

John Christopher Guenther: Curriculum Vitae

Qualifications and education

2006 Doctor of Philosophy **Charles Darwin University**, Darwin, NT.

Title: VET as a Tool for Regional Planning and Management: Case Studies from Australian Tropical Savanna Communities

2003 Certificate IV in assessment and workplace training, **NGT Tasmania**

1996 Diploma of Theology (Missiology) [ACT/BCV], **BCV Victoria**, Lilydale, Vic.

1984 Bachelor of Applied Science (Applied Chemistry) **TCAE**, Launceston, Tas.

Recent experience in research and evaluation

John's research and evaluation interests stem from a body of work over a number of years that has progressed from adult learning, VET, social capital and community well-being to a more focused interest in complex issues relating to families and children (including family violence and child protection). Over the last 10 years John has project managed research and evaluation projects which have focused on remote contexts, particularly in the Northern Territory of Australia. A recurring theme in all his work is the importance of learning, whether it be for adults, young people or children. He is also interested in education systems and their impact on learning. In recent work on remote education systems a focus has been on the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems and their accompanying epistemologies, ontologies, axiologies and cosmologies. Understanding the interface between cultures in the context of schooling in remote communities has also been a key concern.

2016 – Current **Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education**, Darwin: *Research Leader, Education and training*

This role is designed to build on work completed in the CRC-REP-particularly applying the concept of 'red dirt thinking' and build research and evaluation capacity with the Institute. The position is designed to build collaborative partnerships to undertake high quality research and evaluation work on issues of importance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As part of his collaborative work, in 2016, John was also appointed an adjunct professor with the Nulungu Research Institute, based in Broome.

2011 – 2016 **Flinders University / CRC-REP**, Adelaide: *Principal Research Leader, Remote Education*

The focus of the CRC's research is on identifying how education systems can be better designed to suit the needs of the communities and stakeholders in remote regions by examining demand (what students, parents/carers and the local economy need), supply (what systems need to provide, including better staff recruitment and retention), policy issues and alternative delivery models. John remains an adjunct Associate Professor with the School of Education. For more see <http://crc-rep.com/remote-education-systems>

2002 - 2011 **Charles Darwin University**, Darwin: *Research and evaluation consultant*

Project management and reporting: Projects include: Evaluation of the Northern Territory Differential Response Framework (2008-2009); Evaluation of Family Violence Partnership Program projects (2006-2008); Evaluation of the Akeyulerre Healing Centre (2009-2010); NCVET Role of VET in Welfare to work (2006-2007); NCVET VET/ACE Connections in Northern Australia (2005-2007); Evaluation of the Northern Territory Targeted Family Support Service (2010-2012). John is currently an adjunct with CDU's Northern Institute, at Casuarina.

1997 – 2014 **Cat Conatus**, TAS and NT: *Research and evaluation consultancy*

Contracting to educational institutions, businesses and government agencies across Tasmania and nationally with an extensive range of evaluation and consultancy services. Consultancy projects include: Evaluation of the Cognitive Coaching Program for the Tasmanian Principals Association north-west Tasmania (2010); Evaluation of the Desert Peoples Centre's TrainingPlus program (2009-2010); Review of Teacher Accommodation in NW Tasmania for the Department of Education (2010-2011). Evaluation of Department of Education Flexible Provision Program, North West Tasmania (2009); For more see www.catconatus.com.au/res.html

Professional membership

John is a member of the **Australian Vocational Education and Training Research Association (AVETRA)**, the **Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE)** and the **Australasian Evaluation Society (AES)**.

