

## Urban Futures Symposium

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**Presentation:** Re-imagining First Nations Screenwriting and Cinema Discourse in the Australian Context: a critical approach to writing an experimental First Nations feature film comedy screenplay

Within Australia, the screen industry seeks to support the growth of First Nations screenwriters and First Nations content. However, existing definitions on what constitutes a First Nations screenplay are ambiguous within the industry. There is also a lack of literature within the academy concerning First Nations screenwriting. To address this gap, this research aims to supplement and expand current understandings of First Nations screenwriting practices. To fulfil this central aim, this research will provide: 1) a definition of First Nations screenwriting; 2) a definition of a First Nations screenplay; 3) an example of covert First Nations screenwriting; and 4) an example of overt First Nations screenwriting. This research will use a practice-based approach to: 1) explore definitions of First Nations screenwriting and characterisations of a First Nations screenplay; and 2) test approaches to writing First Nations content into a screenplay. Drawing on existing screenwriting research, the academic screenplay offers a blueprint for conducting research through script development. Using screenwriting as a mode of research, this research will explore First Nations screenwriting practices through writing First Nations content into a screenplay using two different approaches – overt and covert. Although limited in scope, this research will provide a foundation for further research on First Nations screenwriting and offer practitioners insights on what a First Nations screenplay can be.

