WORKING SESSION 5

Anthropology and Anthropologists: Reflections on the Current Condition of Anthropology in Australia

This communication exposes and wonders about the conditions of research in anthropology within aboriginal communities. Today the anthropologists must obtain research agreements before beginning their field researches in order to control the use of the data collected. Which are the events which caused such precautions around the anthropologist in Australia? Which are the arguments called upon by the indigenous authorities? From a personal experience in the Great Victoria Desert with the Pitjantjatjara populations, this communication exposes the role of the anthropologist in the defence of the indigenous rights. Does this practical use of anthropology induce a redefinition of the discipline? Would it make anthropology leaving a certain ivory tower to bring it back to a more concrete dimension? If such were the case, which place would remain to the anthropological theory in Australia?