

# IMPACT

Philosophical Perspectives on Education Policy

You are cordially invited to an online seminar to mark the launch of

## ‘Powerful knowledge’, ‘cultural literacy’ and the study of literature in schools

by Robert Eaglestone

Tuesday 15 June 2021, 5.30pm to 7.30pm

### Speakers:

**Prof Robert Eaglestone**, author of the pamphlet

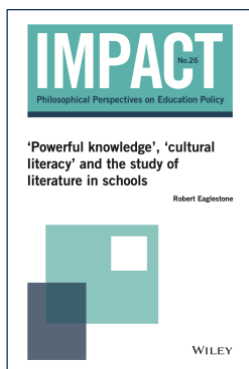
**Barbara Bleiman**, co-editor of *emagazine*

**Dr Bethan Marshall**, author of *English Teachers: The Unofficial Guide*

**Dr Rachel Roberts**, Chair of the National Association for the Teaching of English

**Nick Wallace**, Head of Programme Design at Ark Curriculum Plus

**Prof Michael Hand**, editor of IMPACT (Chair)



E.D. Hirsch’s notion of ‘cultural literacy’ and Michael Young’s idea of ‘powerful knowledge’ are the theoretical drivers of a national shift towards knowledge-rich school curricula. But Robert Eaglestone argues that there’s a mistake under the floorboards of the knowledge-rich movement. Both Hirsch and Young fall prey to *scientism*: they take knowledge in the natural sciences as a template for knowledge across the board. Eaglestone shows first how scientism is baked into the theories of ‘cultural literacy’ and ‘powerful knowledge’, then how the adoption of these theories in schools has disfigured and diminished the teaching of literature.

IMPACT pamphlets are published by the Philosophy of Education Society of Great Britain in conjunction with Wiley and are available to download free from the [Wiley Online Library](#).

To attend the online launch seminar, please [register here](#). For further information, contact Steph Graham at [pesgb@sasevents.co.uk](mailto:pesgb@sasevents.co.uk).

PESGB c/o SAS Event Management,  
The Old George Brewery, Rolleston Street, Salisbury, SP1 1DX, UK  
[pesgb@sasevents.co.uk](mailto:pesgb@sasevents.co.uk) [www.philosophy-of-education.org](http://www.philosophy-of-education.org)

pesgb