Parents, Young Children and Digital Media *Symposium*

20th February
9:20am-3:30pm
Bldg 10.131, ECU Mt Lawley

Time	Activity
9:00am-9:30am	Arrival and Refreshments
9:30am - 9:40am M/C Catherine	Acknowledgement of Country by Olivia Slater + Welcome
9:40am-10:00am M/C Lennie	Opening address by Distinguished Professor Susan Danby
10:00am-11:00am M/C Karen	**Digital Media and the Home** "Switch that off!"; the influence of digital parenting and mediation practices on young children's engagement with digital technologies in the home" *Sinead Wilson (Curtin)* First time-parents: Navigating Digital Plans *Lelia Green (ECU) & Katrin Langton (Deakin)* How Generative AI 'Imagines' Families, Parents and Children *Tama Leaver & Suzanne Srdarov (Curtin)* Sharing kids' data online – the privacy paradox and suggestions for safety *Catherine Archer (ECU)* Followed by Q&A
11:00am-11:15am	Tea Break

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Time	Activity
11:15am-12:15pm M/C Giselle	**ECR super panel & open discussion on 'Screentime woes'** *Kate Mannell (Deakin)* *Stephanie Milford (ECU)* *Katrin Langton (Deakin)* *Sumudu Mallawaarachchi (UOW)*
12:15pm - 12:45pm	Lunch
12:45pm-1:15pm M/C Lisa	**Keynote Address: Fiona Scott (UK)**
1:15pm-1:45pm M/C Tama	**Connecting and Playing with Technology** Children's agency within digital play and learning: Exploring the impact of shared play experiences on parent-child negotiations *Karen Murcia, Emma Cross & Sarsha Mennell (Curtin)* The Digital Puppet Lab: Investigating children's expressions of digital identity, creativity and agency. *Harrison W. See (ECU)* Followed by a Q&A
1:45pm-2:00pm	Tea Break

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Time	Activity
2:00pm-2:45pm M/C Lelia	**Tech and the demystifying of complexity in family settings** The construction of digital identities among children living type 1 diabetes *Lisa Whitehead (ECU)* A transmedia event at Scitech: Connecting children and parents in STEM experiences *Simon Daniele (Curtin)* Digital Technology Use in Bluey. *Suzanne Srdarov & Tama Leaver (Curtin)*
2:45pm-3:00pm M/C Karen	Closing address by Professor Lelia Green
3:00pm onwards	Networking and Refreshments

Speakers

Keynote:

Dr Fiona Scott (University of Sheffield, UK)
Fiona is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Literacies in The School of Education at The University of Sheffield and an internationally-recognised researcher of children's digital lives, literacies and play. She focuses particularly on the digital experiences of younger children and on diverse family and community contexts, globally. She frequently collaborates with external partners (e.g. The LEGO Foundation, XR Games and CBeebies). She is an Editor of the Journal of Early Childhood Literacy, a member of the Editorial Board for Reading Research Quarterly and a member of the Academic Advisory Board for the Children's Media Foundation. She shares expertise through invited media and appearances and writing for the general public (BBC News Channel, BBC Radio 5 Live, The Conversation). Her most recent research, with UNICEF and the LEGO Group, investigated children's digital play and well-being in the UK, South Africa, Australia and Cyprus. She is currently working to build these insights into digital design processes and support for families.

Acknowledgement of Country
Olivia Slater (ECU)
Olivia Slater is a Whadjuk Nyoongar and Badimia Yamatji woman from Western Australia. As a 2016 Charlie Perkins Scholar, Olivia graduated with a MPhil in Social Anthropology from St Edmund's College, Cambridge and is close to completing their PhD in education at Cambridge working with theatre company Yirra Yaakin. Olivia has made history as the first Indigenous Australian woman to undertake a PhD at Cambridge University and has also participated as a BSO and contributing member of the Digital Child. Olivia's research is located in the overlap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges, performance pedagogies and Australian education systems.

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Speakers (in order of appearance):

Distinguished Professor Susan Danby
Distinguished Professor Susan Danby is recognised internationally as one of Australia's leading experts in early years language and social interaction, childhood studies, and young children's engagement with digital technologies. As Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child, Susan leads a collective of national and international researchers and partners across government, business and the community to work towards the Centre's vision – ensuring young children are healthy, connected and educated in a rapidly changing digital age.

