

REACT Conference – 2nd May 2017



*Reacting to the ‘hard to reach’
through Student Engagement
Initiatives*



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#REACT17

Housekeeping

Today's buildings are:

- Keynotes and refreshments – Stripe Auditorium
- Parallels Sessions – St Aphege Building 001 & 003
- Lunch and post-conference networking – University Building



Evacuation Assembly Point is the Dytch Playing Field

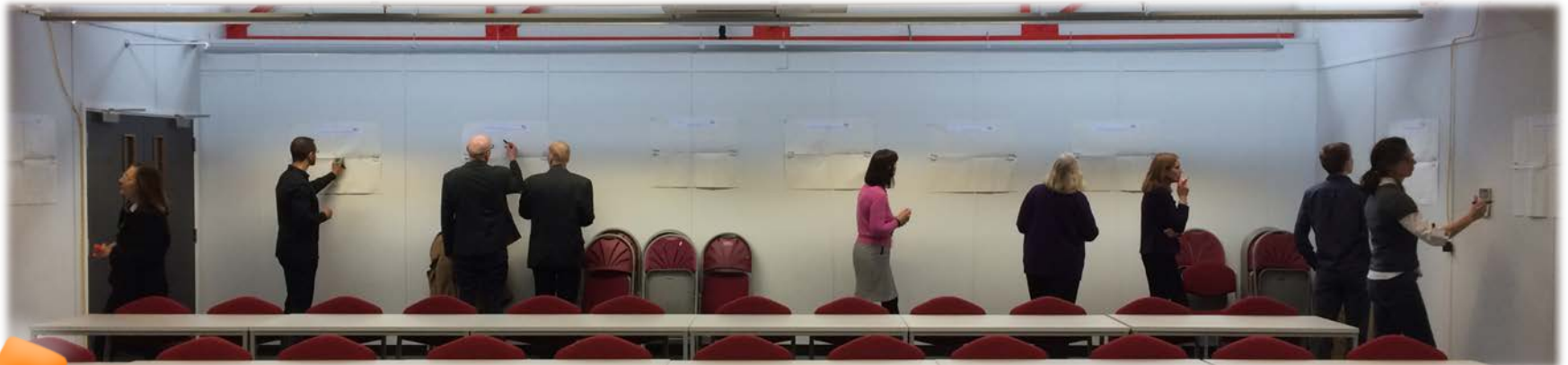


Housekeeping

Tweet using the hashtag **#REACT17**

Photographer and Videographer Present
- Interviews wanted

We want your feedback, please visit our feedback wall



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Professor Joy Carter DL

Vice-Chancellor

The University of Winchester



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Realising Engagement through Active Culture Transformation: An Introduction

Liz Dunne, Tom Lowe & Cassie Shaw
2nd May 2017
The University of Winchester

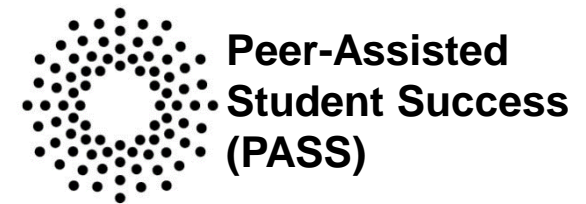


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REACT Core Institutions



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Our Team



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Collaborative Development Programme



