

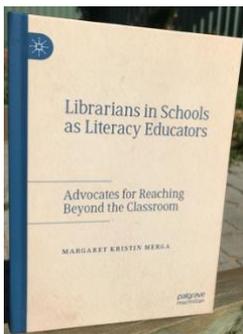
SCHOOL LEADERS EMPOWERING LITERACY, RESEARCH AND WELL-BEING THINK TANK

This keynote is for school leaders looking to make the most of their school library resource to enhance students' literacy and wellbeing.

First, we'll cover why the library and its staff are uniquely positioned to foster reading engagement, literacy, and student wellbeing, drawing on a robust body of research in this field. We will explore the vital role of libraries and their staff in promoting and sustaining reading engagement in an environment that also fosters student wellbeing, and the kinds of research-supported practices and initiatives enacted in the library that can make a demonstrable difference to students' lives.

We will then move onto practical tips on how to make the most of your school library resource by removing common barriers to access and collaboration, detailing how to best situate the library both as a safe space and the driver of a rich reading culture within your school.

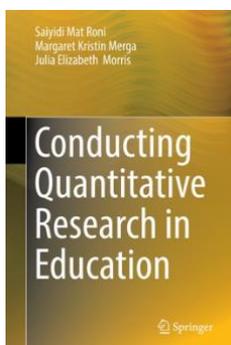
ABOUT THE PRESENTER



Dr Margaret Merga (Twitter: [@MKMerga](#)) has written more than a hundred [peer-reviewed and research-informed publications](#), including four non-fiction books on literacy, libraries, research methods and research communications.

Her 2018 book [Reading Engagement for Tweens and Teens](#) has been influential in supporting teachers, parents and school library professionals to maintain young people's reading engagement beyond the early years, and her 2022 book [School Libraries Supporting Literacy and Wellbeing](#) highlights her research on the relationship between libraries, literacy and wellbeing.

Her [fifth book](#) covers how to write a whole school literacy policy.



Margaret is an honorary adjunct at the University of Newcastle, and she runs [Merga Consulting](#), working with schools, professional associations and government departments on a range of literacy-related projects (both in Australia and beyond). These engagements often involve developing or enhancing the schools' literacy culture. Margaret's research has been cited [more than 2,000 times](#) and translated into [many languages](#).

