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Nulungu Research Week

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Jun 4th, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

## On-Country performance as a research method

Clint Bracknell  
*Edith Cowan University*

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# Notre Dame Nulungu Research Week Key Seminar



*A New Partnership, William Roe, 1994*

## Title: On-Country Performance as a Research Method

Date: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June

Zoom link: <https://notredame-au.zoom.us/j/81451899783?pwd=Qm9zUkQ3Uk9NVXRMRRE1IbJFka1BJdz09>

Time: 10AM



Presenter: Associate Professor Clint Bracknell

### Abstract

New research focusing on the power of Aboriginal on-Country performance aims to further revitalise Noongar language and song traditions in south-west WA. This project seeks to understand the contribution performance can make to social and ecological cohesion Aboriginal and broader Australian communities, exploring concepts of interdependence between community, performance and Country. Aboriginal performance traditions offer ways for all Australians to understand and interact with our fragile yet dynamic environment. However, because Aboriginal performance traditions are primarily sung, it's concerning that just 13 out of more than 200 Aboriginal languages have fluent speakers across all generations. In the south-west corner of WA, more than 30,000 people identify as Noongar, which constitutes one of the largest Aboriginal groups in Australia. Still, just 1.5 per cent of Noongar people identify in Australian Census data as speaking their own language. Our capacity to heal our communities and languages may directly correlate to our capacity to heal Country.

## Biography

Clint Bracknell is a Noongar musician and researcher from the south coast region of Western Australia and Associate Professor at WAAPA and Kurongkurl Katitjin, Edith Cowan University where he leads an ARC funded program of research focusing on the connections between performance, language, Country and digital technologies. With over two decades in the performing arts, he most recently worked on the first full-length Shakespearian theatre work to be presented in an Australian language and the first feature film to be dubbed in one. Clint delivered the Australian Academy of Humanities' 2019 Hancock Lecture and received the 2020 Barrett Award for Australian Studies. His PhD on Noongar song was awarded UWA's 2016 Robert Street Prize for most outstanding thesis. Clint serves as an elected AIATSIS Council member and chair of the AIATSIS Foundation.

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