

GUEST LECTURE IN AUSTRALIAN STUDIES



SARAH ARTHUR

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

DIGITAL LITERACY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Sarah Arthur focuses on the most recent major form of literacy - digital literacy - and investigates how it has evolved from traditional literacy as a concept over the past three decades. In doing so she explores changing understandings of literacy as digital technologies have extended their impact at the same time as becoming much more widely accessible over this short period of time. Originating in the nineteenth century out of millennia of oral communication, the term literacy is a relatively recent concept but is well understood. As a result, the goal of universal literacy is also broadly understood and widely agreed to be beneficial. Digital literacy, however, is still such a new concept which appeared quickly after the beginnings of the Internet, that theories, practices, and policies have struggled to adapt, and at the same time technologies have kept on changing.

Sarah Arthur is a PhD candidate in the Research School of Humanities and the Arts at the Australian National University. She is also an experienced primary school teacher who has worked across various sectors of school education in Australia over the last two decades. Her PhD is investigating digital literacy in the context of the broader history of literacy and orality, asking which skills and understandings are needed for learning, communication, and social participation in the contemporary digital age.

THURSDAY, 9 JANUARY 2020

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

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