The Australian Centre for Indigenous Knowledges and Education is hosting our first Higher Degree by Research student seminar for 2012.

The seminar is over two and a half days and provides research students with a supportive and responsive audience for developing their projects, showcasing their works and developing presentation skills.

It is also a venue for staff and students to share and discuss research, and contribute to the research culture of ACIKE. In addition to student presentations, we have an exciting program of Seminars and Master Class.

Spaces are limited and we urge you to RSVP by Friday 4th May 2012.

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Research Seminar Series & HDR Candidate Program
9th-11th May 2012

Dr Tom Calma, in 1945 an estimated 75% of the Australian male population smoked and in 2010 less than 20% smoke. Yet 50% of the Aboriginal male population smoke and smoking is having a devastating impact on the health and life expectancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The smoking prevalence in the NT is even more acute.

The Council of Australian Governments’ target is to halve the Indigenous smoking rate by 2018. Dr Tom Calma will discuss how a concerted and collaborative effort can and is making a difference and how we can all play a part.

Dr Calma is an Aboriginal elder from the Kungarakan tribal group and a member of the Iwaidja tribal group in the Northern Territory, respectively. He has been involved in Indigenous affairs at a local, community, state, national and international level and worked in the public sector for 40 years and is currently on a number of boards and committees focusing on rural and remote Australia, health and education.

In March 2010, Dr Calma was appointed National Coordinator, Tackling Indigenous Smoking to lead the fight against tobacco use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Dr Calma’s most recent previous position was that of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission from 2004 to 2010. He also served as Race Discrimination Commissioner from 2004 until 2009.

Through his 2005 Social Justice Report, Dr Calma called for the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to be closed within a generation and laid the groundwork for the Close the Gap campaign. He chaired the Close the Gap Steering Committee for Indigenous Health Equality since its inception in March 2006 and has recently retired as Co-Chair of the steering committee.

Dr Tom Calma - HonDLitt CDU, HonDSc Curtain
Historically, the dominant idea in organisational studies has been to understand them as abstract entities predicated on values of objectivity, impartiality and neutrality. In recent times this representation has been the subject of both challenge and critique by feminist scholars and their work has revealed how hierarchical organisations’ are gendered in various ways to privilege masculinity. This paper, in part, substitutes gender with race as an analytical frame and argues that organisations’ are not only gendered but raced. Due to white supremacy – the notion that society and its institutions reflect white racial dominance and thereby systemically privilege white people – organisations such as government work primarily in the interests of white people. Inspired by both feminist scholarship on organisation theory as well as recent studies on racism, particularly through concepts such as colour-blindness, silent racism and everyday racism, the paper applies an analysis to government as an institution and demonstrates how race works to simultaneously structure and shape elements of underlying logics, behaviours and structures to reflect white racial hegemony. It concludes with ideas for how disempowering racialisation can be transcended to achieve equitable race relations inside government.

Anthropologists have long analysed the unique elements of Aboriginal culture. Modern essays into this theme by Austin-Broos and Musharbash have continued that tradition. That Aborigines have "ways-of-being-in-the-world" that are different from the social concomitants of western/settler capitalist society is acknowledged but inadequately incorporated into public policy. I will discuss examples where the state has attempted to deal with the Aboriginal “problem”. My argument is that the state – though mostly well-intentioned – is both ineffective and pursues policies that are often mutually contradictory. In effect the state is inchoate. I will attempt a preliminary categorisation of these policy phenomena.