

2011 PUBLIC SEMINAR SERIES

A Rounded Debate in Australian Indigenous Affairs: Balancing Competing Principles with Individuals and Groups

Presented by Dr Will Sanders

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This seminar will outline an analytic framework I have been developing for thinking about Australian Indigenous Affairs. It will introduce the idea of three competing principles which are both being balanced and moved between in Indigenous affairs; the principles of equality, choice and guardianship. It will arrange these principles graphically in a triangle and discuss how, in using this graphic with students and colleagues over the last three years, I have been led to think about the application of these three competing principles to both individuals and groups. This will lead to a hexagonal representation of the Indigenous affairs policy space, but then to its reduction back to an enhanced triangle.

The seminar will use the enhanced triangular representation of the Indigenous affairs policy space to think about what good policy might look like, in comparison to both past and contemporary policy. It will argue that the practice of Indigenous affairs policy has tended, historically and at present, to overlook one of the three competing principles. It will argue that a rounded debate in Indigenous affairs needs to self-consciously balance all three competing principles at once, both in relation to individual and groups, and that this will call for considerable analytic self-awareness.

Wednesday 16 February, 12.15pm

The Seminar Room, NARU, 23 Ellengowan Drive, Brinkin

This seminar is free and open to the public.

The views expressed in this lecture are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the view of ANU.

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