



Gender, Work and Organization
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Indigenous Knowledge and Organisation: Considering Experience, Practice and Methodology

Convenors

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This stream invites scholars, friends and practitioners to explore and share their thinking and research on diverse forms of organisation and organising, from uniquely Indigenous perspectives. Indigenous peoples are known worldwide as having ancestral ties to a particular land, a distinctive culture or language, a shared history of oppression, and while unlikely to be in economic or political power, are often engaged in collective movements toward self-actualisation (Corntassel, 2003; Fredericks, 2010; Kharkongor & Albert, 2014.). Further, Indigenous peoples often have unique ways of viewing the world which influence our ways of constructing organisations and activities (Henry & Pene, 2001; Kwaymullina, 2016; Mika and O'Sullivan, 2012; Ruwhiu & Cathro, 2014; Smith, 2012). As some of the oldest forms of social technology to survive into the 21st century, studies of Indigenous organisations and ways of organising will offer fresh insights into ecologies of engagement and practice that are ontologically distinctive (Henry & Wolfgramm, 2015).

From a scholarly perspective, studies of Indigenous organisation are rare. To chart new directions in this field, this stream welcomes papers that investigate the complexities, challenges and contributions that Indigenous worldviews and perspectives can present to organisations and the study of organising. Such studies will likely involve the organisation of research through adopting and carefully cultivating Indigenous research methodologies that reflect the desire from and for Indigenous communities to engage in culturally relevant research that draws primarily from cultural knowledge and traditions, places considerable value on relationships and relational accountabilities, and is driven by an explicit intent to produce research with positive transformative potential for participant communities (Evans & Sinclair, 2015; Mertens, Cram & Chilisa, 2013; Nakata, 2006; Ruwhiu & Cone, 2010). Organisation studies that are capable of reflecting the views of

indigenous peoples extends current research practices and enables a deeper sensitivity to engage in more diverse and meaningful questions about organisations and organising in social complex environments (Ruwhiu and Cathro, 2014).

Relevant themes that may be addressed in this theme, include, but are not limited to:

- Indigenous experiences of work
- Indigenous ontology and worldview
- Indigenous leadership, values and decision making
- Commodification of Indigenous knowledges
- Gendered organisations from Indigenous perspectives
- Indigenous decision making in economies of wellbeing
- Contributions of Indigenous knowledge to mainstream organisations
- Indigenous knowledge in Indigenous organisations
- Values and decision making – that contrast with self-interest forms of collective organising
- Careers for Indigenous peoples
- Forms of socio-economic diversity and disruption
- Indigenous forms of organisation

For submission details go to: www.mq.edu.au/events/gwosydney

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Papers from the stream will be selected for a special issue proposal of the Gender, Work and Organization journal.