

A praxis-based network for
maximising the impact of widening
participation activities



1. Design



2. Evaluate



3. Report

NERUPI *network*

Evaluating & Researching University
Participation Interventions

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 requires higher education institutions charging higher fees and NCOP consortia to publish and submit an impact report each year together with an action plan 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

- ◆ Anglia Ruskin University
- ◆ Bath Spa University
- ◆ Birmingham City University
- ◆ Bishop Grossteste University
- ◆ Bucks New University
- ◆ City University London
- ◆ Commonwealth Scholarship Commission
- ◆ Cosmos Engagement Ltd
- ◆ Essex Collaborative Outreach Network
- ◆ Higher York Colleges
- ◆ Imperial College London
- ◆ Lancaster University
- ◆ Linc Higher
- ◆ London Met University
- ◆ North East Collaborative Outreach Programme
- ◆ Next Steps South West
- ◆ Oxford Brookes University
- ◆ the Open University
- ◆ SOAS
- ◆ St George's London
- ◆ Study Higher
- ◆ University of Bath
- ◆ University of East Anglia
- ◆ University of East London
- ◆ University of Essex
- ◆ University of Lincoln
- ◆ University of Oxford
- ◆ University of Reading
- ◆ University of Sussex
- ◆ University of York
- ◆ Wessex Inspiration Network
- ◆ York St John University

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



Events for Members

NERUPI events are offered exclusively 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) 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

11 March 2019 **The Capability Approach : Beyond the Deficit Model for Student Success (Prof. Monica McClean, University of Nottingham)**

5 April 2019 **Geographies of Widening Participation and Insights from the National Collaborative Outreach Programme (Dr Michael Donnelly, University of Bath)**

15 May 2019 **Widening Participation and Graduate Progression (Prof. Nicola Ingram, Sheffield Hallam University)**

14th June 2019 **Introduction to the NERUPI Framework (for new members, potential joiners and anyone needing a refresher)**

Dates, themes and speakers for Autumn 2019 will be announced shortly.

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

NERUPI Convention

2-3 July 2019

Pall Mall, London

An opportunity for members to come together to learn, share, collaborate and innovate.



NERUPI Framework

NERUPI supports practitioners and evaluators in designing, evaluating and reporting on their WP 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.

Know	develop knowledge of HE / grad employment
Choose	develop capacity to navigate HE / grad employment
Become	develop confidence and resilience in HE / grad employment
Practise	develop skills and capacity for student and career success
Understand	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” - NCOP Higher York Member



OfS Guidance

Membership of NERUPI enables partners to meet Office for Student requirements* to:

- ◆ Set outcome focussed targets to capture the impact of their work
- ◆ Use evidence of outcomes achieved as well as lessons learned to make continuous improvements
- ◆ Plan, evaluate and report robustly and transparently
- ◆ Set collaborative targets in partnership with other providers

*OfS publication: *A new approach to regulating access and participation in English higher education* (OfS, 2018)

“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 supported 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



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 webinars 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

- ◆ Organisations with 3,000+ students: £1,500 per annum
- ◆ Organisation with under 3,000 students: £600 per annum
- ◆ Membership costs for NCOP consortia 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 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 NERUPI is advised and supported by an Academic Advisory Board chaired by Professor Jacqueline 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



Interim Steering Group 2018-19

Annette Hayton is interested in how educational theory, research and evaluation can be developed and applied in practice to promote positive change within education. She has many years of experience in managing activities to support successful progression to higher education and has published a number of books and articles on widening participation.

Anna Anthony is the Senior Data Analyst at HEAT and is responsible for developing research and analysis including designing research questions and methodology that makes best use of HEAT's longitudinal tracking data. Anna has over ten years' experience in research and analysis roles, having worked in a Local Authority and a University before moving to HEAT.

Stuart Bottomley works as a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer for the NCOP project in North Yorkshire. The main elements of the role involve methodological design, collection and analysis of data relating to outreach activity. Prior to this role he attained an MSc in International and Comparative Education, before working in project roles in HE module evaluation and Children's Social Care.

Julian Crockford manages the University of Sheffield's Widening Participation Research and Evaluation Unit (WPREU). WPREU have a remit for evaluating and researching widening participation issues across the whole student lifecycle. Julian is interested in the role of evaluation in widening participation policy and practice and is mid-way through a Doctorate in Education, exploring the evaluation of inclusive learning and teacher practice.



Sally Griffin is Head of Widening Participation at Bath Spa University, developing and managing widening participation activities for the University as well as past collaborative initiatives such as Aimhigher, and currently through the National Collaborative Outreach Programme, Service Children's Progression Alliance and the Western Vocational Progression Consortium. Sally takes a leading role in developing Bath Spa's Action and Participation Plan.

Catherine Kelly has several years' experience in widening participation evaluation including time spent working for the Higher Education Access Tracker (HEAT) and managing the evaluation of the North East Collaborative Outreach Programme. In September 2018 Catherine started working towards a Ph.D. at Bristol University in collaboration with the OfS researching the influence of WP evaluation on institutional practice and policy.

Marian Mackintosh is the WP Research and Evaluation Officer at the University of Bath. Marian has evaluation experience in the education, employment and environmental sectors, and research experience in the public, private, academic and voluntary sectors. She has a PhD in Social Statistics and has extensive experience of quantitative and qualitative data analysis.

Alice Wilby is Director of Recruitment & Partnerships at the University of Wolverhampton where her work includes widening participation and collaborative outreach. Alice was previously in a similar role at Oxford Brookes University and before that she had various schools liaison and outreach roles at Oxford University. Alice has a keen interest in research into access and success in HE.

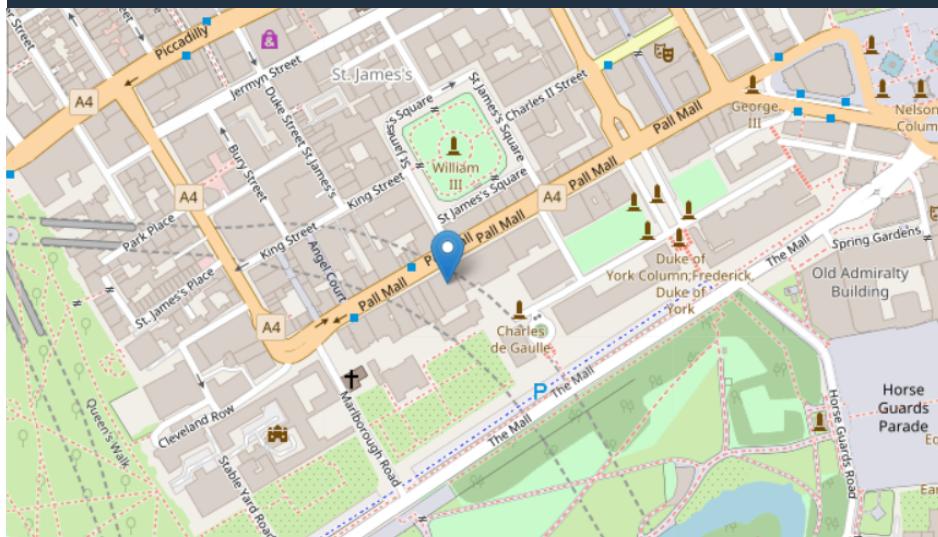


For further information, alternative formats or to book a place on a workshop

please email nerupi@bath.ac.uk

NERUPI Events are held at

University of Bath in London
83 Pall Mall
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SW1Y 5ES



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www.nerupi.co.uk



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