YELLOW PERILS, HONORARY WHITES & DIVERSITY MASCOTS: EAST ASIANS IN THE WHITE SETTLER STATE

DR TZE MING MOK
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PATHWAYS 2019
19 NOVEMBER
MASSEY ALBANY
AUCKLAND
WHO IS THE PERIL?
WHITENESS

HAIL, BRITANNIA!
(OPENING OF THE COLONIAL EXHIBITION, MAY 4.)

Image credit: Punch Limited, 1886
WHITENESS

Image credit: Alexander Turnbull Library, 1937
WHITENESS

Image credit: Christian Lander, Stuff White People Like, 2008
Asia:NZ: Perceptions of Asia report

NZers self-report increasing knowledge of Asia, centered on:

- Travel and food
- Contact with Asian people via work, eating out, and shopping
EAST ASIANS & HONORARY WHITENESS
“[B]land representatives who are populist, patriarchal, perpetuating the model minority myth and just blurting out the party line… it is only **tokenism**.”

– Dr Sapna Samant, ‘Asian New Zealanders deserve better than Asian MPs chosen by Pākehā bosses’ The Spinoff, 2017
‘DIVERSITY’ DIVORCED FROM STRUGGLE

“The ‘turn’ to diversity […] conceals inequalities and neutralises histories of antagonism and struggle. […] Diversity is increasingly used as a marketing device, or even as an organisational brand”.

EAST ASIANS AS DIVERSITY MASCOTS
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123RF.com
Are East Asians participating as honorary white in ‘white flight’ patterns?

ERO Insights, 2018
REFERENCES


Ng, K.E. (2017). Old Asian, New Asian. BWB.


DIVERSITY MASCOTS
SAY THANKS!!!! 🧡 🧡 🧡