Adapted literacy environments for twenty-first century learners

“Learners now demand more customisation, voice, and practicality from learning arrangements, and can find it almost exclusively outside of formal, designed education” (Kalaitzidis, Litts, & Rosenfeld Halverson, 2017, p. 180). As digital technologies reshape literacy practices, how might educators effectively adapt their literacy environments to meet these learner demands?

Using the production-oriented approach, learners consume and create media that is both personally meaningful and innovative. Much of the media created is objects-to-think-with and objects-to-learn-with. By way of the production-oriented approach, learner needs of customisation, voice, and practicality are met. As students are encouraged to use their literacy and language skills for higher-order thinking, creative problem solving, and analytical reading and writing, the production-oriented approach helps students learn how to learn and engage in the productive struggle of a rigorous curriculum.

Participants will examine how sophisticated digital tools open avenues for learners to participate in both their consumption and their production of meaning and knowledge in the newly adapted literacy environment.