

# CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	viii
------------------	------

---

INTRODUCTION:	1
---------------	---

---

Space travel • Space, 'civilisation' and texts • Writing the country • The post-colonial problematic • Ernie Dingo and the politics of representation • Cultural plenitude •

CHAPTER 1: <b>Available Discourses on Aborigines</b>	19
--	----

---

The 'anthropological sleep' • The romantic passion • Racist metaphors •

CHAPTER 2: <b>Body, Inscription, Epistemology: Knowing Aboriginal Texts</b>	36
---	----

---

Realist ethnography and postmodernist performance styles • 'Mirdinan' • Genre: 'going to the city' • 'I went to Perth once too' (Paddy Roe) • Sacred/Public • Confessions of a researcher •

CHAPTER 3: <b>History as Texts: Pigeon the 'Busranger'</b>	60
--	----

---

Discourse • History — Ion L Idriess • Fiction — Colin Johnson's *Long Live Sandawara* •

**CHAPTER 4: From Structuralism to Post-structuralism**  
**— Reading Oral Narrative** 76

---

The formal description of oral narrative • Desire and linguistic modality • Situating the subject • Custodianship • Time and history • Subversive codes • ‘The Dreaming’ as logocentre • Discourses: occasions for becoming • Text • Rhetoric and social occasions • ‘The Children’s Country’ (Paddy Roe) • From direct to indirect discourse •

**CHAPTER 5: Literature and Politics — The Repressive Hypothesis** 119

---

*My Place* and *Wandering Girl* • Confession •

**CHAPTER 6: Aboriginal English and Aboriginal Law** 139

---

Textual analysis • The communicative practices of the Law Reform Commission • Aboriginal communicative practices: the rise of Aboriginal English • Discursive practices • Legislative discourse • Referential discourse • Aboriginal discourse • A clash of codes — a disharmony of discourses • Appendix: Translation for the Australian Law Reform Commission •

**CHAPTER 7: Appropriation or Post-colonial Renaissance** 163

---

Landscape • 1988: Sally Morgan, Jimmy Pike • Aboriginal design and fashion •

**CHAPTER 8: Margin or Mainstream?** 179

---

A sketch: Yothu Yindi’s *In the Mainstream* • From the margins • That unspeakable marginal subject • Romancing the margins • Writing and control •

**CHAPTER 9: Dialogue with a Post-graduate Student Wanting to Study Aboriginal Culture** 197

---

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** 207

---

**INDEX** 212

---