

Meet our Speakers

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 ICHEM (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.

Professor Matt Dickson

Professor of Economic and Social Policy, University of Bath



Matt leads a programme of research on widening participation in higher education at the University of Bath. In recent years he has co-authored three reports for the University's Department for Education using linked administrative data to estimate the effect of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees on employment and earnings. Current projects include looking at grade inflation in UK universities, the role of further education in the 'levelling-up' agenda, and the impact of graduate underemployment on later labour market outcomes. Matt is a member of the NERUPI Academic Advisory Board.

[Link to full biography.](#)

Professor Richard Waller

Professor of Education and Social Justice, University of the West of England



Richard co-leads the Equity and Education strand of the University's School of Education and Childhood Research Group and jointly leads the University's PhD and Professional Doctorate in Education programmes. He is a member of the University's Advisory Group of Higher Education Pedagogies, Policy and Practice Research Network and Access and Participation Plan Monitoring Group and sits on the Board of Future Quest, the Uni Connect partnership that works in Bristol and its surrounding region. Richard has co-chaired the regional cross-university Widening Participation Research Cluster since 2011. Richard is a member of the NERUPI Academic Advisory Board. [Link to full biography.](#)

Barrie Grey, Head of Student and Graduate Employability,
York St John University



Barrie has been leading careers and employability services within Higher Education since 2011. Before that he coordinated career development learning and alternative curriculum at a secondary school in West Yorkshire. Through this experience Barrie has developed a key understanding and passion for ensuring that education is a tool to help people develop the skills, knowledge, attributes, confidence and understanding to flourish in life and work. Throughout his career in higher education Barrie has made extensive use of data and feedback to create and evaluate innovative solutions to ensuring everyone can benefit from opportunities and support that develop their employability.

Amy Whiting
Careers Consultant, University of Bristol



Amy is a qualified Careers Consultant experienced in delivering career information, advice and guidance in individual and group learning settings, both in and outside the curriculum. She has worked in distinct institutions, including universities with majority and minority WP student populations. In her current role, she supports students across disciplines and study levels. She has a particular focus on WP students, overseeing a small team which aims to promote accessibility to the Careers Service and deliver bespoke programmes to support those facing the biggest barriers to graduate employability.

Alex O'Driscoll
Student Inclusion Manager, University of Bristol



Alex plays a key role in managing day to day activities of the Student Inclusion Team, working with colleagues across the University to advise on and support the development of good practice to deliver a more inclusive experience for students from a wide range of backgrounds. This can include developing initiatives and events, reviewing policy and procedures, or helping set strategy to ensure that all students, from all backgrounds, are able to thrive during their time at Bristol and beyond.

Julie Kouamo
Enterprise Manager, Queen Mary University of London



After graduating from Textiles design at Central Saint Martins, Julie worked as a freelance textile designer for design studios and interiors brands. She then set up her own textile company Kouamo, a homeware brand bringing colour and travel into the home. After 10 years in the industry, she decided to share what she learnt as a business owner to the education sector. She has been working at Queen Mary University's Careers and Enterprise Queen Mary University since 2018. As Enterprise Manager, she oversees all the aspects of student and recent graduate enterprise support, ensuring high quality of service to students, external mentors and other stakeholders.