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Positioning Research

Shifting Paradigms, Interdisciplinarity and Indigeneity

FIRST EDITION

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Joseph Lo Bianco

Foreword

Margaret Kumar and Supriya Pattanayak

Introduction: Positioning Research

Perspectives from Early Career Researchers

Aboriginal Spirituality and Its Relationship to the Positioning of Research

Terrence Kildea and Margaret Kumar

Introduction

This chapter acknowledges the cultural diversity that characterizes Aboriginal Peoples and Nations across Australia. Each region of Australia includes many groups of distinct Peoples with their own culture and spiritual beliefs. While each Nation's unique natural environment influences their belief systems in a different way, all Aboriginal nations express similarities in the way in which they regard their interaction with the natural world. There is a strong universal affinity between the human and the natural and spiritual world.

As researchers, we contend that in understanding the complexity of Aboriginal Knowledge Systems, there needs to be an acknowledgement of a differential in research methodology. This is the differential of Aboriginal Spirituality. In relation to this differential, we also contend that Aboriginal Knowledge Systems be considered a preliminary core methodological frameworks that are applied to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island research. In the exploration of this differential, we discuss a theoretical framework that outlines a conceptualization of Aboriginal Spirituality.

Leading from this, a correlation between Western and Aboriginal paradigms for research and the foregrounding of particular essentials is outlined and discussed. Using the philosophy of Garrouste (2003) the authors put forward a research approach deep-rooted in Aboriginal