

Invitational Research Colloquium

# The Promise and Peril of Emerging Technologies: Children, Youth and Society

PROGRAM AND WORKBOOK

MAY 1  
2014 1



The Alberta Teachers' Association



Norlien Foundation



## The Alberta Teachers' Association

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# WELCOME

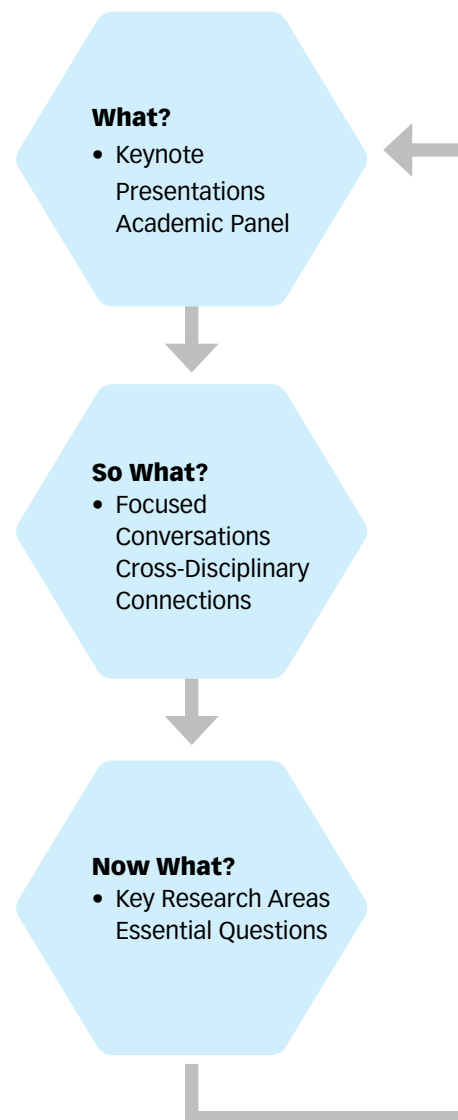
## Welcome to the Invitational Research Colloquium

Emerging technologies are paradoxical in that they hold both promise and peril for individuals, families and communities. At a time of rapid technological change, those who work with children, families, schools and communities need to understand the impact of online digital activities on offline health and mental well-being.

This colloquium has been structured to allow time for thoughtful conversations about the psychosocial and physiological impacts of technology on children and youth. By definition, a colloquium is an event that gives people from diverse specialties an opportunity to share their research interests. Individual reflection and facilitated focused conversations will help draw out the collective wisdom of participants.

The goals of the colloquium are as follows:

- To consider the extent to which technologies are (re)shaping the minds and bodies of children and youth
- To identify the issues, perspectives and contentions emerging from current Canadian and American research
- To generate key questions to guide policy decisions and future research on emerging technologies, learning, teaching and the well-being of children and youth



*Everyone has wisdom in this room.*

*We need all of this wisdom for the best results.*

*There are no wrong answers, only powerful questions.*

# PROGRAM

0730–0830	Registration and Continental Breakfast
0830–0840	Welcome and Greetings
0840–0900	Setting the Context
0900–1000	<i>Connectedness Amidst Connectivity: Learning, Relating and Creating in the Digital Age</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Michael Rich, Harvard University, Boston</li></ul>
1000–1045	Focused Conversations
1045–1100	Break
1100–1145	<i>Issues of Emerging Interest for Children, Youth and Society—Panel Discussion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Catherine Adams, associate professor and coordinator, University of Alberta</li><li>• Nicole Sherren, scientific director and program officer, Norlien Foundation</li><li>• Michele Jacobsen, associate professor and associate dean, University of Calgary</li><li>• Michael Rich, moderator</li></ul>
1145–1215	Moderated Question-and-Answer Session
1215–1300	Lunch
1300–1400	<i>Reality Bytes (Back): What Canadian Kids Think About Life Online</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Valerie Steeves, University of Ottawa</li></ul>
1400–1445	Focused Conversations
1445–1500	Break
1500–1530	Synthesis of Key Research Areas/Questions from Focused Conversations
1530–1545	Future Research Considerations: Emerging Patterns
1545–1600	Closing Remarks and Adjournment

# SPEAKERS



## Keynote Speaker

### **Michael Rich, MD, MPH**

*Associate professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and associate professor of society, human development and health at Harvard School of Public Health, Boston*

Michael came to medicine after a 12-year career as a filmmaker. His current areas of health research and clinical work combine his experience and expertise in medicine and media, making him the world's first "mediatrician." In this role, he uses scientific evidence about the positive and negative effects of media to advise children and those who care for them on how to use media in ways that optimize personal development.



