

# PARENT TALK MONTESSORI: THE EDUCATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Monday, 21 March 2016, 7:00pm - 9:00pm



Our education system successfully trained millions of children for the industrial society and economy. But our changing society presents new challenges that require us to fundamentally rethink our concept of school. Due to the proliferation of digital technologies towards the end of the last century, we socially reorganised into a society of distributed networks whose economy runs on knowledge. Thus, the competencies required for success in the 21st century are very different than those required in the last century.

Ironically, over 100 years ago, just as industrialists were reforming education to prepare children to work in their factories, Maria Montessori began developing a method that seemed to foreshadow the needs of the 21st century. Using research from multiple disciplines, including sociology, economics, cognitive science, psychology, education, and neuroscience, this talk discusses why Montessori is the educational framework for the 21st century.



**LAURA FLORES SHAW** is the lead editor, writer, and founder of White Paper Press, a think tank specialising in translating scientific research into terms that allows people to make informed decisions about their lives. She holds bachelors and master degrees in psychology and is currently working towards a doctorate in education with a specialisation in mind, brain and teaching at Johns

Hopkins University School of Education. Laura previously worked as a family therapist in the public school system where she realised her desire to work on the prevention rather than intervention side of mental health. That led her to reviving a failing Montessori school where she became passionate about creating environments that allow children to thrive in every way. In 2014, she retired from school administration to focus on advocating at a broader level for frameworks that can improve the lives of children and their families. She currently writes, speaks and consults internationally on education, brain development and parenting.



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