

SETI – A terrestrial point of comparison



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The original Australians

- Isolated by movements in the earth's crust
- Lived and mostly thrived on the Australian continent for 70,000 years –

The continent became their world

- Invaded by Extra 'Terra Australis' Intelligence in 1788 which claimed the continent as its own
- Endured many losses at the hands of the colonisers



Olijnyk & Grafton P. 119

What of the descendants of the original Australians?

- With great dignity the descendants of the original Australians are now representing themselves to large and small business organisations, national and state governments and advancing the interests of their communities
- Following the 'Uluru Statement' the Australian government is now preparing to recognise in the country's constitution a vehicle through which the voice of these people can be heard by parliament

- Can the human race learn from them about what has made them and their ancestors so resilient?



Denise Bowden, CEO of Yothu Yindi, signing the Uluru Statement from the Heart, in Central Australia.

Some origins of their resilience?

Their resilience may come from many sources but my focus is on:

- **Knowledge** curation
- The balance of influence between their **brain hemispheres**
- **Structured intergenerational conversations**

The original Australians

Knowledge curation

- Landscape maintenance (Gammage)
- Oral history going back at least 7,000 years (Nunn)
- Association of places with ideas (Kelly)
- Hippocampus (Kelly)

Brain hemisphere balance

- Left/right balance more equal than at any time in the history of the west (McGilchrist)



Peruvian memory board with reference to places

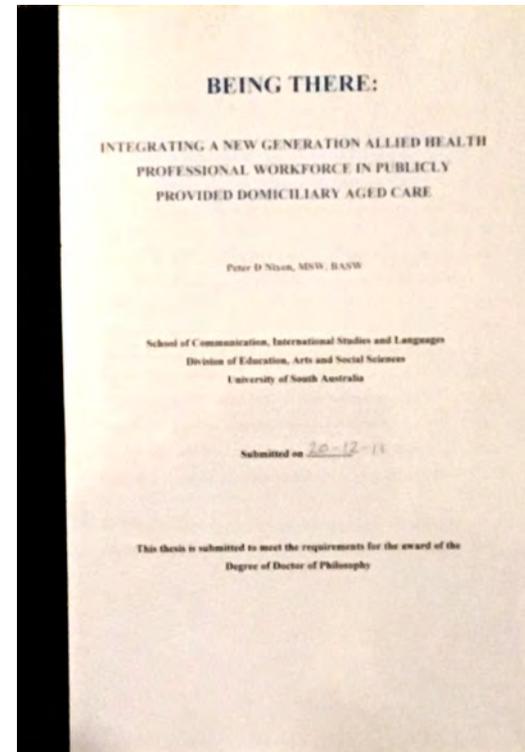


12 *Large Reclining Nude*, by Henri Matisse (1935). Loss of proportion and perspective in modernism emphasises emotional detachment. Like harmony, perspective arrived with the Renaissance, and left with modernism.

McGilchrist Plate 12

Structured Intergenerational Conversations

- Cockerill: Sukhomlinsky – a famous Russian school teacher
- Brophy, Emeritus Professor – teaching creative writing at Melbourne University
- The original Australians
- South Australian Aged Care workforce research



Structured Intergenerational Conversations

- Sukhomlinski

Children's intellectual and emotional development are linked, and this is clearly seen in their love of fairy tales. Sukhomlinsky ... encouraged them to compose their own, based on the phenomena they observed in the natural world. ...children were laying the foundations for the future development of their thought processes. (Cockerill 1999. P. 82)

- Brophy

Yet the workshop itself is a live event, dominated by spontaneous responses, group dynamics, all the naturalness and excitement of live reactions to a piece of writing ... It is perhaps, ... in the **contest between excitement and ideas, between intellect and emotion**, that art is produced. ... aiming to **teach the unteachable** when education in the creative arts is at stake. (Brophy 2009. Pp. 55-56.)

Original Australians 1788 near present-day Sydney

- 230 years ago a neophyte had to attend at least three initiation ceremonies before he could take his place as a man in the community. After his initiation he was allowed to partake of male potoroos. After his second *keeparra* he could eat male possums. [Emphasis original. Turbet 1989, P. 118.]



South Australian aged care workforce research

How to recruit young allied health professionals?

- Young allied health professional tertiary students in conversation with a Baby-boomer allied health professional engaged in aged care
- Engaged social research methodology
- Analysis of key informant career related references to space, time, embodiment and ways of knowing, each articulated through three levels of constitutive abstraction in social practice
- Workforce related findings included reference to job embeddedness and co-production, leaning towards what has subsequently come to be referred to as 'New Power'
- Interview transcripts were later analysed for meanings relevant to Big History and cultural evolution.

“Light bulb” – mini “Goldilocks moments” in structured intergenerational conversations?

*When students get to year 11 they get a little bit more freedom, but a little bit more responsibility **and I think ...** it was more that it was your choice, nobody was forcing you anymore. And that's all I needed ... to feel like I was doing it by choice rather than being forced. [Key informant A] Nixon 2010: P. 122.*

*I knew that there were issues in the world ... I live on a world scale, **sort of ...** be the change that you want to see in the world. [Key informant B]
I have heard that expression before? [Interviewer]
It is Gandhi, Mahatma Gandhi. [Key informant B] Nixon 2010: P. 181.*

Reference lists

- Big History
- Cultural evolution
- Ethology
- Knowledge, memory & neurology
- Methodology and analytical framework
- Nixon authored works
- Original Australians
- Structured intergenerational conversations

