2019 AIATSIS
NATIONAL INDIGENOUS
RESEARCH CONFERENCE
RESEARCH FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

PARTNERSHIP REPORT

AIATSIS
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL
AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES

QUT
1 - 3 July 2019

421 delegates
Two thirds of presenters identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people

102 Indigenous nations

156 speakers

38 sessions

90 presentations

17 Exhibitors
Aboriginal Studies Press
AIATSIS
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Australian Research Council
Bomsy Studio
Department of Environment and Energy
Dreamtime Kullilla-Art
Eurah Australia
Griffith University
Indigenous Business Australia
Marita Budden
Michelle Weare
Sonia Pallet
University of Melbourne
University of Queensland
University of Sydney
University of Technology Sydney

13 partners
University of Melbourne, Department of the Environment and Energy, La Trobe University, University of Queensland, University of Technology Sydney, Indigenous Business Australia, Australian Research Council, Griffith University, Murdoch University, University of South Australia, University of Sydney, University of Tasmania, Australian Bureau of Statistics

1,905 tweets
ABOUT THIS YEAR’S AIATSIS NATIONAL INDIGENOUS RESEARCH CONFERENCE

AIATSIS and the Queensland University of Technology co-convened the AIATSIS National Indigenous Research Conference 2019.

The conference was structured around the theme ‘Research for the 21st century’ and brought together researchers, policymakers, cultural and collecting institutions, the corporate sector and Indigenous organisations and communities. It built on our 2017 conference themes of impact and engagement, to consider the capacity of the research sector to meet the needs of Indigenous policy and community into the future, and explore the transformative capability of Indigenous research for the 21st century.

Over 150 speakers discussed a broad range of issues including Indigenous data sovereignty, Indigenous knowledges in research, Indigenisation of systems, Indigenous health and wellbeing, community development, governance, research and cultural capability, education, research ethics and assessment, repatriation, and the future of the research endeavour.

The conference was held at QUT’s Gardens Point Campus from Monday 1 - Wednesday 3 June 2019.

(L-R) Brett Leavy, Dr Bronwyn Carlson, Dr Leah Talbot and Cheryl Leavy

Professor Kerrie Doyle presenting on 'Indigenising Research in Health & Wellbeing'

The Tweet Wall at ANIRC 2019
ABOUT THE CO-CONVENORS

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) is at the forefront of research led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, who are involved as researchers, partners and drivers of our research priorities and projects. We lead by example in conducting research to the highest ethical standards and we have a genuine commitment to building pathways for knowledge exchange.

Our research is not only high quality, but more importantly, contributes to the wellbeing of Indigenous Australians and has direct benefit to the communities we work with. Our work allows us to build upon and contribute to the knowledge contained within our collections.

Our partnerships are essential. They connect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations with researchers, policy makers and practitioners to address the questions they want answered, with outcomes that can be implemented, shared and built upon.

It is the grounded nature of our research that places us in a position to influence and inform policies and practices of importance to Indigenous Australians.

We are committed to fostering the new generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers and engaging Indigenous Australians in the research process. We specialise in the areas of languages and cultural expression, native title and traditional ownership, education and cultural transmission, governance development and public policy, health and wellbeing, and land and water.

QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

INDIGENOUS RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT UNIT (IREU)

QUT is a major Australian university with a truly global outlook. Home to nearly 50,000 students, they are providing real-world infrastructure, learning and teaching, and graduate skills to the next generation of change-makers.

QUT’s research is focused on progress, pushing the boundaries and developing new ideas through transdisciplinary thinking.

They are a research university that is breaking new ground, working with true experts, and funding the future of research innovation in Australia.

QUT’s Indigenous Research and Engagement Unit (IREU) is committed to fostering an environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to share research and knowledge. Indigenous research students at QUT are supported by the IREU. The university offers a culturally supportive environment that includes access to student support services, scholarships and financial support. Students also have access to activities including research seminar series, critical reading groups and Indigenous research conferences.

The Universality goals for Indigenous representation are guided by key performance indicators for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and students, which include:
- share of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander domestic undergraduate enrolments
- share of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff; and
- research and innovation targets.

QUT monitor the access, representation, success, retention and attrition of student equity target groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

**CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

The program featured over 90 presentations and 150 speakers, with two thirds of those speakers being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.

**DAY 1**

The conference opened with a welcome to country performed by Shanice Martin of the Yuggera Nunukul nation. AIATSIS Chairperson Jodie Sizer welcomed everyone to the ANIRC event and thanked the conference partners.

Following this, Craig Ritchie CEO of AIATSIS delivered the first keynote. He focused on the history of Indigenous research at AIATSIS and the important research currently being conducted. Mr Ritchie shared the work AIATSIS is doing to advance relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, improve and empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research, and ultimately reform the way that Indigenous policy is made in this country. At the end of his speech, Mr Ritchie launched the revised Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies (GERAIS) and emphasised the importance of engaging with Indigenous people as partners in research.

Angela Barney-Leitch, Pro Vice Chancellor of QUT presented the second keynote for day 1 focusing on Indigenous research and government social policy. She discussed the difficulties of using Indigenous research in public policy and how researchers and universities can assist in turning this around to make a difference for Indigenous Australians.

The two keynote presentations were followed by numerous presentations on ethical research, research from archives and cultural collections, artistic expression, contemporary Indigenous experiences, Indigenous governance, impact and engagement, mental health and wellbeing, Indigenous knowledges, and research methodologies.

AIATSIS CEO, Craig Ritchie

The crowd on day 1 of ANIRC
WELCOME RECEPTION

This year’s welcome reception was held at the Old Government House on the grounds of the QUT Gardens Point Campus.

