

Nanda Ways of Knowing, Being and Doing: Our Process of Research Engagement and Research Impacts

Authors : Steven Kelly

Abstract : A fundamental role of the researcher is research engagement, that is, the interaction between researchers and research end-users outside of academia for the mutually beneficial transfer of knowledge, technologies, methods, or resources. While research impact is the contribution that research makes to the economy, society, environment, or culture beyond the contribution to academic research. Ironically, traditional impact metrics in the academy are designed to focus on the outputs; it dismisses the important role engagement plays in fostering a collaborative process that leads to meaningful, ethical, and useful impacts. Dr. Kelly, a Nanda (First Nations) man himself, has worked closely with the Nanda community over the past decade, ensuring cultural protocols are upheld and implemented while doing research engagement. The focus was on the process, which was essential to foster a positive research impact culture. The contributions that flowed from this process were the naming of a new species of squat lobster in the Nanda language, a poster design in collaboration with The University of Melbourne, Museums Victoria and Bundiyarra - IrraWanga language centre, media coverage, and the formation of the "Nanda language, Nanda country project". The Nanda language, Nanda country project is a language revitalization project that focused on reconnecting Nanda people with the language & culture on Nanda Country. Such outcomes are imperative on the eve of the United Nations International Decade of Indigenous Languages. In this paper Dr. Kelly will discuss how Nanda cultural practices informed research engagement to foster a collaborative process that, in turn, led to meaningful, ethical, and useful impacts within and outside of the academy.

Keywords : community collaboration, indigenous, nanda, research engagement, research impacts

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