

August 2015 – Australian Tour of Professor Julian Elliott

Professor Julian (Joe) Elliot, Principal of Collingwood College in the School of Education and Professor of Educational Psychology at Durham University in the UK, is joint author with Elena Grigorenko, of *The Dyslexia Debate*, 2014. His research and teaching interests include dyslexia, achievement motivation, working memory difficulties, SEN, behaviour management, cognitive education, psychological assessment, and is involved in ongoing collaborations with partners in Europe, the United States, Asia and Australia.

Professor Elliot visited Australia in August on his way to New Zealand to present a Keynote address at the NZ Psychology Society's Annual Conference. While in Australia he presented a series of Seminars and lectures focusing on the issues raised in *The Dyslexia Debate*. The purpose of the presentations in Australia was to clarify the key arguments in this debate, and to consider the relevance of this debate to the way in which students with reading difficulties are identified and supported in the Australian context.

The Presentations

Presentation slides and audio of the full day event hosted by the Centre for Cognitive Development at Macquarie University, including commentary from other speakers and Professor Elliott's response to them, can be viewed via the following links:

- Julian Elliott: Overview of Book: <https://content.echo.mq.edu.au:8443/ess/echo/presentation/7e236dfd-ad11-47ac-8b9e-fbc273a0d510>
- Commentary: Mandy Nayton and Jennifer Buckingham: <https://content.echo.mq.edu.au:8443/ess/echo/presentation/ecc8f08b-1695-4817-80df-f9823ab5d2eb>
- Commentary: Tom Nicholson and Anne Castles: <https://content.echo.mq.edu.au:8443/ess/echo/presentation/2c93dcb9-21ff-431d-9747-246476f0d4c1>
- Julian Elliott: Responses to commentary: <https://content.echo.mq.edu.au:8443/ess/echo/presentation/c9324e9b-4e15-4668-9a72-7be806de05a9>

[Click here](#) for Tom Nicholson's Macquarie University CCD presentation slides.

Joe Elliott's live streamed presentation from the Sydney University, LDA, and SPELD NSW partnered seminar can be viewed and heard via Adobe Connect, at:

<http://webconf.ucc.usyd.edu.au/p4fif84qn2a/> Please be patient while this file uploads.

[Click here](#) for Joe Elliott's Sydney seminar presentation slides.

[Click here](#) for Associate Professor Tim Hannon's presentation slides for the Dyslexia Debate Melbourne Symposium.

[Click here](#) to read Comment by Sir Jim Rose following Dr Julian Elliott's presentations, posted to the Developmental Disorders of Language and Literacy email network (DDOLL) Network.

Click <http://pamelasnow.blogspot.com.au/> to read comment by Professor Pamela Snow, following Dr Julian Elliott's LDA presentation in Melbourne.

The Dyslexia Debate book

The Dyslexia Debate

Authors: Julian G. Elliott and Elena L. Grigorenko

Cambridge University Press 2014

Preface: In every country and language, a significant proportion of children struggle to master the skill of reading, who can encounter decoding difficulties throughout their childhood, and whose problems, although not necessarily with decoding per se, persist into adulthood. As these individuals struggle to cope with the changing demands of school and wider life, the hardship and difficulties that typically result are often incapacitating, undermining, and distressing. Given such a scenario, it is understandable that there is often a strong desire on the part of these individuals, their families, and their teachers for some form of clinical diagnosis that can help explain the reasons underpinning these problems and that can indicate, and secure, effective forms of intervention.

The Dyslexia Debate can be purchased at [Cambridge Books Online](#) (in both print and electronic versions).

Articles

For an overview of the arguments and the debate about the use of the term dyslexia, see the following Bulletin articles published by LDA

Julian Elliott – The Dyslexia Debate: [More heat than Light?](#)

Learning Difficulties Australia

Bulletin vol. 46 May 2014

Julian Elliott – The dyslexia Debate: [Some Key Myths](#)

Learning Difficulties Australia

Bulletin vol. 46 May 2014

Should we dispense with the D word?– [Kevin Wheldall, Anne Castles and Mandy Nayton,](#)

Learning Difficulties Australia

Bulletin vol. 46 May 2014

The Dyslexia Debate - [Alison Clarke](#)

Learning Difficulties Australia

Bulletin vol. 46 May 2014

Does Dyslexia Exist?

Authors: Julian G. Elliott and Simon Gibbs

Journal of Philosophy of Education Vol. 42, No. 3-4, 2008

Journal of the Philosophy of Education Society of Great Britain

“The authors argue that attempts to distinguish between categories of dyslexia, and Poor reader, or Reading disabled, are scientifically unsupported, arbitrary and thus potentially discriminatory. While stressing the potential of genetics and neuroscience for guiding assessment and educational practice, we contend there is a mistaken belief that current knowledge in these fields is sufficient to justify a category of dyslexia as a subset of those who encounter reading difficulties. The implications of this debate for large-scale intervention are outlined.”

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-9752.2008.00653.x/abstract>

Learning disorders in children: Recent advances in practice and research

Australian Psychological Society

InPsych December 2013

Associate Professor Tim Hannon FAPS, School of Psychology, Charles Sturt University

“Over the past decade, we have witnessed significant advances in the definition and classification of learning disorders, in our understanding of the cognitive, neurobiological and genetic features, and in best practice in assessment and intervention. We now have a broad theoretical framework which integrates research findings in cognition, neurodevelopment, genetics, test development and educational methods. ... This article aims to provide an overview of contemporary thinking in the field

of learning disorders, identifying some shortfalls in popular approaches and focusing on developments in diagnosis and classification, theory, assessment and interventions.”

<http://www.psychology.org.au/inpsych/2013/december/hannan/>

NOTE: For a further collection of articles about LD and dyslexia see the Information section of the LDA website at: <https://www.ldaustralia.org/disabilities-and-dyslexia.html> , including a new article by Sir Jim Rose titled **“Why children fail to read”** published 1.6.2015.