. She aims to combine theory, research and practice, making praxis the foundation of her work to promote equity and foster progressive change within the education system. Annette is currently Innovative Practice editor for the journal *Widening Participation and Lifelong Learning* and a member of the International Centre for Higher Education Management at the University of Bath.

