



Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research  
The Australian National University

Education, Training and Indigenous Futures  
CAEPR Policy Research: 1990-2007

## Research Summaries

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## Reference No. 15

Summarising: Arthur & Morphy (2005),  
*Culture and Society through Space and Time*

Responsibility for the preparation of this research summary rests with the authors of the MCEETYA report *Education, Training and Indigenous Futures: CAEPR Policy Research 1990-2007* and not the original author(s) of the summarised material.

The MCEETYA report and associated research summaries are available at <[www.anu.edu.au/caepr/education.php](http://www.anu.edu.au/caepr/education.php)>.

**Title of Research:**

Culture and Society through Space and Time

**Research Publication:**

Macquarie Atlas of Indigenous Australia 2005

[www.macquarienet.com.au](http://www.macquarienet.com.au)

**Name of Researcher(s):**

W.S. Arthur and F. Morphy (Eds)

**Time period:**

Published 2005

**Geographic location:**

Australia-wide.

**Methodology:**

This atlas of Indigenous Australia draws upon a wide range of statistical analyses from agencies such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, literature from archives and ethnographic studies to illustrate changes over time that have taken place in regard to a wide range of Indigenous issues.

**Aims:**

The purpose of this atlas is to illustrate, in pictorial form, Indigenous culture and society throughout the Australian continent since the time of Indigenous migration to the present day.

**Selected findings and insights:**

The atlas explores three broad themes of Indigenous culture and society and changes over time. It is not possible in this summary to provide an overview of the contents of the atlas, except to list the topics covered under each theme for the interested reader to follow-up on at a later time.

The **sociocultural space**, which covers issues such as:

- Representations of place and space and the environment and its use;
- Migration patterns, prehistory, population and patterns of residence;
- Technology and material culture;
- Languages past and present, and social and cultural life; and
- Arts and sport

The **socioeconomic space**, which covers:

- Land ownership and land use;
- Health and well-being, housing and infrastructure; and
- Economic life, education and training.

The **sociopolitical space**, which covers:

- The colonial encounter;
- Governance, political participation and social justice;
- Placenames of Indigenous origin; and
- Modes of Indigenous research

**Educational implications:**

This atlas is a valuable resource to demonstrate the continuity and diversity of Indigenous culture over time and across the Australian continent. It could provide the basis for teacher preparation and professional development in-service courses as well as for Indigenous studies in school curriculum. The Atlas has an online facility at [www.macquarienet.com.au](http://www.macquarienet.com.au) which enables interrogation and construction of maps relevant to teacher needs on a wide variety of Indigenous issues **[teachers]** **[curriculum]**

For educational policy-makers it identifies key aspects of Indigenous life that are likely to impact on service delivery, such as population change, demographics of age structure and population distribution and mobility. **[facilities]** The atlas also provides an overview of employment, education and training provision and Indigenous participation, as well as information on a range of factors such as health and housing which influence educational performance and overall community capacity to engage in education, training and employment pathways. **[pathways]**

**Relevance:**

*Introductory Topic: Culture, Community and Family Life*

*General to: Australian Directions in Indigenous Education 2005–2008 Statement.*