

## Urban Futures Symposium

**Candidate:** Michael Bourke

**School:** Media and Communication

**Presentation Type:** Confirmation of Candidature,  
February 2023

**Presentation:** Djandak Wi (Country Fire): Victorian  
Traditional Owners and Digital Storytelling as  
Decolonising Practice

This project is Indigenous research. It looks at fire practice within Victoria and the policies and procedures set by government frameworks. It draws on Indigenous knowledge and how it can be embedded into these government systems and how fire is managed throughout Victoria. The aim is to explore how Traditional Owner leadership and rights can be adhered to through all land management, throughout government policies and codes of practice.

The research uses digital story telling through recorded yarning circles and Cultural fire workshops to document views and opinions from local communities and government bodies.

The project contributes to Indigenous studies and to decolonising fire practices in Victoria by helping to change government Acts, codes and practices. It will help achieve this policy change by building greater awareness within mainstream communities about Indigenous knowledge and practices for how Country should be managed.

