

NERUPI Convention 2022

Getting the Grades: Working together to raise attainment

NERUPI takes great pleasure in inviting all members to its fourth annual convention which will be face-to-face event at the Friends House in London on the 14 September 2022.

School and college students consistently report that 'getting the grades' is one of their main concerns about progressing to university – and they are not wrong. Research has shown that GCSE grades are a key predictor for accessing higher education. Although this might seem like straightforward common sense the reasons for differences in attainment between certain groups of students are not straightforward at all. For example, amongst school students there is a significant attainment gap for those who qualify for free school meals and, as the EEF reported in 2018:

The gap grows wider at every following stage of education: it more than doubles to 9.5 months by the end of primary school, and then more than doubles again, to 19.3 months, by the end of secondary school.¹

Despite these wider trends 'natural ability' is often seen as the reason for lower attainment but, while individual subject interest and aptitude is a factor in educational success, it is only one element as Professor Stephen Ball explained:

Resource differences and collective efforts and investments made or not within families become translated into individual 'ability' ... children and their performances are essentialised rather than seen as socially, culturally and economically 'made up'. (Ball, 2010)²

We also know that 'getting the grades' at one stage of the educational journey does not automatically translate into success at a later stage, as the degree awarding gaps related to student characteristics such as ethnicity and class, identified in the Office for Students data dashboard.³

The NERUPI aims, grounded in educational theory, are designed to address a range of factors shown to affect an individual's success within the educational system, some directly linked to subject knowledge and others related to wider social and cultural factors.

References

1. [The Attainment Gap. Education endowment Foundation \(2017\)](#)
2. [Ball, S. \(2010\) New class inequalities in education: Why education policy may be looking in the wrong place!](#)
3. [Office for Students access and participation data dashboard](#)

First Call for presentations, workshop proposals and posters

As well as the keynotes, we want to hear from our members and are therefore calling on you to get in touch with ideas for sessions on your WP projects and evaluation. For this exciting day we welcome submissions for presentations and posters reporting on a range of widening participation activity, particularly activities designed to support student attainment across the student lifecycle from primary to graduation.

We want you to:

- Share your practice and research
- Showcase the work you are doing and innovations in supporting attainment-raising
- Encourage exploration and discussion
- Tell us about evaluation of your initiatives: evaluation approaches, results, analysis and learning

Your proposals could be presentations or workshops of up to 30 minutes or longer if they include workshop tasks. Poster presentations will be displayed in communal areas throughout the day, and we would especially encourage poster presenters to be on hand by their posters during registration (where possible), at refreshments breaks and through lunch to discuss their work with interested colleagues. Remember that this is all about learning from each other: that doesn't always mean sharing just your successes; learning from failures can be just as important.

Guidelines

Please get in touch with us at NERUPI@bath.ac.uk if you have ideas for a presentation, workshop session, poster or any queries. We're happy to discuss your ideas informally with you if that is helpful.

If you're ready to submit a proposal, please complete the form on the next page and return to us before 9.00 am on Monday 4 July 2022.

Convention 2022 Presentation / Workshop / Poster Proposal Form

Your name(s):	
Your organisation(s):	
Your email address(es):	
Working title of your session:	
Brief overview:	
Outline of content:	

Please attach any relevant additional documents and email with this form to
Dr Sally Griffin, NERUPI Development Officer (sg2729@bath.ac.uk)