In comparison to the United States, Australia has a paltry rights framework for indigenous peoples. How do Aboriginal people in Australia push their cause in a system that is quite unwilling to accommodate them? And what can indigenous peoples in other contexts learn from Australian Aboriginal social change efforts? This presentation will draw on several vignettes from research in Australia. It will trace old and new social change efforts, from the Black Community School established in the 1970s in North Queensland to social media activism protesting closures of Aboriginal communities. Despite a system that does not allow for meaningful self-determination, Aboriginal communities are claiming it and exercising it anyway.

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