Sheffield Hallam University



bucks
new university



University of Brighton



UNIVERSITY
of
GREENWICH



Canterbury
Christ Church
University



Newman
University
Birmingham



University of
BRISTOL



Newcastle
University

Edinburgh Napier
UNIVERSITY



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Southampton

MANCHESTER
1824

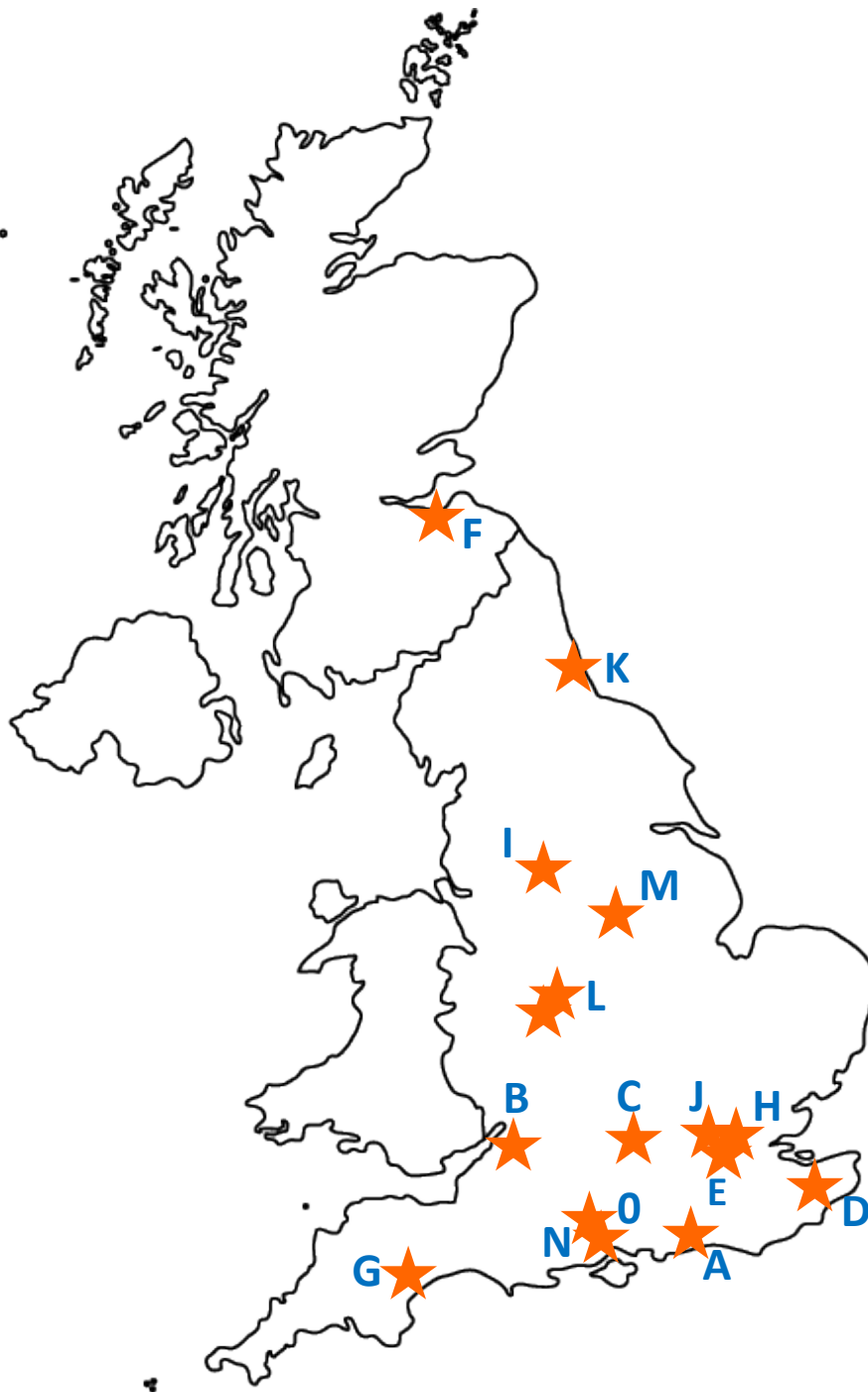
The University of Manchester



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- A** University of Brighton
- B** University of Bristol
- C** Buckinghamshire New University
- D** Canterbury Christ Church University
- E** University College London
- F** Edinburgh Napier University
- G** University of Exeter
- H** University of Greenwich
- I** University of Manchester
- J** London Metropolitan University
- K** Newcastle University
- L** Newman University
- M** Sheffield Hallam University
- N** University of Southampton
- O** University of Winchester



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Core Aims



- **Aim 1:** To enable a thorough investigation of **student engagement** in the case of **'hard to reach'** students, looking into key areas such as retention and attainment



Student Engagement



Can you define Student Engagement?

YES

NO

Does your institution (University / Student Union) have a definition of Student Engagement?

‘We could define student engagement in any way we want.’

(Finn & Zimmer, 2001)



Student Engagement: An Explosion of Practice



Many initiatives in the UK and across the world:

Students as Partners
Student Partnerships
Student-Staff Partnerships
Students as Researchers
Students as Co-Researchers
Students as Learners and Teachers
Students as Change Agents
Students as Co-constructers

Student Fellows
Student Colleagues
Students as Champions
Students as Producers
Students as Change Makers
Students as Co-Producers
Students as Co-creators

(Dunne, 2016)



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'Hard to Reach'



Do you think the following groups are 'hard to reach'?

