

Non-Indigenous peoples' representations of Indigenous Cultural Fire Management

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Exploring non-Indigenous representations of Indigenous Cultural Fire Management (ICFM) and its implications for future integrated fire management

This PhD project will explore the different ways non-Indigenous people perceive ICFM in southeast Australian landscapes. This can help identify the range of possibilities for future intercultural collaborations in land and fire management.

Towards integrated fire management: Current conversations in southeast Australia

Integrated fire management requires ongoing efforts to **challenge the dominance of Western thought** in policy and practice and **build two-way trust and understanding**.

Increasing presence of intercultural fire collaborations between settler and Aboriginal communities across southeast Australia.

Grassroots initiatives highlight potential for bottom-up change.

Calls for research to improve knowledge of the **'other-side'** of **Indigenous-settler relations** to identify **opportunities for social and institutional change**

How are non-Indigenous people are thinking about ICFM?

Where are opportunities for future intercultural collaborations in land and fire management?

Research Design

Qualitative interviews with non-Indigenous landholders, fire personnel, and members of environmental orgs engaged with knowledge-sharing activities relating to ICFM.

Hoping to better understand:

Social meanings attributed to ICFM

Social construction of ICFM as **'social representations' [SRs]**
Practices, values, ideas
How does this relate to perceived possibilities for intercultural collaboration?

Dynamics of social thought

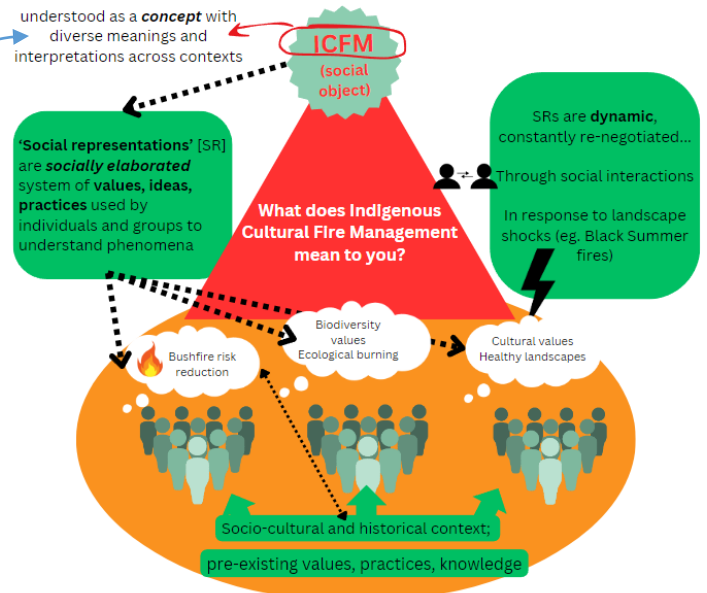
Shared or contested elements of SRs of ICFM within and across individuals & contexts
Can tensions reveal potential 'entry points' for wider changes in thinking / practice?



Source: REUTERS/Jill Graw, 2023

Conceptualising diverse & changing perspectives of ICFM

understood as a **concept** with diverse meanings and interpretations across contexts



Next Steps

In the coming months, I will be recruiting individuals to participate in interviews across East Gippsland, VIC; Southern Grampians, Vic; South Coast/Eurobodalla, NSW.

Further information

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