



Puntutjarpa rock shelter revisited: A chronological and stratigraphic reappraisal of a key archaeological sequence for the Western Desert, Australia.

SEMINAR PRESENTED BY THE CENTRE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE (CAS)

DATE: FRIDAY 9TH JUNE
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VENUE: 41.G03A, UOW
PRESENTER: DR ALAN WILLIAMS

Alan Williams is a senior archaeologist, team leader and part owner at Extent Heritage Pty Ltd (formerly AHMS Pty Ltd), one of the largest private consulting firms specialising in Aboriginal and historical heritage in Australia. His PhD research focussed on archaeological time-series, and includes a number of important and well-cited research outputs in the field of sum probability analysis (i.e. radiocarbon data as a proxy for past human activity).

SEMINAR OVERVIEW: PUNTUTJARPA ROCK SHELTER REVISITED: A CHRONOLOGICAL AND STRATIGRAPHIC REAPPRAISAL OF A KEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE FOR THE WESTERN DESERT, AUSTRALIA.

Puntutjarpa rockshelter located in remote Western Australia was the first archaeological excavation undertaken in the arid zone. Excavated in the late 1960s by Richard Gould, it was pivotal in the thinking of the time that past Aboriginal hunter-gatherer societies remained unchanged for the last 10,000 years. It remains one of the most extensive excavations in the arid zone, and is still a key sequence for researchers to the present day. However, since the late 1980s, researchers have identified issues with the published findings, especially in relation to chronology and identification of formal lithic technologies much earlier than found elsewhere in Australia. Here, I present the re-analysis of museum collections and findings of a small re-excavation of the site to clarify these uncertainties.



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