



Do we need an international law on the self-determination of peoples?

Friday 2 September 2011 1.00 – 2.00pm

Friday Lunchtime Seminar Series

Nicholas Duff Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Phillipa Weeks Staff Library ANU College of Law (Bldg 5),
Fellows Road, The Australian National University



Nick currently works as a legal research officer in the Native Title Research Unit at AIATSIS, and has recently completed a Masters degree in International Relations at the ANU the dissertation for which was entitled *Negotiating political community: a constructivist alternative to self-determination*. Nick has tutored at the ANU College of Law in Australian Public Law and Administrative Law, and previously worked as associate to Justice French in the Federal Court and then to his Honour as Chief Justice in the High Court.

This paper makes a critical assessment of the international law of self-determination in light of the constructed nature of *peoples*. The author draws on his recent research into the political philosophy of self-determination, and argues that all of the important moral values caught up in the conventional ideal of self-determination could be adequately protected without an

institutionalised legal right to national self-determination. The author argues further that just and peaceful outcomes could be more successfully promoted in the absence of such a legal right.

The views expressed in this seminar are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of The Australian National University or the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Presented by

Centre for
International
& Public Law
ANU College of
Law

RSVP

by Wednesday 31 August 2011
E rsvp@law.anu.edu.au T 02 6125 8518
This seminar is free and open to the public
ANU Public Lecture Series information:
anu.edu.au/publiclectures
CRICOS# 00120C