

Think Tank 2

Widening Access to higher education in Scotland, the UK and internationally

Speaker biographies

Dr Cristina Iannelli

AQMeN, University of Edinburgh

Dr Iannelli is a senior lecturer in Quantitative Methods at the Moray House School of Education and co-director of the ESRC-funded centre AQMeN (Applied Quantitative Methods Network) in the University of Edinburgh. She is currently leading the AQMeN research strand 'Education and Social Stratification' which aims to provide a better understanding of the mechanisms through which social class differences in tertiary education affect individuals' labour market outcomes and their civic participation. Her main research interests are: social inequalities in education, social mobility, youth transitions, cross-country comparative analysis and quantitative data analysis. Previously she held a three-year ESRC fellowship on *The Role of Educational Structure and Content in the Process of Social Mobility* and she was the principal investigator in the ESRC project *Education and Social Mobility in Scotland in the 20th Century*.

Professor Jim Gallacher

University of Stirling, Glasgow Caledonian University and University of Highlands and Islands

Professor Jim Gallacher is Emeritus Professor of Lifelong Learning in Glasgow Caledonian University, and Honorary Professor in the University of Stirling and the University of the Highlands and Islands. He established the Centre for Research in Lifelong Learning in 1999 as a joint centre with the University of Stirling, and was Co-director until 2008. Recent and current research interests include widening access to further and higher education; links between further and higher education; work related higher education; work-based learning; and credit and qualifications frameworks.

He was a member of the Scottish Funding Council for Further and Higher Education 2005-10, where he chaired the Access and Inclusion Committee. He was a member of the Scottish Executive's Lifelong Learning Forum from 2003-08, was an adviser to the Scottish Parliament's Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Committee for their Inquiry into Lifelong Learning, and recently was called as an expert witness to attend the Education and Culture Committee. He is a member of the Board of Management of City of Glasgow College, where he chairs the Learning and Teaching Committee.

Dr Laurence Lasselle

University of St Andrews

Dr Laurence Lasselle is Senior Lecturer in the School of Economics & Finance and Pro Dean (Advising) in the Faculties of Arts & Divinity at the University of St Andrews. She joined the University as May Wong Smith Research Fellow in October 1997. 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. Her research interests lie in the area of macrodynamics, globalisation and education.

Professor Carole Leathwood
London Metropolitan University

Professor Carole Leathwood specialises in research in higher and post-compulsory education, with a particular focus on educational inequalities related to gender, social class and 'race', and on critical policy analysis. Her primary disciplinary field is the sociology of education, and in particular the application of feminist theory and approaches to educational concerns. Her research has included projects on equality issues for staff in further and higher education; social class and access to HE; student experiences of higher education; graduate access to the labour market; and a comparative study of educational policies to tackle disadvantage in Europe.

Dr Vikki Boliver
Durham University

Dr Vikki Boliver is a Lecturer in Sociology in the School of Applied Social Sciences at Durham University. Her research focuses on unequal access to more prestigious universities, and on patterns and processes of social mobility over multiple generations. She has published her work on these topics in the *British Journal of Sociology* and the *American Sociological Review*.

Dr Gill Wyness
London School of Economics and Political Science

Dr Gill Wyness is a Research Officer at the Centre for Economic Performance (CEP), London School of Economics, where her specialism is in the economics of education in the UK.

She is currently working on a number research projects evaluating randomized control trials in schools in the UK – including a programme which aimed to find out what school students know about the costs and benefits of going to university – and what would be the impact on their knowledge and aspirations of an 'information campaign' focused on the costs and returns to higher education.

In her work on higher education, she is currently leading a research project which aims to evaluate the impact of higher education bursaries on performance and drop-out rates of university students. Her work has also involved evaluating a number of UK government tuition fee and higher education finance policies. She is a regular contributor to the Guardian higher education network blog, and has given evidence at the Browne review of higher education finance in 2010.

Gill joined CEP from the Institute of Fiscal Studies. She has a degree in economics from the University of Abertay, Dundee, an MSc in Economics and Econometrics from the University of Southampton, and she obtained her PhD from the Institute of Education, University of London, in 2010.

Dr Dominic Orr
EUROSTUDENT, German Centre for Research on Higher Education & Science Studies (DZHW)

Dr. Dominic Orr is a senior researcher at the German Centre for Research on Higher Education and Science Studies in Hannover. He graduated from Southbank University London in the field of applied business studies and holds a PhD in the field of comparative education from Dresden University.

Since 2005, he has been the head of the international coordination team of the EUROSTUDENT project, a large-scale project collating comparable data from 27 countries on the social and economic conditions of students in European higher education. He has been a member of three expert circles of the Bologna Follow-Up Group since 2008, on reporting, mobility and the social dimension. His range of publications cover the fields of governance and cost-sharing in higher education, student life and the social dimension, and international mobility of students.

Publications, in which he was recently involved, include Orr/Gwosc/Netz (2011): *Social and economic conditions of student life in Europe* and Eurydice (2012): *The Bologna Process Implementation Report*.