

The Walmadany / James Price Point Conflict and its Implications for a new Environmental Awareness in Australia

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In this paper, I explore the attachment of an indigenous group called Goolarabooloo to a particular place, Walmadany / James Price Point, and the intrinsic qualities of its landscape. Located at the Dampier Peninsula coast in the Kimberley region of Northwest Australia, Walmadany was subject of heated discussions around environmental justice and activism triggered by the proposal of the largest independent oil and gas company in Australia, Woodside Ltd, to build a \$ 45 Billion AUS Liquefied Natural Gas facility on it.

Based on extensive ethnographic fieldwork in the region, I will present this conflict that unfolded between 2006 and 2013 with emphasis on the scholarly and creative work that was conducted by environmental activists and Indigenous people to counteract the industrialization proposal. Among others, the ethnography draws on the Aboriginal concept of 'living country' that presents ecology in a more inclusive way, and beyond dichotomies such as nature/culture, human/non-human, Indigenous knowledge/Western science. What are its implications for an emerging transcultural environmental awareness in Australia, and beyond?

Bio

Carsten Wergin leads the Research Group “The Transcultural Heritage of Northwest Australia: Dynamics and Resistances” at Heidelberg University. His academic background is in sociocultural anthropology, media and transcultural studies with a wider thematic interest in Digital and Environmental Humanities research, and a regional focus on the Indian Ocean World. His monograph *Kréol Blouz: Musikalische Inszenierungen von Identität und Kultur* (Boehlau, 2010) is an ethnography of the transcultural music scene of La Réunion (DOM-TOM). Further publications include the edited volume *Musical Performance and the Changing City* (Routledge 2013), and the special journal issue *Materialities of Tourism* (Tourist Studies 2014/3).

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