

CENTRE FOR ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC POLICY RESEARCH
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH PLAN 2007–2009

The Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) Research Plan 2007–2009 is built around three broad inter-related themes:

- Indigenous Economic and Social Circumstances
- Development Options for Indigenous Economic Futures
- Education, Governance and Capacity Development

The Plan was developed at a meeting in November 2006, with input provided by a number of key stakeholders and all CAEPR staff and graduate students. (N.B. PhD students are indicated by italicised names.)

Theme 1: Indigenous Economic and Social Circumstances

Indigenous socioeconomic outcomes

Hunter: Ongoing research on socioeconomic indicators, including critically evaluation of the Productivity Commission's Framework for Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage.

Pathways to improved educational attainment

Hunter, Schwab, *Biddle*: This ARC linkage project between CAEPR and the ABS will be completed in 2007; PhD thesis to be submitted.

Learning to drink: Then and now

Brady: This project on the social and historical determinants of Indigenous alcohol and tobacco use examines the diversity of historical experiences with these substances.

The social context of Indigenous poverty

Lahn: Builds on poverty measurement literature, case studies will be conducted.

Changes in the CDEP scheme

Altman, Hunter, Kral, Morphy, Taylor, DSmith: Continuing research on the role of the CDEP scheme and the effect of recent changes including in relation to natural resource management issues.

The 2006 Census and Indigenous people in remote areas

Taylor, Sanders, Morphy: ARC Linkage Project subtitled 'Assessing the Quality of the Enumeration Process and Resulting Data' will continue.

Indigenous crime rates

Hunter: ARC Linkage Project proposal for collaboration with Don Weatherburn and Lucy Snowball, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, to further develop an analysis of NATSISS and NSW local court data.

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2006 Census: Revisiting the practical reconciliation debate

Altman, Hunter: Examine changes in practical reconciliation outcomes between 1991 and 2006 with a focus on the last inter-censal period, dependent on 2007 availability of 2006 Census data

Drought and regional Australian families

Hunter: Investigate the incidence of drought and economic outcomes for families in regional Australia with funding from AIFS, utilising data from LSAC and the census.

Indigenous demographic trends

Taylor: Proposed research for MCATSIA including population in cities, and updating research on policy implications of emerging Indigenous demographic trends.

Population mobility

Taylor, Lahn, B. Smith: Research on migration and mobility in the East Kimberley and North Queensland.

Regional population profiling

Taylor: Research projects based in the West Kimberley for WA government, Woodside and the Fitzroy Futures Forum.

Theme 2: Development Options for Indigenous Economic Futures

Estimating the Indigenous estate

Altman, Buchanan, *Fogarty*, Larsen, Pollack: This research supported in part by the Poola Foundation and Oxfam will be finalised and published in 2007.

Indigenous community organisations and miners

Altman, Holcombe, Martin, *Scambary*, Taylor: In the concluding year for this project Scambary's PhD will be submitted; monograph published; and research for United Nations Research Institute of Social Development (UNRISD) project will be completed.

Development options in remote contexts

Altman and others: Collaborative research on options in the hybrid economy to assist with poverty alleviation and to contribute to natural resource management on the Indigenous estate, as well as homeland living and the economic viability of outstations.

Subjectivity and the state

B. Smith: This ARC Discovery project is analysing the involvement of the state in Aboriginal lives in northern Queensland.

Philanthropy, non-government organisations and Indigenous development

Hunt, Schwab: Research results to be published in 2007.

Eastern Kuninjku customary economy

Altman: Project on timber harvest management for the Aboriginal arts industry will publish results. Developing a new ARC Linkage proposal with the School for Environmental Research, Charles Darwin University on sustainable resource use and the Indigenous arts industry.

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Measuring changes in social and economic wellbeing

Altman, Buchanan, Larsen: Collaborative research with the North Australia Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAISMA) on the Turtle and Dugong Management Project. Altman's work with the Technical Reference Group will continue.

Cape York research

B. Smith: Research on native title claims in Cape York Peninsula, including the Batavia Downs Native Title Claim.

Land rights and native title

CAEPR staff: Monograph from the 'Effects of Native Title' CAEPR Workshop to be published. Continuing research on legislative changes to the permit system, leasehold, and native title.

Learning from the development and implementation of Australia's National Indigenous Forestry Strategy

This ARC Linkage project (with SRES at ANU and DAFF as industry partner) project will be completed when *Sue Feary* the PhD student submits in 2007.

Indigenous engagement in water allocation

Altman, B. Smith and others: Collaborative work with NAISMA, CSIRO, Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge research hub and the National Water Commission with case studies funded by Land and Water Australia.

Determining success in Indigenous commercial fisheries

Arthur: Proposed research for Fisheries Research Development Corporation and the National Native Title Tribunal.

Between people between places

B. Smith: Book manuscript to be completed.

Theme 3: Education, Governance and Capacity Development

Indigenous community governance project

CAEPR staff, *Thorburn*: The project is investigating the structures, processes, institutions, leadership, powers and capabilities of Indigenous community governance across rural, remote and urban settings with several case studies. A research monograph will be prepared in 2007, and a PhD thesis will be submitted.

The potential for regional governance in sparsely settled desert areas

Sanders, Holcombe: Research with the Anmatjere Community Government Council, Central Australia, examines governance arrangements focused on single remote communities and the potential for regional community governance arrangements.

Indigenous school to work transitions

Schwab, Altman, *Fogarty*: Doctoral research for ARC Linkage Project on will continue. Research on Junior Canadian Ranger program will be further developed; and an overview of early school leaving.

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Community engagement in literacy

Kral: PhD will be submitted in 2007.

Torres Strait governance

Sanders: Ongoing research on the role of the Torres Strait Regional Authority since the demise of ATSIC.

Australian public policy in Anangu Pitjantjatjara lands

Tedmanson: Doctoral research will continue, with field work based in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara lands.

Indigenous Australians and alcohol control

Brady (QEII Fellow), *Hunter*: This ARC Discovery Project, subtitled 'Ownership on Harm Reduction and Social and Economic Development', will be conducted over 2007–2011.

Lifespan learning and literacy

Schwab, Kral: ARC Linkage Project with Fred Hollows Foundation 2007–2009.

Indigenous rights in Australia

Ferro: CAEPR's international PhD student will continue research on treaty and Indigenous rights issues in Australia and New Zealand, in the light of Draft UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Indigenous education and training

Schwab, Fordham: Presentation to Senior Officials National Network of Indigenous Education on CAEPR's capacity to address relevant issues.

Governance toolkit

DSmith: This consultancy for Reconciliation Australia will see the development of web-based governance resources.

Professor Jon Altman
Director, CAEPR
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