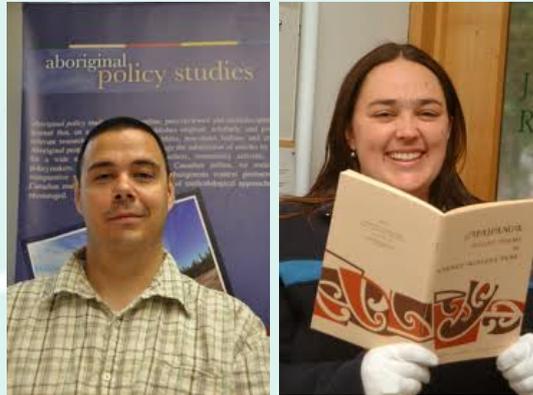




NIRAKN SEMINAR SERIES



Guest Speakers:

Professor Chris Anderson (CAN)

&

Associate Professor Alice Te Punga Somerville (NZ)

Where: QUT Kelvin Grove Campus, Building A Room 105

When: Monday 30 March 2015, 10.00am-2:00pm

RSVP: Wed 25th March 2015 includes Lunch and refreshments

Contact: nirakn@qut.edu.au or (07) 3138 3802

Chris Anderson

Abstract: “Métis”: race, recognition and the struggle for Indigenous peoplehood

Race is a form of difference that powerfully shapes indigeneity in Canada. In the specific context of exploring how race has impacted Métis Indigeneity in particular, in this talk I will position race as a form of administrative classification, noting both its structuring/symbolic and structured/material effects as a form of common sense and as a set of social hierarchies and divisions. I then move to a more specific investigation into the racial logics involved in the creation of Métis administrative categorizations in particular, an endeavour that seems inevitably to include a discussion about our essential mixedness or hybridity. I am critical of hybridity's supposed emancipatory potential and suggest why it has been unbeneficial as a source of Métis political claims in particular, insofar as it denies our pre-colonial peoplehood in the very same rhetorical breathe as it reproduces Canada's political legitimacy.

Biography:

Chris Andersen is a Professor in the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta and is currently the Director of the Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research. He is the author of two books including, with Maggie Walter, *Indigenous Statistics: A Quantitative Indigenous Methodology* (Left Coast Press, 2013) and *“Métis”: Race, Recognition and the Struggle for Indigenous Peoplehood* (UBC Press, 2014). With Evelyn Peters, he also co-edited the

recently published *Indigenous in the City: Contemporary Identities and Cultural Innovation* (UBC Press, 2013). Andersen was a founding member of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Executive Council, is a member of Statistics Canada's Advisory Committee on Social Conditions and is editor of the journal *aboriginal policy studies*. He was recently named to the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists.

Alice Te Punga Somerville

Abstract: *Manuhiri: five kinds of Maori presence in Australia*

'Indigenous' is a wonderful umbrella but it's not a backstage pass. While the Maori diaspora is largely unacknowledged at home, one in five Maori people lives outside New Zealand's borders and of those more Maori migrants live in Australia than anywhere. In the Maori language, 'Indigenous' is usually translated as 'tangata whenua,' which also means host, and which is half of a pair with the concept of 'manuhiri' or guest. However, how might we think about the presence of Indigenous migrants on Indigenous land when the invitation, or at least permission, has been secured by a settler state rather than from the tangata whenua? In this talk I will highlight five specific examples of Maori writing in Australia, each of which suggests a different kind of negotiation between Indigenous Australian and Maori people in Australia. The examples range from first Maori writers in Parramatta in the 1810s through to a 2013 literary anthology co-edited by Anton Blank and Kerry Reed-Gilbert. To make things more slippery I am also, alongside the literature, going to talk about eels. Rather than simply picking one of these five examples of writing (or indeed the eels) and deciding it is the best or ideal single form of connection between our communities, I will argue that any ethical, productive and respectful Indigenous-Indigenous relationships, both inside and beyond the academy, are best understood and imagined in relation to historical, political and cultural complexity.

Biography:

He uri ahau o Te Ātiawa. Dr Alice Te Punga Somerville's people are from Taranaki and Wellington in New Zealand. Born in Wellington, Alice was raised in Auckland and lived in the United States for five years in order to pursue doctoral studies. After teaching Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Literatures in English at Victoria University of Wellington (New Zealand) for several years, Alice moved to the University of Hawai'i- Mānoa to take up a position as Associate Professor of Pacific Literatures. Alice is at Macquarie for an 18 month fixed term position until December 2015.

Dr Te Punga Somerville's first book, *Once Were Pacific: Māori Connections to Oceania* (Minnesota) was published in 2012 and she is working on two book projects at present: *Kānohi ki te kānohi: Indigenous-Indigenous Encounters and Ghost Writers: the Māori books you've never read*. Alice also writes the occasional poem.

At its heart Alice's research is about locating, contextualizing, and analyzing texts written by Māori, Pacific and Indigenous people. Dr Te Punga Somerville's work is underpinned by her belief that (Māori, Pacific and/ or Indigenous peoples) are constrained when the stories about them are limited. In Alice's scholarship, she therefore focus on written texts as evidence, sites and foundations of stories that are far more complex than those that are told about us by other people or even those that are generally told by ourselves. Dr Te Punga Somerville's MA (Auckland) and PhD (Cornell) focused on the written literatures of her own Māori community, and as she deliberately sought broader contexts for exploring this writing she developed a twin interest and expertise in Indigenous and Pacific studies.

Dr Te Punga Somerville has served on the executive of Te Pouhere Kōrero (Māori historians association) and the foundation council for NAISA (Native American and Indigenous Studies Assoc), and have co-chaired SPACLALS (South Pacific Association for Commonwealth Language and Literary Studies). Alice is on the editorial boards of *Native American and Indigenous Studies*, *American Quarterly* and *The Contemporary Pacific*.

Alice is presently with the Department of Indigenous Studies at Macquarie University.

For further information please contact nirakn@qut.edu.au or phone Tel: (61 7) 3138 3802