Dr Sinead Wilson (Curtin)
Sinead Wilson is a Research Fellow at Curtin University. Sinead has recently completed her PhD investigating the digital technologies young children are engaging with, and how parents and educators can best manage children's active learning with these technologies while staying safe online. She also seeks to understand if a correlation exists between technology use in early years centres and technology use in the family home. Sinead's aim is to use the knowledge gained through her PhD research and apply it to a broader national context, addressing some of the gaps that are evident, especially through interviews with early years centre directors. Her vision is for each and every Australian child to have a balanced and safe access to online accessible digital devices in both their home and education contexts.
 Sinead also coordinates the Children's Technology Cove. Curtin University's CTC is an interactive space in the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child, located on the Bentley campus, Perth, Western Australia.

Professor Lelia Green (ECU)
Lelia Green (she/her) is Professor of Communications in the School of Arts and Applied Sciences and has had a long career of researching children's and young people's digital lives. Lelia Green's research interests concentrate on children's digital lives from birth to adulthood, particularly marginalised and disadvantaged children and teenagers. Lelia leads the node of Edith Cowan University researchers drawn from every stage of a research career and across health, education and connectedness. She has been Chief Investigator on 15 nationally competitive grants, and she has consulted for UNESCO Asia-Pacific. She serves on the Editorial Board of one of the leading publications in the field, the Journal of Children and Media. Lelia hopes that children of the future will live happy, healthy, hopeful lives of connection and engagement, with digital media playing its part in making that all possible.

Dr Katrin Langton (Deakin)
Dr Katrin Langton is a Research Fellow at Deakin University, through the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child. Her research explores everyday technology use in the transition to parenthood, and in early parenting, including how the design and use of digital tools for this purpose shapes parents' experiences, performances, and practices of parenting in the context of family life. Katrin is a media and communications scholar with a health sciences background, and is therefore particularly interested in exploring opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration that makes social sciences research relevant to other disciplines.

Professor Tama Leaver (Curtin)
Tama Leaver (PhD) is a Professor of Internet Studies at Curtin University, a Chief Investigator in the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child, and the Immediate Past President of the Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR). His current research focuses on children's data, datafication and impact of Generative AI tools. Tama's online presence is www.tamaleaver.net.

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Dr Suzanne Srdarov (Curtin)
Suzanne Srdarov (PhD) teaches in media and digital cultures, and has a particular interest in media cultures and their intersections with gender. She is a research fellow in the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child.

Dr Catherine Archer (ECU)
Dr Catherine Archer is a researcher and senior lecturer specialising in social media and communication at Edith Cowan University. Her current research interests include social media, particularly related to families and health, with a complementary focus on social media influencer relations and ethics, and the blurring of lines between media, marketing, public relations and communication. Prior to joining academia, Catherine worked for more than 15 years in industry, working in marketing, public relations, communication, journalism, and consulting. Catherine is an Associate Investigator with the Australian Research Council's Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child.

Dr Sumudu Mallawaarachchi (UOW)
Sumudu is an Early Career Researcher and Research Fellow within the University of Wollongong node of ARC Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child. With a PhD focused on the intersection of developmental psychology and computer-child interaction, her research explores digital childhoods from a child developmental perspective. She currently co-leads a program of research on digital self-regulation exploring links between children's digital engagement, their self-regulation and the digital environment design. Sumudu is passionate about supporting young children and their families navigate the rapidly evolving digital world and has engaged locally and internationally, through print media, radio and television, contributing to debates around digital childhoods.

Dr Kate Mannell (Deakin)
Kate Mannell is a Research Fellow at Deakin University in the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child. Her research focuses on the role of digital technologies in the lives of families and young people. Her current projects focus on contemporary parenting culture, the discourse around children's screen time, and the experiences of Indigenous families in Logan, Brisbane. Kate's research has been covered by media outlets including The Atlantic, The Guardian, the ABC, and The Conversation.

Stephanie Milford (ECU)
Stephanie Milford is a registered psychologist, educator, and researcher specialising in child development and digital parenting. She recently completed her PhD, exploring parental self-efficacy, societal pressures, and the challenges of mediating children's digital device use.
Stephanie is a Research Assistant with the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child, contributing to the Edith Cowan University (Connected Child) and Curtin University (Educated Child) nodes. She has published and presented internationally on topics such as parental mediation strategies, digital media impacts, and developmental frameworks. She is passionate about empowering parents and professionals to navigate the complexities of raising children in a digital age.

