



## WIC Hybrid Colloquium

# Exploring the causes of and implications from rapid growth in Australia's Indigenous population

**Date 26 July, 2023**  
**11:00 – 12:00 (CEST)**



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### Abstract:

The Indigenous population of Australia has grown at a very rapid pace in recent decades, above that which is possible through additions from births alone. The primary cause has been large numbers of people choosing to identify as Indigenous in the Australian Census when previously they did not. There is now a range of data from which we can explain and contextualise this non-demographic growth including examining characteristics like age and socio-economic variables to observe differences between those who consistently identify as Indigenous and those who change their nominated status over time. In this talk I will tease out nuances around this major demographic trend through the lens of a demographer but with socio-cultural transitions in mind. I will also demonstrate future spatial variations in growth through population projections. As Australia goes to a referendum on changing its constitution to provide an Indigenous voice to Parliament, this talk emphasises that identity can be fluid and complex. It also brings into question the way Indigeneity is collected in official Australian datasets like the five-yearly Census.

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### About the presenter:

Andrew grew up on the lands of the Larrakia people in the Northern Territory of Australia, and still works there today at Charles Darwin University's Northern Institute. Prior to academia, he worked at the Australian Bureau of Statistics including in the national Indigenous statistics area and on the five-yearly Census. His research focuses on the causes and consequences of demographic changes for sparsely populated parts of Australia and elsewhere, with a focus on the Northern Territory.

The Wittgenstein Centre is a collaboration among the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW), the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the University of Vienna.