

Jawun Research Centre

# SEMINAR SERIES

Communication, Health, and Social  
and Cultural Well-Being



## Seminar 43: Folklore, folklorism and folk in creating Polish identity in Australia

*This multidisciplinary seminar series aims to create a forum centered in Jawun. It is for researchers at CQUniversity, across Queensland and all over the world, as a forum to share their research findings and establish potential synergies, leading to joint grant applications, and partnerships that endeavour to advance knowledge in various disciplines.*

### Date and Time

**Friday, 3 May 2024**

4:00pm – 5:30pm QLD time  
Light refreshments provided.

### Locations

Room **3.06**, CQUniversity Cairns Campus  
Corner Abbott Street and Shields Street  
Or via [Zoom](#) Passcode: 797473



**Speaker:**  
**Dr Maria Wronska-Friend**

Adjunct Senior  
Research Fellow at  
CASE, James Cook  
University, Cairns

### Abstract

Approximately two centuries ago, the folk traditions of Polish peasants became a pivotal agent in constructing the national identity of Polish people, notwithstanding their origins or social affiliation. In Australia, this process burgeoned after the Second World War when, following the arrival of a large group of Polish migrants, more than twenty folkloric dance groups were established. Their repertoire is largely based on reinvented or reconstructed folkloric traditions, and only a few members of those ensembles have ever had direct associations with Polish villages.

The process of referring to local folklore in constructing national identity is quite dynamic, informed by changing ideologies and dramatic shifts in the political situation of Poland in recent decades. Initially, in both countries: Poland and Australia, it followed disparate trajectories, and only approximately twenty years ago a consensus was reached, resulting in direct contacts and collaboration. The seminar will be illustrated with examples of folk and folkloric performances from Poland and Australia.

**RSVP** to JRC Administration via email:  
[irc@cqu.edu.au](mailto:irc@cqu.edu.au) or 07 4923 2672

**THE OFFICE OF INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT**

