

## Meet our Speakers, Panellists and Presenters

### Professor Paul Ashwin

#### Professor of Higher Education, Lancaster University



Paul Ashwin is Professor of Higher Education in the Department of Educational Research, Lancaster University. He is Deputy Director of the Centre for Global Higher Education, an ESRC-funded research centre involving 10 international universities. His book, 'Transforming University Education: A Manifesto' (2020), argues for a focus on the educational, rather than economic, purposes of university degrees in order to understand their transformational impact on students and societies. He is also the lead author on Reflective Teaching in Higher Education (2015, 2020) written by an international team to support the development of research-informed university teaching.

### Dr David Dobraszczyk

#### Lecturer, University of Reading

David is a Lecturer at the Institute of Education, University of Reading and currently Deputy Programme Director for BA Education Studies and a module convenor. His areas of interest include Sociology of Education, educational inequalities, youth, school-to-work transitions, education policy, widening participation, vocational education and training, and attainment raising strategies. Before taking up this role, David worked in Reading's Outreach team leading on attainment-raising initiatives.

### Annette Hayton

#### NERUPI Convenor, University of Bath



Annette convenes NERUPI (Network for Evaluating and Researching University Participation Interventions) She was previously Head of Widening Participation at the University of Bath and at Goldsmiths, University of London. She has many years of experience in managing activities designed to support successful progression to higher education as well as developing strategies to ensure that all students have a positive experience of university study. Annette is interested in how educational theory, research and evaluation can be developed and applied in practice to promote positive change within the education system, aiming to combine theory and practice in her work. She is codeveloper of the NERUPI Framework and has published a number of books and articles on widening participation, and is Innovative Practice Editor for the journal 'Widening Participation and Lifelong Learning'. Annette is a member of ICHM (International Centre for Higher Education Management) at the University of Bath and a Trustee of Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership (MNSP), and leads on the Bath Hub.

### Sheree Palmer

#### Head of Access and Student Success, University of Manchester

Sheree is currently Head of Access and Student Success at the University of Manchester leading on increasing access to H.E. for talented students from underrepresented groups and supporting their success once there, leading to good graduate outcomes. Prior to leadership in H.E., Sheree led and trained teams of teachers in secondary education delivering on Ofsted and government metrics and transforming students' educational experience. She is an expert in raising standards in teaching and learning and student engagement and she has extensive experience of supporting sixth form students to transition successfully into H.E. Sheree is a passionate advocate for equity and excellence in education, she is a panellist for Advance HE's Race Equality Charter and is recognised as a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

### **Dr Marta Almeida Hill**

**Deputy Head of Outreach and Widening Participation: Impact and Evaluation, University of Kent**



Dr Marta Almeida Hill is the Deputy Head of Outreach and Wider Participation: Impact and Evaluation at the University of Kent. Marta leads the evaluation of outreach activities at the University and has oversight of evaluation of all APP activity at Kent. Marta has worked in Higher Education for over 10 years and has experience of delivery and evaluation across outreach and student success. Marta is passionate about education and undertook her PhD in Philosophy of Law at the University of Kent.

### **Steph Copsey**

**Pre-16 Outreach Manager, University of East Anglia**



Steph has worked with the widening participation sector for over a decade, with a focus on pre 16 outreach, embedding strategic partnerships and skills and attainment programmes.

### **Naomi Prendergast**

**Humber Outreach Programme Manager, HOP**

For the past 7 years Naomi has been involved in the Office for Student's Uni Connect programme, initially managing the Lincolnshire partnership (LincHigher) and from late 2019 managing the Humber Outreach Programme (HOP). Naomi's background, up until her Uni Connect roles, had been focussed on developing services and support for young people, families, and communities. She has led on the development and management of the Connexions Service, the Sure Start programme and was the Head of Integrated Children's Services for the City of Lincoln. Naomi has spent the last 20 years using her experiences of working with young people, parents, schools and wider stakeholders to address the barriers to progression and success.

