

School of Social Sciences and Psychology
Religion and Society Research Cluster

**Public Lecture by
James L. Cox**

James L. Cox is Emeritus Professor of Religious Studies in the University of Edinburgh and Adjunct Professor in the Religion and Society Research Cluster, Western Sydney University.



**T.G.H. Strehlow and Movements to
Repatriate Knowledge in Central
Australia**

Repatriation often is associated with returning to their rightful owners the remains of objects or artefacts that were regarded as sacred by members of indigenous societies. During colonial times, such objects had been taken from indigenous peoples and transported to museums or other sites, often located in major cities around the world. It is a complicated process to determine who are the rightful 'owners' of the objects returned and where they should be housed. In the case of T.G.H. Strehlow, numerous items that were used in rituals were given to him, many of which in recent years have been returned to the Elders and are kept in the Strehlow Research Centre in Alice Springs. In addition, Strehlow compiled and documented extensive genealogies of indigenous groups that are also maintained in the Strehlow Research Centre. What may be most significant about the artefacts and genealogies is how they are currently being used to repatriate indigenous knowledge that Strehlow believed had been lost and that he had preserved through the vast amount of data that he had collected in the form of recordings, writings, translations, films, notes and genealogical records. This paper analyses the idea of the repatriation of knowledge in light of the theory that religion is best defined as a 'chain of memory' and relates this to the current repatriation project that is being undertaken in the Strehlow Research Centre in Alice Springs.

**'Mr Strehlow's Films'
by Hart Cohen**

Hart Cohen is Associate Professor in Media Arts in the School of Humanities and Communication Arts at Western Sydney University.



Date and Time

Wednesday, 7th September 2016: 12.00 – 14.00 pm

Venue

Bankstown Campus Building 3, Room G.55

RSVP

By Monday 5 September, 2016 to:

Ssap-research@westernsydney.edu.au