This symposium will examine how and why Indigenous historians, writers, curators, artists and filmmakers use emotions as a means of investigating and narrating the past. Participants will explore how such emotional histories may be motivated by the desire to heal and reconcile with the past, or to restore a sense of community pride and dignity to our ancestors, or express anger and rage over past injustices and their legacies. We will also investigate the techniques used to convey emotions, and to deepen connections, recognition, or acceptance of Indigenous histories, and explore whether such techniques reflect Indigenous cultural practices and protocols.

**SPEAKERS:**

- Michael Aird (The University of Queensland)
- Tony Birch (Victoria University)
- Clint Bracknell (Sydney Conservatorium of Music, The University of Sydney)
- Natalie Harkin (Flinders University)
- Barry Judd (Charles Darwin University)
- Shino Konishi (The University of Western Australia)
- Greg Lehman (University of Tasmania)
- Leah Lui-Chivizhe (The University of Sydney)
- Jill Milroy (The University of Western Australia)
- Frances Peters-Little (University of Technology Sydney)
- Elfie Shiosaki (Curtin University)
- Michael Jalaru Torres (Jalaru Photography)
- Jakelin Troy (The University of Sydney)

Richard Walley will provide the Welcome to Country.

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>8.30–9am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9–9.30am</td>
<td>Welcome to Country by Richard Walley</td>
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<td>Andrew Lynch, Director, ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions, UWA</td>
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<td>Jill Milroy, Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Education, UWA</td>
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<td><strong>SESSION 1: THE PLACE OF EMOTION</strong> Chair: Shino Konishi (UWA)</td>
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<td>9.30–10.30am</td>
<td>Tony Birch (Victoria University), ‘Two Fires: Christmas Hills to Banff and Home’</td>
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<td>10.30–11.00am</td>
<td>MORNING TEA (provided)</td>
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<td><strong>SESSION 2: HISTORY AND EMOTIONS</strong> Chair: Cindy Solonec (UWA)</td>
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<td>11–12.30pm</td>
<td>Leah Lui-Chivizhe (The University of Sydney), ‘1836: Fury, Loss and Madness in Torres Strait’</td>
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<td>Elfie Shiosaki (Curtin University), ‘Hand on Heart: Emotions and Letter Writing by Noongar People’</td>
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<td>12.30–1.30pm</td>
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<td><strong>SESSION 3: EARLY EMOTIONAL WORLDS</strong> Chair: Clint Bracknell (Sydney)</td>
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<td>1.30–3.00pm</td>
<td>Jakelin Troy (The University of Sydney), ‘Vocabularies of Emotion: What do the Earliest Studies of Australian Languages Tell Us About Human Relationships and Emotions’</td>
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<td>Shino Konishi (UWA), ‘Reconstructing Aboriginal Emotional Worlds’</td>
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<td><strong>SESSION 4: COLONIAL REPRESENTATIONS AND EMOTIONS</strong> Chair: Vanessa Russ (UWA)</td>
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<td>3.30–4.30pm</td>
<td>Michael Aird (The University of Queensland), ‘Transforming Tindale’</td>
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<td><strong>SESSION 5: EMOTIONS AND FILM</strong> Chair: Leah Lui-Chivizhe (Sydney)</td>
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<td>9.30–10.15am</td>
<td>Frances Peters-Little (University of Technology Sydney, Independent filmmaker), ‘Falling In and Out of Love with Referendums’</td>
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<td>10.15–10.45am</td>
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<td><strong>SESSION 6: IDENTITY AND EMOTIONAL PRACTICES</strong> Chair: Aileen Walsh (UWA)</td>
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<td>10.45–12.15pm</td>
<td>Barry Judd (Charles Darwin University), ‘The Great Motivator: Indigeneity, Emotions and Australian Indigenous Studies’</td>
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<td><strong>SESSION 7: ARCHIVES OF EMOTION</strong> Chair: Robin Barrington (Curtin)</td>
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<td>1.15–2.45pm</td>
<td>Natalie Harkin (Flinders University), ‘I weave back to you’: Archival-poetics For the Record’</td>
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<td>Clint Bracknell (The University of Sydney), ‘Engaging with Archival Noongar Song in Community Workshops’</td>
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<td><strong>SESSION 8: CLOSING REFLECTIONS AND DISCUSSION</strong> Chair: Shino Konishi (UWA)</td>
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<td>3.15–4pm</td>
<td>Jill Milroy (UWA)</td>
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Two Fires: Christmas Hills to Banff and Home

