

Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology

SPEAKER SERIES:

Disciplining Inclusion: 'Response to Intervention' and the Neoliberal Governmentality of Inclusive Education Reforms in Nova Scotia

**Dr. Nancy Spina
Cape Breton University**

This presentation questions the benevolent construction of Response to Intervention (RTI) as a central component of Inclusive Education policies that aim at creating more equitable schools and communities in Nova Scotia. Inspired by studies of governmentality, critical inclusion studies, critical disability, disability critical race theory, this presentation considers RTI as a disciplinary and biopolitical technology of power that seeks to optimize the literacy and numeracy performance of children-citizens to become productive members of a hierarchical workforce, ensuring the province's competitiveness in a globalized neoliberal economy. To foreground these dynamics, the presentation applies a Foucauldian-inspired counter genealogy to examine the educational reforms introduced in the province since the beginning of the millennium.

**Friday, November 20th, 2026
2:30 p.m., McCain #2118
Reception to follow
All Welcome!**