2014 Annual NIRAKN Symposium: Indigenous Research Leadership, Capacity Building and Innovation

Speakers Biography

Distinguished Professor Hingangaroa Smith
Chief Executive Officer/ Vice-Chancellor; Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi

Distinguished Professor Smith is an internationally renowned Māori educationalist who has been at the forefront of the alternative Māori initiatives in the education field and beyond. His academic background is within the disciplines of education, social anthropology and cultural and policy studies, with recent academic work centred on developing theoretically informed transformative strategies for intervening in Māori cultural, political, social, educational and economic crises. He is involved in the development of Tribal Universities and is a retired chairperson of Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi Council. In his former position as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Māori), he was responsible for developing a Māori University structure within the University of Auckland. Professor Smith’s earlier training is in Social Anthropology and he completed an MA (Hons) dissertation on ‘Māori Rituals of Encounter’.

He was the first teacher of a Māori immersion Kura Kaupapa Māori school (Māori philosophy and principles-based School). His theoretical leadership has informed the emergence of Māori Education Studies as a distinct entity within the Tertiary Sector, in particular New Zealand Universities. This work has developed a wide-ranging academic discussion centred on Kaupapa Māori Theory, Critical Theory and Transformative Praxis.

Professor Smith has made significant contributions to the political, social, economic and cultural advancement of Māori communities. He has also worked extensively with other indigenous/ First Nations peoples across the world, including Canada, Hawaii, US mainland, Taiwan, Chile, Australia and the Pacific nations. He is a regular contributor to national forums on indigenous issues and has also been an authoritative voice to international forums on indigenous education issues.

Professor Smith has been an active contributor to the critical debate on ‘race’ and ‘ethnicity’ both in New Zealand and abroad and maintains a strong influence in the Māori language revitalisation movement. His other specialist interest is in institutional transformations in order to deliver more effectively to, and for the interests of, indigenous students, faculty and communities. He has published widely and is in demand as a commentator on national and international indigenous matters.
Distinguished Professor John Lowe  
Miami School of Nursing, Florida Atlantic University USA

Dr. John Lowe is a Cherokee Native American Indian tribal member and currently one of only 17 doctoral prepared Native American nurses in the United States. Dr. Lowe is a pre-doctoral American Nurses Association Ethnic Minority Fellowship alumnus and now serves as the Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee. He is also a fellow into the American Academy of Nursing and currently the John Wymer Distinguished Professor. He actively serves in elected, appointed, advisory and consultant positions such as the National Institutes of Health, American Colleges of Nursing (AACN) California Endowment for Cultural Competencies in Graduate Nursing, American Nurses Foundation, Florida Nurses Association, Florida Nurses Foundation, National Coalition of Minority Nurses Associations, National Alaskan Native American Indian Nurses Association, Pathways into Health, United States Department of Health and Human Services, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians Health Department, Cherokee Nation Healthy Nations Programs, University of Southern Queensland Centre for Rural and Remote Area Health Research, Indigenous Wellness Institute, Indigenous HIV/AIDS Research Training Institute, and the Indian Health Service. Dr. Lowe has represented Native American and Indigenous nurses in many national and international forums and with national leaders such as the U.S. Surgeon General and the former first lady, Mrs. Rosalyn Carter. Globally, he has provided health-care services and research consultation to underserved/disadvantaged groups in countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Tanzania, Costa Rica, Jamaica and China. He advocates for the cultural competent health care of Native Americans and indigenous people globally.

