Professor Martin Nakata is the Director of Nura Gili at the University of New South Wales (UNSW). He also holds the title of Chair of Australian Indigenous Education. Prof N M Nakata (B.Ed.Hons.PhD) is the first Torres Strait Islander to receive a PhD in Australia. His mother is an Indigenous person from the Torres Strait Islands, and his dad was born in Kushimoto-cho, Japan. His current research work focuses on higher education curriculum areas, the academic preparation of Indigenous students, and Indigenous knowledge and library services. He has presented eighteen plenary and keynote addresses at national as well as international conferences in ten countries, and published various pieces on Indigenous Australians and education in various academic journals and books in Australia and abroad. His book, *Disciplining the Savages-Savaging the Disciplines*, was published in 2007 by Aboriginal Studies Press.

The Cultural Interface

As universities adjust to the federal government’s priorities for low SES enrolments and widening participation strategies, there is much to be learned from efforts made over the past three decades from the federal government’s priorities for Indigenous access, participation and outcomes in higher education studies. Prof Nakata will sketch out: the current gains made in the transition of Indigenous students to university studies, the measures needed to enrol and support students without the necessary ATAR scores, and the need to reconfigure understandings of learning spaces from Indigenous standpoints.