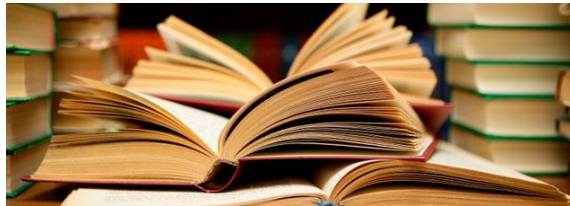


## Reading culture: How books in adolescence enhance adult literacy, numeracy and technology skills in 31 societies



**Presenter: Dr Joanna Sikora**

Senior Lecturer in Sociology, ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

In our Spring Seminar, Dr Joanna Sikora will discuss advantageous effects of home reading for adult literacy, adult numeracy, and adult technological problem solving. Growing up with books in the home and the surrounding “scholarly culture” boosts adult skills in these areas over and above any effects of parental education or adults’ own educational or occupational attainment.

This is but one example of the evidence from 31 societies which participated in the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) between 2011 and 2015. Joanna will illustrate other empirical evidence of factors positively affecting adult skills and raise questions about the relevance of exposure to printed books in the era of digital literacy.

*This talk is based on the paper published in Social Science Research in January 2019 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2018.10.003> Abstract: A growing body of evidence supports the contention of scholarly culture theory that immersing children in book-oriented environments benefits their later educational achievement, attainment and occupational standing. These findings have been interpreted as suggesting that book-oriented socialization, indicated by home library size, equips youth with life-long tastes, skills and knowledge. However, to date, this has not been directly assessed.*

**WHEN:** Tuesday 12 November 2019, 7:00 - 8:30pm

**WHERE:** ACER Adelaide Office  
186B Pulteney Street, Adelaide SA 5000  
*Nearest Parking: Flinders Street (metered parking, free after 6pm)*

**REGISTER:** [Juliet.Young-Thornton@acer.org](mailto:Juliet.Young-Thornton@acer.org)  
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