Since the 1990s Indigenous academic research has been steadily growing as a field of study, forged through struggle within the realm of western academic knowledge production. In 1999, Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith’s book *Decolonising Methodologies* broke new ground and compelled Indigenous researchers to challenge western ways of knowing and researching. Despite the intervention of this work the most common critique of Indigenous research methodologies is that they are based in the metaphysical and lack objectivity. Yet western methodologies also have metaphysical origins that can be traced to Greek mythology and philosophy and later Judeo Christianity. Just as Indigenous research is predisposed to how we understand ourselves in and of the world, these distinct metaphysical origins are embedded within social research paradigms and orient Western researchers to particular ways of understanding and interpreting the world.

This symposium brings together Indigenous researchers and academics to assess and engage the assumptions, motivations and values that inform and underpin our research practices and to discuss the future of Indigenous research agendas, methodologies, ethics and protocols.

**Keynote Speakers:**

- Professor Scott Manning Stevens (USA), Associate Professor Kathleen Butler (AUS),
- Professor Bronwyn Fredericks (AUS), Dr Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews (AUS), Dr Tahu H Kukutai (NZ),
- Professor Lester Irabinna-Rigney (AUS), Dr Rowena Ball (AUS).

**Date:** Thursday 3rd October 2013  
**Time:** 9:00am-5:30pm  
**Where:** Central Queensland University, Building 32 /1.28

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Scott Manning Stevens is Director of the Newberry’s D’Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies and a member of the Akwesasne Mohawk Nation. He regularly contributes essays to books about early modern European colonialism, while participating in and delivering papers at American Indian Studies and other academic conferences internationally. Since receiving his Ph.D. in English from Harvard University in 1997, Stevens’s research interests have revolved around the diplomatic and cultural strategies of resistance among North American Indians in the face of European and American settler colonialism, as well as the political and aesthetic issues that surround museums and the indigenous cultures they put on display. Stevens is currently at work on a book-length research project entitled Indian Collectibles: Encounters, Appropriations, and Resistance in Native North America.

Title of paper: "Activating the Indigenous Archive"

Kathleen Butler is an Indigenous early career researcher, whose research interests center on the inclusion of Indigenous knowledges in the academy, with an intertwined focus on Indigenising curriculum and Indigenous RHD participation. Mentored by Prof. Allyson Holbrook in 2009-10, Butler received grants totaling $80,000, including a mentorship grant, two ECR grants, a Teaching and Learning Fellowship and Faculty funding as part of Holbrooks project Adaptive Knowledge Production. These grants, in particular Australian Universities as a site of Aboriginal Identity Construction and Innovative or Orthodox: Research Methodologies in Indigenous Doctoral Theses at the University of Newcastle 2000-2009 have enabled Butler to have a solid foundation to pursue her future research.

Title of paper: “Embedded Knowledge from Foundations to PhD: The changing landscape for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research”

Bronwyn Fredericks, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement) and BMA Chair in Indigenous Engagement leads the work undertaken by the Office of Indigenous Engagement. Her current research interests focus on the socio-psychological aspects of chronic disease, tobacco and smoking, Indigenous women’s health issues and qualitative and mixed-methods research that privileges Indigenous knowledges, methodologies and worldviews. Professor Fredericks holds several distinguished roles in Indigenous research. She is the Health and Biomedical Sciences Representative on the Research Advisory Committee for the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), and the external representative on the Indigenous Research Committee for the Australian Catholic University (ACU).

Title of paper: “Engaging People and Engaging Communities in Education and Research in Regional Australia”
**Dr Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews**  
*Centre for Positive Psychology and Education, University of Western Sydney*

Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews is an Australian Indigenous Research Fellow (funded by the Australian Research Council - ARC) working within the Centre of Positive Psychology and Education at the University of Western Sydney (UWS), and is also a member of the National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network. As an early-to-mid career researcher, he has gained experience in grant management (since 2008, CI on four ARC, one AIATSIS, two internal UWS grants, and one research tenure) across a diversity of projects ranging investigating Aboriginal Australian issues in education, wellbeing, self-concept, motivation, identity, and racism. His projects have led to the development of strong foundation in developing research designs, piloting and developing psychometrically sound instrumentation, conducting interviews across a wide range of age-groups, and undertaking advanced quantitative data analyses. His research has also attracted a number of national and international awards (including the AARE Betty-Watts Indigenous Researcher award), and he currently has numerous journal publications, book chapters, and peer reviewed conference publications, all of which have a strong emphasis on Aboriginal Australian affairs.

**Title of paper:** “Bubalamai Bawa Gumada (Healing the Wounds of the Heart): Racism, Resistance, and Resiliency”

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**Dr Tahu H Kukutai**  
*Senior Research Fellow, National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis, University of Waikato*

Tahu Kukutai has degrees in History and Demography from the University of Waikato, and a PhD in Sociology from Stanford University. Her tribal affiliations are Waikato, Ngāti Maniapoto and Te Aupōuri. Dr Kukutai currently serves on the Population Association of New Zealand Council, the Māori Statistics Advisory Committee to the Government Statistician, and Taki Ao, a group of emerging and mid-career scientists sponsored by the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment. Dr Kukutai is also on the editorial boards of the International Indigenous Policy Journal, and Kōtuitui: New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences Online. She is firmly committed to inter-disciplinary research and have worked with colleagues in sociology, economics, education, history, Māori and indigenous studies, public policy, and law.

**Title of paper:** “From population pathology to rights-bearing peoples: Indigenizing demographic research in Aotearoa New Zealand”
Professor Lester Irabinna-Rigney
Dean of Indigenous Education, University of Adelaide

Lester-Irabinna Rigney has worked in Aboriginal Education for over 20 years whose academic career includes former Dean and Director of Wilto Yerlo and the Director of the Yunggorendi First Nations Centre at Flinders University. He has a Doctorate PhD by Research and is a Professor of Education. He is recognized as a national and international authority in the area of Indigenist Research Methodologies. Interest in his work by National and International universities has seen him uptake several prestigious Visiting scholar invitations including Cambridge University, UK; Fort Hare University, South Africa; and University of British Columbia, Canada. Professor Rigney is in constant demand as a commentator on national and international Indigenous matters and has published widely on Education, Languages and Knowledge transmission. His 2006 co-edited book titled Sharing Spaces: Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Responses to Story, Country and Rights, is an Australian text on Indigenous and non-Indigenous race relations and how this converges in the vulnerable, vital and contested space called ‘education’.

*Title of paper:* “Indigenizing the Academy – Ten Big Questions for Indigenous Higher Education Toward the 21st Century”

Dr Rowena Ball
 ARC Future Fellow, Mathematical Sciences Institute, Australian National University

Rowena Ball holds a PhD in Applied Mathematics together with a Bachelor of Science with first class honours as well as a University Medal from Macquarie University (Physical Chemistry), 1993. She is presently an ARC Future Fellow with the ANU and has research expertise in Nonlinear and complex dynamical systems, Thermochemical instabilities, Decarbonation of fuels and flue gases, Endex heat-integrated systems, Combustion and explosion theory and modelling, Thermodynamic analysis, Fire and charcoal. Not to mention Country pub lunches.

*Title of Paper:* “Science, mathematics & engineering belong to us mob, too: Understanding the cultural and historical frameworks, and taking possession of, shaping, and advancing the world's scientific and technological knowledge”