

Part 1, Session 1
Opening Comments

Why does this course cover these topics, and in this way?

Who are Indigenous Peoples? What is “Resurgence”?

Anthropology After Extinction

Resurgence

Examples: 1992,
Rigoberta Menchú,
Zapatista rebellion (Mexico),
WCIP,
UNPFII,
Vine Deloria, Ward Churchill, Gerald Taiaiake Alfred
Native Title actions
Evo Morales (Bolivia)

Part 1, Session 1
Introduction:
“Setting the Stage for Contemporary Indigeneity”

Assigned Readings:

- Hughes, Lotte. 2003. *The No-Nonsense Guide to Indigenous Peoples*. London: New Internationalist & Verso Books. (Ch. 1, Overview, 10-28)
- Field, Les. 1994. “Who are the Indians?” *Latin American Research Review*, 29 (3): 227–238.

“Maori culture is not something that has been lost, it is the loss; being ‘a Maori’ is struggling to be a Maori” (Webster 1993:228)

Conquest and Indigeneity



1829: Western Australia was colonized

1836: South Australia was colonized

1919: Australia was given mandates over Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands



→ ***Were there any “indigenous peoples” before 1492?***

→ ***indigenous*** came into being as a result of European conquest—a ***relational term***

→ ***indigeneity*** to refer to a process, a project of ***becoming***

Problems and Questions with Definitions of “Indigenous” as *Being*

→ Jose Martinez Cobo, the Special Rapporteur to the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, in his lengthy 1986 report titled, “Study of the Problem of Discrimination against Indigenous Populations”, stated that:

“Indigenous communities, peoples and nations are those which have a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories, consider themselves distinct from other sectors of societies now prevailing in those territories, or parts of them. They form at present non-dominant sectors of society and are determined to preserve, develop, and transmit to future generations their ancestral territories, and their ethnic identity, as the basis of their continued existence as peoples, in accordance with their own cultural patterns, social institutions and legal systems” (Cobo 1986, 5: para. 379)

→ International Labour Organization’s Convention No. 169 Concerning the Working Rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, drafted in 1989.

→ *Self-identification as indigenous:*

→ Cobo emphasized self-identification as central to the definition of indigenous (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1986/7/Add.4. para.381) and stresses historical precedence and cultural difference as aspects of indigenous status.

