

## The Influence of Geographical Location on Participation in Higher Education

Universities, colleges and Uni Connect partnerships are increasingly taking into account the regional context in which people live when considering their educational progression. This NERUPI event will explore the complex relationship between the geographical and socio-economic factors that might influence an individual's capacity to access educational opportunities.

Student mobility is a major dimension of inequality within higher education choice and experience, with students from disadvantaged backgrounds much more likely to be living at home and studying with a local higher education provider. The geographical region where students live can be a further contributing factor to their mobility, above and beyond their social class and ethnicity.

### **09.45 Virtual Coffee and Registration**

### **10.00 Welcome and introductions**

**Annette Hayton, NERUPI Convenor, Senior Research Fellow, University of Bath**

### **10.10 Geographies of Higher Education**

**Professor Michael Donnelly, Department of Education, University of Bath**

Drawing on his extensive research on undergraduate entrants to universities in the United Kingdom, Professor Donnelly will discuss the complex relationships between socioeconomic background, ethnicity, attainment and place, and how together these might influence progression to higher education. Recent research in this field concluded that while place in itself is not a major contributory factor in entry to elite universities a distinct 'urban escalator' effect was identified contributing to the higher rates of entry to elite universities for disadvantaged youth in the urban centres of England.

### **10.30 Youth Attitudes Towards Their Future: the Role of Resources, Agency and Individualism in the United Kingdom**

**Dr Avril Keating, Associate Professor of Comparative Social Science, and Director of the UCL Centre for Global Youth**

In this presentation, Dr Keating will discuss how youth attitudes towards, and aspirations for, the future are shaped by a combination of place, social, and individual characteristics. To illustrate this she will showcase recent data from coastal towns that shows how youth aspirations to attend university are intertwined with their relationships to family, their town, and their mobility aspirations.

### **10.50 Questions, Answers and Discussion**

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### 11.15 SHORT BREAK

- 11.30 **The South Yorkshire Higher Education Progression Partnership ([HeppSY](#))**  
**Dr Chuanyan Zhu, Evaluation and Data Manager, HeppSY**  
**Suzanne Wilks, Senior Higher Education Progression Adviser, HeppSY**  
**Vicky Peace; Senior Access and Development Officer, University of Sheffield**  
**Marie Kendrew; WPO Coordinator (Data and Evaluation), Sheffield Hallam University**

HeppSY is a partnership between the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University that is aiming to reduce the gap between the most and least represented groups in higher education. It works across communities in South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire to encourage more children, young people and adults to consider higher education opportunities. This presentation will give an overview of the regional setting of HeppSY, how their programme meets the needs of their area, the range of provision that they provide and an overview of some of the projects that their two partner universities deliver.

- 12.15 **IntoUniversity and the Geography of Need**  
**Eilis O'Donnell, Director of Programmes and Delivery, [IntoUniversity](#)**

Where young people are growing up in the United Kingdom can affect their opportunities and life chances. Believing in the talent of every young person, **IntoUniversity** provides local support that can break cycles of disadvantage and open up new opportunities for young people. **IntoUniversity** undertakes a comprehensive assessment when making the decision to establish a new centre taking into account a number of indicators of disadvantage that are specific to that location. In this session Eilis will take you through the in-depth feasibility process that **IntoUniversity** undertakes to understand national and local needs. She will focus on how this approach was used in the set-up of some of their coastal locations, helping to ensure they work in areas that will benefit most.

- 12.45 **Considering the Impact of Geographies in Relation to the Office for Students' Equality of Opportunity Risk Register (EORR)**  
**Annette Hayton, NERUPI Convenor, Senior Research Fellow, University of Bath**

- 13.15 **Round Up**