



PROF. DR. HELEN VERRAN

„World Philosophies Meeting in Machines in Northern Australia“



artist: Trevor van Weeran

Do machines mediate when practitioners of disparate world philosophies meet through a machine? Such a situation occurs when an iPad is used in negotiation between medical practitioners and Aboriginal patients and their families in Northern Australia. Are machines better understood as mere intermediaries in such encounters? This talk poses these questions in discussing machines as participants in the relational ethics required in the meeting of world philosophies.

Helen Verran, Charles Darwin University, Australia, is currently Visiting Professorial Fellow at Max Planck institute for the History of Science in Berlin. She has been puzzling about configuring technologies in postcolonial situations since the 1980s when she was living and teaching in Nigeria. She is the author of the prize-winning book *Science and an African Logic*.

Michael Christie & Helen Verran (2014): "The Touch Pad Body: A Generative Trans-cultural Digital Device Interrupting Received Ideas and Practices in Aboriginal Health", *Societies* 2014, 4(2), 256–264.

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