

Pedagogy, Culture & Politics of Education: Dialogue for Inclusion

9 September – 12 September 2011

**Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
Cultural Competence, Inclusion and
Marginalised Groups**

Ann Cheryl Armstrong

Derrick Armstrong



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

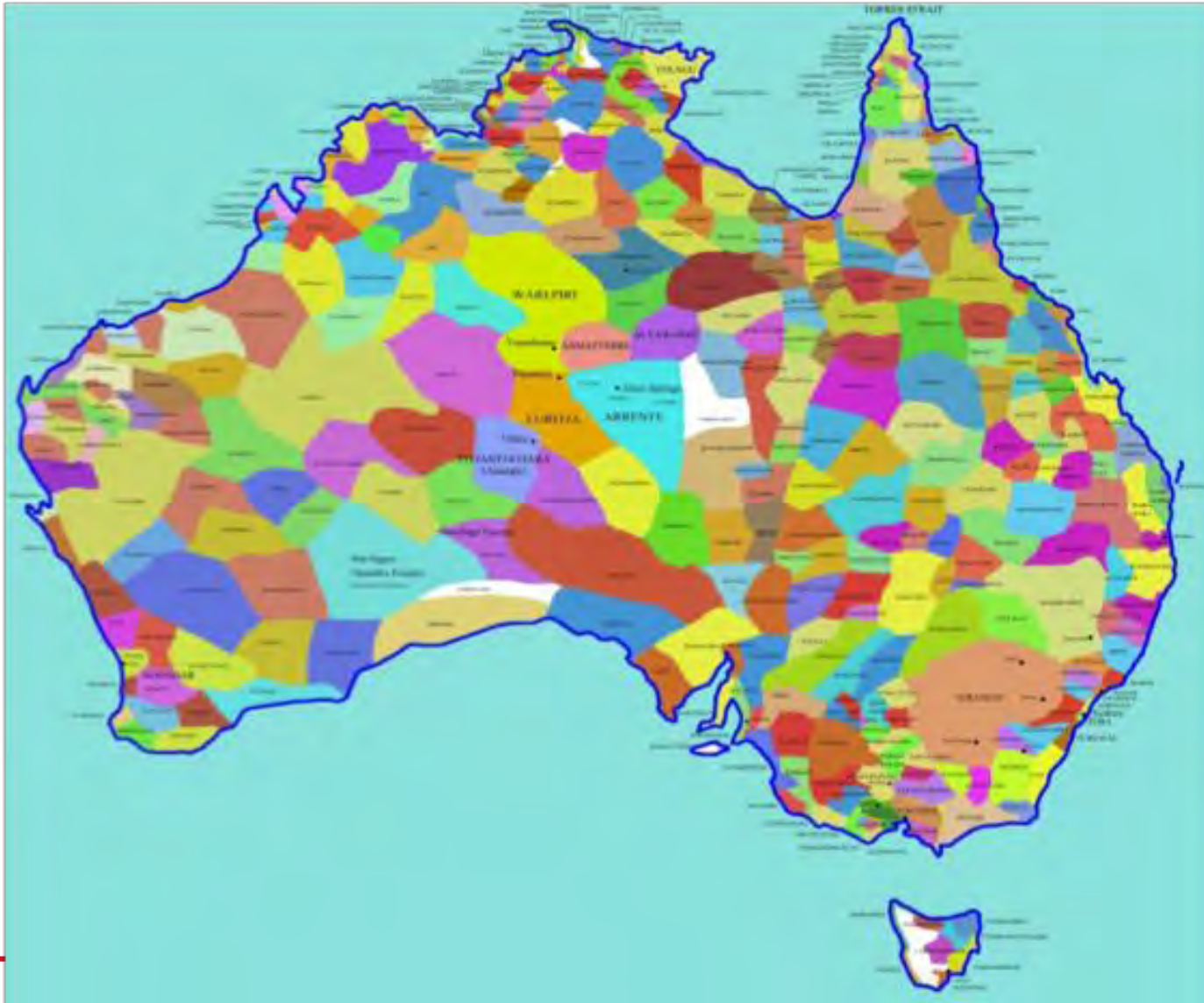


Australia & Europe Scandinavia & Balkan countries omitted

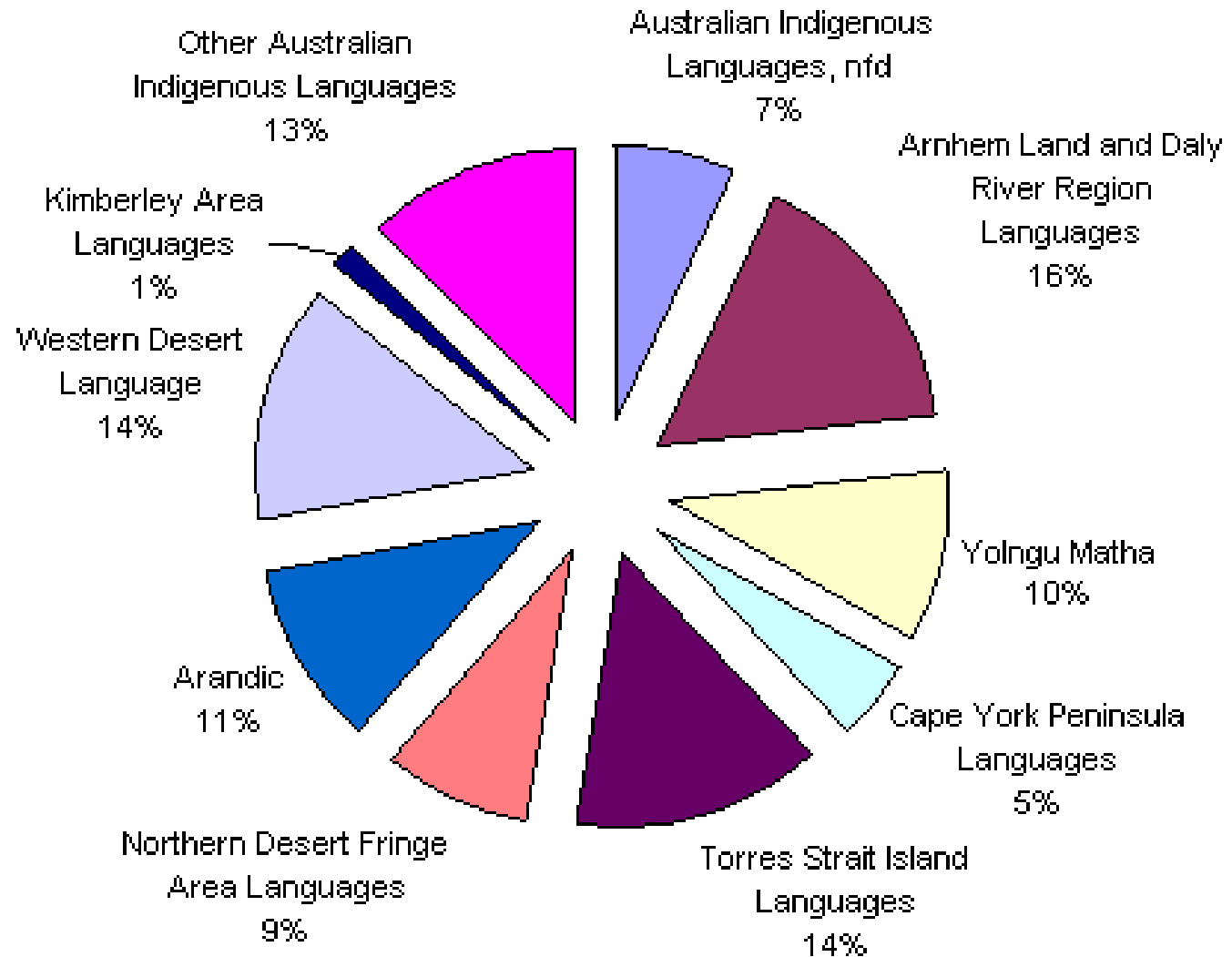




Indigenous Australia

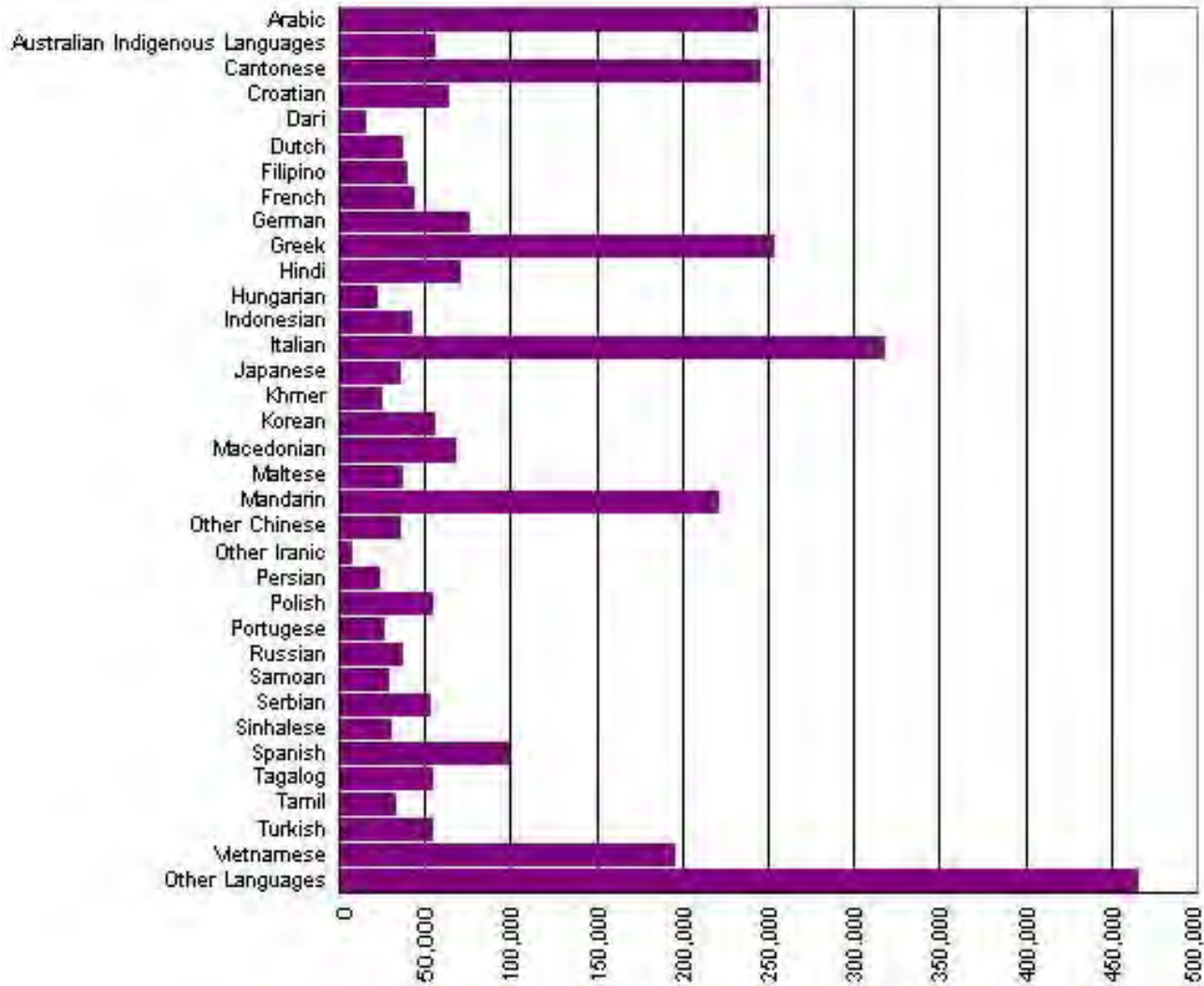


Indigenous languages & Australian creoles 2006





Languages spoken other than English (2006)



CULTURAL COMPETENCE DEFINITION

- › Most popular definition used by the US government

‘A set of congruent behaviours, attitudes, and policies that come together in a system, agency, or among professionals that enables effective work in cross-cultural situations’

Cross et al (1989)



NELSON MANDELA



- › Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor...that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another.
- › Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela (1994,p.144)

The Centre for Cultural Competence in Australia has argued that:

Australia cannot close the gap until non-Indigenous Australians increase their understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and develop the skills to become culturally competent at both a personal and professional level.



Contribution to a Globalised Community



**Australia:
a multicultural
society:
'cultural
respect' and
'valuing others'**

Sonn (2004:11) -

“cultural competence is more than learning about others, it is about learning about ourselves, our subjectivities and the numerous ways in which the different discourses available can undermine cultural boundary crossing”.

Shor (1993: 30-1)

... the actions and results of humans in society, the way people interact in their communities, and the addition people make to the world they find. Culture is what ordinary people do everyday, how they behave, speak, relate and make things. Everyone has and makes a culture, not only aesthetic specialists or members of the elite. Culture is the speech and behavior in everyday life, which liberating educators study anthropologically before they can offer effective critical learning.



Glass Ceiling/ Black Curtain

major hurdle, is mentoring and making indigenous people feel part of mainstream employment.

‘They talk about a glass ceiling; Aboriginal people have a black curtain – we can’t actually see the jobs that are there’.

Warren Mundine, chairman of the The Australian Indigenous Chamber of Commerce



From Big Things Little Things Grow





Albert Einstein

Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.

-A. Einstein