



*The complex and competing narratives concerning migration
and migrants in settler colonial states:
The case of the CANZ (Canada, Australia, New Zealand) states*

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The CANZ states share similar broad historical trajectories of colonization and Indigenous-nations dispossession accompanied by racialized and discriminatory immigration policies that lasted well into the 20th century. In the latter half of the century, regimes of immigrant recruitment reflected more contemporary economically oriented narratives influenced by neo-liberal assumptions and politics. New legal and residency/citizenship categories and statuses emerged with varied settlement trajectories and outcomes. The racialization of who is an acceptable or unacceptable migrant continues alongside narratives that represent contemporary neo-liberal assumptions and priorities and sometimes reflect historical and colonial influences. State-sponsored and -managed policies of diversity recognition and management compound this further, notably in the form of official policies of multiculturalism. Critical approaches to superdiversity offer an understanding of the complex terrain of narratives and designations that are deployed in societies that have used migration as an essential part of building a modern nation-state. Highly problematic are the assumptions that underpin what constitutes the nation, especially given the hegemonic and powerful status of white groups (or fractions of them) and the ongoing dispossession and marginalization of Indigenous nations. This presentation explores these narratives, including the presence of unhelpful binaries and the need to explicitly consider the role and narratives surrounding white hegemony and the positioning of Indigenous nations. One option is the approach offered by a decoloniality-inspired superdiversity that recognizes the range of narratives and statuses, material inequalities and possibilities provided by co-production.