

invites you to a
seminar presented by
Professor Craig McGarty

Rottneest Island as Black Prison and White Playground: Psychology meets history on the path to Reconciliation

Professor McGarty will present an innovative project led by Indigenous documentary film maker and academic Glen Stasiuk and mentored by Len Collard, Craig McGarty and Kathryn Trees that will use Wadjemup (as Rottneest Island is known to its traditional Nyungar owners) as a site for exploring the prospects and pitfalls of Reconciliation in Australia. The Aboriginal Prison (and associated facilities) on Rottneest Island represented Australia's biggest black deaths in custody site in the period 1831-1930 and was one of the key mechanisms by which Indigenous Australians were removed from their land in many parts of Western Australia. The island has since been transformed into a recreation area with problematic consequences. What does this transformation mean for contemporary Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians? Is the past history a barrier to Reconciliation or a platform to working towards it? The project will include the development of a documentary film in which social psychological evidence on themes such as guilt, shame, anger, and the potential for pride in shared achievements will help resource a research unit for the film. The research is supported by a grant from the Australian Research Council Discovery Indigenous Research Development scheme.



Presenter: Craig McGarty moved to Murdoch as the Director of the Centre for Social and Community Research in February 2007. Before that he was Head of the School of Psychology at The Australian National University. He is best known for his work in the areas of categorisation, stereotype formation and social identity. He is also heavily involved in research on group-based emotions including collective guilt and on public opinion and collective action. His current ARC Discovery Project is on bolstering commitment to positive social change through small group interaction with a focus on efforts to combat climate change, promote Reconciliation, support programs to combat poverty in developing countries, and reduce stigma towards people with mental disorders. He is the author of *Categorization in Social Psychology* (SAGE, 1999) and he jointly edited *Stereotypes as Explanations* (Cambridge, 2002) and *The Message of Social Psychology* (Blackwell, 1997).

- Venue:** *Room 15.127, Kurongkurl Katitjin, School of Indigenous Studies, Building 15, Edith Cowan University, Mt Lawley Campus, 2 Bradford St, Mt Lawley, WA*
- Date:** *Wednesday March 4, 2009*
- Time:** *6.00 (for 6.30 start) - 8.00pm*
- Cost:** *Gold coin*
- Registration:** *For catering purposes, please RSVP by phone 9571 2080 or email asibbel@westnet.com.au*