

<b>National Research Repository</b>	
<b>Title of project</b>	Discipline and Diversity: Cultural Practices and Dispositions to Learning
<b>Title of report</b>	Cultural Practices and Learning: Diversity, discipline and dispositions in schooling
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<b>Organisation(s)</b>	University of Western Sydney, Australian Research Council and NSW Department of Education and Training
<b>HREC Approval Number</b>	H6364
<b>Date of publication</b>	2008
<b>Jurisdictions</b>	NSW
<b>Area of research (key words)</b>	Ethnicity, academic achievement, education, primary, teaching
<b>Abstract of report</b>	<p>This report considers the relations between ethnicity and the dispositions towards learning necessary for successful participation in the Australian education system. In contrast to common assumptions about the cultural attributes of some ethnic groups, it considers how home and school practices help produce the attributes of learners, how these attributes are embodied as dispositions towards learning – what we call the scholarly habitus – and how these are patterned in terms of ethnicity and broader socio-cultural background. The report is based on research in ten primary schools across a number of regions of the NSW Department of Education and Training (DET) within the Sydney metropolitan area involving diverse linguistic and socioeconomic groups, but focuses on three specific groups: students of Chinese, Pasifika and Anglo Australian backgrounds. The study argues that dispositions to learning need to be understood in terms of particular kinds of practices, rather than explained by ‘ethnicity’ per se. The home and school experiences of these students are therefore examined with the aim of enhancing our understanding of effective educational practices and contributing to the current NSW DET initiatives of Quality Teaching, the State Literacy and Numeracy Initiative and the NSW State Plan.</p>
<b>Link to report (if available)</b>	<a href="https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0016/52324/cultural_practices_and_learning.pdf">https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0016/52324/cultural_practices_and_learning.pdf</a>
<b>Copy of report (if no link)</b>	
<b>Link to researcher email</b>	<a href="mailto:m.watkins@westernsydney.edu.au">m.watkins@westernsydney.edu.au</a> <a href="mailto:g.noble@westernsydney.edu.au">g.noble@westernsydney.edu.au</a>
<b>Link to project website</b>	
<b>Implications for education jurisdictions and schools</b>	The research findings have implications for understanding the relation between ethnicity and educational achievement important with regard to how this can inform policy and practice in meeting the needs of Australia’s increasingly culturally diverse student populations.