Tony Birch (Victoria University)

In deciding on a presentation for this conference I mulled over several critical and ‘objective’ approaches to both my writing and thinking and what approach might be of value to conference participants. To discuss the place of emotion in creative, political and intellectual scholarship from an Aboriginal perspective takes many forms. I could list them, critique them, theorise them, fictionalise them, even sing them, if prompted. Instead, I finally decided to write an essay that ‘projected’ my emotional state, my emotional intelligence and vulnerability through an experiential piece of writing; to document and frame my emotional engagement with time, place and the political realities of social connection, wanted and unwanted.

1836: Fury, Loss and Madness in Torres Strait

Leah Lui-Chivizhe (The University of Sydney)

In 1836, in a fit of colonial rage, a large turtle shell mask was stolen from its keeping place on Auridh in the central Torres Strait. Protected and adorned over many years with seashells, ochre and human skulls, for Islanders the mask was imbued with agentive powers. To colonial authorities, however, it was a gruesome trophy and proof of the murderous savagery of Islanders. Through the use of colonial records and published accounts of the time, my presentation will tease out the emotional turmoil that accompanied the theft of the mask and contemplate the significance of its loss to Islanders.

Hand on Heart: Emotions and Letter Writing by Noongar People

Elfie Shiosaki (Curtin University)

In her Mabo Lecture in Townsville earlier this year, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, June Oscar, reflected that ‘for many of you, I know that human rights are just words on a page and not a part of your lived reality’. This presentation examines how emotions, and histories of emotions, assert lived realities in movements for human rights. It is a case study in discursive advocacy for Indigenous human rights, as evident in the many letters written by Noongar people in the archive in Western Australia. This advocacy emerged in a political context in which Indigenous rights were systematically violated under the 1905 Aborigines Act and the administration of the Chief Protector of Aborigines, A. O. Neville, from 1915 to 1940. Archival traces of this discursive advocacy by Noongar people reveal how emotions asserted Indigenous lived realities, and restored humanity to the inhumanity of colonisation.

Discursive Journeys: Visual Identities from Nineteenth-Century Aboriginal Tasmania

Greg Lehman (University of Tasmania)

Much has been written about the formation of contemporary Indigenous identity in Australia. Discourse analysis drawing on the work of Stuart Hall has pointed to the power of historical narratives in influencing not only structural relations of power impacting on minority peoples and perceptions of their culture in the twentieth century, but also on individual conceptions of self-identity. Hall established the importance of visual representations, strongly influencing approaches to critical examination of popular media. My recent research on the visual representation of Tasmanian Aboriginal people in colonial art points to the need to extend this examination to include early nineteenth-century images of Indigenous people and culture in Australia. This paper will discuss several examples of how depictions of Tasmanian Aboriginal people across multiple genres during this period have influenced an emotional landscape of discursive identities in Aboriginal Tasmania.

‘Transforming Tindale’

Michael Aird (The University of Queensland)

In 1938, the anthropologist, Norman Tindale embarked on a two-year scientific expedition documenting Aborigines from around Australia. Most of the original material collected during this expedition is held by the South Australian Museum. In the early 1990s some of this collection relating to the genealogies and photographs of some 1100 people from five Queensland and two northern New South Wales Aboriginal communities that Tindale documented was copied and supplied to the State Library of Queensland. Since then there has been a constant demand from members of the Aboriginal community looking for photographs and information about their families.

One of the many Aboriginal people that have accessed the Tindale collection is Vernon Ah Kee. In 2012 I worked alongside Vernon to curate an exhibition titled ‘Transforming Tindale’ at the State Library of Queensland. It was an exhibition that featured artwork that Vernon created of members of his family that were photographed on Palm Island in 1938 alongside many other photographs created during this scientific expedition.

