



**Nulungu**

Research Institute

The University of Notre Dame Australia

# Nulungu Talking Heads Seminar Series



**“The Social Benefits of Indigenous Media Production”**

**– Presented by William Lempert, PhD candidate in Cultural Anthropology at the University of Colorado, Boulder, United States of America.**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

**12:30 – 1:30pm**

**Venue:** The University of Notre Dame Australia

Kailis Room, 88 Guy Street, Broome, 6725

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## **About William**

William is a PhD candidate in cultural anthropology at the University of Colorado at Boulder. His research is sponsored by the Australian-U.S. Fulbright Research Scholar Program and the Wenner-Gren Foundation. He is conducting fieldwork on Indigenous media in the Kimberley, in collaboration with the Goolarri and PAKAM media outlets in Broome. This is his fourth and primary research trip to the region. His previous ethnographic research focused on understanding Native American perspectives on Indigenous film festivals in the United States, Indigenous inclusion in the Occupy movement, as well as the recent emergence of the Native American science fiction film genre.

## **About the seminar**

William will outline his current PhD research, an 18-month ethnographic study of two Indigenous media organizations in Broome and regional remote Aboriginal communities. This research aims to better understand the recent rise of the NITV and ICTV national Aboriginal TV networks, and the two media sensibilities that they represent. By following the social lives of media through collaboration on production teams, he seeks to help articulate current tensions and paradoxes of contemporary Aboriginality embedded within the daily practices of diverse video projects. In this talk he focuses on the intangible social benefits of the media production process.

With high levels of media productivity and success in Aboriginal activism, the Kimberley region provides an ideal backdrop for understanding the stakes at play in how Indigenous media makers arrive at particular representations. Namely, to what ends do they endeavour to make video programs that are at once locally relevant, politically salient, activist orientated, financially viable, and appealing to a diverse audience? Through this research William seeks to help complicate enduring and limiting binary divisions between traditional and modern—and urban and remote—Aboriginal Australia. He welcomes feedback and suggestions at this early stage of his fieldwork.