

Yolŋu maths in Yolŋu life

Remarks made during the Maths as a Cultural Practice Workshop, CDU, 2007¹

Dhangal Gurruwiwi

<p>Yän ŋaya ŋarru guŋga'yuan in a way nhalpiyan ŋalma dhanu warkthun, lingu ŋanapu ŋätjil warkthunda dhanu warray so I've got a bit of an idea,</p>	<p>I might have a suggestion as to how we should go about this, because we've worked on this question before so I've got a bit of an idea,</p>
<p>banha warkthuwan, banha ŋanapu warkthun, nhä mala ŋamaŋamayuan yolŋu'yulŋuyu, warkthuna ga, there's maths in it, doesn't matter how, forget about the ŋäpaki side, ŋalma ŋarru concentrate ŋalmamuru banha Yolŋumurru,</p>	<p>so working, when we are at work, what things we Yolŋu make and do, there's maths in it, doesn't matter how, we should forget for now about the balanda side, we should concentrate on our own, the Yolŋu side,</p>
<p>Manikaymurru, yän example, manikay, yutunŋurr banha manikay, banha mala talking about distance, yän dhanu mathsnha Englishma happenma ŋoya ŋarru, there has to be some in Englishmurru banhayaya,</p>	<p>Through our ancestral songs, just an example, in the central part of the songs, it is talking about distance, that's what it's called in English maths, it's in there (in the manikay), there must be some English way to recognise that,</p>
<p>Unless napurr dhu baladhi bili roniyirr napurrungal djalkirilil, ga romlil napurrungal yolŋuwal, ga ŋunhili ŋathil marŋgithirr, ga yorrnha manapan bejurnydja bala märram, balandawalnydja mathsnur,</p>	<p>Unless we go back to our foundations, and to our Yolŋu law, and start by learning there, and later add the other from over there, from the balanda mathematics</p>
<p>miny'tjiŋa ŋalmalingura, gapuyu dhan rakaram, gurrutuy banha rakaram maths banha warrpam' bitjan ŋaya nhäma, ŋalmalingura dhanum djalkiri banha dhawatthuwana bitjana.</p>	<p>in our sacred art, the (sacred) waters tell us, our kinship system tells it all, that's how I see it, our identities coming out through them.</p>

¹ See www.cdu.edu.au/centres/yaci/projects_maths.html

This paper should be cited as:

Gaykamaŋu, Waymamba (2007) *Yolŋu maths in Yolŋu life: Remarks made during the Maths as a Cultural Practice Workshop*

http://www.cdu.edu.au/centres/yaci/pdf/Dhangal_Maths.pdf ... Accessed ...