



Call for Papers

Cultural Studies and the New Uses of Literacy

Fri 12pm – Sat 12pm, April 4-5, 2014

Never Stand Still

Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences

Journalism & Media Research Centre

This symposium emerges from ongoing debates, local and international, about the different approaches to ‘literacy’ in contemporary Cultural Studies. According to Stuart Hall, “there would have been no Cultural Studies” were it not for Richard Hoggart’s *The Uses of Literacy: Aspects of Working Class Life*. The importance of literacies emerges in Graeme Turner’s concern that the research projects of many students (and many academics, we would add) “are too often reduced to their topic rather than situated within the broadest possible relation to a body of ideas, concepts and approaches”. And David Buckingham warns that the

proliferation of literacies may be fashionable, but it raises some significant questions. Popular discussions of “economic literacy,” “emotional literacy,” and even “spiritual literacy” seem to extend the application of the term to the point where any analogy to its original meaning (that is, in relation to written language) has been lost.

Ongoing debate on the usefulness of Hoggart’s work suggests that *The Uses of Literacy* is an appropriate starting point from which to explore how academic research and teaching practices engage with cultural literacies. So, in thinking through ‘the uses of literacy’ we return to Hoggart’s text to (re)consider current scholarship, particularly that of scholars working in the intersecting fields of Cultural Studies, Literacy Learning, Media Studies, Communication Studies, Screen Studies and the Creative Industries.

Presenters are encouraged to address connections between ‘cultural literacies’ and Cultural Studies within contemporary research and teaching. Suggested themes for papers include but are not exclusive to:

- Literacies of cinema, video, animation, or screen cultures
- Digital literacy
- Games literacies
- Mobile phone and social media literacies
- Literacies of sex and mediated sexual cultures
- Religious literacies
- Emotional literacies
- Indigeneity literacies
- Literacies of pedagogy and learning
- Audio and visual literacies

Virtual & actual participation: We welcome virtual and actual participation of colleagues from international, rural and regional locales. Academics from regional, non-eastern seaboard Australian campuses are strongly encouraged to attend, and where possible will be prioritised as presenters in an effort to broaden and diversify this dialogue. Keynote speakers and international guests include:

- **Emeritus Professor Bill Green** (Charles Sturt University), who wishes to engage with issues relating to Cultural Studies, literacy learning and the English curriculum;
- **Professor Lelia Green** (Edith Cowan University), whose relevant literacy relates to children's and young people's internet risk;
- **Professor Yoshikazu Shiobara** (Keio University), whose interdisciplinary research is in media literacy and citizenship in multicultural society;
- **Associate Professor Hirotohi Yaginuma** (Niigata University), whose current research project involves a Cultural Studies approach to visual literacy.

Publication: A selection of papers will be published in a special issue of the transnational, online, peer-reviewed journal *Fusion* (<http://www.fusion-journal.com>).

Registration: The symposium will be spread over two consecutive half days (April 4-5). Registration fee is \$100/\$75 for both/one half days for established academics and \$50/\$40 for postgraduates and early career researchers. Postgrads and ECRs from regional or rural universities are invited to apply for one of six \$75 scholarships (plus free Symposium dinner) to reduce attendance costs.

Abstract submission: Abstracts not exceeding 500 words will be accepted until 20 January 2014 and should be emailed to paul.byron@unsw.edu.au. Please contact Paul if you have any questions.

This Intermezzo Symposium is an initiative of the Cultural Studies Association of Australasia. It aims to foster collegiality amongst Cultural Studies scholars in the region and provide the opportunity for new ideas, developments and emerging projects to be discussed in a supportive environment.