

Amanda Heffernan, Tara Brabazon, and Troy Heffernan

Scarring Thoughts: *Harry Potter* and the Neoliberal Education Reform

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Abstract: This paper probes the resonances between neoliberal education reforms and the wizarding world of *Harry Potter*. This interdisciplinary research project aligns the sociologies of literature and education to reveal how the neoliberal reforms found within the Global Education Reform Movement [GERM] manifest within popular culture, and how popular culture naturalizes, frames and patrols particular modes of discourse about school, teaching and learning. This paper creates a discursive dance between neoliberal theories of educational reform and the popular cultural educational reforms in *Harry Potter*. This paper demonstrates that the *Harry Potter* series provides ways of understanding the impact of these education reforms on teachers, students, and the everyday workings of a school.