Yuggera Nunukul traditional owner, Ashley Ruska welcomed over 420 delegates to his country. Following the official welcome to country, delegates had the pleasure to watch the Nunukul Yuggera Aboriginal Dance Country, who showcased a range of dancers that represented their country.

Delegates were welcomed by AIATSIS Chairperson, Jodie Sizer and QUT Vice Chancellor Margaret Sheil AO, on behalf of the conference co-convenors. AIATSIS CEO Craig Ritchie was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

Following the official proceedings, delegates networked in a relaxed atmosphere to the music of Chris Tamwoy.

DAY 2

The conference program on day 2 began with an important panel discussion on Indigenous data sovereignty. The panel consisted of four founding scholars from the Australian Maiamnayri Wingara Indigenous Data Sovereignty Collective and one founding member of the Te Mana Raraunga Māori Data Sovereignty Network: Professor Maggie Walter (University of Tasmania), Associate Professor Ray Lovett (Australian National University), Associate Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews (University of Technology Sydney), Dr Vanessa Lee (University of Sydney), and Professor Tahu Kukutai (University of Waikato, New Zealand).

The panel discussed progress toward principles for the governance of Indigenous data in both Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand inclusive of: interactions with Indigenous nations, communities and organizations that hold/control Indigenous data; development of data ethics inclusive of genomics; big data and open data; and participation in the global on-going efforts to impact policies and practices related to Indigenous data at all levels. Panellist also spoke on how we continue to connect strategically, as Indigenous academics, organisations and community groups and members, to share our resources and knowledge in this critical area.

The plenary panel was followed by numerous presentations on data sovereignty, culture and technology, Indigenous education, co-design and planning, Indigenous voices in healthcare, repatriation and return of materials, Indigenous languages and indigenising research.
Following the end of the day 2 conference program, there was the launch of the Ngarinyman Dictionary and the International Year of Indigenous Languages Public Lecture.

The Ngarinyman to English Dictionary was officially launched by Rachel Perkins. The dictionary contains translations, illustrations and detailed encyclopaedic information about plants, animals and cultural practices. Also included is a guide to Ngarinyman grammar and an English index. The dictionary is an important resource to preserve language, culture and traditional knowledge for the younger generations.

Following the dictionary launch, was the International Year of Indigenous Languages Public Lecture. The public lecture was given by Aboriginal journalist Daniel Browning from ABC RN Awaye! program. Daniel began by speaking about his own family history and his journey with language. The main focus of his lecture was on ways in which digital technology can assist with language revitalisation. He provided examples from the Word Up program on the ABC.

The public lecture and dictionary launch concluded with drinks, canapes and networking.
DAY 3

The final keynote addresses for the conference were delivered by Professor Colleen Hayward AM, Edith Cowan University and Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton Robinson, QUT. Professor Hayward questioned whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research is making a difference and whether our priorities could be refined so the impact of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers work is greater sooner.

Professor Moreton Robinson spoke about the concept of ‘incommensurable sovereignties’, arguing that European and Indigenous notions of sovereignty have radically different ontological bases. Examining the ontologies of both European and Indigenous peoples, Moreton-Robinson argues that, given the radical incommensurability between them, Indigenous sovereignties have never been extinguished by colonisation.

The two keynote presentations were followed by numerous presentations on reconciliation, Indigenising research, research methods, Indigenous education, improving Indigenous health, youth and justice, and self-determination.

INDIGENOUS EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER FORUM

The 2019 Indigenous Early Career Researcher Forum was facilitated at the AIATSIS National Indigenous Research Conference, Brisbane. This forum brought together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from various parts of Australia who are in the early stages of a research career.

Delegates shared their stories and drew strength from common experiences. The important issues that were discussed were building a 5 year plan for early career research success, identifying inspiring Indigenous research, and harnessing social media to build a highly effective academic profile.

Delegates found that the Early Career Researcher Forum is an effective and appropriate way to explore these issues and many more.
CONFERENCE DINNER

The conference closed when 300 delegates and guests came together for a lively and enjoyable dinner to celebrate the end of the 2019 conference.

Comedian Leon Filewood was the MC for the evening and had the dinner attendees in stitches. To begin the dinner the Malu Kiai Mura Baui Traditional Dance Company performed some traditional Torres Strait dances.

AIATSIS CEO Craig Ritchie presented the closing remarks at the conference dinner and thanked the co-convenors, the Queensland University of Technology, and thanked the sponsors, supporters and all attendees. He recapped the discussions held at the conference, and drew the trade fair competition.

Following official proceedings, delegates were entertained by Kristal West and CKNU. Both acts had delegates on their feet dancing the night away.

TRADE FAIR

The conference trade fair hosted 17 exhibitors throughout the three day conference, including local Indigenous artists and conference sponsors.

The trade fair provides an ideal opportunity to promote the work of organisations and to speak one-on-one with a range of stakeholders involved in the Indigenous research sector.

The trade fair was well attended by delegates with over half of the delegates submitting to the trade fair competition.
This year the conference had 13 partners and we were able to raise $135,000. This funding was used to subsidise the registration fee, making it affordable for attendees to attend and sponsor 22 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to attend the conference as speakers, chairs and delegates.

The AIATSIS National Indigenous Research Conference 2019 Partners:

Principal Partner: University of Melbourne

Partners: Department of the Environment and Energy, La Trobe University, University of Queensland, University of Technology Sydney, Indigenous Business Australia

Supporting Partners: Australian Research Council, Griffith University, Murdoch University, University of South Australia, University of Sydney, University of Tasmania, Australian Bureau of Statistics

Partners were acknowledged throughout the three day program, including at the plenary sessions, welcome reception and the conference dinner. Partners were promoted prior, during and after the conference through printed and online materials.


Co-Convenors