

The logo for FACE (Forum for Access and Continuing Education) features the word 'FACE' in a large, blue, sans-serif font. The letter 'A' is stylized with a horizontal bar extending to the right, ending in an arrowhead.Forum for Access  
and Continuing Educationmonthly  
e-bulletin

Issue #115 | August 2017



### **Sveiki\* to issue 115: the 'school holidays' e-bulletin!**

Save the date! The annual Access to HE Summit takes place on November 14th and will feature contributions from FACE Executive Members Prof John Storan and Andrew Rawson. See below for more details for what should be an excellent opportunity to take the sector's pulse while allowing you to apply new knowledge to your institution.

In this issue we bring you some great opportunities to submit your work to some key upcoming conferences. We have also amalgamated some of the remaining events and conferences happening this Summer, so do peruse the events section to finish off planning your conference season!

Do consider purchasing our most recent FACE publication, which is packed with fantastic papers from our 2016 annual conference. It represents excellent value for money on what is a wide range of research on widening participation, access, student success and lifelong learning.

We have a number of reports for you this month, including the Social Market Foundation's report on student retention; HEPI & Unite Students's report on applicants' perceptions and attitudes; Universities UK's yearly report on the patterns and trends in UK higher education.

As usual, we bring you a round-up of media news and voices from the sector.

**If you would like to contribute a short piece of writing (300-600 words) to a future newsletter** then please contact Stéphane at [webmaster@face.ac.uk](mailto:webmaster@face.ac.uk). Topics can include updates on research, programmes, opinion pieces, policy analysis, conference recaps, recently published articles and much more. Our reach is currently to over 600 individuals.

Enjoy!

\*that's Latvian!

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**FACE** | Forum for Access and Continuing Education | [www.face.ac.uk](http://www.face.ac.uk) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)  
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## **Save the date!**

Central London

FACE Chair, Professor John Storan and Executive Member Andrew Rawson will both be contributing to this year's annual **Access to HE Summit: Managing change and unlocking the future**, organised jointly by Action on Access and Universities UK.

This is a national one-day conference giving you the opportunity to examine the key institutional and operational issues that are currently surrounding access, participation and success in UK universities. The summit will explore the implications of the recent changes in the sector for your institution, and will provide insight and the information you need to successfully plan and manage around them.

**Key themes to be examined at the summit include:**

- Understanding the changing sector landscape and its implications
- Successful models of collaboration
- Research findings and how best to use these
- Using toolkits and resources effectively
- Peer to peer networking and knowledge exchange

[Further information and bookings now open at Universities UK website.](#)

## Launch of FACE Publication 2017



**Latest FACE publication now available**

FACE's latest publication: *Widening Participation in the Context of Economic and Social Change*, draws on a selection of papers presented at the 23<sup>rd</sup> FACE annual conference hosted at Queen's University Belfast. Whilst the contributions reflect the themes of the conference they also highlight something of the diversity of FACE's membership which brings together practitioners, policy makers, researchers and academics working in a variety of contexts and settings not just throughout the UK but also from other educational systems around the world.

The common theme, which links the chapters in this publication, is that the research and projects reported on seek to make change happen, whether at programme, institutional or system level. The publication provides an opportunity to disseminate this work to a wider audience beyond the conference.

FACE is a vibrant community of practice which encourages practitioners and early-career researchers to publish their work. Recognising the challenges of academic writing and publishing, authors are supported through the process by a team of experienced editors and referees who provide detailed and constructive feedback on draft submissions. Peer to peer scholarship is therefore very much at the heart of the FACE publication experience.



Launching our new publication was Glasgow School of Art (GSA) student Caitlin Callaghan. Caitline is a fantastic young artist who designed the cover. She benefitted from GSA's access programme and will be studying Sculpture in the upcoming academic year.

To learn from the challenges and successes of others order your copy of the FACE publication by [clicking here to download an order form](#) or head to our website and [fill out the online form](#).

## Latest CR&DALL e-newsletter

Our colleagues over at the Centre for Research & Development in Adult and Lifelong Learning (CR&DALL) do some fantastic work and it's our pleasure to pass on their latest weekly digest to you!



[Follow this link to access it](#)

## Call for Papers and Call to Actions

Know of any call for papers for conferences/journals or call to actions for consultations/research bids in the fields of widening participation, access, lifelong learning or related fields?

