

Personal Profile

My own position as an estranged student was what launched my interest in the topic of estrangement. The work I did with Stand Alone, a charity who supports people estranged from their family, and a university module exploring disadvantaged groups furthered my interest in the field.

I am an extremely strong independent learner, researching topics outside the scope of the modules I am taught. When possible, I have proactively taken the opportunity to write about topics not explicitly covered, including a presentation about childhood in video games, and linking my own journey to higher education to existing research.

My active involvement in committees on a course, college, and university level has allowed me to directly impact the student experience, while building my leadership and public speaking skills.

My research interests include how higher education theory translates into practice, students' experiences of university, and qualitative research methods.

Education

2015 – 2018
Durham

Durham University (St. Aidan's College)
BA Education Studies (English Studies)

- Year 2: 70%, 75% in Education
- Year 1: 68%, 71% in Education

Including Modules:

- Higher Education: Issues of Exclusion and Inclusion - 74%
- Constructing Childhood and Youth - 86%
- Educational Research Methods - 68%

Dissertation: Exploring the experiences of estranged students in UK higher education. (Supervised by Dr. Rille Raaper)
Interviews with estranged students at UK universities exploring:

- Issues that they face at university
- What support their university offers them
- How they think support can be improved

2013 – 2015
Spennymoor, Co. Durham

Whitworth Park Sixth Form

A-Level Grades:

- English Literature - A*
- History - A
- Psychology - B
- Extended Project (AS) - A*

2008 – 2013
Spennymoor, Co. Durham

Whitworth Park School

GCSE Grades:
1 × A* 8 × A 2 × B 1 × C

Experience Regarding Estrangement

July 2017
Birmingham

Stand Alone and NUS LGBT+

Involved with national Estranged Students' Solidarity Campaign

- Wrote a piece for the campaign's information booklet, distributed to Students' Unions nationally
- Attended the launch with Stand Alone at NUS Conference
- Gave a presentation about my experiences as an estranged student at Durham
- Guided Students' Union Officers on how to lobby universities to improve estranged students' experiences

Jul 2017
— Oct 2017
Remote

BBC Three
Worked with BBC Three on an article about family estrangement through a series of interviews with a BBC Producer

Other Experience

Nov 2017
— Present
Durham

Mentor, Durham University Education Society

- Point of contact for a first-year student studying my course
- Helping them adapt to university life

Oct 2017
— Present
Durham

Hobbies and Games Representative, Durham Students' Union Societies Committee

- Lead of Collaboration sub-committee, researching ways to encourage inter-society events
- Key point of contact to a range of societies, working to improve their experiences in the union

Jul 2017
— Present
Durham

Open Day Ambassador, Durham University

- Interacting with prospective students
- Assisted in delivering the BA Education Studies presentations

Nov 2016
— Present
Durham

Course Representative, Durham University

- Reporting the issues faced by students on my course at the Student Staff Consultative Committee
- Elected as Student Representative on the BA Education Studies Programme Committee

Nov 2016
— Present
Nationwide

Games Demonstrator, Esdevium Games

- Work at stores/events to demonstrate board games to customers and attendees
- Involved in the training of new demonstrators

Mar 2016
— Present
Durham

President, Trevelyan College Games Society

- Coordination of the Executive Committee
- Run frequent events with 30+ students attending

Presentations Attended

Dec 2017

'Who Counts as a Widening Participation Student?'
Research Seminar
Durham University

Nov 2017
— May 2018

'The Future of the University'
Public Lecture Series,
Institute of Advance Study
Durham University

Sep 2017

'Student Politics in Contemporary Higher Education — Theory, Policy and Practice'
Symposium
Durham University

May 2017

'Mind your language: the vocabulary of higher education today'
Durham Castle Lecture
Durham University

Jul 2016

Teach First Impact Conference
Conference
Leeds