Round Robin from a Yarning Approach - South-South Dialogues about Reconciliation in Universities

Panelists: Gaja/Aunty Kerry Charlton, Professor Fred D'Agostino, Professor Reinaldo Fleuri, Braden Hill, Graham Akhurst, Dr Carlos Rivera-Santana and Nell Angus. This event will be held in the UQ Art Museum at 2:00pm on Thursday 30 November.

Universities play an integral role in producing knowledge as well as educating future professionals as citizens and leaders. Many institutions, including universities, have not properly and respectfully embedded in their activities indigenous cultures, languages, and epistemologies. The University of Queensland aims to address this shortcoming through a conversational leadership model that privileges collaboration and consultation. This panel aims to engage in a dialogue to discuss the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) as a means to address the legacies of the past and ways of walking forward together in universities. Through a Round Robin model of conversation, from a Decolonial and Indigenous Yarning approach, we will engage into a conversation that will weave the experiences of different representatives, stakeholders and International scholars to augment the breadth of reconciliation as a tool to address past and present failures and to properly value Indigenous knowledge and perspectives.

Gaja/Aunty Kerry Charlton

Gaja Kerry Charlton is a Goenpul Goori from the Yuggera, Kabi Kabi and Walangama peoples of Stradbroke Island, coastal and wider Brisbane and North Queensland. From a large and strong family whose history of colonisation, Aboriginal Protectionism under ‘the State’ steered Gaja Kerry's work in education, community building, organisation development, social justice, reconciliation and counselling to address social and systemic inequity of the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, “Healing” and “Our ways”. Gaja Kerry is dedicated to her family and grannys and her Elders' historical language mapping and revitalization and Finding Ancestors history projects.

Professor Fred D’Agostino

Fred D’Agostino was educated at Amherst College (BA, 1968), Princeton University (MA, 1973), and the London School of Economics (PhD, 1978). He was Research Fellow in Philosophy at the Australian National University from 1978 to 1984, and worked at the University of New England from 1984 to 2004, where he was Associate Professor of Philosophy, Associate Dean of Arts, Head of the School of Social Science, and Member of the University Council. He is now Professor of Humanities and President of the Academic Board. He recently completed work on an ARC Discovery Grant project in social epistemology, and on an Australian Learning and Teaching Institute grant for educational leadership development. He is co-editor of the Routledge Companion to Political and Social Philosophy. His current research is on disciplinarity. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.
Professor Reinaldo Matías Fleuri

Reinaldo Matias Fleuri is Doctor of Education (1988) and permanent Professor at the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Human Sciences of the Federal University of Santa Catarina. In 2012-2016 he acted as Professor senior national visitor (CAPES) at the Federal Institute of Santa Catarina and he is a member of the Paulo Freire Institute. He is a fellow researcher at CNP, and he founded the Research Group Intercultural Education and Social Movements (CNPq / UFSC) in 1997. He chaired the Association Internationale pour la Recherche interculturelle (ARIC) (2007-2011), and acted as visiting Professor in Canadian universities of Sherbrooke (2006) and Montreal (2013). In present date, he is an Honorary Professor at the School of Education at The University of Queensland.

Braden Hill

Braden Hill is a Nyungar (Wardandi) man from the south-west of Western Australia. He is currently the head of Murdoch University’s Kulbardi Aboriginal Centre. Having previously worked as a secondary teacher and academic, Braden is now leading the University’s efforts to increase the participation and success of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in higher education. Braden was valedictorian of his graduating year and winner of the NAIDOC Indigenous Youth of the Year for his commitment to education. His research interests relate to Indigenous education, identity politics, queer identities in education and transformative learning.

Graham Akhurst

Graham Akhurst is an Aboriginal writer and academic hailing from the Kokomini of Northern Queensland. Graham received an Australia Council Grant for the creation of new work to complete his debut novel Borderland, which will be published with Hachette in June 2018. He was valedictorian of his graduating year and completed his writing honours with a first-class result at the University of Queensland. He is currently enrolled in an MPhil in creative writing at UQ with an APA scholarship. Graham is an Associate Lecturer in Indigenous Studies at The University of Queensland.

Dr Carlos Rivera Santana

Carlos Rivera-Santana is a Lecturer at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit at The University of Queensland. Carlos has worked from a coloniality/decoloniality perspective on theoretical and practical issues regarding colonisation in Australia, the Caribbean (Puerto Rico mainly) and Latin America. He has a bachelors and a masters in Psychology and Social/Community Psychology respectively, and completed a PhD in Ethnic and Postcolonial Studies.

Nell Angus

Nell Angus joined the Office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement) to project manage a range of initiatives including collaboratively developing UQ’s first Reconciliation Action Plan and cultural education package. Nell has a Master of Public Health specialising in Indigenous health and has worked extensively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, organisations and industry partners across a broader number of projects, programs and higher education curriculum.