

Special ALA Webinar: Adult Education and Creative Pedagogies - Thursday 26 March 2026 - Panellist profiles



Catherine Arden is an Honorary Senior Lecturer in Adult and Vocational Education in the School of Education at the University of Southern Queensland, Australia. Catherine's research focuses on investigating the qualitative dimensions and impacts of adults' lifelong and life-wide learning in regional, sociotechnical and cross-cultural communities.



Liesel Arden is an award-winning artist and facilitator whose work explores creativity as a tool for agency, reflection, and engagement in adult learning. Through installations, participatory experiences, and research, she investigates how creative practice and collective online education can help individuals navigate complexity and reconnect with meaningful action.



Dr Anne Southall is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Education at La Trobe University. Her research focuses on trauma-informed and inclusive education, exploring how reflective practice, relationships, and creative approaches support teacher learning and student belonging.



George Williams is a drama therapist, Singing Mamas facilitator, and PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne. George's current research focuses on cross-cultural considerations for perinatal singing



Carol McDonough, from central Victoria, Australia, is grateful for people and their pets, for connections ranging from local to global via Zoom. Living solo with the quirks, challenges, and joys of her aging years, she finds delight in gazing at natural beauty, taking restorative naps, and welcoming her creativity into each day.



Samantha Bews is a theatre artist and writer; and is currently a candidate for a Master's in Creative Writing at RMIT, where she is investigating how neurodiversity and affect theories can reframe our perceptions of the person living with dementia.



Ashwathi Muraleedharan is a disability-inclusive educator and researcher with over 13 years of experience in designing inclusive, learner-centred education programs. Her work explores creative and arts-based pedagogies, including the student-led theatre initiative *Arangu*, featured in her recent article in the *Australian Journal of Adult Learning*.



Shane McDonald is a Social Worker and Adjunct Lecturer at Griffith University with interests in Field Education teaching and research and has a current focus on working with international students. Research areas include critical reflective practice and evaluation methodologies.