



SYDNEY UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS

Macleay Museum Invitation



In conjunction with the exhibition

People, power, politics: the first generation of anthropologists at the University of Sydney

The Aboriginal Question: race, anthropology and things that endure

**Diane Austin-Broos
Gillian Cowlshaw**

Diane Austin-Broos is shortly to retire from her role as Professor of Anthropology at the University of Sydney. Her two major fieldsites are Jamaica and Central Australia. From this research her work concentrated on the manner in which indigenous peoples respond to changes that have been foisted upon them.

Gillian Cowlshaw is ARC Professorial Fellow at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Technology, Sydney. Her work focuses on the relationship between Indigenous and settler societies, and the position of Indigenous peoples in Australia. She has undertaken ethnographic research in Arnhem Land and rural and urban NSW.

The concept of race in European science is one which was conceived through natural history taxonomies. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries some used the term 'race' to describe difference in human beings. The theoretical justification of the idea of race is one which split the discipline of anthropology as many saw the concept used for discriminatory practices against people 'of difference'.

This history of anthropology had an enormous impact on how Aboriginal peoples in particular were treated by Australian colonisers and government. In these conversational talks Diane Austin-Broos and Gillian Cowlshaw will discuss this history and their work on the experience of race relations, on the subject of assuming a racialised identity and the dilemmas posed for individuals where social orders are in conflict.

Wednesday 16 April 6pm
Macleay Museum
(Gosper Lane off Science road)
RSVP macleaymuseum@usyd.edu.au or 9036 5253

ABOVE: A lantern slide from the collection once used in the Anthropology Department at the University of Sydney in lectures on the origins of mankind.

RIGHT: lantern slide showing the fishtrap used by people of the Barwon River area and Brewarrina Mission site.



The
University
of Sydney