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WAIKATO TESOL

PRESENTS A WEBINAR ON

WHEN MACHINES SPEAK: MULTILITERACIES PEDAGOGY IN THE AGE OF GENERATIVE AI



Wednesday 2nd April 2025

Time: 4.30 pm - 5.30 pm

Location: Online, zoom link in members' area

Speaker: Jia Rong Yap, Ph.D

Jia Rong Yap received the Bachelor of Education (Hons.) and master's degrees in English as a Second Language from the University of Malaya, Malaysia, and the Ph.D. degree in literacy education, specialising in multiliteracies pedagogy from the University of Waikato, New Zealand. She is currently the Rotorua Centre Manager of English Language Partners New Zealand, where she supports students from migrant and refugee backgrounds in integrating into mainstream society. Her research interests include interprofessional education, systematic synthetic phonics, and multiliteracies pedagogy, with recent projects exploring AI in literacy education and research and visual literacy.

Abstract

In an era where artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming communication, education, and literacy practices, the need for a multiliteracies pedagogy (MLP) has never been more urgent. Drawing on insights from my PhD research, this presentation explores how AI tools, such as generative language models, automated translation, and multimodal content creation platforms, are reshaping the ways we teach and learn languages. By integrating AI into the discussion, we will examine how MLP—a framework that emphasises linguistic diversity, cultural awareness, and multimodal meaning-making—can empower TESOL educators and researchers to prepare learners for the complexities of 21st-century communication. Participants will gain insights into practical strategies for leveraging AI in the classroom while fostering critical literacy, creativity, and ethical engagement with technology. This session will conclude with the implications of AI for language education and the evolving role of MLP in fostering inclusive, equitable, and future-ready learning environments.