

Indigenous and Minority Studies in Australia and Japan:

Coloniality, Sovereignty, Decolonising Knowledge and Transnational Collaboration



29 August 2026
Saturday



10:00–15:30
(Melbourne Time)



Online

Faculty of Fine Arts and Music, The University of Melbourne

Credit: T. Yugo

Credit: T. Yugo

ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL GATHERING

This gathering Indigenous and minority experiences in Australia and Japan through the lenses of coloniality and decolonising knowledge. We explore how states, universities, museums, and institutions have historically classified, represented, and governed diverse communities—including Aboriginal peoples, Ainu, Korean Japanese, and Buraku communities—and how these communities advance sovereignty, cultural revitalization, and self-representation today.

The gathering promotes interdisciplinary and transnational dialogue and aims to build collaborative networks between Australia and Japan for future research, education, and institutional transformation.

KEYWORDS: Indigenous Sovereignty | Minority Studies | Coloniality | Decolonising Knowledge | Transnational Collaboration

PROGRAM

10:00 – 10:30		Opening session Tiriki Onus & Yugo Tomonaga
SESSION ONE Indigenous Research at Wilin Centre		
10:30 – 11:15		Biganga: Thrivance and Return? Tiriki Onus (30-min talk + 15-min Q&A)
11:15 – 12:00		Creative inquiries into song revitalisation James Howard (30-min talk + 15-min Q&A)
12:00 – 13:00		Lunch
SESSION TWO Ainu Experiences in Contemporary Japan		
13:00 – 13:45		Silence and Pain: Colonial Present, Ethical Listening, and Invisibility of Ainu Yasuhiko Murakami & Mai Ishihara (30-min talk + 15-min Q&A)
SESSION THREE Korean Japanese Experiences in Japan		
13:45 – 14:30		The Koryo Museum of Art and Re-imagining Historical Landscapes from Kyoto, 1968–1988 Shin Takahashi (30-min talk + 15-min Q&A)
SESSION FOUR Buraku Experiences in Contemporary Japan		
14:30 – 15:15		Transformation of Buraku Community Building in Osaka: Cultural Heritage, Institutional Power, and Minority Knowledge Yugo Tomonaga (30-min talk + 15-min Q&A)
15:15 – 15:30		Closing Remarks

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Tiriki Onus

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous),
University of Melbourne;
Head of the Wilin Centre for
Indigenous Arts and Cultural
Development



James Howard

McKenzie Postdoctoral Research
Fellow,
University of Melbourne



Mai Ishihara

Visting Researcher
Center for Ainu and Indigenous
Studies (CAIS),
Hokkaido University



Yasuhiko Murakami

Professor, Graduate School of
Human Sciences,
Osaka University



Shin Takahashi

Lecturer in Japanese Studies,
Monash University



Yugo Tomonaga

Professor, Faculty of International
Studies, Ryukoku University

REGISTRATION (Free Event)

Please register by scanning the QR code
or visit the website.

<https://forms.gle/VDwg4F3HNS1nshga7>



SUPORTER : The Wilin Centre (VCA) | Faculty of Fine Arts and Music, The University of Melbourne. Faculty of International Study, Ryukoku University

Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B) 24K00181

「先住民および人種的他者をめぐる日本型レイシズムの人類学的検討のために」

Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B) 25K00388

「植民地主義／レイシズムからケアを考え直す」

Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C) 23K01024

The Anthropological Study on the Provenance of Repatriation of Ancestral Remains and Secret/ Sacred Objects to Indigenous Peoples in Australia and the Identification of Their Reburials.