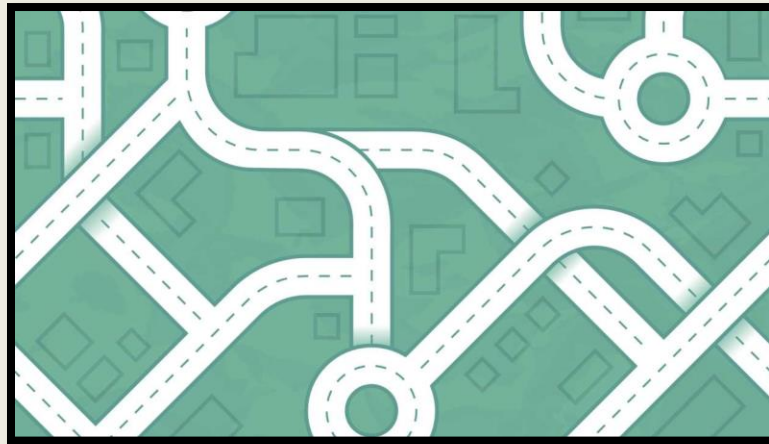


# Creating cultures of belonging: Journeys into, and through, HE



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# 'Belonging': Previous and current research

Widening Participation; Sociology of Education; educational inequalities in HE

- **PhD:** Socioeconomically underrepresented FE students' HE choices and decision-making
- **Postdoc:** BTEC holder's academic experiences in Russell Group institutions
- **Current:** Estranged, care experienced and care leaver students' experiences of HE

**'belonging' is regarded as dissimilar to feelings of 'fit' and refers to a deeper connection to, and familiarity with, a community and environment'**

**[\(Baker 2019, p. 3\)](#)**

# The 'creation' of belonging

- **PhD:** 'Belonging' was created by involvement in ongoing outreach and WP initiatives prior to entry
- **Postdoc:** Culture of valuing diversity and WP led to inclusive learning and teaching practices; valuing of varied forms of knowledge; parity demonstrated in interactions with peers/staff
- **Current:** ...(Report will be released in October!)

# Points to consider...

- Belonging is created and fostered by the actions of others who collectively contribute to the make up of an institution's environment and culture
- Issues of *not* belonging should not be the sole responsibility of the student...
- This does not occur in a vacuum.