

Power, migration narratives and the elimination of the native: Citizenship and belonging in Canada, Australia, and the United States

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Migration studies scholars have long neglected to address settler colonialism, although in recent years this has begun to shift because of changes on the ground and in scholarship. These changes include the salience of the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, more attention paid to the multigenerational violent impacts of boarding/residential schools on Indigenous communities and new forms of theorization emerging from the field of settler colonial studies. This talk takes as its focus evolving migration narratives in the settler colonies of Canada, Australia, and the United States, particularly since overt racial discrimination was removed from immigration policies in the 1960s and 70s. It is argued that while various policy changes allowed for more inclusionary impulses in relation to citizenship and citizenship rights, these have fed migration narratives that make Indigenous peoples invisible and whiteness a site of racialized privilege in relation to land, resources, and power.