- Commuter students
- BME students
- Engineering students
- White male students
- Students from Low Socio-Economic backgrounds

YES

NO



Systematic Literature Review of 'Hard to Reach'



- 284 Relevant titles and abstracts
- 101 Included in the literature review
- 28 different descriptions of 'hard to reach'
- Some articles produced more than one definition



Systematic Literature Review of 'Hard to Reach'



- **30 - No definition**
- 23 - BME
- 20 - Low SEC
- 13 - Young+ (Black, Mother, Females, Offenders)
- 12 - Disability
- 10 - Undereducated
- 4 - Distance, 2 Mature, 1 Commuting students
- **27 - No method to engage**



'Hard to Reach' in practice



WP students in general

- Mature students
- Part-time students
- Return-to-learn students
- Students with disabilities and/or mental health issues
- Non-traditional/under-represented groups
- Postgraduates
- Student parents/carers (including young carers)
- Care leavers
- Those commuting locally/ regionally (particularly those from low participation neighbourhoods)
- Students on placement
- Students living at home

- International students, including INTO students
- Minority groups - BME, young white male, LGBT
- First in family to go to University
- Students part-time on campus, though full-time students
- Those from a low socio-economic background
- Specific disciplines: medics/nurses; engineering; theology
- In some subjects males participate actively less than females
- Estranged students (who have lost contact with their family and therefore aren't financially supported by them)
- First year students in private accommodation



'Hard to Reach' in practice



Warnings

- This is a continuum...
- We are wary of any sort of deficit model
- Differences between 'hard to get hold of' :
'hard to communicate with' : 'hard to
engage' ...



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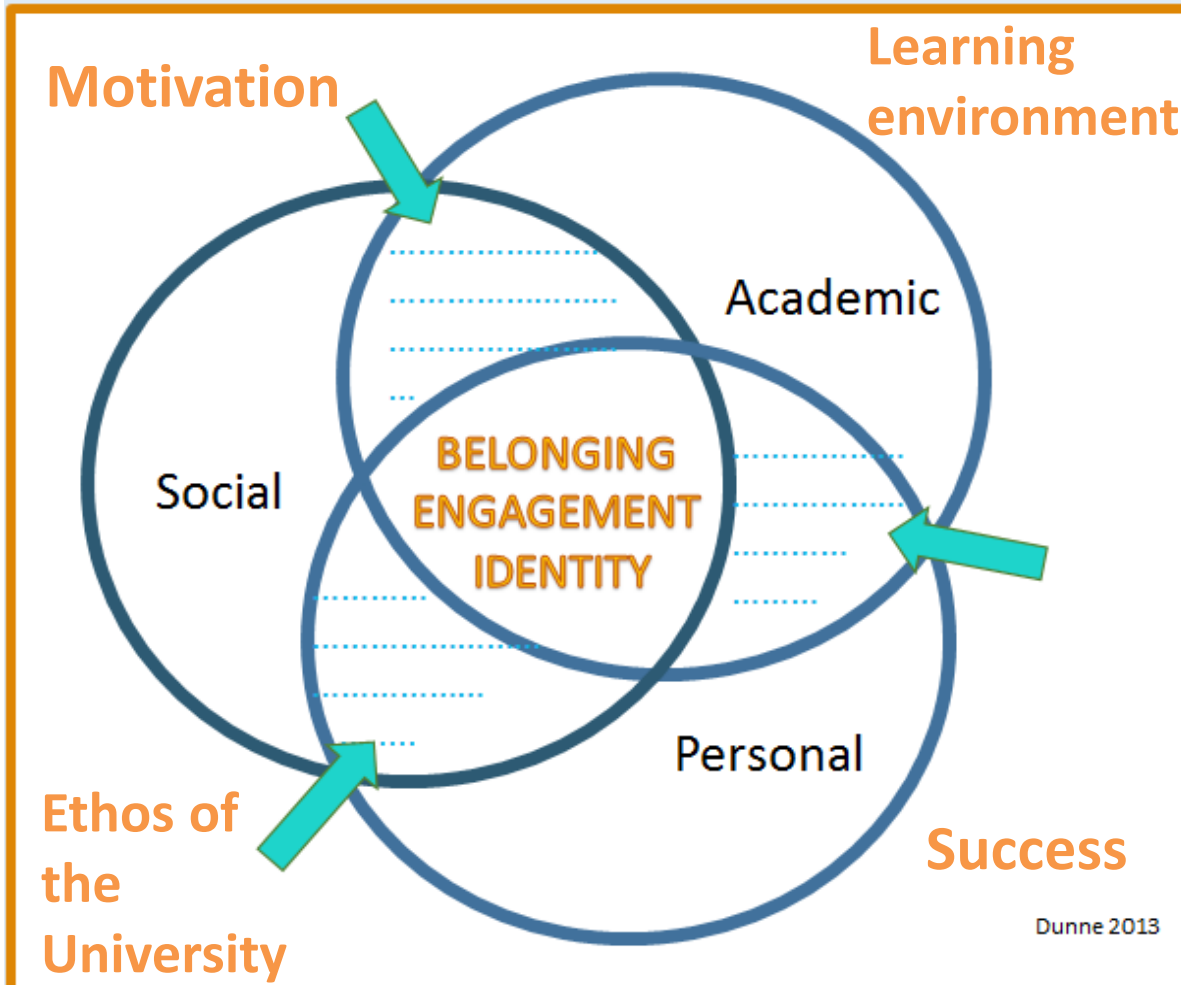


