Prosperity on Country: How to reposition the social, cultural and economic value of Indigenous people in the Goulburn Murray region of Australia

The (re)production of racist discourses and (post)colonial relations between First and non-First Nation peoples is a serious challenge for rural communities in colonised countries like Australia. Enduring patterns of racial inequalities have far-ranging social, economic and political consequences for the nature and prosperity of rural futures. Enduring patterns of racial inequalities have far-ranging social, economic and political consequences for the nature and prosperity of rural futures. This research outlines an Indigenous-led, ground-up approach to challenging the (re)production of racial inequalities on a regional level and repositioning the value of Indigenous people within local communities. It draws on a case study of the Goulburn Murray region of Victoria, who have been investing in change on Yorta Yorta country. It examines what their successes and challenges have been in pursuit of parity.

Raelene is a descendant of the Gungarri people from south-west Queensland who began her career in the local Aboriginal housing company as an administrator. She then undertook a humbling yet rich experience working with some of Australia’s most remote communities in the Northern Territory. After 11 years working in various offices across Australia with the Australian Government, she left to pursue a career working with Indigenous communities, dedicating more than 20 years in welfare, health, project management, Indigenous community development and education. Her interests are in strength-based research and building the capacity and leadership in Indigenous communities.