

SPECIAL ISSUE EDITORIAL

This Special Issue is a continuation of the academic Journal, *The Land of Hope and Toil*. Given the extensive number of reviews and articles we received, we decided to celebrate the articles and reviews not published in the Journal by having them assigned their own Special Issue.

The theme, *The Land of Hope and Toil*, was formed from the lines of the Canadian National Anthem: 'Thou land of hope for all who toil' and through this our writers have explored Canadian Identity, immigration, and Xenophobia present in Canada and more specifically Indigenous communities. Just like the Journal, the special issue is a collaborative effort based on the interactive, collaboration of poetry, *High Muck a Muck: Playing Chinese*, inspired by Fred Wah's *Diamond Grill*, with the Canadian students from Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Surrey, Canada.

The first review which tackles these themes is written by Eve Coley. Coley reviews Billy Ray Belcourt's poetry collection *This Wound is a World*, which provides insight into the experiences of growing up as a member of the LGBTQ+ community and as an Indigenous Canadian who still feels the effects of colonialism today. Another piece of work which discusses issues of identity is the documentary, 'Speak it! From the Heart of Black Nova Scotia', reviewed by Andrew AP. In his reviews Andrew discusses how Afro-Canadians in Nova Scotia feel undervalued in terms of their history not being included in the curriculum in Canadian schools.

Dominic explores the film 'Indian Horse', based on Richard Wagamese's 2011 novel, and whilst the novel succeeds in bringing to light the harrows of residential schools' Indigenous children were forced to attend and the implications on their lives afterwards, Dominic considers how the film omitting Indigenous culture and traditions is detrimental to the film's narrative and overall influence. Similarly, SA reviews the film 'Round Up', which records Pete Standing Alone's attempt to regain his culture after the devastation the residential schools left on Indigenous culture and traditions. Maddison L. reviews the film 'Finding Farley', in which Leanne Allison and her husband, Karsten Heuer, embark on a journey across Canada to meet author Farley Mowat. The journey itself is a homage to the author. The couple use modes of transport including canoe, van, motorboat, a small prop plane, a train, and a wooden schooner, all once used by the author.

Included in this Special Issue is an article written by Kai Northcott. This article assiduously discusses Cultural Hybridization through reference to *Diamond Grill* written by Fred Wah and *I am a Japanese Writer* written by Dany Laferrière. The inclusion of this article in the Special Issue aims to provide a more innovative perspective on the 'ambiguity of culture'.

As a tribute to the individuality of people, cultures, and beliefs each article and review in the Special Issue boasts a different colour, this is done in the hopes that each varying colour will act as a beacon for readers to be able to find return to the articles they found most inspiring with greater ease.

In addition to the Journal and the Special Issue, the students from NTU and KPU have produced a conference, multiple podcasts, a blog and multiple social media accounts on twitter

and Instagram respectively. The cover art for both the Journal and Special Issue was commissioned to an external graphic designer - [@jaydehankins](#).

Abbegail de Wit and Ellie Jacobson
Editor-in-Chief and Book Reviews Editor

Links to External Sites

Twitter – [@LHT_NTU](#)

Instagram – [@lht_ntu](#)

Conference – Can be found on YouTube: [‘Conference: Land of Hope and Toil’](#)

Blog – [Land of Hope and Toil](#)

Podcast – [Land of Hope and Toil Podcast](#)