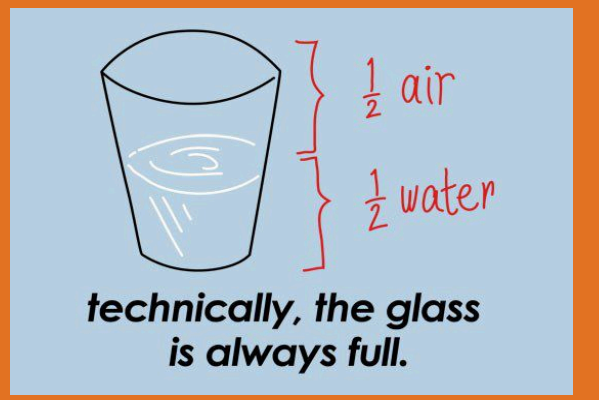
Access and Widening Participation at the University of Newcastle

Synergies, Strengths and Challenges for Enabling Programs



Assoc. Prof. Seamus Fagan & Dr. Anna Bennett,
English Language and Foundation Studies Centre (ELFSC)

Dr Anna Bennett

- Head of Research Engagement and Development ELFSC
- Brief overview of research projects and interests
- Commitment to developing important forms of research about enabling at national level
    - Enabling Pedagogies project: methodology follows the principles of the approaches of effective enabling pedagogies

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ELFSC Research

Strands

- Enabling Pedagogy, Curricula, Literacies, Experience and Transition
- Equity and Social Justice
- Enabling Program Impact, Evaluation and Wider Communities

Activities

- Seminars
- Reading and methodologies discussion group
- Research retreat

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Some recent ELFSC projects:

- Centre of Excellence for Equity in Higher Education Grant. "**Enabling Pedagogies and Transitions**". Dr Anna Bennett, Catherine Burgess, Dr Bronwyn Relf, Dr Emma Hamilton, Dr Sharlene Leroy-Dyer.
- HEPP National Priority Pool Grant. "**Improving the 'beaten track': investigating alternative pathways to increase higher education participation for mature-aged low socio-economic status students in regional and remote Australia**". Dr Bronwyn Relf.
- OLT Innovation and Development Grant. CQU lead project "**Addressing the gap between policy and implementation: Strategies for improving educational outcomes of Indigenous students**". Assoc. Prof. Josephine May

- OLT Seed Grant. "**Lighting the pathway: Articulating curriculum design principles for open access enabling programs**". Dr Bronwyn Relf, Dr Barry Hodges
- HEPP National Priority Pool Grant. CQU lead project "**A comparative evaluation of the efficacy of the equity strategies employed by Australian universities**". Dr Anna Bennett and Prof Geoff Whitty (CEEHE)
- HEPP National Priority Pool Grant. UON ELFSC/Wollotuka lead project "**Indigenous enabling: 'what works?' Developing a national conversation around enabling education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students through a comprehensive audit of current provision**". As Prof Maree Gruppetta (Wollotuka), As Prof Stephanie Gilbert (Wollotuka), Helen Cameron (ELFSC), Evonne Irwin (ELFSC), Dr Sally Baker (CEEHE)

- National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education (NCSEHE) **"It's About Time: working towards more equitable understandings of the impact of time for students in higher education'** (Prof Penny Jane Burke (CEEHE), Dr Anna Bennett, Prof J Stevenson and Prof Sue Clegg)
- Office for Learning and Teaching **"(Re)claiming social capital: improving language and cultural pathways for refugee students into Australian higher education"**. (Assoc Prof Seamus Fagan, Prof J Dantas, Ms. Ruth Tregale, Dr Sally Baker, Ms Evonne Irwin, Ms Helen Cameron, Ms Sonal Singh, Ms Shelley Gower)
- Centre of Excellence for Equity in Higher Education (CEEHE).**"The Ripple Effect: how enabling education impacts on the individual, the family and the community"** (Assoc Prof Seamus Fagan, Prof Jim Albright (Education), Ms Michelle Oshan

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International Studies in Widening Participation

… Contributions provide novel insights about specific or local issues **in the context of wider concerns and discourses about widening educational participation** … Articles **critically engage with and extend current research** about widening participation in education in the context of wider issues, trends or theoretical debates. Authors must:

• be aware of the **audience** which … Show an appropriate level of theoretical or methodological awareness specific to their approach and writing genre

The journal does **not** publish:

• **descriptions**, surveys and/or evaluations of policy and/or practice **that are not explicitly linked with the relevant wider field of research**

• localised case studies **that are not adequately contextualised or theorised in relation to the wider** inter/national field, depending on the focus of the work

• **studies that repeat previous work without clearly establishing originality and significance of contribution**

National Assoc. of Enabling Educators of Australia (NAEEA)

Research Development and Collaboration Special Interest Group

Anna Bennett and Penny Jane Burke co-facilitate the *Research Development and Collaboration* Special Interest Group (SIG), which brings together colleagues who are interested in research about enabling programs, the transition of students into and through higher education and lifelong learning, and as related to other related fields of research, such as widening participation, equity and social justice in education. The SIG aims to:

- Provide a supportive environment and meetings across the country, to **bring together diverse perspectives about enabling and related fields of research**;
- Foster a research community where **members feed into and develop the direction of the SIG in collaboration**;
- Provide information about research approaches, skills, development, publishing and projects;
- Promote activities that **enhance the NAEEA research capacity and influence across national and international contexts**; and
- **Contribute to other NAEEA activities** and events.

Please email Anna.Bennett@newcastle.edu.au if you are interested in joining.

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