All of these people photographed in 1938 were incarcerated in government settlements at the time of being documented with racist scientific intentions. In some ways these people were ‘victims’, considering that many aspects of their lives were controlled by government officials. They did not have the power to object to having these images taken. But when looking at many of these people, their strength and confidence can be seen. The exhibition featured text and images that highlighted controversial issues relating to anthropologists studying Aboriginal people and treating them as scientific objects, while also looking at the importance of Aboriginals now being able to gain access to photographs and documents that relate to their family histories held by archives, museum and libraries.

My paper will discuss how the ‘Transforming Tindale’ exhibition challenged the viewer to think about the people in these photographs, to question what they may have been thinking and feeling as they were being photographed. By looking into the faces of these people that lived many years ago and thinking of them as real people, it forces the viewer to ask what they may have thought of being studied like scientific objects. I hoped that as visitors looked at this exhibition they would begin to question racism, past government policies and what that these people lived through.
Vocabularies of Emotion: What Do the Earliest Studies of Australian Languages Tell Us About Human Relationships and Emotions

Jakelin Troy [The University of Sydney]

In this paper I will explore the earliest studies of Australian languages dating from the late eighteenth century. I will reveal something of the emotions of the First Fleet and the Aboriginal people who were impacted by their invasion of Aboriginal Countries. These emotions were expressed by Aboriginal people and ‘First Fleet’ officers in documents including diaries, letters, field notebooks, official communications and particularly the so-called ‘Dawes Manuscripts’, produced in the first few years of the invasion of Australia by England at the place we now call Sydney New South Wales. Baragat ‘afraid’, gulara ‘angry’, wurul ‘ashamed’, madung ‘brave’, yurura ‘passionate’: these are just some of the feelings and emotions expressed in the first fleet texts. However, there are two stand out emotions that have stayed with me since I began to explore the First Fleet documents as a young student. One is ‘buduwa’ meaning to warm one’s hands and then take the hands of another to warm them. Such tenderness— and that was between a marine and an Aboriginal woman. The other was guribara a word that struck fear into the hearts of the Aboriginal people in Sydney. It meant ‘bearers of guns’. The ‘yura’ Aboriginal people were afraid because of the guns. So much emotion in such little notebooks.

Reconstructing Aboriginal Emotional Worlds

Shino Konishi [The University of Western Australia]

Early European explorers’ and settlers’ accounts of Aboriginal people have long been used as a window through which to observe so-called ‘traditional’ Aboriginal cultural practices and mores. Yet, scholars have been more reticent to use these sources as a way of gaining insights into the internal drives and feelings of Aboriginal people, aware that such accounts are mitigated by the authors’ ethnocentric bias, obliviousness to cultural nuances, and misunderstanding and misrepresentation. Yet, by reading these accounts against the grain, we can tentatively reconstruct a picture of what they reveal about Indigenous people’s feelings – about kin, country, and the arrival of strangers. What the early observers might have considered the endemic character traits of so-called ‘savage’ peoples, such as innate ferocity, timidity, or treachery, can be reconsidered as the emotional expressions of Indigenous individuals. Moreover, through detailed contextualisation, accounts of Aboriginal character traits might also provide insights into the emotional worlds of Aboriginal people, and the role of emotions in mediating social practices. Through this contextualisation we can better understand the seemingly oscillating emotions which were intrinsic to the performance of Indigenous ceremonial protocols which governed how to receive or repel strangers, as well as the apparently heartfelt and intimate interactions which established kinship relations and forged new reciprocal obligations with the European strangers. We can also consider Indigenous emotions as connected to Country through instances where Aboriginal people made impassioned interventions to prevent early colonist from despoiling local environments through hunting and land-clearing, as well as the social performance of emotions, especially in response to death, the execution of customary law, and cross-cultural interactions. In this paper I will sketch out some insights into Aboriginal people’s emotional worlds in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and reflect on how these insights resonate in contemporary Indigenous understandings of the past.

Falling In and Out of Love with Referendums

Frances Peters-Little [University of Technology Sydney]

It would seem August 2017 became the death knell date for the extravagant publicity drive to engage Australians yet again in another Referendum on Indigenous reform to the Australian constitution. The suggestion that the fiftieth anniversary of the 1967 Referendum might have proven to be timely, in fact proved to be wrong. Instead it failed miserably, in spite of a five-year Recognise campaign led by government bodies and expert panels, all of whom were backed by major financial sponsors such as the AFL, NRL and Cricket Australia, QANTAS, and so on.

