



Contested Properties

Culture, Rights and the Humanities

August 4 – 16, 2014

5th International Osnabrück Summer Institute on the Cultural Study of the Law

Keynote Address

Einladung zum Vortrag | Lecture Announcement

THE INDIGENOUS AS ALIEN

THE SETTLER CONTRACT AND A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

LETI VOLPP

University of California

Friday, 8 Aug. 2014

19:00 – 20:30

Schloss, Room: 11/212

Immigration law, as it is taught, studied, and researched in the United States, imagines away the fact of preexisting indigenous populations. Why is this the case? I argue, first, that this elision reflects and reproduces how the field narrates space, time, and membership. But despite this disappearance from the field, Indians have figured in immigration law, and thus, to understand what this has meant for indigenous populations, I describe the neglected legal history of the treatment of American Indians under U.S. immigration and citizenship law. I then return to explain why Indians have disappeared from immigration law through an investigation of the relationship between We the People, the “settler contract,” and the “nation of immigrants.”

Leti Volpp is Robert D. and Leslie Kay Raven Professor of Law in Access to Justice, University of California, Berkeley. Her research focuses on citizenship, migration, culture, gender, and identity.