NEWS and VIEWS

Stories from the sky: astronomy in Indigenous knowledge
Dr. Duane W. Hamacher


INDIGENOUS ASTRONOMY

Australian Society for Indigenous Astronomy (ASIA)
By Duane Hamacher, ASIA Chair

Indigenous Astronomy Group, UNSW

The Indigenous astronomy group at Nura Gili has significantly grown this year, tackling a range of research, education, and outreach projects on the astronomical knowledge and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

People

- The group welcomes our new team members: Melissa Razuki (PhD candidate, RMIT), Carla Guedes (PhD candidate, Lusofona University-Lisbon), Imogen Casey (Honours Student, UNSW), Michelle Gantevoort (Honours Student, UNSW), and Rose Tasker (Researcher, CDU). These students are all pursuing various research projects in Indigenous astronomy under the supervision of Dr Hamacher.
• **Trevor Leaman** completed the first year of his PhD studies and is now working closely with Wiradjuri communities to learn about their astronomy. He also received a research grant from the Central West Local Land Services to continue this work.

• **Tina Leaman** - an undergraduate student at UNSW of Aboriginal Tasmanian decent, is assisting Trevor with his fieldwork.

• **Willy Stevens** (Sydney Observatory), a Murruwarri man, joined our group to develop education and tourism programs using our research output. His knowledge is highly detailed and his passion and enthusiasm are contagious!

• **Bob Fuller** (UNSW/UWS) had his MPhil thesis accepted at Macquarie University under the supervisions of Profs Ray Norris and Michelle Trudgett. He joined Nura Gili to continue his research in Aboriginal astronomy along coastal NSW. He will also continue researching songlines and star maps with Prof Ray Norris at UWS.

• **Dave Harrington**, formerly of Macquarie University, was hired as a sessional lecturer to teach ATSI 2015: The Science of Indigenous Knowledge. His expertise and experience in Traditional Ecological Knowledge will bring a needed focus to the teaching profile of Nura Gili.

• We are particularly interested in bringing Indigenous PhD candidates into the group. If interested, contact Dr Duane Hamacher at d.hamacher@unsw.edu.au

**Research**


**Outreach**

• The group is prominent on social media, including YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and our Blog.

• Aboriginal astronomy guide Willy Stevens and Dr Duane Hamacher worked with a European documentary company to film a short piece on Aboriginal astronomy. Willy was the face of the piece, sharing his extensive knowledge and passion while Duane worked as a background consultant. The program is called "Between Heaven and Earth."

• **EMU, Astrophysics, and Australian Aboriginal Astronomy**, BBC World Service Radio (Feb ‘15)

• **Indigenous Astronomy**, Counterpoint, ABC Radio National (Feb ’15)

• **Stone Compasses and Aboriginal Astronomy**, ABC 24 Live (Jan ’15)

• **Profiles in Versatility: Indiana Jones with a Physics Degree**, APS News (Jan ’15)
RESOURCES

**International Journal of Multicultural Education**
Please visit the website of International Journal of Multicultural Education at [http://ijme-journal.org/index.php/ijme](http://ijme-journal.org/index.php/ijme). You can access both new issue from the "Current" link and back issues from the "Archives" link. With the "open-access" mission of the journal, we open the journal content to the world free of charge. We invite you to review the Table of Contents here and then visit our web site to review articles and items of interest.

Dr. Heewon Chang
Editor-in-Chief, IJME
Professor of Education and Organizational Leadership Eastern University hchang@eastern.edu
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Heewon Chang Looking Back, Looking Forward (pp. 1-1)

Articles (Peer-reviewed)
Judson Laughter Toward a Theory of Micro-kindness: Developing Positive Actions in Multicultural Education (pp. 2-14)

Cyndy R. Snyder  A Woman’s Place: Women of Colour Navigating Doctoral Education in South Africa (pp. 15-35)

Ming-Hsuan Wu Innovative Education for Diverse Students in a Changing Era: One U.S. Urban School’s Alternative Teaching and Learning (pp. 36-55)