In my presentation I will argue that the recent campaign lacked ‘heart’, examining what damage did that have, and also what part historians have since played in dispelling the ‘mythologies’ that were created during the 1967 Referendum. As a historian and filmmaker I prefer to make documentary films because they allow room for a personal and emotional reading of the past. In this presentation I will draw on my experience as a filmmaker to explore a more compassionate reading of the Referendums and why we fall in and out of love with them.

The Great Motivator: Indigeneity, Emotions and Australian Indigenous Studies

Barry Judd [Charles Darwin University]

Although academics who claim an Indigenous identity are motivated to engage in an academic career for a multiplicity of complex reasons, those of us whose scholarship directly engages with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are often motivated by a strong desire to know more about ourselves, our families and our cultural heritage. Shortchanged by a primary and secondary school education that excludes knowledge of Indigenous Australia, since the 1980s a growing number of individuals who claim an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander identity have sought out tertiary level studies to help in their personal quest to better understand themselves as indigenous people.

Drawing on my own experience, the personal motivation of identity is an important driver in the generation of research concerning Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Work undertaken as an ‘Indigenous academic’ can therefore never be contained to the 40-hour working week, as the politics of identity collapses the distinction between work and non-work spheres of social activity. Identity and the desire to know more about Indigenous self and heritage also facilitates a professional context in which teaching and research ideas, agendas and projects are likely to be directed, shaped, influenced and
impacted by emotion. Running counter to the historical claims of the Western academy to objective truths, the utilisation of emotion by ‘Indigenous academics’ is critical to the production of scholarly research that gives voice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges, concepts, world views, perspectives and understandings. Feelings of anger, sadness, surprise and conflict often accompany Indigenous scholars as they uncover knowledge and stories that retrace the trauma that marks the recent past and present of this continent. Indeed, such emotions are often the primary drivers of their research, often not often discussed in the formal professional forums of academia.

In this paper, I provide examples of how emotions have shaped my own experience as a professional researcher who claims an Aboriginal identity. In doing so I make a case for their place within the Western academy as a valid and valuable tool of research that can lead us in directions so called ‘objective’ and ‘detached’ research may not. I also argue that understanding the role they play in the production of Indigenous scholarly output is a process that needs to be much better understood by Australian universities both in terms of the benefits to research and the burden this places on individual Indigenous academics and their families and communities.

Scar Expose Light: Using Our Lian (Spirit) to Light and Expose Our Hidden Trauma and History Through Photography and Text

Michael Jalaru Torres (Jalaru Photography)

Being a photographer and an Indigenous man, I have faced many walls both from the wider society and in my community. The world often will see a black man as a threat, and even trying to document our people and struggles can be very problematic, both internally and externally, as I don’t want to be seen as creating poverty porn.

I choose not to capture our people in this light; instead I choose to capture the stronger images of our people in our communities. My aim is to break down the walls of shame and jealousy that have hindered our people across generations, and which are a huge part of the internal struggle we face as humans and artists. Externally we are expected to create works that map our country and culture, expressed in colourful and easy-to-swallow imagery that is void of guilt. While this of course is only a small part of our story, anything else that is expressed can sometimes be seen as being an activist or a humbug in the art world.

In creating my own works I tend to draw the viewer in with a colourful and nice composition with all the hallmarks of a perfect image. Once I have their eye, the words tell a different story. Where they would expect a fun light-hearted tale, I shift the narrative, mostly but not always, to the darker truths of our people and history, revealing a story under the surface that can only be seen through scars, both literal and metaphorical.

Each time I capture a story it reminds me of my own scars – of cancer, self-doubt, a broken family and the constant struggles of being a black man. These walls I do not share alone, as each person I ask to work with will face their own scars – be it fears of jealousy within the community or from partners, or the shame factor of opening up or also fighting against the ‘think you are too good for us’ symptom of black communities, both remote and urban.