Selected journal articles

Guenther, J., Osborne, S., Arnott, A., & McRae-Williams, E. (2015). Hearing the voice of remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander training stakeholders using research methodologies and theoretical frames of reference. *Race Ethnicity and Education*, 1-12. doi: 10.1080/13613324.2015.1110294

- Guenther, J., Halsey, J., & Osborne, S. (2015). From Paradise to beyond: Geographical constructs and how they shape education in the 'bush'. *Australian and International Journal of Rural Education*, 25(3).
- Guenther, J., Disbray, S., & Osborne, S. (2015). Building on 'Red Dirt' Perspectives: What Counts as Important for Remote Education? *Australian Journal of Indigenous Education*, 44(2), 194-206. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/jie.2015.20>
- Guenther, J., Disbray, S., & Osborne, S. (2014). Digging up the (red) dirt on education: one shovel at a time. *Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues (Special Edition)*, 17(4), 40-56.
- Guenther, J. (2014). Measuring the unmeasured in educational programs: filling in the blanks through evaluation. *Learning Communities: International Journal of Learning in Social Contexts*, 14(Special Issue: Evaluation), 204-222.
- Guenther, J. (2013). Are We Making Education Count in Remote Australian Communities or Just Counting Education? *The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education*, 42(Special Issue 02), 157-170. doi: 10.1017/jie.2013.23
- Guenther, J. (2014). Measuring the unmeasured in educational programs: filling in the blanks through evaluation. *Learning Communities: International Journal of Learning in Social Contexts*, 14(Special Issue: Evaluation), 204-222.
- Guenther, J., Bat, M., & Osborne, S. (2013). Red Dirt Thinking on Educational Disadvantage. *The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education*, 42(Special Issue 02), 100-110. doi:10.1017/jie.2013.18
- Guenther, J., Osborne, S., & Disbray, S. (2013). *Red dirt thinking on remote Australian education: towards models of advantage*. Paper presented at the Australian Association for Research in Education, Adelaide.
- Osborne, S., & Guenther, J. (2013). Red Dirt Thinking on Aspiration and Success. *The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education*, 42(Special Issue 02), 88-99. doi:10.1017/jie.2013.17
- Osborne, S., & Guenther, J. (2013). Red Dirt Thinking on Power, Pedagogy and Paradigms: Reframing the Dialogue in Remote Education. *The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education*, 42(Special Issue 02), 111-122. doi: doi:10.1017/jie.2013.19

Selected books/chapters

- Guenther, J. (2015). Analysis of National Test Scores in Very Remote Australian Schools: Understanding the Results through a Different Lens. In H. Askeff-Williams (Ed.), *Transforming the Future of Learning with Educational Research* (pp. 125-143). Hershey, PA: Information Science Reference.
- Guenther, J. (2011). *Vocational Learning in the Frame of a Developing Identity*. Vocational Learning: Innovative Theory and Practice. Eds. R. Catts, I. Falk and R. Wallace. New York, Springer.

Selected publications and reports

- Guenther, J. (2015). Overview of Remote Education Systems qualitative results. *CRC-REP Working Paper*. CW025, Retrieved, July 2015 from http://www.crc-rep.com.au/resource/CW025_RemoteEducationSystemsQualitativeResults.pdf
- Guenther, J. (2014). *Families and Schools Together (FAST) at Gillen Primary School: The sustained impact of a family-strengthening process*. Research Report CR002, CRC-REP, Alice Springs. Retrieved October 2014 from http://www.crc-rep.com.au/resource/CR002_FASTatGillenPrimarySchool.pdf.

Selected conference and seminar presentations

- Guenther, J., & McRae-Williams, E. (2015). *The training and employment challenge of remote communities: Is collaboration the solution?* Paper presented at the AVETRA 18th Annual Conference, Melbourne.
- McRae-Williams, E., & Guenther, J. (2014). *Learning Pathways for Economic Enterprise in Remote Aboriginal Communities: Are Certificate IIIs the ticket?* Paper presented at the AVETRA 17th International Conference, Surfers Paradise. <http://avetra.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Abstract-151.pdf>
- Guenther, J and Boyle, A. (2013). *How did our desert grow? With fluoro shirts on planes lined up in rows*. Paper presented at the 16th annual AVETRA conference, Esplanade Hotel Fremantle, 3-5 April 2013. Retrieved April 2013 from http://www.catconatus.com.au/docs/130404_AVETRA_13_FLUORO_SHIRTS.pdf

Referees

- Professor Ian Falk, (former) Chair of Rural and Remote Education, Charles Darwin University, IanHFalk@gmail.com
- Doctor Allan Arnott, Senior Lecturer, Charles Darwin University, 0448 686 953, allan.arnott@cdu.edu.au

Contact details

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