**Brazilian Journal of Research in Science**
We are delighted to announce the online publication of the special issue of Brazilian Journal of Research in Science Education entitled “ENVIRONMENTAL DISCOURSES IN SCIENCE EDUCATION: CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEMOCRACY, CITIZENSHIP AND SOCIAL JUSTICE” (the table of contents is included below). This multilingual, international issue is now available at the journal website: [http://revistas.if.usp.br/rbpec/issue/view/47](http://revistas.if.usp.br/rbpec/issue/view/47)

Best regards,
Alan Oliveira & Giuliano Reis
Guest Editors
Western Desert Art
I know your work is with Indigenous Science but the resources I have recently developed about Western Desert Art (in conjunction with local Indigenous folk) might be of interest to your readers. The links to science and other subjects are strong, I just didn't make them as my focus was The Arts. Copyright clearance has been made for all materials and for all schools to use.

http://www.usc.edu.au/art-gallery/education

John Hunt
Lecturer in Education
University of the Sunshine Coast

Australian Quarterly
Chris Matthews has asked to circulate the attached which have come from A/Professor Rowena Ball from the Mathematical Sciences Institute.

Rowena’s paper, STEM the gap: Science belongs to us mob too, is in the most recent Australian Quarterly published in January which is a special Indigenous themed edition. Go to:
http://issuu.com/aqaustralianquarterly/docs/ag_journal86.1_-_issuu?e=0/11370578


Recent paper

Here is the editor's brief description of the chapter: "[In this chapter,] Gregory Lowan-Trudeau explores the tensions between his own Indigenous and Western cultural perspectives through personal journeys which include the need to regularly escape into the mountains whilst acknowledging the need to advocate for local environmental issues at two different Canadian locales."

Here is a link to the publisher's home page:

CONFERENCES

Call for Papers for the 2015 National Indigenous Conferences
Inspired by the hugely successful staging of last year’s Indigenous Conferences in Cairns, the event organizers are now calling for papers for the five exciting events being launched this month with the closing date of submitting paper on February 28, 2015.

The 2015 Indigenous Men’s and Indigenous Women’s Conferences will be held in Darwin on the 12th – 14th of September. Similarly, papers are also being called for the Indigenous Board of Directors Conference scheduled for the 19th – 21st of October and the 2015 National Indigenous Domestic Violence Conference to be held on 28th – 30th of October respectively. Both October events will be held at the Mercure Gold Coast Resort.
Furthermore, the 2015 National Indigenous Health Conference will be held in Cairns and is scheduled for the 1st – 3rd December, 2015.

**Guidelines in Submitting Paper:**
Papers should not contain offensive language and take into account cultural sensitivities of host Aboriginal country.
Papers may treat the themes in a manner that contributes to further discussion of conference aims.
Conference papers must be presented in the finish format not less than 60 days prior to the event.
First round of papers closing date will be on February 28, 2015. Papers that are not chosen in the first round may be resubmitted in the second round.
Papers should be submitted in Microsoft Word format.
Authors of papers presented at the conference will be formally notified of their acceptance.
Registration fee of $650 will apply to all persons submitting papers payable upon acceptance of papers.
Papers should explore ways in which the themes show up in the philosophy of the conference.
All papers must be presented in a positive and informative light.

For more information, please visit the conference website at [www.indigenousconferences.com](http://www.indigenousconferences.com) or contact us by email at adminics@iinet.net.au.

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

This is mostly a summary of upcoming conferences. More details may have been given in this or previous bulletins as shown. A web-based contact is usually included. Inclusion of conferences in this list is not to be read as an endorsement of the conference.

**2015**

**February**

**April**

23-26 April: International Conference on Education in Mathematics, Science and Technology (ICEMST), Antalya, Turkey ([http://www.icemst.com](http://www.icemst.com)) (Dec14)


**June**

**July**
2016

April

14-17 April: National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST) conference, Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel, Baltimore, MD, USA

June-July

Australasian Science Education Research Association (ASERA) conference, Canberra (host: University of Canberra)