

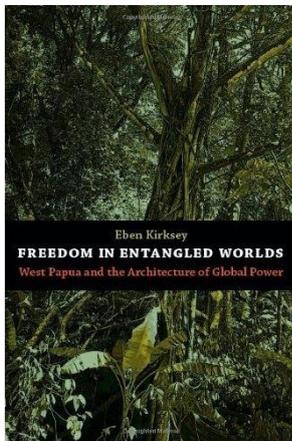
Freedom in Entangled Worlds: An afternoon with Dr S Eben Kirksey

Thursday 18 October 2012
5:00-6:00pm



Venue: Café IRA, 476 Gold Coast Highway, Tugun

S. Eben Kirksey is a cultural anthropologist whose research explores the political dimensions of imagination as well as the interplay of natural and cultural history. He recently commenced a lectureship in Environmental Studies in the School of Humanities at the University of New South Wales; concurrently he is Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Graduate Center at City University New York, having completed his PhD in the History of Consciousness program at the University of California at Santa Cruz in 2008. *Freedom in Entangled Worlds: West Papua and the Architecture of Global Power* – Dr Kirksey's first book – has recently been published by Duke University Press. In addition to this work, Eben is an active participant in the emerging field of 'multispecies ethnography', where his work explores the production of scientific knowledge and the politics of conservation in relation to various species of ants, frogs and others – in particular in Central and South America. Insights from his book inform his work on hope in biocultural worlds.



At this afternoon session, Eben will discuss the background to his book. He first went to West Papua, the Indonesian-controlled half of New Guinea, as an exchange student in 1998, and returned multiple times over the following decade. His later study of West Papua's resistance to the Indonesian occupiers and the forces of globalisation merged as he discovered that collaboration – rather than resistance – was the primary strategy of this dynamic social movement. Combining parables, historical accounts, and compelling narratives of his own experiences, he argues that seeking freedom in entangled worlds requires negotiating complex interdependencies.

During this period Dr Kirksey also completed ethnographic and ecological fieldwork in Costa Rica, Panama and Florida.

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