Wednesday, September 18th, 2019, noon
Literacy Center Balcony

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PUBS, HUBS, AND READING REVOLUTIONS: IN SEARCH OF COMMUNITY AND LITERACY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Abstract. While both the UK and the US report stagnant rates of low literacy among adults and children since the 1980s, the funding models and curriculum development of public literacy education programs of these two nations diverge. Fundamental differences, such as a deep-seated understanding of the social-cultural nature of language and literacy versus literacy as a basic skill, affect the structure and outcome of education programs designed to build literacy in society, particularly among adults. Hall and Sachs will share two community literacy education models currently practiced in the UK: the National Trust Literacy Hubs and the Reader Organisation’s “Read-to-Lead” shared reading groups. These models report increased engagement with reading as well as wellness and decreased isolation among children, adolescents, and adults.