

Alliance for Social Impact Workshop

Research into Indigenous businesses and communities

On Monday 23 September 2024, a workshop on research into Indigenous businesses and communities was held. The workshop was organised by the Alliance for Social Impact (ASI) and led by Dr Sharlene Leroy-Dyer – an Aboriginal academic and currently the Director of the UQ Business School Indigenous Business Hub – and Professor Lisa Ruhanen, who has worked with a number of First Nations tourism businesses and is currently the Co-Lead of the Queensland First Nations Tourism Research Hub. Several researchers of the UQ Business School's Indigenous Business Hub and other participants actively contributed to the discussion.

Opening the discussion Associate Professor Jay Weerawardena, Co-Lead, ASI indicated that the objective of the workshop is to understand the Indigenous business research context, its unique features and how it might add to the research interests of our researchers, whilst understanding the protocols that need to be observed in engaging with the Indigenous business community.

Dr Leroy-Dyer introduced the Indigenous research context and discussed specific features around culturally appropriate research. Dr Leroy-Dyer introduced concepts such as Country, the 4 Rs (Reciprocity, Relationality, Responsibility and Respect), the AIATSIS code of ethical research and what research engagement should look like.

Joining the discussion was Dr Samantha Cooms, Ms Emma Olssen and Uncle Rod Williams from the Indigenous Business Hub.

Professor Ruhanen outlined different types of research engagement with Indigenous business and communities – 'blind', 'superficial', 'collaborative' and 'Indigenist' – and elaborated on how she came to be working in the Indigenous tourism space. Speaking from a non-Indigenous researcher perspective, Professor Ruhanen elaborated on some suggestions for non-Indigenous researchers who would like to work with and for Indigenous communities.

A zoom recording of the workshop is available [at this link](#).

