



FACULTY OF ARTS

Adelaide Summer Research Scholarship 2020-2021

Facilitating Critical and Creative Thinking in the Middle Years

Supervisor: Dr John Willison

School of Education

Critical and Creative Thinking (C&CT) is classed as a General Capability that spans all Learning Areas in the Australian Curriculum, through to Year 10. The cognitive elements of C&CT are crucial when students develop and employ the associated skills, however, the *intersections* between the cognitive and affective domains are pivotal for learner engagement in C&CT (Willison, 2020). These intersections, where the mechanisms by which teachers engage students both cognitively and affectively, are under-conceptualised and so potentially effect student development of C&CT skills.

This project will conduct a systematic review of the literature on C&CT development in schools, with a focus on the cognitive and affective domains. The cognitive and affective elements of the Models of Engaged Learning and Teaching (Willison, 2020) will be used as the conceptual framework to guide the analysis.

The overall goal of the project is to illuminate best-practice C&CT in schools internationally, specify the ways that the cognitive and affective domains have been handled and determine the range of outcomes in C&CT. This will inform an Australian Research Council Linkage Project grant application and provide the basis for a journal article submitted to the Harvard Educational Review (QRI=5).

Research Tasks

- 1. Systematic Literature review of C&CT processes and outcomes 2011-2020
- 2. Drafting an article based on this literature review for the Harvard Educational Review
- 3. Recommending C&CT approaches for a an Australian Research Council Linkage Project grant application

Reference

Willison, J. (2020). *The Models of Engaged Learning and Teaching*. Springer.
<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-981-15-2683-1>

The student will gain the following research skills and experience;

- Publication in high-quality journal
- Collate background information for a competitive grant application
- Determine search parameters including keywords
- Find appropriate literature through a systematic literature search
- Evaluate and rate articles
- Analyse quality articles and organise into a systematic structure
- Communicate in academic writing and less formally by email and conversation with supervisor