

## **Seminar: Critical Transdisciplinary Multiliteracies**

---

**Speaker: Dr Christopher Walsh**  
*School of Education*  
*Deakin University, Australia*



### **Abstract**

Although multiliteracies have been well theorised in recent years, few studies have researched the practical aspects of developing a curriculum of multiliteracies. This presentation offers an alternative way of looking at the failure and dismissal of interdisciplinary curricula in schools and proposes a shift to transdisciplinarity; a model based on alternative ideas of disciplinary knowledge, subject area literacies, and student subjectivities. This presentation examines multiliteracies as a transdisciplinary curriculum practice, drawing on data from a 3-year study in an urban middle school with first and second generation Chinese immigrants. The data show possibilities for students to engage in critique and to move toward designing multimodal texts. Using Bourdieusian concepts of social capital and academic field, struggles around learning to inhabit certain school discourses are explored.

**Dr Christopher Walsh** has recognised expertise in the areas of transdisciplinary multiliteracies; curricula design; multimodal design/teaching and learning; and queer theory. Before working at Deakin University, he worked for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Afghanistan on reconstruction, teacher training and ESL textbook authoring. Previously, he also taught TESOL in New York City's Chinatown and his current research, funded by the Australian Research Council, examines youth's literacy practices in the 21st Century and learning from computer games (with Beavis, et al.). His recent publications draw on a social practice of literacy by taking into account the multimodality of students' out-of-school literacy practices.

*The HKU Constituent Theme – Languages, Media and Communication: Language in Education and Assessment is co-hosted by the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Education in collaboration with the English Centre, HKU (<http://www.hku.hk/clear>).*

---

**7 November 2007 (Wednesday), 4-5:30 pm**  
**LG02, Hui Oi Chow Science Building, The University of Hong Kong**  
**Chair: Dr Matthew Clarke, Faculty of Education, HKU**

**All are welcome.**

**Enquiries: 2859 2395/ [scarletws@hku.hk](mailto:scarletws@hku.hk)**