Higher education and the idea of “the” Narrative:  
A conversation across cultures

Professor Archie Smith  
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Date: Monday 24 October 2011  
Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm  
Venue: School meeting rooms via video link  
Kingswood Campus Building P.G.26  
Bankstown Campus Building 1.1.114

ABSTRACT
What narratives provide good-enough information about what is going on? As we teach and learn narratives begin to form, knowledge is reproduced and newly created. Many narratives embody a vision of a safer world with wider justice and deeper compassion, but whose justice?  Whose compassion? Daunting questions arise within and across cultures. How is social and personal knowledge being constructed and towards what ends? These are among the questions that ought to concern the social sciences. The questions I have in mind would call for social reform and social justice. What narrative and skills should we settle for? What are we to do with ourselves, normative moral, spiritual and meaning-making questions that arise and appear to be of enduring human importance—in a world of shrinking resources? What is the role of higher education?.

SPEAKER
Professor Archie Smith was the James and Clarice Foster Professor of Pastoral Psychology and Counselling at the Pacific School of Religion and Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California from 1981-2011. He has published over 40 books and journal articles. His books include Siblings by Choice, (2004) (co-authored with Ursula Pfafflin), Navigating the Deep River: Spirituality in African American Families (1997), Tending the Flock co-authored with Bernie Lyons, (1996) and The Relational Self: Ethics and Therapy from a Black Church Perspective (1982). He is currently an adjunct member of the faculty at the Institute for Transpersonal Psychology, Menlo Park, California. He has taught in Kenya, China, Indonesia, Australia, Germany, England, Poland, Korea and the United States.

Plan to attend this regular series of seminars

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