## Keynote Speaker

### **Valerie Steeves, PhD**

*Associate professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ottawa*

Valerie is the lead researcher for MediaSmart's Young Canadians in a Wired World project, which has tracked young people's uses and perceptions of networked technologies since 1999. She is also the co-principal investigator of the eGirls Project, which explores girls' experiences on social media. She has also authored several award-winning educational games designed to teach children how to protect their human rights in cyberspace.



## Colloquium Chair

### **Philip McRae, PhD**

*Executive staff officer, Alberta Teachers' Association, and adjunct professor of education, University of Alberta*

Phil earned his PhD from the University of Alberta. His research, teaching and scholarship focus on two key areas: curriculum studies and the impact of emerging technologies on education and on society. He was the director of the Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISi) at the University of Alberta from 2005 to 2009, where he taught graduate courses in the master of education in educational studies program.

# SPEAKERS

## Academic Panellists (In Order of Appearance)



### **Catherine Adams, PhD**

*Associate professor, secondary education and program coordinator, MEd Technology in Education, University of Alberta*

Drawing on links between phenomenology, philosophy of technology, pedagogy and media scholarship, Cathy's research addresses digital media technology integration across K–12 and postsecondary education, as well as ethical and pedagogical issues involving digital media in schools. She is currently investigating children's and youth's experiences of learning in a massive open online course (MOOC).



### **Nicole Sherren, PhD**

*Scientific director and program officer, Norlien Foundation*

Nicole is the scientific director of the Norlien Foundation and a program officer with the Alberta Family Wellness Initiative. She has a PhD in Neuroscience from Carleton University in Ottawa and moved to Alberta in 2003 to hold an Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research/Neuroscience Canada research fellowship at the University of Lethbridge. Her research focus includes experience-based brain development, neurodevelopmental disorders and brain plasticity. Nicole joined the Norlien Foundation in 2007 to focus on mobilizing scientific knowledge into policy and clinical practice. She lends her expertise to a number of working committees and community projects across the province and also serves as a board member for Calgary Alpha House Society.



### **Michele Jacobsen, PhD**

*Associate professor and associate dean, University of Calgary*

Michele provides instructional leadership for the professional and research graduate programs in the Werklund School of Education. Michele's own research is on inquiry-based and technology-enabled learning experiences in blended and online K–12 and postsecondary learning environments. Her design-and case-based research involves (1) designing, using, managing and evaluating technological processes and systems to facilitate learning, (2) exploring the innovations in learning made possible by media and technology and (3) promoting the shift to participatory, knowledge-building learning collectives of intellectually engaged learners and teachers.

*A journal is a means of recognizing and having a relationship with our own minds.*

~ Christine Baldwin



## 0900–1000 **What?** Perspectives/Issues/Contentions



Michael Rich—*Connectedness Amidst Connectivity:  
Learning, Relating and Creating in the Digital Age*

## 1000– So What? Focused Conversations 1045



**Objective Question:** What information really caught your attention?

**Reflective Question:** What was the biggest surprise in what you heard?

**Interpretive Question:** How does this information challenge or affirm current practices and policies?

**Decisional Question:** What key research areas or essential questions require further exploration?

# WORKING JOURNAL

## 1100– What? Perspectives/Issues/Contentions 1145



*Catherine Adams*




*Nicole Sherren*



*Michele Jacobsen*

*Academic Panel  
Presentations*

1145– So What? Moderated Question/Answer  
1215



1300– **What?** Perspectives/Issues/Contentions  
1400



Valerie Steeves—*Reality Bytes (Back): What Canadian Kids Think About Life Online*

## 1400– So What? Focused Conversations 1445



**Objective Question:** What information really caught your attention?

**Reflective Question:** What was the biggest surprise in what you heard?

**Interpretive Question:** How does this information challenge or affirm current practices and policies?

**Decisional Question:** What key research areas or essential questions require further exploration?

## 1500–1530 **Now What?** Key Research Areas Essential Questions



Based on all of your work today, what key research areas or essential questions do you believe require further exploration?

Synthesis

# Notes



Personal Reflections



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