

UCL Institute of Education Centre for Teachers
and Teaching Research (CTTR)



CTTR Research Seminar

Tuesday 5th February, 12:00-14:00
Room 675

Our Stories Our Way

***Youth identities –
wellbeing and school
engagement***

Presented by:

- **Dr. Marnee Shay**, University of Queensland
- **Assoc. Prof Grace Sarra**, Queensland Institute of Technology
- **Prof Annette Woods**, Queensland Institute of Technology

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This seminar will encourage discussion about the role of schools in identity affirming and formation for diverse young people. Identity as a field of study can be widely contested and is often conflated with various political and social ideologies that privilege dominant ways of knowing and marginalise minority groups. Identity can be viewed through multiple lenses including philosophical, anthropological, biological, sociological, psychological and relational; making it complex and challenging for schools to actively pursue a role in identity development of young people, particularly in a fast changing, technological and diasporic world.

We will share our work and findings from a national study in Australia on the identities, wellbeing and health of Indigenous young people in diverse secondary school settings. The study aimed to privilege the voices of young people as we worked to gain their perspectives on identity and how identities are implicated in their wellbeing. Using creative, youth centred and culturally affirming ways to explore these concepts with Indigenous young people, we were able to gain insights from young people about their visions for maintaining strong identities and their views on the impact of schools and schooling in supporting these