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To Settle the Settler:
Pathologies of Colonialism in New Zealand History Films
1925 – 2005

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Abstract

Social pathologies are thoroughly intertwined with colonial history. From the colonial project's drive to categorise and treat indigenous disorders, to postcolonial theorists' attempts to understand the psychological effects of (de)colonisation, psychology has provided a lens through which to investigate the (post)colonial condition. For the most part, these psycho-colonial investigations have focused on *either* the colonised or the coloniser, *or* on the relation between them, thus remaining silent on the nature of the settler subject. Unwilling to identify as the coloniser, and unable to identify as the colonised, the settler occupies an ambivalent subject position, in which traditional psychological investigations of colonialism are confounded. Furthermore, too often, postcolonial theorists have recourse to certain pathologies, such as anxiety, melancholy or trauma, without a thorough awareness of the intricacies of the disorder itself. This study is grounded in the belief that, when it comes to understanding the psychical structure of the settler, we need to read colonial disorders anew. With this in mind, my research returns to Lacanian psychoanalysis in order to work through the (post)colonial disorders of the settler subject. Lacanian analysis provides us with one of the most complex languages through which to examine subjectivity and has a long history of association with the discourse of (post)colonialism; it thus provides us with a point of re-entry through which to approach a psychoanalytic exploration of settlement.

This examination will be carried out through analysis of New Zealand settler narratives; in particular, films that return to a specific time in New Zealand's early settlement period: the New Zealand Wars (1843-1972). The Wars occurred in response to what many Māori understood to be breaches in the Treaty of Waitangi (signed in 1840), and were instrumental in forging the identities of both Māori and Pākehā as peoples. Narratives of the New Zealand Wars have been repeated throughout New Zealand's cinematic history, and act as crucibles for the formation of Pākehā (white settler) identity at the time of their making. As 'veils of fantasy' (in Slavoj Žižek's words), films provide us with a back-door into knowledge; by paying attention to what is *not* said about colonial history, to the unspoken and the unspeakable in these films, my research attempts to reveal something about the concealed unconscious structure of the settler subject in New Zealand society.

Dedicated to
Susan Claire Lacey
and
Michael Paul Lacey

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Key to Psychoanalytic Volumes

When citing texts by Sigmund Freud, I have used the Standard Edition and included a shortened title of the work in parentheses. Full bibliographic details for each work are provided at the end of the thesis.

When referencing works by Jacques Lacan, in-text citations follow this formula: Seminar: Lecture, Page. For example, the third page of the fifth lecture in his *Seminar on Identification (IX)* will appear as: (IX.5, 3).

The bibliography contains full references for the following, and less utilised, works:

I	1953-54	<i>Seminar I: Freud's Technical Writings</i>
II	1954-5	<i>Seminar II: The Ego in Freud's Theory</i>
VII	1959-60	<i>The Ethics of Psychoanalysis</i>
VII	1960-61	<i>Transference</i>
IX	1961-62	<i>Identification</i>
X	1962-63	<i>Anxiety</i>
XI	1964	<i>The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis</i>
XX	1972-73	<i>Encore</i>

Works in the *Ecrits* will be signalled by an 'E', followed by the page number (English version). The copy used is the W. W. Norton 2006 version, the first complete edition in English.

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Glossary of Māori Words

Ariki	High chief
Iwi	Tribe, bone, race, people, nation, strength
Kaitiaki	Guard, protector, trustee
Maniapoto	Ngati Maniapoto: A tribe based in the Waikato-Waitomo region of New Zealand's North Island
Māoritanga	Māori culture, Māori perspective, Māori way of life
Moko	Tattoo
Ngā Puhi	A northern tribe, spanning from South Hokianga, to the Bay of Plenty, and south to Whangarei
Pā	Stockade, fort, stronghold
Pākehā	Non-Māori, European, Caucasian
Taiaha	Long club, wooden weapon
Tapu	Sacred, forbidden, confidential
Taurekareka	Slave, prisoner of war, scoundrel
Te Reo	The voice, language, or speech of the Māori
Tohunga	Expert, specialist, priest, artist
Turangawae wae	Place to stand, domicile, home
Tūtū ngārahu haka	Posture dance performed by men before going into battle
Utu	Reciprocal or equivalent act
Waiata	Chant of lament
Whakapapa	Genealogy, cultural identity, family tree

All definitions are sourced from P.M. Ryan's *Dictionary of Modern Māori*; full bibliographic details can be found at the end of the thesis.