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mailto:aasnet-bounces@anu.edu.au] On Behalf Of Thiago Oppermann

Sent: Monday, 25 February 2013 12:11 PM

To: John Morton

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

[AASNet Mailing List]

> It's characteristic that ML's defenders should cry about her being mauled in the press, when what we have here is a single negative review in a tiny publication, whilst she just gave the Boyer lectures, supposedly a thing of prestige and wide reach; she and the other major 'dissenting' indigenous 'leader', Pearson, have constant play in major Australian newspapers and pampered treatment from the nanny state's broadcaster.

So there you have it. Having a negative review is 'being passed over in silence', being the object of a continuous debate, forever being derailed by her supporters into personal acrimony is 'being ignored'.

And of course, having a single argument raised against one's views in the marginal press is Stalinist censorship. We are allowed to have 'diversity' in anthropology so long as nobody ever steps on anyone's toes, it seems. Let one hundred flowers bloom, all of them pulled by a mysterious heliotropism towards our glorious mineral-driven future.

The fact, which people are apparently too polite, or paternalist, or perhaps just plain bored to point out is that ML's Boyer lectures are a very thin broth served with a garnishing of crass pro-mineral industry propaganda. In the absence of having any sort of real contribution to policy she basically resorts to name-calling, lumping anyone left of the ALP Right as a racist greenie who for bizarre reasons wants Aboriginal people to remain in human zoos.

People now defending her on the grounds of the 'lack of empirical evidence' in Frankel's review should pause for a moment and consider what an amazing abuse of anthropological method it is to usurp the discipline's claims to understand culture so as to deliver these awesome, obviously malicious generalizations. Of course, those who point this out are accused of behaving like Stalinists and suppressing debate.

There is nothing surprising or ironic in this chain of events. The next step will be to wonder about people's mental health.

Thiago