



SCHOOL OF LAW RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES
SPRING 2016

Using technology to motivate law students to engage with prescribed reading

ELEN SEYMOUR & LIESEL SPENCER

DATE

Wednesday 17 August 2016

TIME

11.30am - 12.30pm

VENUE

Moot Court, Building EO, Parramatta

LUNCH PROVIDED

RSVP

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INQUIRIES

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ABSTRACT

It is a 'truth universally acknowledged' that a sizeable proportion of university students, including law students, do not complete the prescribed reading load. The current generation of law students is largely comprised of 'digital natives', who because of their lifelong immersion in technology, prefer to receive information fast, to parallel process and to multi-task. Reading is still of pedagogical, professional and institutional importance, and it is part of the role of the law teacher to motivate students to read. A self-reinforcing 'virtuous circle' can be achieved if we set a reading load in a format and content compatible with the digital natives' learning preferences, check they have read it, align set reading with teaching and assessment, reward students for doing the reading, and impose consequences for not doing the reading.

BIOGRAPHY

ELEN SEYMOUR

Elen, a Fellow of the Tax Institute, is a lecturer of Tax and Financial Services with the School of Law with over a decade of tax teaching experience. Prior to working as an academic, Elen was a graduate with the Australian Tax Office and was recruited to work in international tax for Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Australia and then on to Canada. Elen's research interests include the taxation and regulation of Australian charities and blended learning in legal education.

LIESEL SPENCER

Liesel is a lecturer in the School of Law at Western Sydney University. Her research interests are in two strands: public health law and food security; and legal education. She is writing a PhD thesis at the University of Technology Sydney, 'A Comparative Legal Geography of Food Welfare and Public Health in Australia and the U.S. in the 21st Century'. Liesel's research in the area of legal education spans projects on assessment, on the use of exemplars, and on motivating law students to engage in reading. Liesel is a first year teaching specialist and the recipient of student-selected teaching awards.