### **Joanne Moore**

**Development Officer, NERUPI**



Joanne has a background in social policy research and evaluation, executed in roles in the private sector, public sector, and within HEIs and collaborative partnerships. She began in HE in 2006, supporting widening participation research and evaluation at University of Manchester. Between 2007-11 she was responsible for the thematic research activities relevant to the widening participation agenda in Aimhigher Greater Manchester. She has led several commissioned research projects for HE sector bodies including HEFCE, the OfS and Advance HE.

### **Rebecca Harland**

**Widening Participation Evaluation Officer, University of Law**

Rebecca leads the evaluation of the University of Law's widening participation work across the student lifecycle. She is an experienced WP practitioner and evaluator, with a passion for embedding evaluation into practice. Rebecca holds an MA with Distinction in Education and Social Justice from Lancaster University, where her research dissertation utilised theory of change to explore the application of the NERUPI evaluation framework in the local evaluation of Uni Connect. Rebecca's role supports colleagues across a range of evaluation areas including theory of change, embedding evaluation in project development, and research and evaluation methods.

### **Dr Jenny Cooke**

#### **Mentoring and Tutoring Programmes Manager, Imperial College London**

Jenny is based in the Outreach Team at Imperial College London and manages a range of widening participation interventions based around tutoring and academic support. She has worked in Outreach for over ten years with previous roles in the university's central education team and a research team. Her PhD was completed in the Faculty of Medicine at Imperial.

### **Ben Worsfold**

#### **Student Recruitment & Access Officer (Attainment Raising), University of Reading**

Ben has worked in education for the majority of his career, firstly as an English teacher via Teach First, secondly as Arts & Humanities Outreach Officer for UoR, and presently in Attainment Raising. Ben has championed the importance of working with underrepresented and disadvantaged groups in higher education, especially disadvantaged boys. His recent work has included devising, developing and delivering a programme of Teacher CPD for a local teaching community, as well as the Boys' Impact project, focusing on platforming the voices of young men through creative explorations of masculinity.

### **Jamie Taylor**

#### **Engagement Manager, HeppSY**

Worked as an English teacher for over twenty years in the UK, France and the USA. He joined HeppSY in 2020.

### **Jacob Flannery**

#### **Engagement Co-ordinator, HeppSY**

### **Julie Smith**

#### **Pre-16 Outreach Officer, University of East Anglia**



Julie has been an Outreach Officer at the UEA for the last 18 months. Prior to that, she had spent most of her professional career teaching in both mainstream secondary and primary schools in Suffolk. Within these school settings, she has held various roles including Head of MFL, Head of Year 5, Lower Key Stage 2 Phase Leader, AQA examiner/Team Leader and SCITT mentor. Working in outreach enables her to continue to use her skills to support targeted schools in the local area with encouraging aspirations and widening participation into HE.

### **Sarah Dirrane**

#### **Director of Research & Strategy, Cosmos**



The Director of Research & Strategy at Cosmos, Sarah has worked closely with multiple Uni Connect and Access teams to help them curate and leverage knowledge and deep insights about their community of young people. Sarah has helped clients in the education sector take the guesswork out of their initiative and strategic planning, driven by an evidence-based approach. Sarah is also a trained and accomplished researcher, with extensive experience delivering large scale multi-method research programmes within the education sector.

### **Fiona Berry**

#### **Partnership and Stakeholder Manager, HOP**

Fiona has done over four years with HOP and UniConnect. Facilitator of Future Thinking Programme.

**Anne Kildunne**  
**Evaluation Co-ordinator, HOP**



Anne joined the Humber Outreach Programme based at the University of Hull in Oct 2020 and works on programme evaluation. She is committed to collaborative stakeholder approaches to address societal challenges and develop new approaches. Both quantitative and qualitative data are utilised to understand the impact of the work.

**Rachael Holland**  
**Collaborative Outreach Coordinator, HOP**



Rachael has been an outreach co-ordinator at HOP since 2021. She has extensive pedagogical experience in both the UK and Australia, specialising in secondary and post-16 education. A qualified teacher, she has worked extensively with disadvantaged students to improve attainment in sustained and progressive programmes and is currently developing an innovative programme focused on L3 Healthcare students.