

## Widening Participation and Graduate Progression

### Programme

- ♦ **09:15**      **Registration and Refreshments**
- ♦ **09:45**      **Welcome and Introduction**  
**Annette Hayton**  
University of Bath
- ♦ **10:00**      **Moving on up? Class, Gender and Experiences of Graduate Transition**  
**Professor Nicola Ingram**  
Sheffield Hallam University  
  
**Nicola** will report on the findings from the 'Paired Peers project' drawing on qualitative research from case studies to explore issues of class and gender in graduate employment transitions.
- ♦ **10:45**      **Degrees of Difference: The Impact of Socio-Economic Background on the Earning Returns to Higher Education in the UK**  
**Dr Matt Dickson**  
University of Bath  
  
**Matt** will present his research on the impact of an undergraduate degree on early career earnings and how these returns to Higher Education vary by socio-economic background and prior attainment.
- ♦ **11:15**      **Break**
- ♦ **11:30**      **WP and Graduate Progression**  
Approaches and Interventions
- ♦ **12.30**      **Lunch**
- ♦ **13:15**      **Practical Workshop Session**  
Focus on Access and Participation Plans
- ♦ **14:00**      **Discussion and Feedback**

# WP and Graduate Progression

Graduate outcomes are of increasing interest to students, particularly for those from groups under-represented in HE. Students, their teachers and their families are questioning the value of a degree when there is no guarantee that it will lead to graduate employment or further study. Although HEIs can point to the considerable financial and social benefits of higher education research has shown that, regardless of degree, socio-economic status has a significant impact on employment outcomes and income levels. As a result HEIs are now required to put measures in place to address these inequalities. This session will give participants the opportunity to hear about recent research in this area and explore strategies for addressing the issue in their university.

**Nicola Ingram** will report on the findings from the 'Paired Peers project' exploring issues of class and gender in graduate employment transitions. **Matt Dickson** will present his research on the impact of an undergraduate degree on early career earnings.

The morning workshop will consider what sort of interventions and services could be offered by HEIs to enable students to gain the maximum personal and professional benefits from their degree.

## Speaker Biographies

**Nicola Ingram** is Professor of Sociology of Education at Sheffield Hallam University. Her research is focused broadly on social class inequalities in education and she is particularly interested in how aspects of identity, such as gender and ethnicity, interweave with the classed dimension. Her recent books include *Working-Class Boys and Educational Success: Teenage Identities, Masculinities and Urban Schooling* (Palgrave MacMillan 2018); *Educational Choices, Aspirations and Transitions in Europe* (Routledge 2018); *Higher Education, Social Class and Social Mobility: the Degree Generation* (Palgrave MacMillan 2016).

**Matt Dickson** is a Reader in Public Policy at the Institute for Policy Research, University of Bath, where he leads the programme of research on widening participation in HE. Current projects examine the earnings returns to undergraduate and post-graduate degrees, the role of FE in progression to HE and the impact of early health on educational outcomes. Matt also continues to research the returns to education more broadly and has published a number of papers examining the causal effects of education on earnings, employment, health, and the education of the next generation. Matt has been at the University of Bath since 2012 and previously held positions at University College Dublin and the University of Bristol.