



Centre for Research in
Education Inclusion
and Diversity



Biographies

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

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

Chair

Professor Jim Gallacher

Jim Gallacher is Professor Emeritus of Lifelong Learning in Glasgow Caledonian University, and Honorary Professor in the University of Stirling and the University of the Highlands and Islands. He is a member of the Board of Management of City of Glasgow College, where he chairs the Learning and Teaching Committee, and was a member of the Scottish Funding Council for Further and Higher Education 2005-10, where he chaired the Access and Inclusion Committee. Recent and current research interests include widening access to further and higher education and links between further and higher education.

Speakers

Professor Sheila Riddell

Sheila Riddell is Director of the Centre for Research in Education Inclusion and Diversity (CREID) at the University of Edinburgh (www.creid.ed.ac.uk) and was previously Director of the Strathclyde Centre for Disability Research at the University of Glasgow. Her work explores themes of social justice and equality across a range of policy fields including education, social care and employment.

Sarah Minty

Sarah Minty is an ESRC Ph.D student at the University of Edinburgh. She was previously Research Fellow at CREID until September 2015 and has over ten years' experience in educational research in schools, and further and higher education. She has particular interests in higher education policy and social justice, and her PhD explores the impact of social class and family attitudes to debt on young people's higher education choices in Scotland.

Lucy Hunter Blackburn

Lucy Hunter Blackburn is a writer and researcher specialising in student funding within the UK. She has twenty years' experience of working in public policy in local and national government, mainly in Scotland, including four years as Head of Higher Education in the Scottish Executive. She is currently a postgraduate student at Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh, with a special interest in student borrowing patterns.

Dr Elisabet Weedon

Dr Elisabet Weedon is the Senior Research Fellow and the Deputy Director of CREID. She has a particular interest in lifelong learning, additional support needs and has played a key role in our European comparative study researching lifelong learning in Europe. Elisabet has also worked on projects on religious education in Scotland including the project investigating Muslim pupils' experiences and outcomes in education in Scotland and England. She is currently working on the Leverhulme network project and Higher Education and the devolution settlement. Elisabet previously worked with the Open University and at Perth College mainly on UHI Millenium Institute developments.

Dr Laurence Lasselle

Laurence Lasselle is Senior Lecturer in the School of Management at the University of St Andrews since November 2013. She started her academic career at the University of St Andrews as May Wong Smith Research Fellow in October 1997 and was a Senior Lecturer in the School of Economics & Finance until October 2013. She gained her PhD in 1996 from the Université de la Méditerranée, France and was awarded a six-month Jean Monnet Research Fellowship tenable at the European University Institute, Florence in 2003. She was Pro Dean (Advising) of the Faculties of Arts & Divinity at the University of St Andrews from August 2010 to July 2014. She has developed a keen interest in the economics of education. Her most recent research in this area has been funded by the Scottish Government and the Scottish Funding Council and is about access to higher education for Scottish rural communities.

Professor Vivienne Cree

Vivienne Cree is Professor of Social Work Studies at The University of Edinburgh. She was previously Associate Dean (UG Admissions) in the College of Humanities & Social Science at this university, and led on a widening access initiative at that time. The research project presented at the seminar emerged in 2004 out of that initiative.

Dr Hazel Christie

Dr Hazel Christie is a member of The University of Edinburgh's Institute for Academic Development (IAD) where her main responsibility is as Programme Director for the Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice. She has experience in research on various aspects of the student experience in higher education including identities, transitions and retention. Her research focuses on student experience.

Professor Lyn Tett

Lyn Tett is Emerita Professor in the Education, Community and Society Institute at The University of Edinburgh. Lyn's discipline is community education and lifelong learning; her special interests include adult literacy and numeracy. She has been part of this research project since its inception in 2004.

Professor Cristina Iannelli

Cristina Iannelli is Professor of Education and Social Stratification and Co-Director of the ESRC-funded centre AQMeN (Applied Quantitative Methods Network) in the University of Edinburgh. Her main research interests are: social inequalities in education, social mobility, youth transitions, cross-country comparative analysis and quantitative data analysis. She has published widely in these areas in leading international sociological and education journals such as *European*

Sociological Review, Social Policy and Society, Oxford Review of Education, British Educational Research Journal and British Journal of Sociology of Education. She was the principal investigator of the ESRC project *Education and Social Mobility in Scotland in the 20th Century* which provided an up-to-date picture of social mobility patterns in Scotland. After this study she was awarded a three-year ESRC Research Fellowship on *The Role of Educational Structure and Content in the Process of Social Mobility*. She is currently leading the AQMeN research strand 'Education and Social Stratification' which examines the role that institutional differentiation of curriculum and status within education has in shaping individuals' life chances.

Discussants

David Bass

David is a Senior Policy Adviser and member of the Equality Challenge Unit team leading on student participation with universities and colleges in Scotland.

Kathleen Hood

Kathleen Hood is the University of Edinburgh Head of Widening Participation (WP) and Deputy Director of Student Recruitment and Admissions. She is responsible for WP strategy, covering recruitment, admissions and retention to support the University's strategic priority of increasing applicants and entrants from under-represented groups. She also manages a wide a wide range of WP outreach projects. Kathleen was educated at Ayr Academy, the University of Edinburgh and Jordanhill College of Education.

Ali Jarvis

Ali has worked across the public, private and voluntary sectors. She spent the early part of her career in marketing and human resources for a number of international FTSE100 companies working globally on strategy development, organisational change management and diversity. In her mid-thirties, Ali made a conscious career shift and took on roles as director of the Commission for Racial Equality and of Stonewall in Scotland. For the last 10 years Ali has worked as a freelance consultant and coach specialising in leadership, strategic change management, public engagement and equality.

Until October 2015, Ali was a council member of the Scottish Funding Council where she served two terms for the last 5 years of which she chaired the Council's Access and Inclusion Committee. Ali is also a board member of NHS Health Scotland – the national board that specialises in health inequalities. In May 2015, Ali was appointed as the interim Chair of Glasgow Colleges Regional Board following the resignation of the former Chair. This board delivers almost a quarter of all college provision in Scotland.

Finally, Ali is a Commissioner on the Scottish Government's Commission on Widening Access – chaired by Dame Ruth Silver.