Nicole Watson  
Senior Researcher Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning University of Technology Sydney

Nicole Watson is a member of the Birri-Gubba People and the Yugambeh language group. Nicole has a bachelor of laws from the University of Queensland and a master of laws from the Queensland University of Technology. Nicole was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1999. She has worked for Legal Aid Queensland, the National Native Title Tribunal and the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency. Nicole is also a former editor of the Indigenous Law Bulletin. Nicole’s first novel, 'The Boundary' was released nationally June 2011.
Pro Vice Chancellor Steven Larkin  
**Professor Indigenous Leadership** Charles Darwin University

Professor Steven Larkin is a Kungarakany man from Darwin in the Northern Territory. He is the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership and the Director of the Australian Centre for Indigenous Knowledges and Education (ACIKE). As a member of the CDU Executive, Professor Larkin works closely with other senior managers and stakeholders, including the Commonwealth, in developing and implementing strategies and providing leadership to further progress the vision, strategic framework, goals and objectives of CDU in becoming a leader in Indigenous education. Professor Larkin has completed a doctorate on the subject of race relations as a candidate of the Queensland University of Technology, and holds a Masters in Social Work from Charles Sturt University and a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Queensland. Professor Larkin has served on numerous national advisory committees in Indigenous Affairs. He has chaired the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Advisory Council or ATSIHEAC (then Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council) for three years (2009-2012), and the Northern Territory Board of Studies for two years (2010-2012); and continues to provide invaluable input as a member of several well-respected professional affiliations.

Dr Chelsea Bond  
**Senior Lecturer, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit** University of Queensland

Dr Chelsea Bond is an Aboriginal (Munanjahli) and South Sea Islander Australian and a Senior Lecturer with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit. Dr Bond has worked as an Aboriginal Health Worker and researcher in communities across south-east Queensland and has a strong interest in urban Indigenous health promotion, culture, identity and community development.

Dr Bond has extensive experience within Indigenous health, as an Aboriginal health worker and researcher in urban and rural communities for over 15 years. Chelsea’s career has focused on interpreting and privileging Indigenous experiences of the health system including critically examining the role of Aboriginal health workers, the narratives of Indigeneity produced within public health, and advocating for strength based community development approaches to Indigenous health promotion practice. Her PhD research which examined the disjuncture between Indigenous and public health narratives of identity in an urban Aboriginal community was awarded a Dean’s Commendation for Academic Excellence placing her among the top 10% of her graduating year. Dr Bond has published a number of papers in relationship to strength-based health promotion practice, Indigenous social capital, and the conceptualization of Aboriginality within public health and
received a national award for her recent work exploring urban Indigenous smoking cessation narratives. Dr Bond is a member of the Australian Health Promotion Association of Australia, a board member of Inala Wangarra (an Indigenous community development association), a Visiting Research Fellow with the School of Social Work and Public Health at QUT, and retains a strong working relationship with the Inala Indigenous Health Service.

Dr Mark Wenitong

Public Health Medical Advisor, Apunipima Cape York Health Council
Associate Professor (Adjunct) School of Public Health, Tropical Medicine and Rehabilitation Sciences James Cook University, Cairns.

Dr Mark Wenitong (Adjunct Associate Professor, James Cook University, School of Tropical Public Health) is from Kabi Kabi tribal group of South Queensland. He is an Aboriginal Public Health Medical Officer at NACCHO, and the Senior Medical Advisor at Apunipima Cape York Health Council. His work entails clinics, clinical governance and strategic primary health care planning. He was the Senior Medical Officer at Wuchopperen Health Services in Cairns for the previous nine years. He has also worked as the medical advisor for OATSIH in Canberra. He was the acting CEO of NACCHO for a period in 2012. He has worked in PHC in East Timor, and has worked in community development with World Vision in Papunya NT.

He is a past president and founding member of the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association and is a member of the National Health and Medical Research Committee - National Preventative Health Committee, the National Lead Clinicians Group, a ministerial appointee to the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equity Council, the National Independent e-Health Advisory Committee, and chairs the Andrology Australia- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male Reference group, sits on several other committees. He is a council member of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and a Board member of the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress health service. He sits on the National Health Performance Authority PHC committee.

Dr Wenitong has been heavily involved in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce. He has received the 2011 AMA Presidents Award for Excellence in Healthcare, and inducted into the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Council Hall of Fame, and more recently, was one of the chief investigators awarded the MJA best research journal article for 2012.

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