Please join Miranda Johnson and Duncan Ivison, Professor of Political Philosophy and Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research, for the launch of The Land is Our History

Co-sponsored by the Department of History and the Sydney Pacific Studies Network

The Land Is Our History tells the story of Indigenous legal activism at a critical juncture in Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, as these three countries sought out new postcolonial identities in the Asia-Pacific region. In the late 1960s, indigenous activists protested policies of assimilation and the usurpation of their lands as a new mining boom took off, both of which radically threatened their collective identities. Inspired by global movements for decolonization and civil rights, Indigenous leaders took their claims to settler law from which they had often been excluded in the past. Their claims had remarkable results. For the first time in the legal histories of these three countries, Indigenous peoples’ distinctive histories were admitted into court as evidence of their rights to land and of promises made in treaties with them in the past. Examining how Indigenous peoples opened up the space of law for the recognition of their rights from the early 1970s to the mid-1990s, this book chronicles an extraordinary and overlooked history in which virtually disenfranchised communities forced powerful settler democracies to reckon with their demands.

Tuesday 28 March, 5-6:30pm
Race and Ethnicity in the Global South, Western Tower Balcony, Quadrangle, University of Sydney
Please RSVP to James Dunk E james.dunk@sydney.edu.au T +61 2 9351 2809

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