What outcomes are important?



What outcomes are important – Identity?

A more holistic approach to student engagement



Core Aims



- **Aim 1:** To enable a thorough investigation of **student engagement** in the case of **'hard to reach'** students, looking into key areas such as retention and attainment



Aims



- **Aim 2 To gain understanding** of what works, how and why - through quantitative and qualitative research, staff and student voices and in-depth case studies
- **Aim 3 To ensure a variety of outcomes** that improve practice and benefit students, academics, student unions, academic developers and institutions as a whole
- **Aim 4 To share best practice nationally** and enable institutions to learn **with and from** each other, by developing and sharing open resources, strategies and frameworks and acting as **a supportive community of practice.**



Project Streams



Collaborative Development Programme

- Development Days
- Discussion Events
- Consultancy Visits
- Journal Reviewing Retreat
- Dissemination (RAISE Symposium, JEIPC and REACT Conference)

REACT Research Project



Raising Awareness and spreading practice



Project Streams



Collaborative Development Programme



REACT Research Project

- Demographic analysis of engaged students in SE roles
- Analysis in comparison to retention and attainment
- Student Engagement Motivation Study
- Comparison study across 3 HEIs

Raising Awareness and spreading practice



Project Streams



Collaborative Development Programme

REACT Research Project

Raising Awareness and spreading practice

- Creation of a website for the sector
- 33 paper Special Issue of JEIPC
- Discussion events at conferences /REACT Conference 2017
- Consultancy to HEIs seeking to expand SE practices



More REACT...



Special Issue of the Journal of Education Innovation, Partnership & Change

Case studies from all Universities involved in REACT

Additional articles from the REACT team

Additional Opinion Pieces from experts in SE

Release date: 1st August 2017

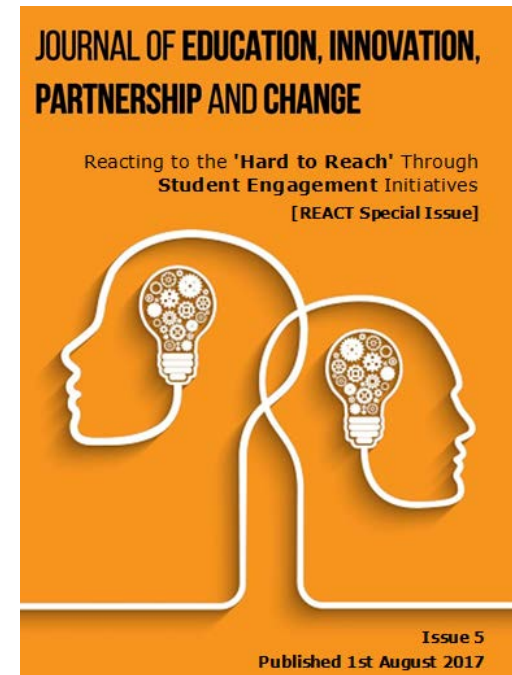
REACT Website

Interviews with staff and students

Open resources for the sector

Online blog open for contributions

www.studentengagement.ac.uk



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Enjoy the conference!



Tweet using the hashtag **#REACT17**



Share practice, network and collaborate as peers

Any questions, please ask a member of the REACT Team



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