



Flinders University

Cultural Heritage and the Law Summer School (13–17 February 2023, Flinders at Victoria Square)

In 2023 the topic 'Cultural Heritage and the Law' (ARCH8017) is being offered as an intensive summer school. This means that the topic is available to enrolled Flinders University students (3rd level undergraduate, Honours and post-graduate students) as well as individuals who wish to take it as a short course (fees apply). If you would like to register an interest in attending please email HASSenquiries@flinders.edu.au.

Topic Description

This topic critically examines the changing meaning of cultural heritage within social, cultural and historical contexts. For 2023 the intersection of Indigenous Australian cultural heritage and the legal system will be a primary focus of the topic. This topic was co-designed by Professor Amy Roberts, Andrew Collett and Leanne Liddle.

Guest speakers are a feature of the topic with numerous perspectives on cultural heritage and the law being presented—including by Indigenous peoples, lawyers, cultural heritage practitioners and former Federal Court judges. Understanding legal issues in relation to Indigenous Australian cultural heritage is vital for those working in the Australian heritage sector and for those employed in Indigenous affairs more generally. Important case studies relating to Australian cultural heritage issues will be examined and will include Juukan Gorge, Bootu Creek and more.

Amy Roberts Biography

Amy Roberts is an archaeologist and anthropologist who primarily works with a number of Aboriginal communities in South Australia. Her research covers a range of areas which reflects her long-term engagement with these groups. Amy is the lead investigator for the Australian Research Council funded projects 'Rockshelters and Rock Art in the River Murray Gorge' and 'White People had the Gun: Interrogating the Riverland's Colonial Frontier'. She is also a chief investigator for the projects entitled 'Ochre Archaeomicrobiology' and 'A National Facility for the 3D Imaging of the Near Surface'. Prior to her appointment as an academic at Flinders University Amy worked as an expert to the court for a number of native title cases including for the First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region which achieved a successful determination. She has also worked on a number of Aboriginal heritage and stolen generations matters.

Andrew Collett Biography

In his early career Andrew worked as a solicitor and barrister for the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement and was retained as junior counsel to act for all Aboriginal interests before the Royal Commission into British Nuclear Tests in Australia. He was subsequently retained as counsel by the traditional owners of the Maralinga Lands. Andrew has also been retained as counsel for Aboriginal people and organisations in the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, the Hindmarsh Island Bridge Royal Commission, Children in State Care Inquiry, various native title claims and in a number of South Australian “stolen children” actions. In 2007 Andrew was also the Assistant Commissioner in the Children on APY Lands Inquiry. During his career Andrew has held a number of significant roles including Chairperson of the South Australian Campaign Against Racial Exploitation. In the 2014 New Year’s Honours List he was awarded membership of the Order of Australia for significant service to the law in the area of Aboriginal rights. More recent work has seen Andrew work on a number of ‘Preservation of Evidence’ cases including for the Kurna Peoples, Bandjalung and Nukunu Native Title Claims. He also acted as a prosecutor in the highly publicised and landmark Bootu Creek Case. Andrew is currently acting for the PKKP traditional owners in relation to the Juukan Gorge disaster and for the Ngaanyatjarra people in discrimination proceedings against the Commonwealth government.

Leanne Liddle Biography

Leanne Liddle is a Central Arrente woman who was born in Alice Springs, Central Australia. She has strong cultural ties across the central desert region including the area where she has focused most of her work within the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands in the far north west of South Australia. Leanne managed a project within these unique and biologically diverse lands which ensured the best landscape environmental outcomes as a result of learnings which incorporate both western science and traditional land management skills. Whilst Leanne has numerous academic qualifications, including environmental science and law and management, she believes her greatest and most important knowledge and skills were learned from her grandmother and great grandmother who taught her about traditional law and land management skills, particularly with the use of fire. In 1988, Leanne was the first Aboriginal Policewoman for South Australia. She has also had the privilege of working overseas with the United Nations as well as a lengthy period as the Manager for the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands and the West Coast for the Department of Premier and Cabinet, South Australia. In 2014 Leanne moved back to the Northern Territory where she took up a position as the Senior Policy Officer for the Northern Land Council. She now works for the Northern Territory Government in the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice as the Director of the Aboriginal Justice Unit.