

Access to what?

Widening access to higher education in Wales

Ceryn Evans

Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods
(WISERD)

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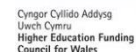


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Background to project

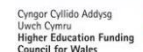
- Welsh Government's widening access policies.
- Explore the approaches adopted by HEIs in Wales to implementing widening access policies.



Approaches to widening access in Wales

A variety of approaches delivered at different stages of the student life-cycle.

- Pre-entry
- Entry
- Inside the HEI



Contribution to key debates

Access to what?

- Different approaches facilitate access to different *levels* of HE (e.g., degree level, FDs, HNDs)
- Implications for social justice and economic effectiveness.



Approaches to widening access in Wales

Pre-entry

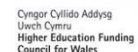
- Outreach programmes (raising aspirations/attainment).



Approaches to widening access in Wales

Pre-entry

- Topping up qualifications, 'Access' courses, 'HE study ready' programmes. Often delivered through 'widening access/lifelong learning centres'.



Approaches to widening access in Wales

Entry

- Admissions policies and practices
- Acknowledgment of prior learning/work experience



Approaches to widening access in Wales

Inside the institution:

- Curriculum delivery (FDs, HNDS)
- Curriculum design (i.e. part-time or flexible study options).



Conclusions

- Varied approaches to widening access adopted by HEIs in Wales.
- Access to different levels of HE and to different kinds of student.
- Implications for social justice and economic effectiveness.

Conclusions

Where should the responsibility for widening access lie?

- **HEIs-** compensating for the impact of disadvantage at pre-entry/entry stages (e.g. through outreach work, admissions policies.)
- **Schools/colleges-** responsibility to prepare young people for HE study?

Thank you



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