“I weave back to you”: Archival-poetics for the record

Natalie Harkin (Flinders University)

This paper presents ‘Archival-poetics’ as an active, embodied reckoning with history and the colonial archive, particularly South Australia’s Aboriginal records. Family records at the heart of this work trigger questions about surveillance, representation and agency, bearing witness to the state’s archivisation processes and the revelation of what is both absent and present on the record. Four threads weave and bind this work: Blood Memory as a narrative tactic; ‘Dimensions of Haunting’ as a way of knowing; the paradox and violence of the ‘Colonial Archive’; the creative resilience, and the significance of ‘Grandmother Stories’.

Archival-poetics works to expose state-shaped assimilation policies, particularly those targeting Aboriginal girls for removal from their families, and those enabling indentured domestic labour. The historical, social and political contexts of such policies are critical to understanding intimate and paradoxical relationships with the colonial archive, and its seething impression on contemporary life. Emotion and intuition compels such archival-intimacy, particularly when reckoning with traumatic, contested and buried episodes of history that inevitably return to haunt.

As my research progressed I unintentionally re-created and became stuck in the very thing I was interrogating: the archive-box. The only way to unbind myself was to write poetry, exhibit my words, and weave my way out. Weaving became central to this work, as conceptual metaphor and as literal, cultural practice. ‘Ekphrasis’ as a literary device, is also used to explore affective relationships with works by other Indigenous writers and artists that resonate in unexpected and uncanny moments where the potency of place, rememory and Grandmother stories collide. Such artistic and literary interventions are examined through four inter-textual, mixed-media instalation works that move across poetry, prose and performative visual art practice; aiming to contribute to larger counter-hegemonic narratives of colonial history.

Engaging with Archival Noongar Song in Community Workshops

Clint Bracknell (The University of Sydney)

Community workshops undertaken to recirculate archival audio recordings of Noongar songs from the south coast of Western Australia have involved both the interpretation of lyrics and reconnection to ancestral song traditions. Although these workshops have consisted of a group of Noongar people working in a methodical, scholarly way with old recordings of fathers, grandfathers and uncles, there has been an obvious emotional dynamic to proceedings. Senses of pride and loss have permeated these sessions – feelings that often underpin the reclamation of cultural material once held in archives. Developing old recordings of songs to the spiritual, emotional and intellectual point at which the community can breathe life into them again requires a necessarily gradual process, enhanced by the cultural, genealogical and geographical connections between the people, songs and Country involved.
MICHAEL AIRD has worked in the area of Aboriginal arts and cultural heritage since 1985, graduating in 1990 with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from The University of Queensland. Michael has worked in professional positions and as a freelance researcher, curator and publisher. His main research focus has been photographic history with a particular interest in native title and Aboriginal people of southeast Queensland. He has curated over 25 exhibitions, including curating ‘Transforming Tindale’ at the State Library of Queensland in 2012, which was the first time photographs taken by Norman Tindale and Joseph Birdsell on their 1938 and 1939 expedition have been featured in a major exhibition. In 2014 he curated the ‘Captured: Early Brisbane Photographers and Their Aboriginal Subjects’ exhibition at the Museum of Brisbane. In 1996 he established Keeaira Press an independent publishing house and has produced over 35 books. Much of what Keeaira Press has published focus on art and photography, which reflects Michael’s interest in recording aspects of urban Aboriginal history and culture. Michael is currently a Research Fellow in Anthropology at the School of Social Science at The University of Queensland.

DR ROBIN BARRINGTON is a Badimia Yamaji teacher and researcher with a particular interest in Aboriginal history and transformative education. Her research focuses on the histories and representations of Yamaji in the colonial archive. She has been a lecturer at the Centre for Aboriginal Studies (CAS) since 2008 and also held the roles of Dean of Learning and Teaching, Course Coordinator and Unit Coordinator. Currently Robin is seconded to Curtin Learning and Teaching as a Learning Designer (Indigenous Curriculum and Pedagogy). Her role is to facilitate the process of integrating Indigenous Australian perspectives, histories, knowledges and cultural capabilities within curriculum across all faculties at Curtin. Robin is one of five Indigenous academics within Curtin’s Indigenous Leadership Group and a member of the Curtin Indigenous Policy Committee.

