

Tracing Pathways: Writing Archaeology in Nyiyaparli Country.

Bird, C., and Hook, F. (2017).

Paper presented at AAA Annual Conference, Melbourne, VIC, 6-8 December 2017

Abstract

In the 1970s, the WA *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* uniquely placed Aboriginal perspectives at the heart of assessing significance and protecting Aboriginal places, alongside 'historical, anthropological, archaeological and ethnographical' interests. In practice, however, archaeological and anthropological assessments have been routinely separated. A narrow 'scientific' paradigm has provided the overarching model for archaeological survey and site recording. Arguably, this has led to an impoverished discourse that depersonalises the archaeological record and tends to undervalue Aboriginal archaeological sites. In this paper, we explore alternative ways of talking and writing about archaeological evidence through interweaving Aboriginal and archaeological perspectives to write archaeology in Nyiyaparli country focused on understanding and experiencing place.