

Dr John Yandell

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The assumption that underpins much of the standards-based reforms in education is that learning is linear and easily measurable, that it happens inside the heads of individual learners and that knowledge is a commodity to be transmitted from teacher to learner.

All of these assumptions are questionable, to say the least – and one way of opening up a serious debate about learning is by looking closely at what happens in classrooms. What might be involved in such a project? What theoretical understandings might be implicated in interpreting the work that is accomplished in classrooms? And how might such perspectives complicate the formation of teachers in an era of standards-based reforms?

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To open up these questions, John will present video footage of part of an English lesson in an inner London secondary school, where students are working on Shakespeare's Richard III. He will also talk about the effect of sharing this footage with student teachers as part of their introduction to classroom observation.

John Yandell is the editor of the journal *Changing English: Studies in Culture and Education.* He taught in inner London secondary schools for twenty years before moving to the Institute of Education, University of London, where for the past nine years he has led the Secondary English and English with Drama PGCE course.

He also teaches on a range of Master's programmes and is the joint leader of the MA in English Education.

Recent publications include *Critical Practice in Teacher Education: a study of professional learning*, which he coedited with Ruth Heilbronn, as well as papers in *British Educational Research Journal, Visual Communication, Changing English, Cambridge Journal of Education, Literacy* and *English Teaching: Practice and Critique.* He edited *Socialist Teacher* for twelve years and contributes regularly to *Education for Liberation*.

Friday 22 February 2013 10.00am-2.00pm Deakin Prime Level 3, 550 Bourke Street Melbourne

