



Australia Awards



Curtin University

Guest Lecture

'Seeing, Supporting and Empowering: Inclusive Education for Neurodivergent Learners'

By: Dr Jia White

Friday, 5 December 2025

1:45am to 4:00pm (Jakarta time)

Indonesian graduates and scholars of Australian tertiary institutions who are interested in attending this event, please RSVP by Wednesday, 3 November, via this link: <http://oz.link/rsvpGL5DES>

**Due to the limited availability of places, early registration is recommended. A link to this event will be shared with you after registration.*

Lecture overview

As inclusive education gains recognition as a global priority, the number of neurodivergent students, including autistic learners, attending mainstream schools continues to rise. Yet, despite this growing presence, many still encounter challenges in learning, communication and social interaction, often resulting in negative school experiences and lower educational outcomes.

This lecture draws on the bioecological model of human development to explore diversity and inclusion through the lens of neurodiversity within school contexts. Reflecting Dr Jia's research interests in inclusive education, curriculum design, teacher professional development and school culture, the session draws on empirical studies that examine the lived experiences of neurodivergent students, their teachers and their parents.

The lecture will highlight both the systemic barriers that hinder inclusion and the enabling strategies that promote positive learning experiences and equitable outcomes. Participants will engage with strengths-based approaches that shift the focus from deficits to capacities, explore the importance of authentic student voice and educator-student relationships, and consider how inclusive practice can be embedded through whole-school culture, curriculum design and inter-agency collaboration.

Ultimately, the lecture offers practical insights for creating genuinely inclusive learning environments in mainstream schools, spaces where neurodivergent students are seen, supported and empowered, and where all learners can thrive.

Dr Jia White is a Lecturer in the School of Education at Curtin University, Australia, where she teaches in the areas of Educational Psychology, Development and Learning Diversity, and Inclusive Education. With more than 25 years of experience in teacher education across universities in Australia and China, she brings rich cross-cultural perspectives to her work in fostering inclusive learning environments.

Dr Jia's teaching and research focus on teacher professional development, learner diversity, inclusive education, school-based curriculum development and school improvement. Her research is grounded in a commitment to advancing equitable, strengths-based educational systems that recognise and nurture the capacities of all learners, particularly those who are neurodivergent.

Dr Jia's recent projects include studies on strengths-based approaches for autistic high school students and initiatives that promote disability equity in higher education. Beyond her teaching and research, Dr Jia plays an active role in the international inclusive education community. She serves as Co-Convener of the Inclusive Education Special Interest Group within the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES). She also sits on the editorial board of Learning Environments Research, reflecting her dedication to advancing scholarship and practice in inclusive education.

Through her leadership, research and teaching, Dr Jia continues to champion inclusive practices that empower educators and learners to thrive in diverse educational contexts.



Dr Jia White

Lecturer
School of Education
Curtin University

