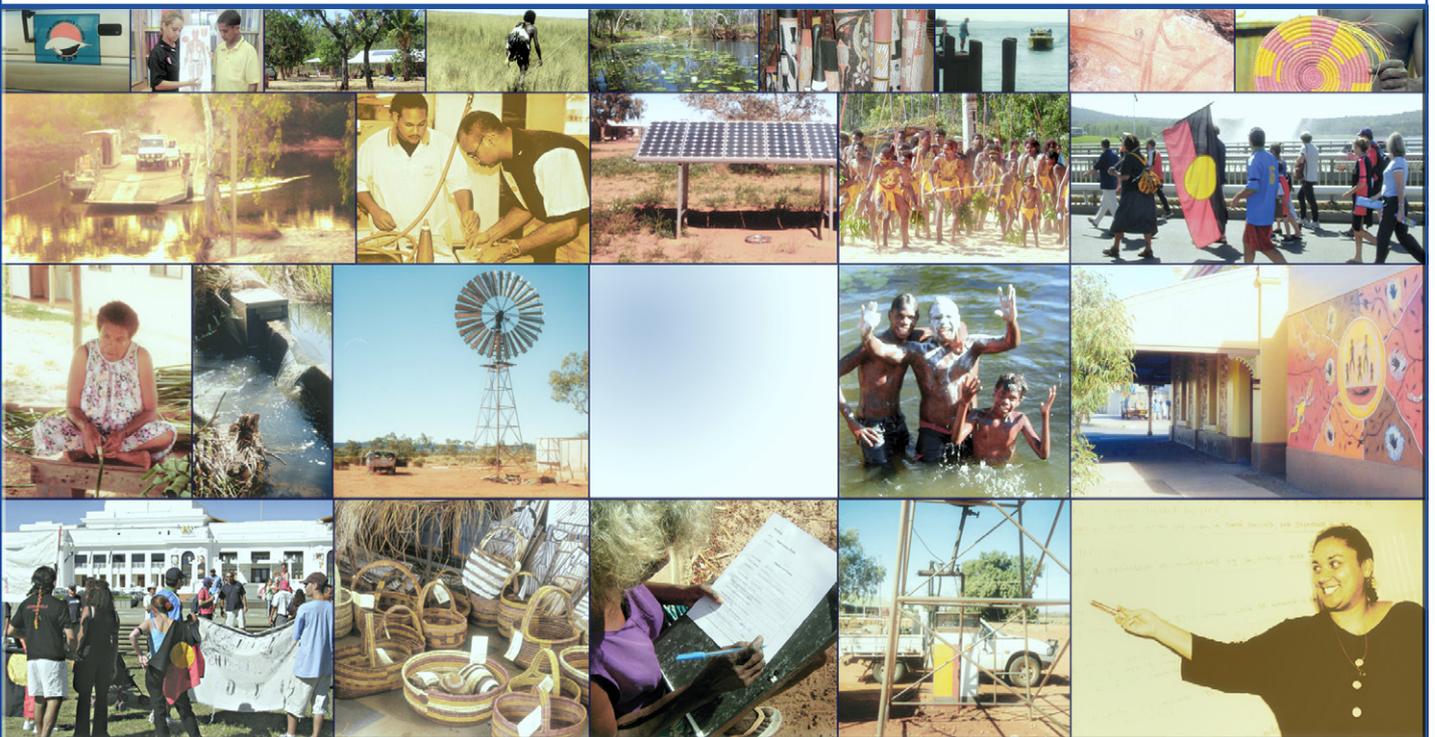


CENTRE FOR ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC
POLICY RESEARCH



CAEPR RESEARCH PLAN 2011–2013



RESEARCH SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
ANU COLLEGE OF ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

CAEPR RESEARCH PLAN 2011–2013

The CAEPR Research Plan 2011–2013 is built around four themes:

- Economic, cultural and social circumstances
- Economic development aspirations and alternate futures
- Governance, policy and the state
- Education, lifespan learning and youth

This Research Plan was developed by CAEPR staff at an annual planning retreat in November 2010. This is a rolling triennial plan that will be updated in December 2011. As the CAEPR Annual Report regularly documents, planned research activity will be supplemented with additional unanticipated projects and contracted research. At the time of writing, the plan involved the following projects grouped according to the research themes described above.

