

Welcome

Professor Lawrence Cram, Deputy Vice-Chancellor
The Australian National University

Welcome to Country

Ms Matilda House Williams, Ngambri Elder

Opening Remarks

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

Guest Speakers

Professor Dalee Sambo Dorough
University of Alaska Anchorage

Professor Robert A Williams Jr
University of Arizona

Professor Marcia Langton
University of Melbourne

Dr Lisa Strelein
Australian Institute for Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Studies

Reception

ANU DIALOGUES: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE WORLD SERIES NATIVE AMERICANS

Wednesday 3 December, 4pm

National Europe Centre, Liversidge Street,
The Australian National University



ANU Dialogues

This is the fourth event in the ANU Dialogues Indigenous Peoples of the World Series. The aim of the ANU Dialogues is to bring together the representatives of the international community in order to discuss with selected academics, both from our own institution and others, issues that are important for all of us to understand.

This Dialogue presented in association with the Embassy of the United States of America will focus on the political and legal issues relevant to Native American territories. The Dialogue will be moderated by Professor Mick Dodson AM, Director, ANU National Centre for Indigenous Studies.

The Speakers



Professor Dalee Sambo Dorough

Indigenous Land Rights: An Arctic Perspective

The Inuit traditional territory spans the circumpolar north from the Russian Far East to Alaska, Canada and Greenland. Arctic Indigenous peoples have dealt with a range of political and legal issues in order to gain recognition of and respect for their distinct rights to their lands, territories and resources. The four modern Arctic rim nation-states each have diverse approaches to the same interests: state sovereignty, national security and resource development. This presentation 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.

Professor Dalee Sambo Dorough (Inuit – Alaska) is a former Fulbright Scholar who has focused her research on Public International Law, with a particular emphasis on the human rights of Indigenous Peoples. Professor Sambo Dorough has been active in the promotion and protection of Indigenous human rights at the United Nations, International Labour Organisation, Organisation of American States and with Alaska Native tribal governments. She is currently at the University of Alaska Anchorage.



Respondent

Dr Lisa Strelein

Director of Research Programs, Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Dr Strelein is one of Australia's leading researchers of native title and has made a significant contribution to academic debate on this subject in Australia. She is also an Adjunct Professor with the National Centre for Indigenous Studies, ANU.

Professor Robert A. Williams Jr

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

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 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. This racist legal doctrine, derived from the colonial era European 'Law of Nations,' holds that Indigenous peoples' property rights and rights of self-determination are subject to complete divestment and extinguishment at the whim of their discovering European-derived settler state governments. 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.

Professor Williams is the E. Thomas Sullivan Professor of Law and American Indian Studies and Director of the Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program at the University of Arizona. He is an enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. He has published extensively on the subject of prejudice in the United States and has received numerous grants and awards from among others, the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies and the US Departments of Education and Justice.



Respondent

Professor Marcia Langton,

Australian Indigenous Studies Program, University of Melbourne

Professor Langton is one of Australia's leading Aboriginal scholars. She holds the Foundation Chair in Australian Indigenous Studies at the University of Melbourne. She is known for her work in several academic fields, linked by a concern for Indigenous rights, justice, and artistic expression. Professor Langton conducts anthropological work to support land claims by Aboriginal peoples, and their negotiations with mining companies and the state.

