

Ph.D. Introduction Transcript.

Hello, my names Glenn Woods. Welcome to my PhD presentation website.

My study is officially titled: Exploring the potential of Indigenous Australian Teaching and learning Practices within tertiary coursework to contribute to improved professional practice and social justice.

In this context the term Indigenous Australian is synonymous with the term Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Australian First Nations. I have tended to use the term First Nations, First Nations Peoples and Indigenous as my preferred terms throughout this PhD presentation.

When I was originally discussing my ideas and aspirations for this PhD with my potential supervisors and others, I was very clear that I wanted to create a PhD study that had a strong sense of accessibility and meaning beyond a particular academic discipline area and beyond the broader academic community.

I wanted to make my work accessible at a wider community level so that people outside of academia could have access to the work and find some value from the work. I wanted First Nations peoples and organisations to have relatively easy access to the work, and especially for people working in education, in the promotion and maintenance of First Nations approaches to teaching and learning in contemporary educational settings and practices.

At the time of my PhD confirmation, I made it clear that I wanted to produce my PhD in a format that was accessible beyond an academically written document. At that time I imagined it would be something like a video type documentary of the participant yarning process, to give people a feel for that, and a better sense of the yarning method and to hear the direct voices of the Yarning participants, which to me is very important in terms of the approach to this PhD.

In the end, I decided on this particular format of a spoken word introduction and connecting spoken sections through the PhD that talk the reader through the process of connecting a series of publications and other written work, that make up the bulk of the text of this PhD.

There's both a culturally just and pragmatic aspect to this choice of how to present my PhD. Perhaps a well-produced video documentary would have been the most relevant and engaging approach however it was beyond the scale and resourcing of this study.

The final piece of work in this study is a podcast style narrative that discusses the opportunities and challenges in regard to having First Nations led and controlled teaching and learning experiences within mainstream university contexts.

In conversations with my supervisors during the course of this study, I realized that it's the yarning tradition that is at the core of this research. It's an oral process that has led to the production of the transcripts that were analysed to produce the findings of this study.

And so we talked about the idea of having that strong oral aspect from start to finish for continuity, right through the PhD. This an approach that I really resonated with and have utilised. It is an approach that demonstrates an Indigenous standpoint approach to doing research and reporting on research outcomes. I talk more about my commitment to an Indigenous standpoint within the methodology section of this presentation of my work.

My primary motivation and inspiration for doing this research has come from the yarning experience. Yarns had with people in community over many years and well before my time as an academic. Yarns that were my big lessons. Yarns where First Nations philosophies, values and beliefs were shared and discussed. Yarns where I was encouraged to do this research and yarns that warned me about the challenges I would face.

Speaking my work allows people to hear my authentic, direct voice. I'm able to explain things in ways that I feel culturally safe, that I think are accessible, that give an outline of the significance of the various publications, that give an outline of the data gathering, the analysis and findings from the data, with the opportunity for people then to be able to look more deeply into if they wish to. It's an overarching and connecting yarning approach.