

Meet our Speakers, Panellists and Presenters

Professor Nicola Ingram

Professor of Education and Head of the School of Education, University College Cork

Nicola is a sociologist with expertise in social class inequalities in education and young people's transitions to work. Her research has focussed on the North of Ireland, England and Europe more generally and is underpinned by a Bourdieusian theoretical approach. Nicola's books include *Working Class Boys and Educational Success: Teenage Identities Masculinities and Urban Schooling* (Palgrave MacMillan); *Higher Education, Social Class and Social Mobility* (Palgrave Macmillan); and *Educational Choices, Transitions and Aspirations in Europe* (Routledge). Her most recent book *The Degree Generation: the Making of Unequal Graduate Lives* (Bristol University Press) was published in 2023 and focuses on educational policy and the reality of graduate lives. Nicola is on the Board of Trustees of the British Sociological Association and is an editorial board member for *Sociology* and the *British Journal of Sociology of Education*. She is the academic chair of the Network for Evaluating and Researching University Participation Interventions (NERUPI) and is keen to develop strong links between policy, research and practice. Nicola is originally from Belfast and has spent most of her academic career in England after gaining a PhD from Queen's University, Belfast. Prior to joining UCC, she worked at Manchester Metropolitan University where she was the director of the Education and Social Research Institute.



Dr Tamsin Bowers-Brown

Director of the Office for Institutional Equity, Leeds Trinity University

Dr Tamsin Bowers-Brown is founding Director of the Office for Institutional Equity at Leeds Trinity University. As a sociologist of education, Tamsin has worked in universities for over 20 years in the roles of researcher, lecturer and in leadership roles. Tamsin is passionate about tackling inequality in all its forms and is actively working to instigate and embed collaborative approaches across the University & region to collectively challenge inequality and promote an environment which encourages transformative change.



Professor Tony Moss

PVC Education, London South Bank University

Professor Tony Moss is Pro Vice Chancellor Education and Student Experience and Professor of Addictive Behaviour Science at LSBU. He is also Deputy Director of PHIRST South Bank. He completed both my undergraduate and doctoral studies at LSBU, and has worked in several senior roles at the university.

Tony's research interests are primarily focused on the public health aspects of addiction. Connecting both his research and learning and teaching roles is a passion for understanding and promoting inclusivity and equality.



Tony's particular research interest is on understanding the needs of individuals who experience harms from substances and behaviours which we generally think of as being 'addictive'. Addiction is generally thought about as an all-or-nothing condition - you are either addicted to something or not. In reality, many people can experience harms from substances and activities such as alcohol and gambling, and this harm exists along a broad spectrum. He is interested in understanding how we can both help people to recognise the harms that can arise, but also exploring better ways of supporting people who do experience those harms.

As the Deputy Director of the NIHR-funded research centre, PHIRST South Bank, Tony works closely with Local Authorities across the UK to evaluate a wide range of public health interventions.

Outside of his substantive role at LSBU, he is also the Chair of London Uni Connect. This is a partnership, funded by the Office for Students, to deliver widening access and outreach initiatives in schools and colleges across London. Across the wider

education sector, he regularly contributes articles and analyses on current policy topics, with a particular emphasis on issues related to equality of opportunity for underrepresented and disadvantaged students.

Tony is also an experienced school governor, and currently act as Chair of Engayne Primary School in Havering. In addition, he is a governor for a SEND school in Havering, Corbets Tey, and worked with the school to launch a post-19 adult SEND provision in 2018. He has also recently joined the Quality and Curriculum Committee as a co-opted member for Capital City College Group, and am a co-opted governor for South Bank Academies.

Claire Rodgeron

Senior Community Organiser, Citizens UK

Claire Rodgeron is a Senior Organiser in Citizens UK and spends time embedded in Newcastle University. In this session, she and her colleagues will talk through some of the key principles of Community Organising and how it can be used to develop leaders, strengthen institutions and create change, working alongside students and parents to mitigate educational inequities.

Fiona Meldrum

Senior Community Organiser, Citizens UK

Fiona has been a Community Organiser with Citizens UK for nearly 6 years, primarily working across Wales and Bristol. Her organising work includes refugee resettlement, the Living Wage for Careworkers in Wales, and housing repair and upgrade campaigns led by social housing tenants. She works closely with Cardiff Business School, training 300 first year Business Management students a year in the method of Community Organising as a way of creating social and economic change.

Dr Amina Razak

Research Associate at the Inclusive Newcastle Knowledge Centre, Newcastle University

Amina is a Research Associate based in the Inclusive Newcastle Knowledge Centre (INKC), a team dedicated to tackling inequities for Newcastle University students and their access, success and progression. She has an interest in student voice, co-creation and participatory action research and a passion for working collaboratively with groups that are seldom heard to amplify their voices and work towards greater social justice.

Amina has worked with a Student Advisory Board and co-created the Narrowing the Degree Awarding Gap in Engineering Pilot Project and with the support of the School of Engineering established the Black Engineering Network. She was nominated by a member of the Student Advisory Board for and won The Education Award for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion 2023.

Amina is a member of the Racial Justice in Education Action Team, Tyne and Wear Citizens UK. She uses community organising methods in her research, working with underrepresented groups in supporting them to recognise their power, agency and voice and in using listening methodology to create change.

Amina is a Co-convenor of the NERUPI Student Voice in Higher Education working group. The group is dedicated to exploring approaches to fostering meaningful student voice in a range of contexts; sharing innovative approaches for involving students in research and evaluation processes; establishing effective strategies for implementing student voice from diverse backgrounds and geographies and fostering seamless co-creation and collaboration with students.

Dr Liz Thomas

Professor of Higher Education, University of York

Liz Thomas is professor of higher education at the University of York, and has been researching student diversity, experiences and equitable outcomes for twenty-five years. She is committed to using research to improve policy, practice and equity. In 2023-24 Liz worked with a number of institutions to develop a whole provider approach to student success. In 2024-25 she is working with the Technological Higher Education Association Ireland and the seven technological higher education providers to explore whole provider and whole sector approaches to enabling commuter student engagement and success. She has written many reports, books, chapters and articles (9287 citations).

