Researching Governance and Governmentalities with Contemporary Indigenous Organizations

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Northern Institute
Yolŋu Studies - 1994

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Yolŋu Studies

Welcome
This is a place for Yolŋu and Biardanda to learn about Yolŋu life and language, talk with each other, read stories, and look at pictures.

Dhuwaṉynda gali 'Yolŋuwa, nyum waila guli ga dhawu jakarranwirin, ga manggirrirri, ga wuyu' ma naa ma naa ga dhawu guli ga naŋku manggirruma wirrupununha.

Unit Information | Yolŋu Research | Yolŋu Studies 2016 Flyer

CDU Northern Institute

cdu.edu.au/yolngustudies
An indigenous consultancy business located in the academy

Instituted in 2006 by a group of people, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, who have been working together for around 25 years initially in various locations in northeast Arnhemland and since 1996 through Charles Darwin University’s Yolŋu Studies Program.

Recognising changes in the location and nature of expertise in the new Australian governmentality

As yet there’s no overall agreed name for the changes in what we call the knowledge-policy-governance landscape that began to be felt in Australia in the early 1990s. ‘Evidence-based policy’ and ‘market mechanisms’ partially capture it. One outcome of the shift is that the significance of the radically alternative expertise of Indigenous knowledge authorities became evident to some institutions.
GroundUp - 2012

We work collaboratively, "both-ways" and from the ground up with people and organisations in remote Aboriginal communities.

We are committed to healthy, productive and sustainable remote Aboriginal communities.

We begin with a commitment to traditional Aboriginal authority and governance.

We work with governments, industry and NGOs to enhance their interactions with Aboriginal individuals and with groups to facilitate ongoing productive engagements.

We work with the problems of the moment – whether they be formalising governance arrangements, improving communication, ‘cultural awareness’, or the uses of digital technologies in remote Australia.

We do not deliver accredited training, but work on the ground to enhance the skills of individuals and
GroundUp - *examples*

• setting up small remote Aboriginal corporations Gapuwiyak

• institutionalising traditional agreement making structures and practices in local boards *Tiwi Islands*

• devising and documenting Aboriginal research methods *Alice Springs town camps*

• collaborative community management of remote Indigenous business eg aquaculture *Warruwi*

• Developing a local cultural mentoring program for new GPs in remote clinics *Galiwin’ku*
GroundUp – changing roles and expertise

- new significance of Indigenous expertise
- changing location and nature of academic expertise
- changing role of government officers
- working empirically at the interface where new governance emerges
GroundUp – changing analytic framings

- blurring between research and service delivery
- doing evidence and policy at the same time
- market mechanisms and normalisation
- planning backwards
- ownership and collaboration
Conclusions

IGLDP in Ramingining

Our work in Ramingining built on our presence there in a number of projects over recent years including the Building up Good Supervisors Skills project http://www.bugs.s.net, and the Building up Skills for Teaching and Learning project http://www.cdu.edu.au/centres/groundup/bustl.html.

Anthea had also been a teacher and researcher in the town for many years, so we already had strong relationships with many of the people we would be working with.

We were especially fortunate to have the support of Matthew Dhulumburk, a Gupapuyku elder who is also the chairperson for the Yolghi Nations Assembly. Matthew worked closely with us, advising and engaging in the both ways teaching and learning which is such an integral part of this project.

Stage 1

As in the other four towns, Stage 1 involved meeting with many of the senior people in the town and Homelands and also Balanda representing key organisations, in order to get a picture of where and how ‘governance’ in the broader sense was being played out in