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‘Introduction’

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Introduction

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I am very proud to see the publication of this seventh issue of the *Journal of Australian, Canadian, and Aotearoa New Zealand Studies (JACANZS)*. JACANZS continues to be the only journal that I am aware of in the field that is not only open access but also not-for-profit, i.e. no one must pay for their contribution in the journal to be made open access, including institutions. It continues to publish cutting-edge inter- and multidisciplinary research, as well as a plethora of insightful reviews which showcase the wonderful books being published in the field. Furthermore, it offers reflections by senior scholars on their careers in Australian, Canadian, and Aotearoa New Zealand studies, as well as showcasing the excellent work taking place in related research centres, institutes, and schools across the world.

This latest issue of the journal contains three research articles. They all illustrate the innovative research taking place in the field and reflect the inter- and multidisciplinary nature of the journal. One of the articles focuses on Canada, another focuses on Australia, and the third compares the two. This is what the journal strives for: wide geographical scope, comparative analyses, and inter- and multidisciplinary approaches. Moreover, this issue builds on one of the major strengths of the journal, which is its attention to the burgeoning literature of the field. To that end, there are fifty book reviews within this issue (the highest number of any issue so far), both regular and reflective, showcasing the wonderful research that is being published on these countries.

¹ I am extremely grateful to Dr. Dougal McNeill for peer reviewing this introduction.

This current issue of *JACANZS* continues two sections from past issues of the journal: 'Reflections on Australian, Canadian, and Aotearoa New Zealand Studies' and 'Showcasing Australian, Canadian, and Aotearoa New Zealand Studies Centres Around the World'. Within the former, one senior and one retired academic reflect on their careers in the field, and in the latter Directors of Australian, Canadian, and Aotearoa New Zealand Studies centres in India and Canada showcase the exciting activities taking place at their respective centres.

The articles in this edition begin with Emily Eaton's 'Phase Out Canada: The Next Big Step for Climate Justice' which maintains that climate movements and scholars know they need to center Indigenous Rights and Peoples in their visions of a new green world. Yet their low/no-carbon futures often fail to imagine a decolonized world and have not incorporated the longstanding demands of Indigenous Peoples for self-determination, land reclamation, and an existence in sovereign relationship to colonial states. In this article Eaton challenges climate movements and scholars to be as radical about decolonization as they are about decarbonization. She does this using the climate movement's own repertoire to develop two analogous principles and one tactic of climate justice that focus on supporting the longstanding demands of Indigenous peoples for recognition of their sovereignty and jurisdiction in so-called Canada. Analogous to phasing out fossil fuels and limiting growth, Eaton suggests phasing out Canada and placing hard caps on Canada's economy. Additionally, she uses the example of fossil fuel divestment to suggest a campaign of divestment from Canada. This article explores a controversial subject but it illustrates the cutting-edge research in the field that *JACANZS* aims to be a forum to showcase.

'Beyond Nationalism? Resource Federalism and Regional Secessionism in Western Australia and Alberta' by David J. Rovinsky compares secessionist politics in Western Australia and Alberta to examine a form of regional separatism not well captured by identity-centered theories of nationalism and self-determination. Neither region possesses the linguistic, ethnic, or national distinctiveness associated with cases such as Quebec, Scotland, or Catalonia, yet both have generated recurring claims that their respective federal bargains are unfair or no longer legitimate. The article develops the concept of resource periphery secessionism to describe territorial movements rooted primarily in the interaction of resource wealth, fiscal redistribution, political authority, geographic distance, and disparities between economic contribution and electoral influence. Western Australia and Alberta occupy strikingly similar structural positions within their federations but have developed markedly different political responses. Contemporary Western Australian secessionism emphasizes institutional design, fiscal autonomy, economic competitiveness, and the construction of a prospective independent state. Alberta's debate ranges from federal reform and enhanced provincial sovereignty to conditional preparation for independence and outright separatism, increasingly intersecting with conservative populism and broader cultural conflict. The comparison suggests that resource periphery secessionism constitutes an additional pathway through which federal legitimacy can erode even where conventional nationalism remains weak. It therefore complements nationalism-centered theories of secession by emphasizing the political economy of federalism and the continuing legitimacy of the federal bargain. This fascinating and very topical comparative article is an excellent example of what *JACANZS* ideally aims to publish.