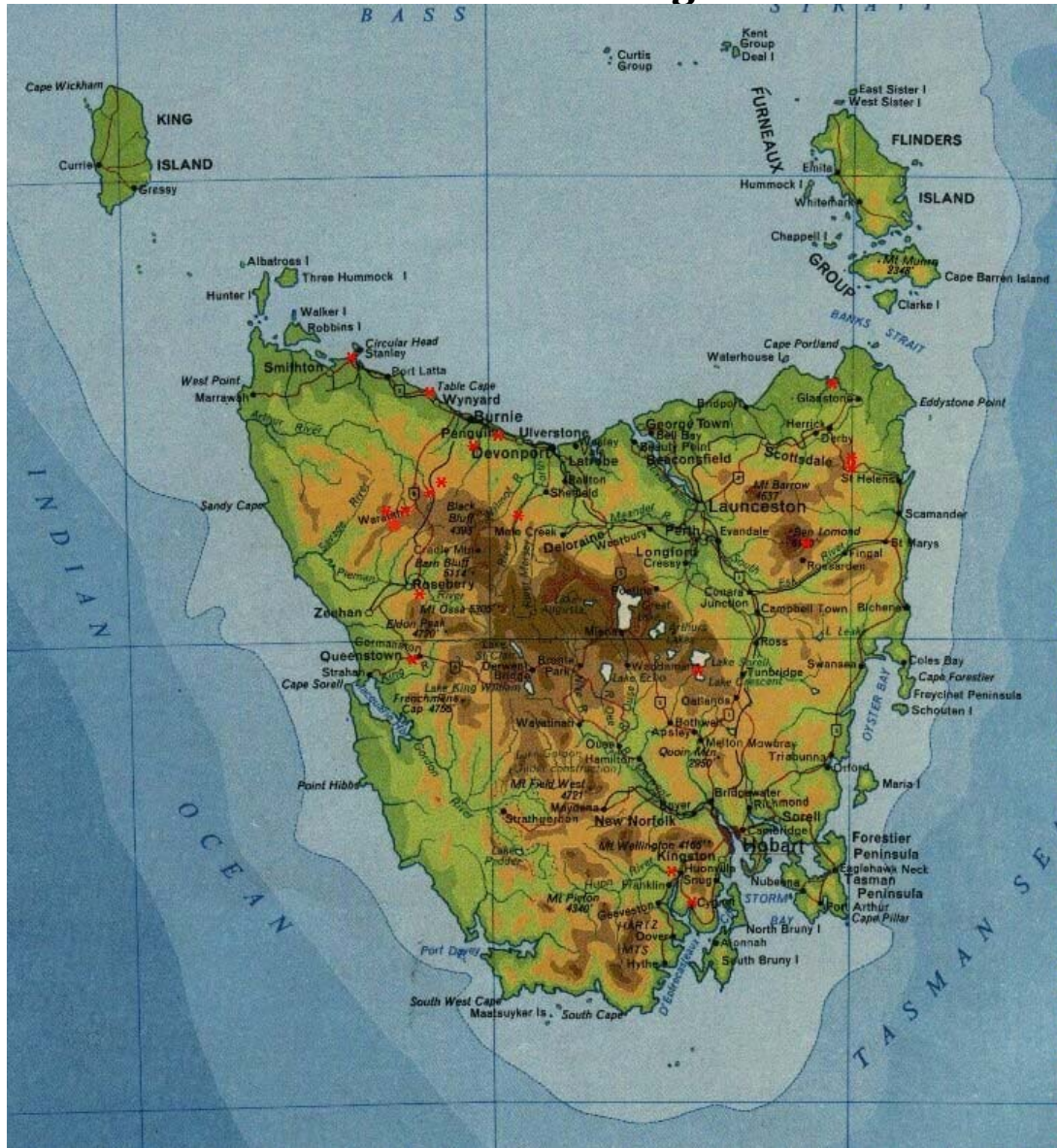
→ The ILO in 1989:

“*self-identification* as indigenous or tribal shall be regarded as a fundamental criterion for determining the groups to which the provisions of the Convention apply” (ILO 1989: Article 1.2)

→ International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA): **350 million people worldwide are considered to be indigenous, at least 5,000 different linguistic groups.**

→ no single, universally agreed upon and fixed definition of “indigenous” under international law
The Indigenous Politics of Definition and the Politics of Recognition

After Extinction: Who is an Aborigine in Tasmania?



- long cited as one of the classical historic cases of the total elimination of an indigenous population
- Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC)
- about 16,000 people today claim an Aboriginal Tasmanian identity
- Aboriginal: white or black?
- June 2005, Legislative Council of Tasmania extended Australia's Aboriginal Lands Act to Tasmania...allows Aboriginal Land Council elections to commence in Tasmania
- Self-identification, Ancestry, Community Acknowledgement
- Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islanders Council (ATSIC), handles elections
- In 2005 ATSIC instituted a trial indigenous electoral roll
- Out of the island's population of fewer than 500,000 people, the number of self-identifying Aboriginals rose from 2,700 in 1981, to 16,000 in 2001

Some online references to look at:

Tasmanian Aboriginal Resurgence: Australia Broadcasting Corp., and The Guardian (UK):

<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/stories/s746130.htm>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/australia/story/0,12070,811456,00.html>

Disagreements between Tasmanian Aboriginals on "who is Aboriginal" and can claim the right to representation:

<http://www.tasmanianaboriginal.com.au/liapootah/palawa.htm>

<http://www.kooriweb.org/foley/news/story13.html>

Aboriginal Tasmanians now featured in Tourist sites:

<http://www.discovertasmania.com.au/home/index.cfm?SiteID=215>