



UNDERSTANDING THE STUDY TO WORK TRANSITION EXPERIENCE OF AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES FROM DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS: A SCOPING STUDY

Gayl Purchase, Office of Widening Participation g.purchase@westernsydney.edu.au | Kelly Whitney, Careers k.whitney@westernsydney.edu.au

RESEARCH QUESTION

? What is known about the study to work transition experience of Australian university graduates from disadvantaged / low socioeconomic backgrounds?

METHODOLOGY: A SCOPING REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Arksey and O'Malley's (2005) Methodological Framework

Differs from a systematic review in that a scoping study **does not seek to appraise the quality** of the research or provide a synthesis of the literature, rather, a scoping study **provides a descriptive or narrative account of the range** and nature of research in a particular field (p.27)

Stages of the scoping study framework:

- **Stage 1** - Identifying the research question
- **Stage 2** - Identifying relevant studies
- **Stage 3** - Study selection
- **Stage 4** - Charting the data
- **Stage 5** - Collating, summarising and reporting the results

IDENTIFYING RELEVANT STUDIES

CONTEXT AND REVIEW PERIOD

Researchers are interested in the **Australian context** in this scoping study. The review period **(1989-2017)** reflects key Australian policy initiatives aimed at increasing access to Higher Education among traditionally disadvantaged groups.

DATABASE SELECTION

6 scholarly databases were included in the study: EBSCO, Worldcat, ProQuest Central, Informit, Taylor & Francis and Scopus.

KEY WORDS / SEARCH TERMS

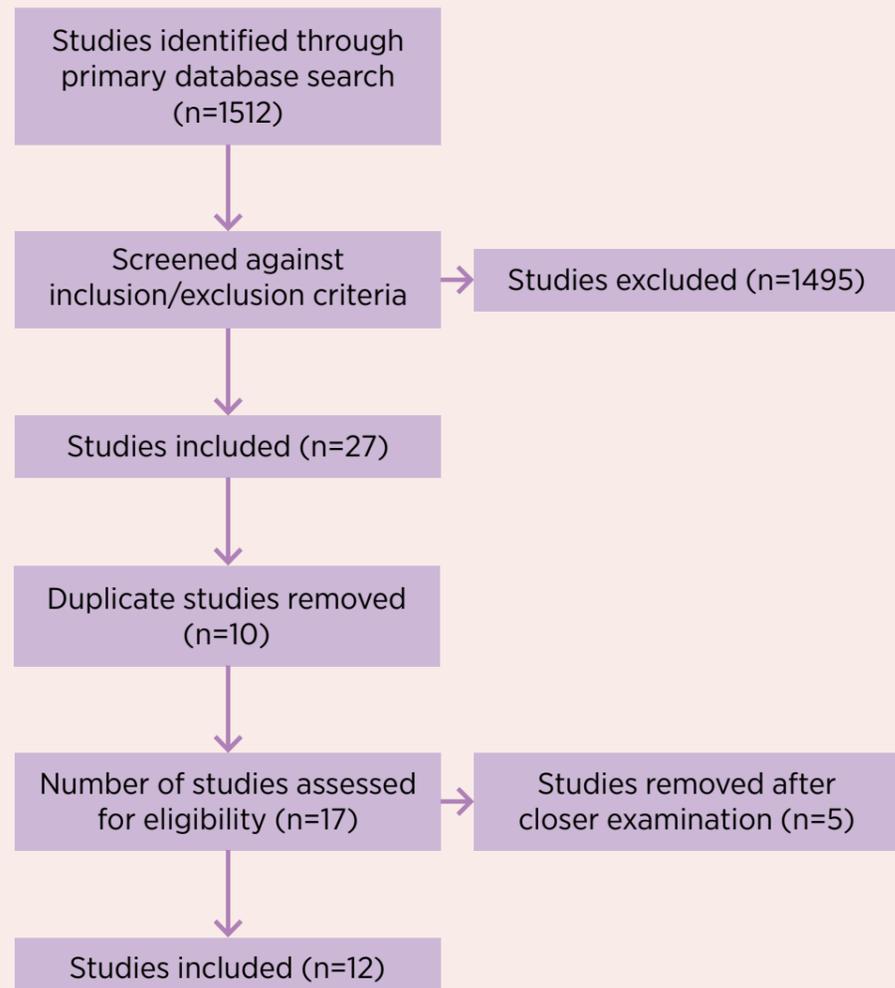
A list of key words/phases were developed and configured in various groupings: ("**university graduate**" OR "**graduate employability**" OR "**workplace transition**" OR "**workplace integration**" OR "**university to work**") AND "**background**" AND ("**social class**" OR "**disadvantaged**" OR "**barriers**" OR "**social status**" OR "**working class**" OR "**struggling**")

SCREENING PROCESS

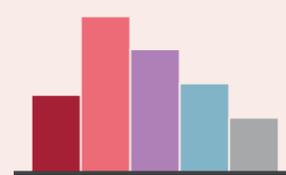
(ESTABLISHING INCLUSION / EXCLUSION CRITERIA):

Criteria	Inclusion	Exclusion
Language	English	Non-English
Country	Australian studies	Non-Australian studies
Refers to key search terms in title/abstract	Majority present	Less than majority present
Date	1989-2017	Prior 1989

STUDY SELECTION



CHARTING THE DATA



- Study design (aim, methodology, method)
- Type of intervention
- Study population/sample
- Important results

COLLATING, SUMMARISING AND REPORTING THE RESULTS

EMERGING THEMES

- Dominant type, nature and origin of research regarding transition
- Difficulties in defining disadvantage/low SES
- Patterns of disadvantage continue beyond University
- Existing graduate outcome measures do not necessarily reflect the complexities of transition
- Need to better understand transition barriers and enablers
- Need for Higher Education equity policy shift beyond access and participation

