Jointly organised by the University of Divinity, Whitley College, the Centre for Theology and Ministry, and the Commission for Mission of the UCA

In a context where Indigenous claims remain unresolved, the rights of asylum seekers are contested, and global economic forces are making new demands on nation states, the theme of sovereignty demands closer examination. Beginning with discussion of settler colonialism, this conference brings together people from a range of disciplines to reflect on discourses of sovereignty in the Australian context.

**Keynote Speaker**

R. S. Sugirtharajah, Professor of Biblical Hermeneutics, Department of Theology and Religion at University of Birmingham author of *Exploring Postcolonial Biblical Criticism: History, Method, Practice* (Blackwell 2012) *The Bible and Asia: From the Pre-Christian Era to the Postcolonial Age* (Harvard University Press 2013) and many works on biblical and postcolonial criticism.

Other **Plenary speakers** include Djiniyini Gondarra, OAM, from Galiwinku, Elcho Island. He is Senior Yolngu elder, ceremonial lawman and clan leader of the Dhurril Nation of Northeast Arnhem Land and has extensively published in the area of aboriginal culture, rights and theology; Robyn Sampson, Researcher in the social sciences with a background in cultural geography with special interest in asylum seeker policy and refugee resettlement. Currently she is Research fellow, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne. She is the author of *There are Alternatives: A Handbook for Preventing Unnecessary Immigration Detention* (International Detention Coalition, 2011); Joanna Cruickshank, Lecturer in History at the Alfred Deakin Research Institute, Deakin University, Melbourne. She is author of *Creating White Australia* (Sydney University Press, 2009) and *Indigenous People and Cultural Exchange* (Sussex Academic Press, 2010).

**Call for papers**

Presentations are invited on any topic related to the theme of the conference, e.g., settler colonialism, treaties with Indigenous peoples, the rise and decline of nation states, claims to state sovereignty in debates about asylum seekers and border protection, and ideas of
sovereignty in the Bible. The range of relevant disciplines would include: history, law, politics, systematic theology, ministry, biblical studies, public health and social policy.

**Deadline:** Paper proposals should be sent by 30th April 2014 or soon after- [https://ucavt.goregister.com.au/claimingsovereignty/individual/registration/](https://ucavt.goregister.com.au/claimingsovereignty/individual/registration/)

**Registrations**

Registrations to this conference will open in late May 2014. Registration costs: AUD 60/- Students; AUD 30/- . Please contact Mark Brett mbrett@whitley.unimelb.edu.au or Monica Melanchthon Monica.Melanchthon@ctm.uca.edu.au for further information.