Introduction

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The aim and scope of the *Journal of Australian, Canadian and Aotearoa New Zealand Studies* (JACANZS) is to publish articles in various disciplines (history, politics, literature, law, anthropology, and Indigenous studies) on one or more of the following countries; Australia, Canada, and Aotearoa New Zealand, with a core focus on articles that are comparative in their geographic remit for example Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, or Australia and Canada. The creation of the journal responds to a lack of journals that collectively publish across the fields of Australian, Canadian, and Aotearoa New Zealand studies from multi and interdisciplinary perspectives. It also followed the creation of the Australian, Canadian and New Zealand Studies Network (ACNZSN) to reflect the work and membership of the network.

I want to mention something about the make-up of the editorial board of JACANZS and diversity. Being a Gay person of colour, this is something that I am very passionate about. I have commented in the past about the lack of people of colour especially in leadership positions in academia. So, I was determined that the editorial board of a journal that I was going to create would really try to make an effort in this regard. I am quite happy with the results. The whole editorial team is pretty much evenly divided in terms of gender which is great. And it also includes several people of colour who are either leading academics in their field or emerging ones. The latter is a particular point of pride for me, especially compared to other journals that I have been involved with in the past where I was the only person of

¹ I am extremely grateful to Dr. Ali Clark for her peer review of this introduction.

colour on their editorial board, and with my departure, they became all white again. As I have always argued visibility and representation matter.

Another thing that I really wanted to include in *JACANZS* was a book reviews section. I always remember a reviewer of a funding application that I submitted in Australia some years ago now commenting on the fact that I was an assiduous book reviewer (I have published sixty book reviews), which they considered was a much underrated aspect of academia. I absolutely agreed with them and appreciated their acknowledgement of my efforts in this regard. I have always believed that somebody needs to review a book we have published. And so it is collegial to do the same for others. So, I am especially proud of the book reviews section of the journal which showcases some of the excellent scholarship in the field. I want to publicly thank Ms. Emily Cornish, the Book Reviews Editor for doing such a fantastic job of commissioning the reviews and editing them for publication. It is quite a lot of hard work trying to secure reviewers, arrange for copies of books to be sent to them by publishers, and then edit book reviews received. However, Emily has done an excellent job in all these areas, at the same time as working on her Ph.D. as well as teaching, and I look forward to continue working together with her in the future.

This leaves me to introduce the articles in this, the inaugural issue of *JACANZS*. I am very proud of all the articles and strongly believe that they illustrate the cutting-edge research that is taking place in the field.

Chadwick Cowie's article on 'Quebec Sovereignty and Indigenous Nationhoods: Critiquing The Quebec Secessionist Movement from "an Indigenous Lens"' assesses and critiques the Quebec secessionist movement from an Indigenous lens in order to include other contexts and views on the aforementioned topic that is traditionally left to the peripheries of the Quebec secessionist movement.

In order to add an Indigenous lens to the discussion of Quebec's secessionist movement, his article first reviews the concepts of sovereignty and self-determination from both 'western-centric' and Indigenous views. Furthermore, the article then reviews the historical formation of French and British settlers and power in what Indigenous peoples call Turtle Island, referred to non-Indigenous peoples as North America, from the 1500s until 1960. Lastly, with the many political, economic, and societal changes from the 1960s and on, the article critiques the competing views of Quebec as a sovereign entity to that of Indigenous nationhoods. In turn, the article concludes that for Quebec to truly reflect a decolonized state, the inclusion of Indigenous nations as equal partners with their own sovereignty and the recognition of self-determination must also occur.

Jatinder Mann in his article on 'Transnational identities of the global South Asian diaspora in Australia, Canada, Aotearoa New Zealand, and South Africa, 1900s-1940s' addresses two key research questions: 1. Was the rhetoric about the equality of all British subjects adopted by South Asian migrants in the British Empire's self-governing Dominions in the first half of the twentieth century? and 2. Did the experience of living in predominantly white countries encourage migrants from the Punjab and other regions in South Asia to adopt a common pan-South Asian identity? He explores these two research questions with each of the four countries of the focus of this article in turn, before making some comparisons.

