



Research Week Presentation

Strong Culture, Strong Place, Strong Families: Changing the Narrative on Aboriginal Cultural Research Practice

Date: Friday 30th September 2022

Broome AWST Time: 1200 - 1300

Sydney AEST Time: 1400 - 1500

Presenters:

Steve Kinnane, Aggie Pigram, Ismahl Croft,
Geoff Buchanan & Mandy Yap



KALACC



Nulungu
Research Institute
The University of Notre Dame Australia
Broome Campus

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CONTEMPORAINES



Abstract

The Strong Culture, Strong Place, Strong Families project is a collaborative community led research project developed by the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre (KALACC) in Partnership with the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) ANU. It is being supported by the Nulungu Research Institute. The project is funded by the National Indigenous Australian's Agency (NIAA) over three years, and aims to develop a Cultural Outcomes Impact Framework by which to enable Aboriginal community developed indicators of the evidence of cultural impact to better assist with direct investment in cultural activities and increase Aboriginal community wellbeing.

KALACC and Nulungu have a long history of collaborating on community led research projects engaging local Aboriginal researchers with a view to developing pathways for Aboriginal Community Researchers in the Kimberley. A key aspect of the 'Strong Culture' project is the development of a unique cohort of Aboriginal Community Research Practitioners (CRPs) who are integrally involved in all aspects of the project's development, delivery, and production of the Cultural Outcomes Impact Framework. This Nulungu Research Week address; focused on community grounded research, will examine and discuss; 1) KALACC's community centred approach to understanding how culture matters for Aboriginal community wellbeing in the Kimberley through the 'Strong Culture-' Project, and; 2) KALACC's and CAEPR's partnership development of Aboriginal Community Research Practitioners as a foundational approach to generating significant evidence of cultural impact on community wellbeing, achieved through co-design, and community grounded, Aboriginal community led research and researchers.

The address will be led by Nulungu's Indigenous Co-Chair Steve Kinnane, along with the voices of KALACC Aboriginal Community Research Practitioners, Aggie Pigram and Ismahl Croft, and input from CAEPR/ KALACC Research Fellow, Geoff Buchanan, and CAEPR Lead Researcher and Primary Investigator, Mandy Yap.

Biographies

Steve Kinnane is a Marda Marda from Miriwoong Country in the East Kimberley. He has been an active researcher for more than 30 years with a unique skill set founded in decades of working in Indigenous community settings developing Indigenous community based-researchers and projects. Steve has held the roles of Research Officer (initiated research projects), AISATSIS (1991 – 2002), Lecturer in Indigenous Studies and Sustainable Development, Murdoch University (2002 – 2004); Research Fellow at AIATSIS (2005 – 2008); Assistant Dean of Arts and Sciences/ Senior Researcher of the Nulungu Research Institute, University of Notre Dame Australia (2008 – 2016); Co-Curator to the New Museum Project of the WA Museum (2017 – 2020); and as an independent researcher for Aboriginal community organisations. He is currently the Co-Chair Indigenous Research for the Nulungu Research Institute, and is the Research Coordinator for the KALACC.

Aggie Pigram is a Yawuru/Bardi woman based in Ardyaloon (One Arm Point) Community on the Dampier Peninsula of the Kimberley Region, with many connections across the Kimberley. Aggie is currently a KALACC Director, a Co-Founder and Manager of Ardi'ol (Cultural Enterprises), the KALACC's Women's Coordinator for the West Kimberley, and a KALACC Lead Community Research Practitioner on the NIAA funded, Strong Culture, Strong Place, Strong Families project.

Aggie has engaged in a range of significant community led programs and projects in the Kimberley, and has over 10 years of working experience in Aboriginal Social & Cultural Well-being in the Community Development & Management sector.

Aggie is an emerging researcher who has worked on a number of Kimberley-based research projects including the Kimberley Girl program and currently the Traditional Healing Pilot Project evaluation with Nulungu Research Institute. Her role in the THPP evaluation as an insider/outsider researcher adds strength to the project because of her intimate knowledge of the project context, cultural insights, and the trusting relationships that she has with stakeholders. Aggie will conduct interviews and facilitate focus groups with the Aboriginal women in this project, and assist with project design, data analysis, reporting and dissemination. Aggie also has worked as an Aboriginal Community Researcher for the Telethon Kids Institute in the SToP Trial (Healthy Skin) and within the Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Team leading the Kimberley project for Vitamin D and Bush Tucker in Bardi Country.

Ismahl Croft is a Walmajarri/ Miriwoong man with community connections across the central and eastern Kimberley. Ismahl has held positions of coordination, research and facilitation roles with The Kimberley Land Council, Department of Health, FaHCSIA and KALACC. He has been a Kimberley Youth Leadership organiser, developed and achieved the Warlu Jila Jamu Indigenous Protected Area, assisted with instigation of the Ngurrara Rangers, was the Fitzroy Valley Aboriginal Liaison Officer with the Commonwealth Remote Service Delivery (RSD) Program, and was part of a core team of Indigenous allied health professionals rolling out the Covid-19 Vaccination Program in the Kimberley. Ismahl has been a Director of the Kimberley Land Council, and is currently a Board Member of Arnja, a member of the Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation, and working as a KALACC Lead CRP and as KALACC's Cultural Heritage Officer.

Geoff Buchanan commenced as KALACC Research Fellow at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (ANU) in July 2022. He has over a decade of experience working on collaborative research projects with Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley region of Western Australia and Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. In 2006-09, as a Research Officer at CAEPR, Geoff led a collaborative, community-based research project with the Bardi Jawi Rangers based in Ardyaloon/One Arm Point, Western Australia as part of the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) Dugong and Marine Turtle Project. This project involved co-designing a community survey with the Bardi Jawi Rangers, training the rangers to administer the survey, analysing survey data with the rangers, and co-authoring the final report, *Always Part of Us*, with the Bardi Jawi Rangers.

Mandy Yap is a Fellow at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (ANU). Prior to joining the ANU, Mandy worked the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling. Since 2013, Mandy has been working with the Yawuru community and local Indigenous and non-Indigenous organisations based in Broome on conceptualising and measuring wellbeing. Her experience includes designing and implementing local research centred on Indigenous worldviews and priorities. Since 2020, Mandy has been working with Aboriginal Affairs NSW and Regional Alliances involved in the New South Wales OCHRE evaluation to co-design, develop and pilot a survey instrument that will enable the assessment of the change in working relationship between Aboriginal communities and public servants.