

## **Research Ethics and Digitising Early Childhood**

**Target Audience:** Higher Degree Research Students and Early Career Researchers

**Date and Time:** Friday 13th July, 1-3pm.

**Session Lead:** Dr Karen Murcia and Dr Madeleine Dobson (Curtin University)

### **Panel Members:**

Kim Gifkins

Senior Research Ethics Advisor,  
Edith Cowan University

Dr Adriaan Wolvaardt

System Performance  
Department of Education (WA)

Elsa Norvill

Senior Learning Consultant  
Goodstart Early Learning

### **Abstract**

Ethical issues arise in all aspects of social research and are arguably magnified when the participants are young children living, learning and developing in environments that integrate digital technologies. Established research guidelines provide a loose ethical framework but often don't provide the answers to questions and dilemmas facing researchers who are working to understand the implications of digital technologies on the lives of young children. In this session, panel members will share their experiences and perspectives on the topic and then interact with the audience, as we explore potential anchors for the ethical decisions made by researchers in response to issues emerging in the field. This discussion will include topics such as, the negotiation of young children's informed consent and their participation in digital data collection, data security and also managing anonymity when re-presenting visual data in research disseminations. Our aim for this session is to promote collaboration and seek greater ethical clarity, which should support the design of sensitive research which embraces respectful inclusion of young children.

