

NATIVE AMERICANS

Wednesday 3 December, 4pm followed by a reception

National Europe Centre, Liversidge Street, The Australian National University

RSVP by 26 November to E: anna.damiano@anu.edu.au or T: 02 6125 6708

This is the fourth ANU Dialogue in the Indigenous Peoples of the World Series. Successful Dialogues have been held between Indigenous Australians, the Maori people of New Zealand and the Saami people of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia.

Speakers

Professor Dalee Sambo Dorough, University of Alaska Anchorage
Professor Robert A. Williams Jr, University of Arizona

Respondents

Professor Marcia Langton, University of Melbourne
Ms Megan Davis, University of New South Wales

Moderator

Professor Mick Dodson AM, Director ANU National Centre for Indigenous Studies

The Dialogue

Indigenous Land Rights: An Arctic Perspective

Professor Dalee Sambo Dorough will briefly address the current status of largely outstanding land claims and the related right of self-determination from the conditions in the Russian Far East, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, the various forms of 'public government' and land claim agreements in Canada and the possible road to full independence in Greenland. This range of northern examples highlights the need to address such rights in comprehensive terms and in a manner consistent with existing and emerging international human rights law.

Why Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States Voted Against the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Rights: Understanding the 'Implementation Gap' in the English Common Law Settler States

Professor Robert A. Williams Jr will focus his presentation on The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which was adopted in 2007 by the UN General Assembly by an overwhelming majority of Member States with 143 voting in favour, four against and 11 abstaining. The four States that voted against adoption of the Declaration (Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States) all share a common legal history in their treatment of Indigenous peoples' human rights; they are all inheritors of the English common law's doctrine of discovery. The widely-noted, modern-day "implementation gap" in the protection and promotion of Indigenous peoples' human rights in these countries will be examined and critiqued through the lens of this shared colonial era legal legacy which continues to inform domestic legislation and case law in these countries.

