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Sent: Friday, 22 February 2013 12:31 PM

To: aasnet@anu.edu.au

Subject: Re: [AASNet] Langton, Frankel and 'Review'

[AASNet Mailing List]

Rather than 'racist', Frankel's contribution exhibits a new type of comment in scholarly journals that I call 'death by opinion piece'. The so-called review is not grounded in citations from the relevant criticised text and relies on general political assumptions to bolster its argument. Moreover, the empirical stuff that grounds a real exchange of views is most often missing.

Perhaps we might focus for a while on why a number of prominent Indigenous leaders disagree with the most common views on this blog. Are these particular leaders simply dupes, opportunists, ideologues or public intellectuals who miss their opportunities? At least, they are indicative of a range of Indigenous views that we too often pass over in silence. In sum, does the slanging match of polarisation - abuse hurled on both sides, as it happens - really serve profitable debate? Looks more like fun in the sandpit to me.

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