

# Amie Key

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## EDUCATION

### **Forthcoming | October 2019 - 2022 | PhD Education | Durham University**

- Thesis: Exploring the experiences of estranged students in higher education: a longitudinal comparative case study of two UK universities
- Comparing the experiences of estranged students in two universities, one which has signed the Stand Alone Pledge and one which has not. Tracking the challenges faced and support accessed by 12 estranged students for a year using semi-structured interviews and diary entries
- Supervised by Dr Rille Raaper (Durham University, Education), Professor Vikki Boliver (Durham University, Sociology), and Ms Becca Bland (Stand Alone, CEO)
- Funded by NINEDTP 1+3 Collaborative Award (ESRC)

### **2018 – 2019 | MA Research Methods (Education) | Durham University**

- Interdisciplinary social science research methods training
- Dissertation: Conducting a systematic review of the use of diaries as a research method in the social sciences (Supervised by Professor Jens Beckmann and Dr Rille Raaper)

### **2015 – 2018 | BA Education Studies (English Studies) | Durham University | First-Class Honours**

- Dissertation: Exploring the experiences of estranged students in UK higher education (supervised by Dr Rille Raaper). Interviewed 6 estranged students to explore the issues they face at university, the support they access, and how they think this support can be improved

### **2008 - 2015 | Compulsory Education | Whitworth Park, Spennymoor, County Durham**

- **A-Levels:** A\* (English Literature) | A (History) | B (Psychology) | A\* in Extended Project (AS)
- **GCSEs:** 1 x A\* | 8 x A | 2 x B | 1 x C

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

**Key, A. (2019).** 'Exploring the experiences of estranged students in UK higher education: a comparative case study of two UK universities', *Imagining Better Education: Proceedings of the 2018 IBE Conference*. Durham University, Durham, 6-7 July 2018. Durham: Durham University.

## SELECTED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

**April 2019 | Title TBC | *Estranged students in post-compulsory education: a sense of strangeness in widening participation* | University of Strathclyde**

Invited to present my dissertation research findings at an event funded by British Sociological Association

**November 2018 | 'Research: the experiences of estranged students in higher education' | *Stand Alone Conference* | Kings College London | Co-presented with Dr Rachel Spacey**

A comparison of our research on the topic of estranged students' experiences of higher education to HE stakeholders such as widening participation teams. Chaired a Q&A with the Estranged Students Panel

**July 2018 | 'Exploring the experiences of estranged students in UK higher education' | *Stand Alone Conference* | University of Glasgow**

Shared the key findings of my undergraduate dissertation to HE stakeholders in Scotland. Shared my personal experiences afterwards as a member of the Estranged Students Panel

**July 2018 | 'Exploring the experiences of estranged students in higher education: a longitudinal comparative case study of two UK universities' | *Imagining Better Education* | Durham University**

Discussed my PhD research proposal to postgraduate students and academics in social sciences departments at Durham University, received feedback to better inform my future work

## SELECTED MEDIA WORK

### January 2019 | 'Durham University pledges to support estranged students' | *Northern Echo*

Provided comment on Durham's signing of the Stand Alone Pledge

### July 2018 | 'The homeless students' | *Inside Housing Magazine*

Shared my experiences of accommodation difficulties as an estranged student

### December 2017 | Television interview | *Victoria Derbyshire* (BBC)

Talked about the impact of estrangement over the Christmas period

## EXPERIENCE SUPPORTING ESTRANGED STUDENTS

### November 2018 – present | Founder and President of Durham Estranged Students

- Formed the network to raise awareness of family estrangement across Durham, lobby Durham University to improve support for estranged students, and provide a peer-support network

### November 2018 | Ran the Estranged Students' Solidarity Campaign in Durham

- Designed and ran the campaign's events and marketing including an 'Estrangement 101' discussion session
- Ran a stall every day in the Students' Union to raise awareness of estrangement and encourage signatures on our 'Pledge Wall', receiving 142 names by the end of the week
- Co-ordinated a small team of volunteers to organise refreshments for the events and stall supervision

### July 2017 | Estranged Students' Solidarity Campaign with Stand Alone and NUS LGBT+

- Presented to Students' Union officers about my experiences as an estranged student and how to support estranged students at NUS Conference in Birmingham, including writing for an information booklet for Students Unions

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

### January 2019 – Present | Durham Student Representative | NINEDTP

Representing all funded Durham students on Academic Quality Committee, ensuring that postgraduate research students' training needs are met

### December 2018 – Present | Student Rep | Equality & Diversity Committee, School of Education

Ensuring the University's Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion policies are met in department, including overseeing the application to the Athena Bronze award for gender equality

### November 2018 – Present | Open Position (Postgraduate) | Assembly, Durham Students' Union

Vote in the Students' Union's highest governing body, elected on a platform of prioritising improvements to mental health, accessibility, affordability, and student opportunities

### June 2018 – August 2018 | Welfare Officer | Shellshock! Improvised Comedy, Edinburgh Fringe

Assisted the Producer with organisation pre-run, responsible for room allocations, in addition to ensuring and protecting the welfare of the show's cast and crew during the run

### October 2017 – Present | Category Rep, Secretary | Societies Committee, Durham Students' Union

Representing the interests of 46 Hobbies & Games societies, working to improve their experiences with the Union and its policies. Challenging SU staff when the interests of students are not at heart, organising and minuting all meetings for the committee

### November 2016 – Present | Course Representative | School of Education

Improving student experiences at a course level by representing course-mates and their issues

### November 2016 – Present | Senior Games Demonstrator | Asmodee UK

Engaging with the public to demonstrate board games in stores/events nationally, in addition to coordinating co-workers and training new hires

### March 2016 – Present | President | Trevelyan College Games Society

Run weekly events with 20+ students attending, and chair an executive committee of 7 people