Abstract
Advances in neuroscientific research over the past twenty years or so provide great insight into the [unconscious] workings of the human brain. The findings, often conducted using increasingly sophisticated technology and techniques have either supported previously held theories, or disproved them e.g. the contention that the brain is 'hard-wired' at a certain age overturned by Merzenich et al with the discovery of neuroplasticity. As part of my PhD research into the treatment of Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system, I assessed various psychological therapies, approaches and theories - do they stand up to discoveries in neurobiology or neurogenesis? Significantly I found that cognitive biases tend to limit their efficacy, particularly in cross-cultural settings where entrenched sociocultural values have far greater influence on behaviours, actions and decisions than 'traditional' thinking would have us believe

Personal Construct Psychology (PCP) resonates with my preliminary conclusion that most legal practitioners, politicians, police etc. are unaware of or unwilling to acknowledge how their underlying belief systems influence their decisions, supported by a misconception that we are able to 'leave [our] personalities at the door' (as judges/magistrates are instructed to in their training). PCP practitioners on the other hand are aware of the impact of their own beliefs or 'systems of meaning', along with the tools to mitigate these in the therapeutic setting. This presentation will explore the correlation between (cognitive) neuroscience and PCP, examining factors that demonstrate how and why PCP offers a much better, more effective approach when dealing with Aboriginal people.