

Arts Education Semester 1, 2015 Colloquium Series presents:

Anne Harris (Monash University)  
Christine Sinclair (The University of Melbourne)

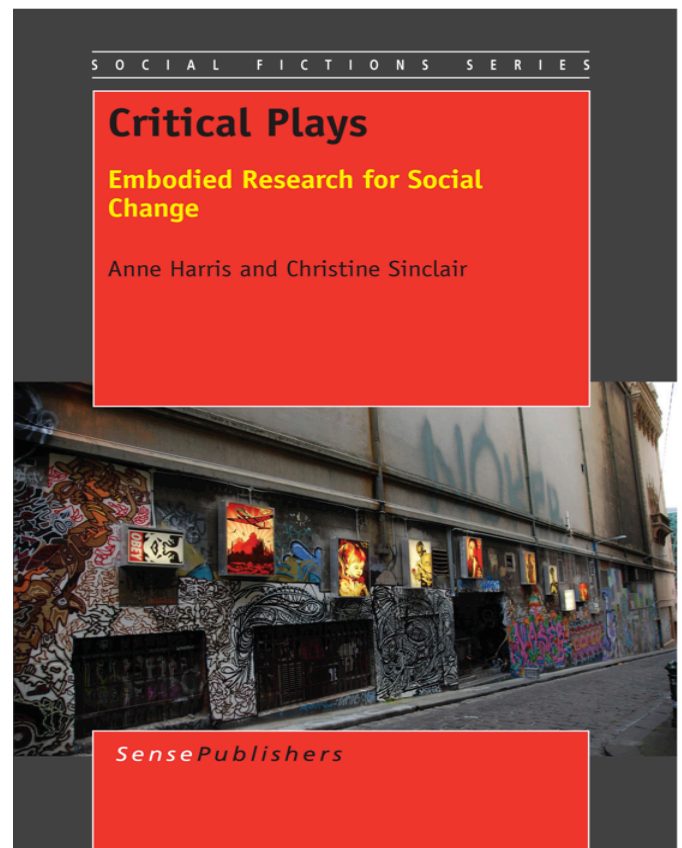
## Critical Plays: Performing Arts-Based Research Methods

Tuesday, April 28, 5.15 pm – 7 pm  
Q219, 234 Queensberry Street, Carlton

### Abstract

This colloquium introduces researchers, educators and research higher degree students to the new playscript/ research text *Critical Plays: Embodied Research for Social Change* (Social Fictions series, Sense Publishers, 2014) and proposes an exploration of the possibilities for an embodied pedagogy in and for the arts-based research class or tutorial. Through a performance of key scenes and dialogue with the ‘audience’, this presentation considers how, when and if performed fictional research might point toward ‘rethinking paradigms’ in productive, scholarly and artistic ways.

*Critical Plays* uses the ‘Open Culture’ of six fictional students and their two professors, imaginatively conceived from interviews, experience, observation and thematic analysis, and shaped into performance text in order to comment upon the ways in which both artistic and research paradigms are shifting and consequently opening culture. The characters who populate it are drawn from the authors’ lived experiences as researchers, teachers, and performance makers, drawn from the fields of health, performance studies, education and leadership studies to remind readers of the political, social and scholarly power of creative research approaches. While this play can be read or performed by the independent reader or scholar, the focus for this colloquium is on its potential use as a class text in courses that address qualitative research methods, arts-informed inquiry or research ethics, and the implications for an embodied approach to learning in the methods classroom. The presenters welcome the opportunity to share this work with those engaged with research methodologies, as lecturers or students.



**Anne Harris** is a Senior Lecturer in Education at Monash University (Melbourne, Australia), and researches at the intersection of cultural, sexual and gender diversities, including the ways in which creativity, the arts and digital media can be used for social and educational change. She is currently an Australian Research Council ‘Discovery Early Career Research Award’ (DECRA) Fellow 2014- 2016 researching the commodification of creativity.

**Christine Sinclair** is Head of drama education at the University of Melbourne. In addition to teaching in undergraduate and postgraduate programs in teacher education, drama and arts education, she is also a freelance community artist and has written extensively on reflective practitioner research and arts-based research methodologies and community theatre practice. She was co-convenor of Artistry, Performance and Scholarly Inquiry, a symposium on performed research, hosted by the MGSE in 2014.

### RSVP:

Please RSVP by Friday, April 24, 2015  
Gina Grant / grantg@unimelb.edu.au