Alice Higg's article on 'Unsettling Coyote: Engaging with Indigenous Canadian Theories of Eco-Sexuality in Gail Anderson-Dargatz's *The Cure for Death by Lightning* (1996)' argues that *The Cure for Death by Lightning* is a novel that attempts to make a meaningful and serious engagement with the Shuswap figure of Coyote. In doing so it raises vital questions regarding the extent to which a settler

writer can and should appropriately engage with an Indigenous story. Through a focus on both the material animals in the novel, such as domesticated farm animals and the wild coyotes of the bush, and also the representation of Coyote and the Shuswap characters, this article argues that Anderson-Dargatz encourages a re-evaluation of the way in which we engage with non-human animals, introducing an eco-sexual framework that encourages empathy and kinship with all beings. By using Kim TallBear's (Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate) and Melissa K. Nelson's (Anishinaabe/Métis) definition of eco-sexuality, it argues that the novel pushes for the centring of Indigenous knowledge in building more sustainable relations with animals. However, it also acknowledges that despite this eco-sexual engagement, the novel ultimately still continues to centre the settler experience in its narrative, encapsulating and enacting a form of displacement in its very construction. By treading this fine line between an attempted serious engagement with Shuswap culture and questions of cultural appropriation, the novel is an example of the notion that it is imperative that settler literature must engage and destabilize the types of oppressive hierarchies that underpin both species and settler-Indigenous relations, namely settler-sexuality and anthropocentrism, if settler culture is to follow.

André Brett in his article on "The whistle blows, and we are whisked into a tunnel": Railways and the Environment in Illawarra, 1850s–1915' asserts that historians are becoming alert to the large role of railways in environmental history. To date, many studies in Australasia focus on a specific industry, such as timber. It is now worth turning to the distinctive local or regional effects of railways beyond a single industry or commodity, so to better understand the links between technology, environment, and place. Illawarra presents a valuable case study. The environmental history of the first decades of rail transport exposes how Wollongong and its region

industrialised and the ways in which this process affected everything from primary producers to the sounds of daily life. This article takes in the 1850s through to the start of World War I, a period when rail transport grew from being the adjunct of a few coal mines into an essential common carrier. It progresses through a series of themes that show the economic, social, and cultural attributes that shaped and were shaped by the railway environment. It begins with the railway as a carrier: the extent to which trains fulfilled their intended role to transport Illawarra's natural resources to Sydney and other markets. It then moves on to the railway as a consumer, putting the local environment to work for its benefit and requiring materials made from resources of distant lands. Railways did more than carry or consume resources; they created their own environment and provided new perspectives on nature. Trains brought people closer to nature, carried them into new—and dangerous—environments in tunnels, and transformed the sonic landscape. Rail travel differed significantly to horseback or sea voyages in capacity and speed, and by World War I it was enmeshed in Illawarra's environment.

The articles in this issue all come from scholars at different stages of their career, from Ph.D. students to Early Career researchers, to mid-career ones. I hope in the future that *JACANZS* will also include articles by more senior scholars as well. The articles in *JACANZS*' inaugural issue also reflect its multi and interdisciplinary nature, including the disciplines of history, politics, literature, law, and Indigenous studies. They are also about a diverse range of subjects, including Indigenous nationhoods, Indigenous and settler history, Quebec politics, migration and diaspora history, settler literature and its interactions with Indigenous mythology and storytelling, and railway and environmental history. I would like to publicly thank the members of the editorial board of *JACANZS* for agreeing to review manuscripts

submitted in their fields of expertise, recommending other reviewers, and also managing the submission of my article to this inaugural issue of the journal, so as to avoid any potential conflict of interest. I truly hope that this wonderful support will continue in the future of the journal.