

CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY

# PROFESSORIAL LECTURE SERIES

## **Living and working in conservative times: Is there a role for academic activism?**

**Professor Sue Shore**

Professor in Education, International Graduate Centre for Education  
Charles Darwin University

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Tuesday 22 September 2015

Nitmiluk Lounge, Level 4, Parliament House, Darwin

**RSVP:** Friday 18 September 2015 E: [cduevents@cdu.edu.au](mailto:cduevents@cdu.edu.au) T: 08 8946 6554

### **Lecture abstract**

The issues discussed in this lecture draw on my years of engagement with learners, workers and communities across vocational, community and higher education. Much of this work has investigated responses to educational disadvantage at the same time as I have challenged the judgmental labels assigned to poor and marginalised learners. A claim that one is working for 'social justice' must work with these entanglements. The recent focus on growth and prosperity through regional development in Northern Australia provides some context for this view. School systems often guide our understanding of learning, yet a substantial amount of learning occurs between adults, in workplaces, between professional agencies, in communities and on the streets. Moreover, learning is central to regional development but the compulsion of metropolitan centres to assert ownership over defining regional problems and how they should be solved, is rarely examined. Academics working in these spaces are often asked to engage in evidence-based research to resolve complex issues, yet that engagement involves working with increasingly conservative policy mandates and under-resourced community and industry groups. This public lecture follows my engagement with academic activism over the last 25 years as I track how this 'other work' rubs up against working life in a university.



**Professor Sue Shore** holds a position as Professor in Education at Charles Darwin University in the International Graduate Centre of Education. Since 1979 she has worked, taught and researched issues associated with vocational, post-compulsory and higher education. Her research program addresses the extent to which education reform agendas shape educational knowledge practices. In an era of increasing mobility for researchers as learners, Professor Shore's current work explores global/local learning networks and the knowledge practices these spaces make available as they also introduce new forms of surveillance of academic labour. She is completing a co-edited SUNY Press volume *Lives on the Periphery*, the chapters of which illustrate the everyday work associated with engaging and interrogating lifelong and lifewide learning in the 21st Century.

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