Doug Munro's 'The Peter Ryan-Manning Clark Controversy Revisited' reflects that in 2021 his book *History Wars: The Peter Ryan – Manning Clark Controversy* was published. It has had a measure of success, which prompted him to reflect on how the book came about, the extent it has made its way in the world, and how its afterlife has panned out thus far, including some privately expressed push back. The article ends by contemplating on the self-lives of historians and their books and other aspects of one's legacy. It is truly one of the most unique academic articles that I have ever read and I think more academics should similarly reflect on their publication journeys.

Tony Hughes-d'Aeth reflects on 'My Improbable Career' in Australian Studies, and as with previous reflective career pieces in the journal highlights the 'accidental' nature of his pursuing a career in the field. A prominent theme in Hughes-d'Aeth's reflective piece is the importance of valuing Australian literature. In the second reflection, 'Reflections on Being "Just a Historian"' by Richard S. Hill surveys his fascinating career in Aotearoa New Zealand Studies as a historian. His remarkably varied career saw him working on the Waitangi Tribunal in Aotearoa New Zealand before establishing the Treaty of Waitangi Research Unit at the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington.

Shaun Star, in his piece showcasing the activities of the Centre for India Australia Studies at O. P. Jindal Global University illustrates the incredible range of activities taking place there. The international links and collaboration that the centre has developed is particularly impressive. Anthony Kinik highlights the significant research coming out of the Centre for the Study of Canada at Brock University. Coincidentally the centre celebrated its 40th anniversary this year and so the

showcasing piece offered Kinik an excellent opportunity to reflect on the centre's past achievements as well as future directions.

As mentioned above, this issue of *JACANZS* has fifty book reviews – the highest number it has ever published in an issue. This involved a lot of work for me as Book Reviews Editor but was also extremely rewarding. However, there are some continued frustrations that come with the role. These relate mainly to the continuing trend of some publishers to only provide eCopies of their books instead of hardcopies for reviewers, which unsurprisingly makes it much more difficult to secure reviewers, as receiving a hardcopy of a book is usually seen as a way of saying thank you for carrying out an essentially voluntary activity. Furthermore, certain publishers in the Antipodes have now also started sending out hardcopies of books to reviewers only in the Antipodes – instead offering just eCopies to overseas reviewers. The reason given is prohibitive postage costs. Although I am sympathetic to this, it does mean though that the authors of books published with them will most likely have reviews only written by domestic scholars. Due to the international nature of academia, I think this is a shame. So, I want to publicly commend those publishers who are still willing to send out hardcopies to reviewers wherever they may be as doing a great service to their authors, who have worked hard on their books and would like to see them reviewed as widely as possible.

Moreover, book reviewing remains under-appreciated in academia, which means that it is not always easy to secure reviewers. Nor is that the last hurdle: for a multitude of reasons, reviews cannot always be completed within agreed deadlines. Following the status of pending, due, overdue, and completed book reviews is one of the administrative challenges of the Book Reviews Editor, which is why clear communication with and from reviewers is highly prized. Thankfully, most reviewers

are great at this and only rarely does a reviewer fall off the face of the earth. The truth of this is borne out by the high number of reviews in this volume. I must thank the many reviewers who have already contributed to the journal and, in advance, those who remain willing to give up their time to fulfill these requests in the future. If you have the time and are interested in reviewing books for the journal, please do get in touch.

I hope you enjoy reading this latest issue of *JACANZS*. As one member of the editorial board of the journal commented once to me, this is clearly a personal labour of love. With the release of every volume, I am reminded of why it is worth the effort. And one last thanks to the wonderful editorial board of *JACANZS* for their continued support of the journal. I have said before a journal is only as good as its editorial board, and *JACANZS* is extremely fortunate to have such an exceptionally strong one, a fact incidentally the Editor-in-chief of another journal commented to me on once.