

The Sarah Fielden seminar series

“Thinking with Hannah Arendt and the politics of education”

Professor Helen Gunter

Wednesday 14th October 2015, 5.00pm

Room C5.1, Ellen Wilkinson Building

All staff, students and members of the public are welcome – please contact shelley.darlington@manchester.ac.uk to reserve a place



Helen Gunter is Professor of Educational Policy and Sarah Fielden Professor of Education in The Manchester Institute of Education, University of Manchester, UK, and is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. She co-edits the Journal of Educational Administration and History. Her work focuses on the politics of education policy and knowledge production in the field of school leadership. Her most recent books are: *Leadership and the Reform of Education* published in 2012 by Policy Press; *Educational Leadership and Hannah Arendt* published in 2014 by Routledge; and *An Intellectual History of School Leadership Practice and Research* in 2015 by Bloomsbury Press.

I intend examining the research that is currently taking place regarding the deployment of Arendtian thinking in regard to educational matters. Specifically I will locate my analysis in the field of school leadership, and I will examine the state of the field through using Arendtian *vita activa* and *vita contemplativa*. From this I will suggest an agenda of research and theorising for the Sarah Fielden Professor of Education term of office.

The aim of the Sarah Fielden seminar series is to promote the Manchester Institute of Education's (MIE) various high quality programmes of research within and beyond the University of Manchester. The University appointed its first professor of education in 1899 using benefaction from the philanthropist Sarah Fielden. This began a tradition that has continued to this day, with Helen Gunter our current Sarah Fielden endowed professor of education. Naming this seminar series after Sarah recognizes her ongoing influence and honours her legacy.

