Luke Patterson, The 2016-2017 EWJ II Gateway Fellow at International House, UC Berkeley

Luke is a continuing graduate student in Anthropology, focusing on Studies in Folklore. He is a poet and educator of Koori descent.

Luke grew up Dharawal Country in the south Sydney suburb of Kurnell, Australia where he was the only aboriginal student in his school. He received a Bachelor of Music with Honors in Classical Music and Musicology from the University of Melbourne, one of Australia’s premiere universities. He trained in classical viola performance at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, and was selected to tour internationally as the lead violist with Chamber Strings of Melbourne. This educational path led him to explore connections between classical music and poetry, which then, led him as a poet into critical and literary theory. He then developed a keen interest in the exchange of cultural forms across borders, which ordinarily separates academic and performance, elite and vernacular cultural spheres. Luke also received a Graduate Diploma of Linguistics at the University of Melbourne.

Luke’s research focuses on bio-regional identities and consciousness expressed through cultural forms across borders, such as those ordinarily separating academics and performance, as well as elite and vernacular cultural spheres. His academic interests are grounded in his extensive work with Aboriginal and other community-based organizations across Australia.

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