

INVOKING CULTURAL AWARENESS THROUGH TEACHING INDIGENOUS ISSUES IN CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

THALIA ANTHONY AND MELANIE SCHWARTZ

ABSTRACT

This article explores methods for incorporating Indigenous issues in Criminal Law and Procedure courses. The teaching strategies suggested have dual outcomes: they introduce students to important aspects of the interaction between Indigenous communities and the criminal justice system; and more generally, they encourage students to gain a greater understanding of cultural diversity, how it operates in the legal system, and the differential impact of the law on different groups. The article draws on the authors' experience in teaching Criminal Law at a number of universities in Sydney since 2006. It discusses criminal procedure, substantive criminal law as well as assessment. Criminal Law is a critical site for considering Indigenous issues given the stark interface between the criminal justice system and Indigenous Australians. The pedagogical techniques considered in this article, however, are also relevant to a broad range of Law subjects.