

Northey Lectures 2021

Dr Anne Pattel-Gray

7:00pm, Thursday 22nd July, Centre for Theology and Ministry

Title: Red Ochre Theology

Synopsis: A theological viewpoint of an Australian First Nations theologian who has spent the past two decades decolonising biblical narratives and constructing a theology that draws on Australia First Nations creation stories (Ancestral Narratives) and our understanding of the Creator's actions and interactions through our Spirit Ancestors in the creation of our world, humanity, customs, laws, ceremonies, songs, rituals, connection to land, water and sea; language, cosmology, worldview and philosophy -this being the basis to the formation of First Nations identity, faith and Spirituality. Developing and constructing theology from a First Nations perspective is extremely vital for ensuring our theology is shaped by our epistemology, ontology and axiology (ways of being, doing and knowing). Especially through our collective experience conveys a different interpretation and reading through our First Nations lens which brings a new insight to our theology and grounds it within an Australian context.

Dr Tanya Riches

Friday 6th August (day), Centre for Theology and Ministry, further details TBC

Title: Liturgy on the Move: Pentecostal, Aboriginal and Secular Collisions

Australian Pentecostalism is an oral community, and liturgy plays a critical role in its public theology and Christian witness. However, this movement is not monolithic but diverse. Nigerian Pentecostal theologian Nimi Wariboko proposes a rhizomatic network of interacting Pentecostalisms. This talk will explore interactions between predominant Australian Pentecostalisms in their Indigenous, Classical, NeoPentecostal, Evangelical/Fundamentalist, Neoliberal, and Ex-vangelical forms.

Rev Dr Jione Havea

Friday 6th August, time and location TBC

Topic: Worship in Native motions

The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) continues the colonial agenda of the Christian mission. The 'doctrine of discovery' baptised the invasion of the 'new world', and the RCL keeps the converted on the same path of faith, according to the Christian calendar and missionary agenda. The RCL perpetuates the Christian occupation of lands, of faiths, of minds, of spirits, and of practices; in other words, the RCL is a 'doctrine of occupation'. This presentation approaches this awareness from the direction of Natives, driven by two questions: What might Christian worship look like if Christian communities change their minds from seeing the new world as 'mission field' that they are called to convert and save, to seeing those as the homes of

newness and wisdoms that could enlighten and save the Christian agenda? What gifts of the new world could Christian communities invite and allow, to invade and occupy their souls?

This presentation reconsiders the ways that we in/of Oceania do worship and theology, which have voyaged along two paths: first, that we explain how our 'contexts' and 'perspectives' support the Christian agenda (the drive of contextuality) and second, that we expose and lament the 'scars of contact' (the drive of postcoloniality). If we were to worship and theologize in the ways of natives (vs. ways of contextuality) and according to the terms of natives (vs. terms of postcoloniality), our worship could be experienced as motions (vs. invasions). From/in Oceania, I invite worshipping in five motions (vs. seasons): (1) native ceremonies (vs. rituals), (2) native wisdoms (vs. uncivilized natives), (3) native prophecies (vs. unhelpful natives), (4) native ancestors (vs. victims, martyrs), (5) native worlds (vs. perspectives, contexts).

Prof Marion Maddox

16th September, time and venue TBC

Title: God and Nation

We often hear that religion and politics shouldn't mix; but is keeping them separate desirable, or even possible? Drawing on new research, this lecture considers contrasting ways that Australian Christians have thought about the relationship between church and state, and between religion and politics, in the nineteenth century and today. Prof. Marion Maddox then asks how religion and politics should relate to one another in multi-religious, increasingly secular, twenty-first century Australia.

Dr Meredith Lake

21st October, time and venue TBC

Topic: Race and Bible in Australia – how colonial attitudes to land shaped use of the Bible.

More to come.