Robin was awarded her PhD Media, Culture and Creative Arts from Curtin University in 2016. Her thesis was a critical exploration and analysis of written and photographic representations of Yamaji peoples from the colonial archive. The historical records of scientific expeditions, government officials, colonists and the popular press were read and reinterpreted with reference to the personal records and oral histories of Yamaji people. Her research has been published in Aboriginal History and presented at international conferences. She was the recipient of the Museum Victoria 1854 Student Scholarship Award 2011.

PROFESSOR TONY BIRCH is the inaugural Bruce McGuinness Fellow at the Moondani Balluk Academic Unit and Professor at Victoria University. His research is concerned with climate change, climate justice and Indigenous knowledge systems.

DR CLINT BRACKNELL is a songwriter, musician and ethnomusicologist. He coordinates the contemporary music program at Sydney Conservatorium of Music and his key research interests include the sustainability of Aboriginal Australian song and the continued global impact of popular music. His current ARC-funded Indigenous Discovery Project (2017–2019) ‘Mobilising song archives to nourish an endangered Aboriginal language’ focuses on the endangered Noongar language of the south-west of Western Australia and explores the potential for song to assist in addressing the national and global crisis of Indigenous language-loss. His Aboriginal family from the south-east coast of Western Australia use the term ‘Wirrimin Noongar’ to refer to their clan and his Robert Street Prize-awarded PhD at The University of Western Australia (2013–2015) focused on the aesthetics and sustainability of Noongar song.

DR NATALIE HARKIN is a Narungga woman from South Australia. She is an academic and activist-poet with an interest in the state’s colonial archives and Aboriginal family records. Her words have been installed and projected in exhibitions comprising text-object-video projection. She has written for Overland, Southerly, TEXT and Cordite, and her first poetry manuscript, Dirty Words, was published by Cordite Books in 2015.

JALARU (MICHAEL J. TORRES): I am a Yawuru and Djungan man from Broome with tribal links to the Gooniyandi people of the Fitzroy Valley. I have spent most of my life in Broome. I lived in Perth to complete my tertiary studies and then moved back to Broome to start a traineeship at Goolarri Media, which focused my learning into all aspects of media.

A significant influence on my life has been the fact that I am a cancer survivor. I had non-Hodgkins disease in 2000 and put my life on hold for three years. This was a turning point in my life and creative drive as I felt I was given a second chance. I now have the drive more than ever to succeed and grow as an artist and showcase my artform and personal life experiences.

I specialise in photography and new media practices such as visual projection, graphic motion design and web applications. Being in a remote area with limited access to any formal media school I have taught myself a range of media art forms which I have utilised continually in my employment with Goolarri. In the past three years I have focused my interest in my own personal art, particularly photography, and established my own business which specialises in photography and graphic design.
PROFESSOR BARRY JUDD is a descendent of the Pitjantjatjara people of north-west South Australia, British immigrants and Afghan cameleers. He is a leading Australian scholar on the subject of Aboriginal participation in Australian sports.

Barry’s main research interest is in issues about identity and the kind of Australian identities have been formed out of the colonial contact between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in Australia. His research focuses on Aboriginal people in sport as a way of engaging the broader population in difficult questions around the place of Indigenous people in Australian society. Barry is a member of the National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network (NIRAKN), the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) and the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA). He is interested in the social impact of Australian Football on Indigenous Australia; explorations of Australian identity and the process of cultural interchange between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples; constructions of Australian citizenship and Australian nationalism; Aboriginal affairs policy and administration.

DR LEAH LUO-CHIVIZHE is a postdoctoral fellow in History at The University of Sydney where she is currently working on the publication of her PhD thesis, ‘Le op: An Islander’s history of Torres Strait turtle-shell masks’. Prior to taking up this position, Leah lectured in Indigenous Studies at Nura Gii, University of New South Wales (2013–June 2017) and the former Koori Centre at The University of Sydney (2001–2012). Her research interests include Torres Strait cultural knowledge and histories, museum practice, gendered knowledge and labour history. Leah is a Torres Strait mainlander, with extensive family links to Mer, Erub, Badu and Mabuiag islands.

