



TITLE: Mixed Race in the Antipodes

Author/s: Farida Fozdar

Affiliation/s: the University of Western Australia

This paper considers the ways in which mixed race identities are constructed in Australia and New Zealand, both relatively new nation states, with histories as settler societies colonised and populated mainly by the British over the last one hundred and fifty years. Australia and New Zealand have experienced little debate in the public sphere about issues of mixed race, although indigenous mixed race is a controversial topic. However academic research on the issue is on the rise. The paper considers the different historical and policy contexts, and the different census categories that make identifying mixed race difficult, as well as the lack of a mixed race ‘community’, in each nation. It argues that there are countervailing influences on the development of mixed race identities, and engagement with mixedness, depending on whether indigenous-mixed or migrant-mixed are the focus. Processes of globalization have produced an apparent need for ‘authenticity’ among indigenous populations with mixed heritages; and cosmopolitan identities are valued as cultural capital among migrant-mixed.