Let us know! [webmaster@face.ac.uk](mailto:webmaster@face.ac.uk)

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**Experiencing Higher Education, Transitions and the Graduate Labour Market: the Non-traditional Student Perspective** | Deadline: 30 August 2017

Learning, retention and employability in higher education are key issues for policy-makers at institutional, national and European levels. They are also areas of interest for researchers.

This European conference provides an opportunity to hear about a new, trans European,

papers, round tables, and symposia on related topics to an international audience of academics, practitioners and policy-makers.

[Further details click here](#)

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#### **National Network for the Education of Care Leavers (NNECL) Annual Conference |**

Deadline: 31 August 2017

NNECL are keen to include conference workshops from local authorities, charities, virtual schools, and fostering organisations to balance the HE coverage.

If you would like to submit a workshop proposal for the NNECL 2017 conference please send the following details to Melissa Page [mpage@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:mpage@dmu.ac.uk)

[Further details click here](#)

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#### **Opportunities for lifelong learning in a changing world - UALL 2018 annual conference |**

Deadline: 30 November 2017

The UALL Conference has a reputation for offering opportunities for practitioners and researchers to present their work to the academic community. Proposals are invited on any of the strands of the conference theme. They may describe and discuss innovative developments and practice, and/or empirical or theoretical research. You are encouraged to take into account your own working context when submitting your proposals. Proposals are welcome from those working in different countries and learning contexts.

#### **Research, Policy and Practice**

- Keynote presentations: national and international perspectives on current issues;
- Seminar/workshops and poster sessions on research, policy, practice and innovative projects;
- Opportunity for networking and sharing experiences;
- Conference Dinner including book launch, UALL awards ceremony.

**The scope of this conference will be local, regional and international. The key themes will include:**

- Lifelong learning pedagogies: critical, digital and flexible;
- Learning cities and regions;
- Social mobility and inclusion;
- Learning enrichment and well-being throughout life;
- Building capability for the workplace: apprenticeships, re-skilling, work-based learning.

Please send your proposal of no more than 300 words by 30 November 2017 to:

[admin@uall.ac.uk](mailto:admin@uall.ac.uk)

[Further details click here](#)

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## **Notice of events**

Below is a list of events around the UK within the access, lifelong learning and widening participation fields.

If you'd like your event to be listed, [get in touch](#) :)

**Article 26 Conference 2017** | 4-6 Sept 2017, Warwick University

The Article 26 project aims to support forced migrants (refugees & asylum seekers) to access, participate and succeed in higher education. We would like to invite you to our 7th annual conference, which is hosted this year by the University of Warwick. The conference takes place over three days and participants can attend the day/s most relevant to them; the first day focuses on forced migrant students studying in higher education, the second on university practitioners and the third and final is a research symposium. No prior knowledge or experience in the field of forced migration and access to higher education is required - we welcome everyone.

[Further details click here](#)

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**Improving Apprenticeships in England - quality, assessment and options for policy** |

September 5 2017, Central London

Delegates at this Westminster Forum seminar will consider future policy priorities for improving the quality of apprenticeship programmes in England.

[Further details click here](#)

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**Education and Transformative Practice - International Paulo Freire Conference** |

September 5-7 2017, Cyprus

You are invited to the second International Paulo Freire Conference, organized by the Freire Institute and the University of Central Lancashire. The conference will be on the theme of 'Education and Global Transitions' and will include the following sub-themes:

- Education with Migrant and Transient Communities
- Gender and Education
- Popular Education Theory and Practice
- Education and Development
- Social Media, Technology and Culture
- Inequality and the Commodification of Education

[Further details click here](#)

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**Supporting Care Leavers in the Transition to Adulthood: A Year on from Keep on Caring** |

September 7 2017, Central London

This is a Policy-UK Forum event. Key areas to be addressed:

- Care Innovations and System Reform
- Preparation for Independent Living
- Positive Outcomes After Care

[Further details click here](#)

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**Widening Participation Research: new findings from the sector** | September 13 2017,

Sheffield

This one day event presents findings from widening participation practitioners who have participated in a one year writing programme sponsored by the Office for Fair Access, delivered by Sheffield Hallam University and supported by academics from across the sector. Participants will be able to hear papers presenting new research as well as participate in a series of workshops designed to support people's writing.

