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Archaeology
Seminar Series
2016

Walking through words and images

Writing and art at Saibai Island, Torres Strait

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This presentation examines publicly visible writing, painting and carved images at Saibai Island, Torres Strait, a border area of Australia. They have flourished since Papua New Guinea established its sovereignty in 1975 and in them we can see processes of social differentiation mobilised around citizenship and indigeneity at work. I explore these processes of differentiation between Saibai Islanders and Papuans to show that words, images and their materiality are the very substance of generating difference, and are thus comparable to other Melanesian processes of social differentiation.



House painting, Saibai Island, Torres Strait

4-5pm Thursday 25th February
Social Sciences, Lecture Room 1 (G28)

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