
Presenter: Dr Derek Kornelsen
Research Associate, Centre for Aboriginal Health Research, University of Manitoba, Canada

Examinations of the impacts of resource development on Indigenous peoples rarely account for the ways in which resource development projects impose a Western understanding of the value of land and disrupt traditional Indigenous relationships with land. This presentation examines how practices of Settler Colonialism, including the appropriation and exploitation of Indigenous lands by Western governments and resource development companies, disrupts Indigenous peoples traditional relationships with their lands and undermines their social, economic, spiritual, and physical well-being. My focus is on the experiences of Indigenous peoples in Canada. However, I hope to identify synergies and common interests with those who share these concerns in Australia and to explore potential ways forward.

Derek Kornelsen holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of British Columbia, Canada. He is currently a Research Associate at the Centre for Aboriginal Health Research at the University of Manitoba, Canada. His research focuses on knowledge translation across Indigenous and Western worldviews – particularly in terms of competing conceptions of, and interactions with, land. In addition to his own theoretical work regarding the political theory of territorial rights, he is a member of research teams examining the impacts of hydraulic fracturing and hydro-electricity development in Canada, with his particular contribution focusing on how these development projects disrupt/reconfigure traditional Indigenous relationships with land and impact Indigenous well-being.