[Further details click here](#)

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**HELOA Professional Development Conference: Widening Access to Higher Education |**  
October 3 2017, Birmingham

The HELOA Professional Development Conference (formerly known as the Experienced Practitioners' Conference) provides an opportunity for higher education practitioners to attend workshops and discussions on a particular topic relevant to their everyday work. The upcoming PDC will focus on widening access to higher education with spotlights on access agreements, engaging with schools and monitoring outcomes.

[Further details click here](#)

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**Women in Education 2017 |** October 12 2017, Central London

Women represent an overwhelming majority of the education workforce, yet they are significantly underrepresented in senior leadership positions. Across the education sector, women are not making senior leadership positions in adequate numbers.

The unique **Women in Education conference** seeks to provide current and future leaders with the skills needed to correct this imbalance, offering practical advice and coaching on how to further develop your career in times of change. We will discuss together how we can manage the challenges of modern leadership and help ensure we don't lose momentum in recognising and rewarding female leaders in education.

[Further details click here](#)

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**The Benefits, Barriers and Opportunities for Individuals and Society |** October 12 2017,  
Central London

This is a Policy-UK Forum event. Key areas to be addressed:

- Understanding the Benefits of Lifelong Learning
- Widening Participation to All Learners
- The Value of Lifelong Study for Employers

[Further details click here](#)

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**The State of Part-Time and Mature Education in the UK |** October 12 2017, Central London

This is a Policy-UK Forum event. Key areas to be addressed:

- Widening Participation to All Learners
- The Value of Lifelong Study for Employers
- Alternative Modes of Lifelong Study

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## Reports, news and voices from the sector

### Recent Reports

**Social Market Foundation - UPP Foundation** | On course for success? Student retention at university

This report analyses the factors that affect student drop-out rates from universities across England. It argues that there has been much focus and activity directed towards increasing the proportion of students from ethnic minority and disadvantaged backgrounds that enter university, but that students from these groups remain more likely to drop out. This must change if social mobility ambitions are to be achieved: ultimately, retention is as important as access.

[Read the full report here](#)

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**Higher Education Policy Institute - Unite Students** | Reality Check: A report on university applicants' attitudes and perceptions

Since 2006, HEPI has run the Student Academic Experience Survey, generally in conjunction with the Higher Education Academy. This shows a big gap between students' prior expectations and their time in higher education. It also shows the degree to which prior expectations are met explains students' perceptions of value for money and other key factors.

Yet we know relatively little about those prior expectations. So HEPI and Unite Students jointly set out to ask higher education applicants what it is they are hoping for and expecting.

The results are illuminating and will be of interest to applicants, all those who advise people about higher education, higher education institutions, policymakers and the media.

[Read the full report here](#)

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**Universities UK** | Patterns and Trends in UK Higher Education 2017

This year's publication of this annual report covers the ten-year period following academic year 2006–07, and looks at a variety of areas covering students and staff at, and finances of, UK higher education institution.

The number of young students from disadvantaged backgrounds reached record levels in 2015–16. Student satisfaction has also increased from 79.9% in 2006 to a new high of 86% in summer 2015, and graduate outcomes have also remained strong. For the first time, this year's report also looks at emerging demographic, technological, economic and political trends that may shape higher education in the UK in coming years.

[Read the full report here](#)

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### News digest & voices from the sector

*Some wider HE sector insights:*

[Black students '50 per cent more likely to drop out'](#) (Times Higher Ed)

[Justine Greening: Labour's free tuition plan 'threat to access'](#) (Times Higher Ed)

[Grace is 25. Her student debt: £69,000](#) (Guardian)

[Poorest students will finish university with £57,000 debt, says IFS](#) (Guardian)

And finally...[the US government is threatening to unwind affirmative action at universities](#), in a move that could potentially undo decades of widened participation.

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This is the monthly e-Bulletin from FACE (the Forum for Access and Continuing Education), offered to practitioners, policy-makers, researchers and others with an interest in access, widening participation and lifelong learning. The e-Bulletin is sent to colleagues in the sector; members and non-members alike. If you would prefer not to receive it, please contact [Stephane Farenga](#) and your details will be removed from the circulation list.

If you wish to respond to anything in this e-Bulletin or make a contribution to future issues – particularly news and events - please also contact [Stephane Farenga](#).

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