


WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY 	SCHOOL OF EDUCATION HDR CONFERENCE
Date:	FRIDAY 27 TH JUNE 2025
Time:	9:00am to 4:00pm
Venue:	Bankstown City campus: BK-1.8.18 (Level 8 conference room)

AGENDA

8:30am **Arrival and morning tea**

9:00am **Acknowledgement of Country**

9:10am **Welcome: Dean Michele Simons, and Associate Dean HDR Roberto Parada**

9:30am **Guest speaker 1: Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews**
Director of Indigenous Research WSU



“The Story of the Seven Peacekeepers and its implications for the wars within Indigenous research”

The *Yandel'mawa midan'barkalo* (the Seven Peacekeepers) is a D'harawal Garuwanga (Ancestral Dreaming) Story that not only speaks of how seven eucalyptus trees came to be, but also how the very presence *of all* these trees is a strong indicator of healthy Country around what is now known as South-West Sydney. As a result, the Seven Peacekeepers should not only be seen as guardians of Country and all of its peoples, but also that they each hold secrets to promote greater health, to relieve pain, to heal from wounds, to offer tool of protection, to provide shelter, to find sustenance and nourishment, and finally to ensure that native flora and fauna belonging to Country can grow strong. As part of this presentation, not only will the Story of the Seven Peacekeepers be shared, but – through the voices of the D'harawal Traditional Descendants and Knowledge Holders Circle – broader values and lessons within this story will also be shared to help guide researchers within the Indigenous Studies education and research space.

Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews is a D'harawal man born in Sydney and raised on Bidigal (bitter water) and Nattaimattagal (sweet water) Country. As a scholar, Prof Bodkin-Andrews' research encapsulates and promotes Aboriginal Australian standpoints and perspectives across a diversity of disciplines (most notably education and psychology). He has been a chief investigator for numerous

research grants examining a diversity of topics including mental health, mentoring, identity, Traditional Knowledges and Storytelling, Indigenous-centred statistics, education, racism, and bullying. He has also represented university and community organisations on a range of Indigenous initiatives, including the 2018 ARC ERA evaluation, the 2021 ARC college of experts, the Steering Committee for the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children, the Indigenous Working Group for the ARC Engagement and Impact review, National Indigenous Researchers and Knowledge Holders Network, assisting the D'harawal Traditional Descendants and Knowledge Holders Circle with a range of community activities.

10:15 am Three Minute Thesis

Eight of our Higher Degree Research students will compete against their peers, with a three-minute presentation and slide which highlights their research. The winner will go on to compete in the university's 3MT final hosted by GRS in September, and perhaps even make it to the Asia-Pacific competition!

12:00pm Lunch and conversation

**1:00pm Guest speaker 2: Claudio Heraldo Diaz Larenas
Universidad de Concepcion, Chile**



"Exploring preservice teachers' representations of language assessment in a English as a foreign language context"

Dr Claudio Díaz is a professor at the University of Concepción in Chile. He is a teacher of English and holds a PhD in Education and a Master of Arts in Linguistics. He has taught ESL/EFL methodology and language assessment courses at teacher education and master programmes. He has also supervised more than 50 undergraduate and postgraduate theses in Chile. He has served as head of the PhD in Education and Master in English teaching, learning and assessment programmes at the University of Concepción. He also works as a coordinator of the Language Committee at the National Accreditation Office in Chile.

His research interests are EFL preservice teachers' construction of professional knowledge and cognition. Dr Díaz has devoted 29 years of his professional life to the training of EFL teacher candidates and inservice teachers of English in Chile. He is particularly interested in providing future teachers of English with the teaching and assessment strategies required to work in the complex and diverse educational system in Chile. His latest research grant explored preservice teachers' cognitive and affective dimensions when designing language assessment tools. Some of his publications can be found at ResearchGate <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Claudio-Diaz-Larenas/publications> Dr Díaz is currently on a sabbatical leave and is interested in sharing views and learning new ways of approaching the complexity of teacher education from colleagues and students at WSU.

1:45pm Poster session

An opportunity for HDR candidates to present their research to other students and academics, stimulating conversations and networking.

2:45pm Afternoon tea

3:00pm Q&A

A panel of School of Education graduates will answer questions from our candidates, in relation to their research journey.

4:00pm Close