Professor Karen Murcia (Curtin)
Professor Karen Murcia is a Chief Investigator with the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child. She is a specialist in STEM education research and children's competencies and citizenship in the digital era. Through her ongoing research in pedagogical interactivity and technology enhanced learning environments she has investigated the impact of digital technologies on children living and growing in the digital era. She is recognised internationally as an expert in creativity, problem-solving and young children's computational thinking. As a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD), Professor Murcia provides strategic leadership, previously in her 9-year term as a Director with Child Australia and also in her current roles as a Director of Scitech, Western Australia's preeminent science discovery centre. As a teacher, researcher and thought leader she inspires and guides STEM innovation in partnerships with industry and community groups, both nationally and internationally.

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Emma Cross (Curtin)
Emma Cross has been a practitioner researcher in the Young Children's Digital Play with Tangible Coding Devices project, working in a collaborative team to develop the A to E of Creativity: A Framework for Children's Creativity. As an Associate Investigator, Emma provides support across a range of initiatives within the Children's Creativity and Connectedness with Digital Technologies project. Emma is an early childhood specialist studying her PhD exploring quality leadership and positionality in the Australian early childhood sector. Emma has experience as a centre director for Australian early childhood service providers.Emma hopes her research in the Centre will highlight the ways that digital technologies can be used to foster and facilitate the development of creativity. Emma aims to support educators working in early years services to embed digital technologies into learning environments in meaningful ways based on emerging research. Her vision is to support young children to use digital technologies creatively for innovation, play, and connection through her work in the centre.

Sarsha Mennell (Curtin)
Sarsha Mennell joined the Educated Curtin Node's core projects: Young Children's Creativity and Digital Scitech as a practitioner research assistant in 2023. In 2022 Sarsha received a bursary from OMEP Australia (World Organisation for Early Childhood Education) for excellence in academic achievement and commitment to young children. 2022 – Volunteered at Curtin University Creative Cove , play and stay project. Sarsha has twenty years prior experience as an education assistant working with young children in schools. Sarsha role in the centre is to provide research assistance to Chief Investigator Prof Karen Murcia and participate in developing tools to support data collection and research activities. As a practitioner research assistant, she attends and facilitate digital play experiences with children, assist with teaching resource development and plan and facilitate children's digital learning experiences.

Dr Harrison W. See (ECU)
Harrison is Research Officer with the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child at Edith Cowan University, Western Australia. Harrison is a researcher specialising in arts research and child-centred design, recently, focussed on children's perceptions and experiences of digital content. Harrison's arts research focuses on cross-cultural dialogue, exchange and storytelling. In recent research, he engaged with artists of Southeast Asian heritage to explore themes of diaspora and cultural hybridity. Harrison is a New Colombo Plan Alumni and has been the co-recipient of numerous grants and awards, including Research Culture grants; Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries grants; and Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority Initiative grants.

Professor Lisa Whitehead (ECU)
Lisa's research experience over the past 30 years has centred on improving health outcomes for people living with chronic conditions, self-management interventions and working with families to support the management of chronic conditions. Engagement with clinicians and conducting research in real world settings underpin her research activities with the aim to implement enduring evidence based change in practice. The majority of Lisa's research and clinical practice has been in the primary health care setting and working with multidisciplinary teams.

Simon Daniel (Curtin)
Simon Daniele's research explores the application of transmedia in a Living Lab environment, specifically at Scitech, a Science Discovery Centre (SDC) in Western Australia. His work aims to understand how transmedia approaches can engage young children and foster their problem-solving skills in STEM fields. Through participatory co-design, Simon and the SDC have developed a hybrid digital and non-digital transmedia program. This innovative approach encourages children to explore science across multiple digital platforms, engage in digital and physical activities, and ultimately remix their learning to create and share. Simon's research, with its potential to establish best practices, guiding principles, and tools for implementing effective transmedia learning programs, is of significant importance. Other SDCs and informal learning spaces such as museums, galleries, and libraries can use these insights to enhance their capacity to design and implement engaging, meaningful transmedia experiences that provide positive learning outcomes for children.