Remembering Namatjira: Our Beloved

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This paper explores constructions of Indigenous subjectivities as integral to the formation of racial imaginaries in Australian curricular. It considers the ways in which issues of memory, citizenship, subjectivity and nation intersect in the teaching of contemporary Indigenous Studies, specifically within museum pedagogies. How do we remember Indigenous public figures such as Albert Namatjira and what moral anxieties emerge for Australian students in the story of his life and art? In what ways are these anxieties relived through the construction of contemporary figures such as in the Cathy Freeman phenomenon? How do we remember Indigenous lives, and what roles do Indigenous public icons perform in the construction of the national imaginary? How do we teach the story of the ambivalence of our post/colonial desires?