



Nulungu

Research Institute

The University of Notre Dame Australia

Nulungu Talking Heads Seminar Series

“Valuing Aboriginal Cultural Activity” - presented by Ms Kaely Woods, PhD candidate at CAEPR at ANU and CDU as a Northern Research Futures Collaborative Research Network Scholar

Thursday 7th August

12:30 – 1:30pm

Ms Kaely Woods will outline her doctoral research which explores the economic valuation of the non-market Indigenous cultural economy in Jon Altman’s hybrid economy model. How do Aboriginal people choose, and what do their choices reveal about the value of the customary economy and cultural production? By exploring these questions we can better understand the motivating forces at play in Aboriginal participation in economic development in remote Australia.

Venue: The University of Notre Dame Australia

Kailis Room, 88 Guy Street, Broome, 6725

For further information **08 9192 0670** | cathie.martin@nd.edu.au



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About Kaely

Kaely is a PhD candidate at CAEPR at ANU and CDU as a Northern Research Futures Collaborative Research Network Scholar, pursuing research into the role and value of Indigenous culture in economic development, particularly in remote Australia.

Kaely's professional experience includes over 25 years in Indigenous policy, with senior roles in government dealing with native title, land rights, heritage protection, health, housing, home ownership, governance and economic development. Until 2012 Kaely was the Deputy CEO of Indigenous Business Australia (IBA). Kaely is currently an independent expert Director on the Board of QAIHC, the peak body for the Indigenous controlled health sector in Queensland.

About the seminar

Valuing Aboriginal Cultural Activity

Kaely will outline her doctoral research which explores the economic valuation of the non-market Indigenous cultural or customary economy in Jon Altman's hybrid economy model, specifically cultural or customary practice, using choice modelling of the preferences of Aboriginal people living in a remote area of northern Australia for paid employment relative to cultural practice.

Past quantitative measurement of aspects of the customary economy have been based on models drawing on market comparators or overlaps such as nutritional values of hunting and fishing activities; time allocations to assess competing production possibilities; the market value of artistic and cultural tourism product; government payments for environmental services; or a combination of government and market value at the intersection of all three sectors. My methodology will use choice modelling to reveal the value of cultural activity relative to market production from the perspective of Aboriginal people over other forms of production in the market and market/customary.

Many academics, including Jon Altman, have pointed to the tensions inherent in the choices that Aboriginal people make in how they allocate their productive time. Market employment options in remote settings may be limited and Aboriginal people may need to leave country and reduce or change the way they conduct cultural practice for education training and employment, and some Aboriginal people resist or avoid taking up these options in order to remain wholly within the customary and customary/government sector.

How do Aboriginal people choose, and what do their choices reveal about the value of the customary economy and cultural production? By exploring these potentially rival uses of Aboriginal labour from an Aboriginal perspective we can better understand the motivating forces at play in Aboriginal participation in economic development in remote Australia, which could inform labour market and economic development policy.