THEME 1. ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Theme leaders: Professor John Taylor and Dr Boyd Hunter

This research theme contributes directly to the policy discourse on 'closing the gaps' between Indigenous and other Australians across a range of social indicators. Since its inception in 1990, a core focus of CAEPR research has been the tracking of change in Indigenous social and economic circumstances at national, regional and local levels. Initially, much of this work was census based and concerned with demography and economic status but this has gradually broadened to include the analysis of survey and administrative data as well as measurement around specific social issues such as alcohol, criminal justice, poverty, community development and longitudinal pathways for children and families. The current research plan reflects this expansion as well as a growing list of social science research collaborators and sponsors including Commonwealth and State governments, the private sector, Indigenous organisations and the Australia Research Council (ARC). Notable in the current plan is a major population project sponsored by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. This is examining regional change in Indigenous social indicators, establishing measures of residential segregation and migration in metropolitan areas, and developing a typology of short term mobility and its consequences for service delivery.

ANALYSIS OF 2008 NATSISS LIFE COURSE

Nicholas Biddle, John Taylor, Mandy Yap

The 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) provides a unique opportunity to explore differences in social and economic outcomes over the life course. While the survey is cross-sectional in nature it contains substantial information on Indigenous children that has never been collected at a national level. A conference on the 2008 NATSISS will be convened in April 2011.

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT INDICES

Nicholas Biddle, Mandy Yap

Building on an index of Indigenous socioeconomic outcomes developed by CAEPR based on employment, education, income and housing, this project will develop a more place-based Community Development Index by making select use of the wide range of administrative data on housing, education, safety, health and welfare that is to be generated by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Remote Service Delivery National Partnership Agreement.

IDENTIFYING SERVICE POPULATIONS

Mandy Yap, Nicholas Biddle, John Taylor, Jess Bath

This project will explore the use of administrative data sets to identify temporary population movement within service delivery catchment areas as a means of quantifying service populations.

GENDER ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT

Nicholas Biddle, Janet Hunt, Mandy Yap

This research investigates the relevance of gender-related indices of development to Indigenous Australians.

REGIONAL POPULATION PROFILING

John Taylor, Frances Morphy

This project comprises a series of regional population profiles, incorporating the modelling of kin-based social networks, and the needs of regional Aboriginal organisations, major resource projects and service delivery networks for relevant demographic information. Research on the enumeration of the Indigenous remote population, undertaken in collaboration with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, is being written up.

AUDIT STUDIES ON DISCRIMINATION

Nicholas Biddle, Boyd Hunter

This long term study will develop audit-based studies on discrimination in education, housing, retail and labour markets.

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS AND ALCOHOL CONTROL

Maggie Brady (QEII Fellow), Boyd Hunter

This ARC Discovery Project, subtitled 'The impact of hotel ownership on harm reduction and social and economic development', will focus on analysing field work conducted in Alice Springs, Wadeye, and east Kimberley.

ANALYSIS OF THE DYNAMICS OF ABORIGINAL INTERACTIONS WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Boyd Hunter, Jerry Schwab, Kate Sullivan

This ARC Linkage Project, which aims to further analyse data from the NATSISS and New South Wales local court data, is concluding. Kate Sullivan is writing up a doctoral thesis on Aboriginal interactions with the justice system in New South Wales—a focus on re-offence and desistance.

SOCIOECONOMIC CORRELATES OF INDIGENOUS WELLBEING

Boyd Hunter

This project will analyse 2008 NATSISS and related data sets to examine the nature of Indigenous wellbeing.

INDIGENOUS ENTREPRENEURS, FINANCIAL LITERACY AND FINANCIAL STRESS

Boyd Hunter

This project originates in a multidisciplinary, cross-campus research conducted by Dr Hunter in collaboration with the ANU College of Business and Economics for FaHCSIA. The initial research involves the development of a conceptual framework for financial capability and financial stress, critical analysis of potential measures, and development of recommended measures. This research will further develop such issues with a particular focus on the implications for Indigenous entrepreneurs.

DROUGHT AND REGIONAL AUSTRALIAN FAMILIES

Matthew Gray, Boyd Hunter, Nicholas Biddle

This continuing research explores a study of the incidence of drought and economic outcomes for families in regional Australia in collaboration with the Australian Institute of Family Studies. Particular attention will be paid to the substantial Indigenous component of the survey.

LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

Boyd Hunter Nicholas Biddle

Analysis of this recently released survey data will be undertaken in collaboration with FaHCSIA.

ASSESSING DEVELOPMENT: DESIGNING BETTER INDICES OF POVERTY AND GENDER EQUITY

Janet Hunt

This ARC Linkage Project aims to construct new indices of poverty and gender equity that are applicable both at national/supranational levels and to smaller groups affected by a policy or program.

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Nicholas Biddle, Timothy Cameron

Analysis of administrative data and the Longitudinal Survey of Australian Youth, funded by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research.

THE ECONOMICS AND DEMOGRAPHY OF AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES IN URBAN AREAS

Nicholas Biddle

Dr Biddle will be based at the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity, Stanford University. Using US Census and other data sets, the project will analyse the spatial distribution of American Indians and Alaskan Natives across cities and by neighbourhood/suburb within cities, as well as the demographic and socioeconomic determinants of the wellbeing of American Indians in urban areas.

SOCIAL CONTEXTS OF INDIGENOUS POVERTY

Julie Lahn

This research focuses on Indigenous perceptions of poverty, and cultures of work and aspiration, emphasising rural and urban contexts.

INDIGENOUS CARERS

Matthew Gray, Boyd Hunter

This project will analyse the economic, social, geographic and demographic characteristics of Indigenous carers by comparison with characteristics of other Australians, especially non-Indigenous carers. The implications of the higher rate of informal care amongst Indigenous Australians for labour market participation will be considered.

EVALUATION OF THE NEW INCOME MANAGEMENT SCHEME

Matthew Gray, Will Sanders

This project, which involves the development of evaluation framework and collection of baseline data for the evaluation of the New Income Management Scheme, is being undertaken in partnership with the Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales and the Australian Institute of Family Studies.

THEME 2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASPIRATIONS AND ALTERNATE FUTURES

Theme leader: Professor Jon Altman

This theme explores innovative ways to improve livelihood opportunities for Indigenous people through economic engagement with the market and the customary sectors appropriately enabled by the state. Much of the focus is on regional and remote Australia and on Indigenous communities located on the significant Indigenous estate. It also explores the relevance of mainstream policies and programs for Indigenous Australians whether in remote or non-remote settings. The theme addresses two crucial issues that have emerged in policy debates in the past decade. The first is the provision of economic development opportunity for Indigenous people in geographically remote contexts, recognising the demographic reality that this population is growing and is relatively immobile in terms of labour migration. The second is the provision of economic development opportunity that acknowledges the diversity of Indigenous aspirations and their fundamental difference from those of mainstream Australians in many situations. Much of the research in this theme will focus on opportunities in new and emerging sectors, like the provision of environmental services, as well as recognising established competitive advantage in sectors such as the visual arts and cultural tourism. The theme will analyse institutional barriers to development and will provide an evidence base and cogent argument for new policies to effectively facilitate regional and community economic development for Indigenous well-being and for national benefit.

PEOPLE ON COUNTRY, HEALTHY LANDSCAPES AND INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC FUTURES PROJECT

Jon Altman, Seán Kerins, Emilie Ens, Katherine May, John Hughes

This applied research project supported by the Sidney Myer Fund to the end of 2012 focuses on exploring the links between Indigenous well-being, natural resource management and new resource-based development opportunities in six Indigenous communities in the Top End of the Northern Territory. A project affiliate is one traditional owner group in the West Kimberley of Western Australia. This work focuses on Indigenous Protected Areas and Working on Country projects.

THE SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFITS OF WORKING ON COUNTRY FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Janet Hunt, Jon Altman, Katherine May

This project explores the range of benefits which derive from the diverse experiences Aboriginal people have of working on country in New South Wales. Following an extensive review of the literature and current New South Wales initiatives in 2009, fieldwork and analysis are focusing on the benefits emerging from an Indigenous Protected Area on the New England Tablelands and from selected Green Teams in the Northern Rivers area. The study is funded by the New South Wales Department of Climate Change and Water and is scheduled for completion in 2011.

EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE ECONOMY

Jon Altman, Nanni Concu, John White, Bill Fogarty, Susie Russell

This project, undertaken in collaboration with CSIRO-led Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge Commonwealth Environment Research Facility (TRaCK) and the North Australia Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA), assesses strategies for developing and financing an effective conservation and sustainable use economy in the Djelk and Dhimurru river catchments

in central Arnhem Land and eastern Arnhem Land respectively. The project is due for completion by April 2011. Aspects of this research may continue as a part of the National Environmental Research Program Northern Biodiversity Hub.

HYBRID ECONOMIC FUTURES FOR REMOTE INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIA

Jon Altman, Geoffrey Buchanan

This ARC Discovery Project 'Hybrid economic futures for remote Indigenous Australia: Linking poverty reduction and natural resource management' will continue to explore theoretical, empirical and policy-focused aspects of this field. International comparative work will be undertaken with colleagues at the Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland and in the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Manchester in 2011, the latter as part of a UK Economic and Social Research Council project The Domestic Moral Economy: an ethnographic study of values in the Asia-Pacific region.

WELFARE TO WORK OR WORK TO WELFARE? WILL REFORM OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM HELP CLOSE THE EMPLOYMENT GAP?

Jon Altman, Boyd Hunter, Will Sanders, Kirrily Jordan

Under this ARC Discovery project funded 2011–13, Dr Kirrily Jordan will examine recent changes to Indigenous employment policy, with particular on assessing the changes to the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) with statistical data and case study research. Work will continue on tracking the performance of the Australian Employment Covenant.

AFTER THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY

Jon Altman

This research will continue to track the policy implications and state performance in the ongoing implementation of the National Emergency Intervention in the Northern Territory now renamed Closing the Gap—Northern Territory. Aspects of this work will be in collaboration with the Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the Northern Territory.

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS, RESOURCES AND INDUSTRIES

Jon Altman, Seán Kerins, Paul Cleary

This research focuses on the broad issue of land and resource rights in Indigenous socioeconomic development and explores Indigenous property rights in existing and emerging industries. Much of this research will focus on submissions to government inquiries, with a possible focus on the Wild Rivers debate in 2011. Doctoral research will investigate the links between financial aspects of resource development agreements and Aboriginal development.

WATER IN INDIGENOUS NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

Jon Altman, other researcher(s)

Research collaborations with Dr Sue Jackson, CSIRO Ecosystems Sciences will continue over 2011–14 on the National Environmental Research Program's project on the Northern Australia Environmental Hub.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING: LEARNING THROUGH COUNTRY

Bill Fogarty

In an emerging partnership with The Nature Conservancy, this research will focus on the transfer of knowledge and skills needed to sustain Indigenous Cultural and Natural Resource Management. Initially the research will have a strong focus on the social outcomes from fire abatement programs, with an emphasis on education. The research in 2011 will concentrate on two field sites. This research has strong linkages to CAEPR research Theme 4.

THEME 3. GOVERNANCE, POLICY AND THE STATE

Theme leaders: Dr Will Sanders and Dr Janet Hunt

Public policy towards Indigenous Australians is characterised by a vast array of activity at all three levels of government, plus the activities of Indigenous organisations and other NGOs (non-government organisations) which are state-authorized or funded. This research theme aims to discern patterns within this vast array of activity, such as principles which compete in guiding policy or patterns of intergovernmental conflict and cooperation. A significant portion of the work examines public policy from the local level, through working either with local governments or with Indigenous organisations and other NGOs involved in community development as well as service delivery. Relations between this local level of state-authorized activity and super-ordinate levels of government, such as accountability and responsiveness to emergent practice, are another important focus.

COMPETING PRINCIPLES AND THE DYNAMICS OF INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Will Sanders

This research examines the dominant principle of equality in Indigenous affairs and how it relates to other competing values such as autonomy and freedom, tolerance and diversity, and protection and guardianship. The research seeks to understand the dynamic way in which these different principles guide, or are otherwise related to policy and state-authorized action over time. Are competing principles balanced in policy? Or is there a switching between principles over space and time, or between policy and practice? This research contributes to CAEPR's teaching role through providing a structuring framework for the masters-level course Australian Indigenous Policy.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS IN AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Will Sanders

Since the late 1960s, Australian Indigenous affairs has been characterised by increasing responsibility sharing across the three levels of government, as well as with Indigenous people and organisations. This research examines the way in which intergovernmental relations in Indigenous affairs have developed, and are developing, as a result of this federal responsibility sharing.

AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC POLICY AND THE ANANGU PITJANTJATJARA YANKUNYTJATJARA LANDS

Deirdre Tedmanson

This doctoral research explores recent changes in public policy towards the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands and looks back to the original ideas informing the Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act of 1981 passed by the South Australian parliament. Conceptually the research is driven by the idea that the framing of an issue is an important aspect of policy processes. So it asks how and why the framing of the APY lands in Australian public policy processes might have changed over the last 30 years.

INDIGENOUS INTERESTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Will Sanders

This research asks how recent reforms in the Northern Territory local government system in remote areas have affected the Indigenous population who are the majority in these areas. Conceptually it focuses on two central aspects of the upscaling and broad-scale land incorporation in local government: the mixing of Indigenous and settler interests and the idea of economies of scale.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS: THE INVOLVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL NGOS

Janet Hunt

Approximately 10 international development NGOs based in Australia are working with Indigenous Australians and their organisations. Most, if not all, subscribe to a community development approach. This research, conducted in partnership with Professor Larissa Behrendt of the University of Technology Sydney, inquires into the nature of International NGO community development practice among Indigenous Australians. It aims to document successful aspects of this practice, while also being sanguine about the challenges and difficulties.

PACIFIC PRACTICE AND ITS APPLICATION AMONG INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS: IMPLEMENTING A PSYCHO-SOCIAL, BASIC HUMAN NEED APPROACH TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Richard Barcham

This doctoral research aims to reflect both conceptually and empirically on the development and application of community development techniques in Solomon Islands (Solomon Islands Development Trust), Papua New Guinea (Bismark Ramu Group), and Fiji (Social Empowerment and Education Program) from 1982 to the present. Among Indigenous Australians, the study is focusing on the development of the Family Well Being Program in various locations under the auspices of James Cook University.

THE PRACTICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY IN INDIGENOUS ORGANISATIONS

Will Sanders

This ARC Linkage Project with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations is being led from the ANU College of Business and Economics. Conceptually the research is examining the way in which different accountabilities are balanced in Indigenous organisations in practice—internal community accountabilities to members and constituents versus external accountabilities to funders and regulators. It asks when these diverse accountabilities complement and reinforce each other and when they are in tension.

THEME 4. EDUCATION, LIFESPAN LEARNING AND YOUTH

Theme leaders: Dr Jerry Schwab and Dr Inge Kral

This research theme focuses on the effective delivery of education, the development of evidence-based education policy and the social context of literacy and life-long learning among Indigenous Australians. It includes research on all levels and sectors of formal education and training, but also extends to consideration of non-formal contexts and learning across the lifespan. Research under this theme involves both qualitative and quantitative methodologies and is anchored by an understanding that learning is fundamentally social and situated and can be found and enhanced both inside and outside the classroom. In addition, CAEPR research in this area is framed by an awareness that education and training are most effective when linked to the local social, cultural and economic contexts of everyday life. Several of the current projects in this theme involve collaborations: with Indigenous organisations and communities, government departments, philanthropic and NGOs. Key research projects focus on building effective partnerships between philanthropic and indigenous groups, youth leadership, post-school skills acquisition and youth pathways to employment through land management, media and other community-based arenas of learning.

PHILANTHROPY AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE: ENHANCING INDIGENOUS EDUCATION OUTCOMES

Jerry Schwab, Janet Hunt, Tony Dreise

This ARC Linkage Project (in partnership with the Melbourne Community Foundation) aims to critically assess the degree to which philanthropic interventions improve Indigenous education outcomes—from both Indigenous and philanthropic perspectives—with the goal of identifying or developing models, strategies and principles of effective partnership and engagement.

YOUTH, LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP

Jerry Schwab

This stream of research explores the challenges faced by Indigenous communities as they look to renew themselves and draw young people into positions of leadership. Specifically, the research aims to provide policy and program advice for engaging and supporting young Indigenous people as they prepare to become the future leaders of their communities.