PROFESSOR JILL MILROY is a Palyku woman from the Pilbara region of Western Australia. Jill is Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Education at The University of Western Australia and is the Director of UWA’s Poche Centre for Indigenous Health. She has more than 30 years experience in Indigenous higher education developing programs and support services for Indigenous students as well as a range of Indigenous curriculum and research initiatives.

Jill has served on a number of national policy advisory bodies and has been a strong advocate within the national higher education arena for the formal recognition and resourcing of Indigenous knowledge systems. In 2011 she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition of her services to Indigenous education. Jill’s key research interests are in Aboriginal knowledge and Aboriginal story systems. Jill works with her mother Gladys Milroy to write and create stories and together they have authored and illustrated children’s books Dingo’s Tree as well as Emu Crow and Eagle (Fremantle Press, 2016), a collection of bird stories for young readers.

FRANCES PETERS-LITTLE is a filmmaker and historian. She is also an author and musician. Her most-recognised films are Vote Yes for Aborigines; Tent Embassy; and Storytellers of The Pacific. Her most noted publications are, Passionate Histories: Myth, Memory & Indigenous Australia, co-edited with A. Curthoys, J. Docker (ANU Press, 2010); Indigenous Biography and Autobiography, co-edited with P. Read and A. Haebich (ANU Press, 2008); and Exchanging Histories, special issue, Aboriginal History 30 (2006), co-edited with A. McGrath and I. Macfarlane. Today Frances is the Managing Director of her father’s foundation, the Jimmy Little Foundation.
DR VANESSA RUSS is the Associate Director of the Berndt Museum at The University of Western Australia. Vanessa worked at the Department of Culture and the Arts as a business analyst, and as the Membership Coordinator at Artsource, before taking up the role at the Berndt Museum.

Vanessa was born in Derby and raised between Derby and Ngullagunda (Gibb River Cattle Station) and has family connections to Ngarinyin and Gija people in the Kimberley. She was awarded Honours (Fine Arts) at the UNSW 2009 and returned to Western Australia to attain a PhD in Fine Art at The University of Western Australia in 2013. She was awarded a Churchill Fellowship by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust in 2014.

DR ELFIE SHIOSAKI is an Indigenous Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Centre for Human Rights Education (CHRE) at Curtin University in Perth, Western Australia. She completed a PhD (International Relations) on nation-building in post-conflict societies in 2015.

DR CINDY SOLONEC is a Nigena (Nyikina) woman from the West Kimberley. She graduated with a PhD in History from The University of Western Australia in 2016. Her thesis ‘Shared Lives in Nigena country: the joint biography of Katie and Frank Rodriguez’ explores a social history in the West Kimberley based on the way her parents and extended family lived during the mid-1900s. A sessional lecturer and tutor at the School of Indigenous Studies, Cindy is also an Honorary Research Fellow in the School of Humanities. Currently she is preparing her thesis for publication, for a general readership. She is a member of the History Council of Western Australia.

PROFESSOR JAKELIN TROY is a Ngargu woman of the NSW Snowy Mountains. Jaky is the director of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research within the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Strategy and Services at The University of Sydney. In this role she is responsible for developing Indigenous research and researchers across the university in all discipline areas. Her particular expertise lies in the fields of Australian languages and linguistics, anthropology, visual arts and education. Major recent projects include developing the Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages within the Australian Curriculum – Languages [http://www.acara.edu.au/languages.html] and in collaboration with Dr Adam Geczy and Indigenous academics in Australia and north America she has founded *ab-Original: Journal of Indigenous Studies and First Nations’ and First Peoples’ Cultures*, Penn State Press.

AILEEN WALSH has taught Aboriginal history and Aboriginal cultural studies at The University of Western Australia since 1996. She holds two Arts degrees, one majoring in anthropology and the other in Indigenous Studies, for which she received a First Class Honours. Her research is on the names of Aboriginal people pre-colonisation and after colonisation. The recorded interactions of names provide details of attitudes of colonists. In other words, in looking at names individually and then connecting them in various ways as we do with history, the names serve as an entrée into the historical world. Aileen is working on her doctorate in this area of study.