

Interpretation of Indigenous sites in, and even objects from Australia and Oceania more broadly, has often been heavily influenced by a pre-existing research paradigm. The spaces, the values, even cultural behaviour and creativity have been models for propagating western theories on gender, identity, domesticity, hierarchies, adaptation and diet- to name a few. This session presents case studies in the historiography of archaeological sites, places or objects where the quest to expound scholarly theory has overshadowed, even denied, Indigenous people from finding contemporary connection with ancestral loci.