DIRECTIONS IN INDIGENOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Jerry Schwab

Taking a longitudinal perspective, this project examines the evolution of Commonwealth Indigenous education policy in Australia over the past 50 years, with a particular focus the notion of Indigenous 'self-determination'.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, HIGH-STAKES TESTING AND SCHOOL REFORM

Jerry Schwab

This research investigates the implications and likely impact on Indigenous students, families and communities of current moves toward high-stakes testing and a range of other elements of the school reform movement.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Adrian Fordham, Jerry Schwab

This research involves an international exploration of models for engaging Indigenous youth through land and resource management programs.

LEARNING THROUGH COUNTRY

Bill Fogarty, Jerry Schwab

This policy-focused research draws together insights and ideas from key stakeholders related to the effective engagement of young Indigenous people through land and resource management programs and activities in a range of Indigenous communities 'in the bush'.

LAND AS 'THIRD SPACE': TOWARDS AND EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL RE-ENGAGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS YOUTH IN REMOTE AUSTRALIA

Jerry Schwab, Bill Fogarty

Drawing on the theoretical notion of land as 'third space' this research explores the potential for land to serve as a transformative space where Indigenous youth in remote Australia might re-connect with learning and their home communities.

PEDAGOGY, POLICY AND PLACE

Bill Fogarty

This research builds on a recently completed PhD thesis and a previous ARC Linkage Project and will entail papers exploring the 'strategic fit' between education policy for Indigenous students and the wants, aspirations and needs of Indigenous people in remote locations

EDUCATION AND EMERGENT DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Bill Fogarty

This component of Theme 4 will analyse and explore the educational needs of emergent forms of development in remote communities in the Northern Territory. In particular, the research will concentrate on emergent forms of development enterprise such as Indigenous land and sea management, carbon farming and sustainable environmental enterprise

THE ROLE OF EDUCATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Bill Fogarty

Growing out of an international anthropology conference session titled Education and the Making up of People, this research involves the construction of a special issue journal on the role of educational anthropology in different parts of the world.

LEARNING SPACES: YOUTH, LITERACY AND NEW MEDIA IN REMOTE INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIA

Inge Kral, Jerry Schwab

This research activity involves a consolidation of findings from the ARC Linkage Project 'Lifespan learning and literacy for young adults in remote Indigenous communities' (in partnership with the Fred Hollows Foundation). The work focuses on young adults (16–25 years) in the post-school years and explores language and learning and how multimodal literacies can be acquired, transmitted and maintained in community-based projects and across the lifespan.

TALK, TEXT AND TECHNOLOGY: CHANGING SOCIAL PRACTICE IN REMOTE INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIA

Inge Kral

A book manuscript based on the doctoral thesis titled 'Writing Words—Right Way! Literacy and Social Practice in the Ngaanyatjarra World' which won the Australian Anthropological Society PhD Thesis prize for 2007 for best thesis by research. Final draft to be submitted to publisher in September 2011.

COMING OF AGE IN THE PACIFIC RIM: A STUDY OF YOUTH, CITIZENSHIP AND THE INTERNET

Inge Kral

International project with Glynda Hull (University of California, Berkeley, USA) to investigate how online social networks, and the semiotic activities they generate, can be turned towards educational purposes. Through an examination of the process of communicating and constructing knowledge online with distant audiences this work will contribute to international as well as interdisciplinary conversations about learning in a digital global age.

NEW MEDIA AND INFORMAL LEARNING

Inge Kral

This research in collaboration with Shirley Brice Heath (Professor Emerita at Large, Stanford University, USA) involves a case study of informal learning among remote Indigenous Australian youth in order to lay out a theory of explanation for voluntary specialisation development.

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF MINORITY INDIGENOUS EDUCATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY ISSUES IN AUSTRALIA, MALAYSIA AND VIETNAM

Inge Kral

This joint publication with Sumathi Renganathan (University Teknologi Petronas, Malaysia) and Chi Truong (Vietnam National University, Hanoi) builds on the research background of the three authors. It surveys education, language and literacy issues for minority Indigenous groups in remote regions of Australia, Vietnam and Malaysia

EXPLORING THE VIABILITY OF INTRODUCING A COMMUNITY-BASED EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE ORANG ASLI CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

Inge Kral

This joint project with Sumathi Renganathan (University Teknologi Petronas) will explore the development of community-based learning environment for lifelong learning in an Orang Asli village in Malaysia.