



Centre for Research in  
Education Inclusion  
and Diversity



# Widening Access to Scottish Higher Education: Getting in, Getting by and Getting on

Seminar web page <<http://bit.ly/widening-access-seminar-2015>>



**Seminar presented by the  
Centre for Research on Education  
Inclusion and Diversity,  
University of Edinburgh**

Tuesday 1st December 2015

[Charteris Land 5.11](#)  
[University of Edinburgh](#)

The Scottish White Paper on independence argued that ‘free education for those able to benefit is a core part of Scotland’s educational tradition and the values that underpin our educational system. One of the major achievements of devolved government in Scotland has been to restore this right to Scottish domiciled undergraduate students’ (Scottish Government 2013, p.198). Despite the Scottish

Government’s frequent affirmation of its commitment to social justice principles, there has recently been a recognition of the need for much firmer action to tackle the social class gap in higher education participation, reflecting wider social inequalities in Scotland. In a recent policy statement, Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, commented: ‘... a child born today in one of our most deprived communities should have no less a chance of entering higher education than a child born in one of our least deprived. We want every child – whatever their background – to have an equal chance of attending university’. In order to identify the action needed to ensure that 20% of university students are drawn from the most socially disadvantaged neighbourhoods (as measured by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation), the Scottish Government has set up a Widening Access Commission to report in 2016. The papers during the course of this seminar will provide evidence to inform the debate on widening access to higher education in Scotland.

At the event, we will be launching our book:

[Higher Education in Scotland and the UK: Diverging or Converging Systems](#) Edited by Sheila Riddell, Elisabet Weedon and Sarah Minty Edinburgh University Press

The video of this event will be available at our School’s dedicated YouTube channel at <<http://edin.ac/1Me2EwQ>>.



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## Programme

Chair: [Professor Jim Gallacher, Emeritus Professor of Lifelong Learning, Glasgow Caledonian University](#)

9.30 – 10.00	Registration
10.00 – 10.15	<i>Introduction</i> <a href="#">Professor Sheila Riddell</a> and <a href="#">Professor Jim Gallacher</a>
10.15 – 10.30	<i>How fair is access to Scottish higher education?</i> <i>Scottish, UK and European comparisons</i> <a href="#">Professor Sheila Riddell, University of Edinburgh</a>
10.30 – 10.45	<i>Getting into higher education: Young people's views of fairness</i> <a href="#">Sarah Minty, University of Edinburgh</a>
10.45 – 11.00	<i>How does student finance affect widening access?: Cross-UK comparisons</i> <a href="#">Lucy Hunter Blackburn, University of Edinburgh</a>
11.00 – 11.15	Questions
11.15 – 11.30	Tea & coffee
11:30 – 12:15	Panel discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kathleen Hood, Head of Widening Participation, University of Edinburgh;</li> <li>• David Bass, Equality Challenge Unit;</li> <li>• Ali Jarvis, Member of Scottish Government's Commission on Widening Access;</li> <li>• Calum Mackie and Ian Anderson, students</li> </ul>
12.15 – 13.00	Lunch
13.00 – 13.15	<i>Widening access to higher education for disabled students: intersections of disability and social class</i> <a href="#">Dr Elisabet Weedon, University of Edinburgh</a>
13.15 – 13.30	<i>Access to higher education in rural communities</i> <a href="#">Dr Laurence Lasselle, University of St. Andrews</a>
13.30 – 13.45	Questions
13.45 – 14.00	<i>Relationships matter: The views of college entrants to an ancient Scottish university</i> <a href="#">Professor Viv Cree</a> , <a href="#">Dr Hazel Christie</a> and <a href="#">Professor Lyn Tett</a> , University of Edinburgh
14.00 – 14.15	<i>School subject choice and university entrance</i> <a href="#">Professor Cristina Iannelli, University of Edinburgh</a>
14.15 – 15.00	Questions and plenary discussion