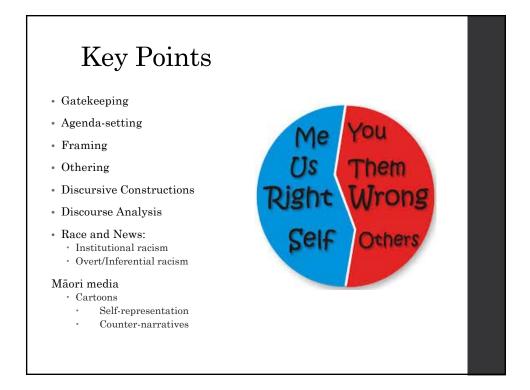
'Us' and 'Them' in the News: The Case of Race

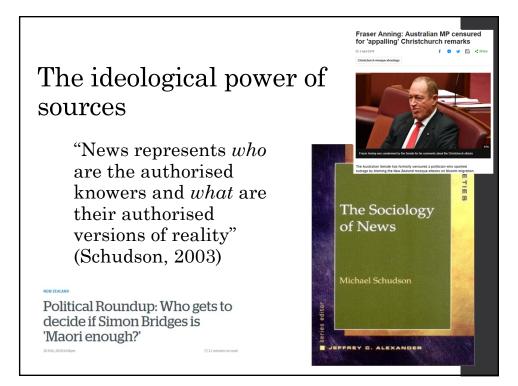












Stuart Hall

"Journalists speak of 'the news' as if events select themselves. Further, they speak as if what is the 'most significant' news story, and which 'news angles' are most salient, are divinely inspired. Yet of the millions of events which occur every day in the world, only a tiny proportion ever become visible as 'potential news stories' and of this proportion, only a small fraction are actually produced as the day's news in the news media."

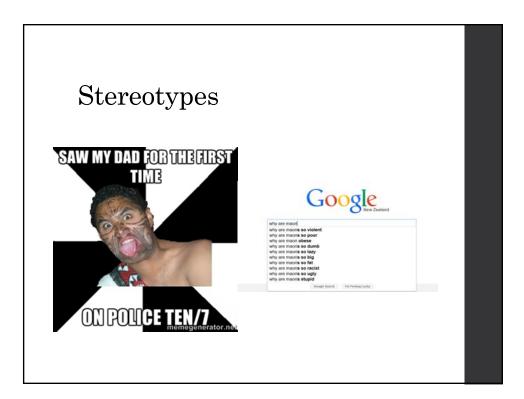


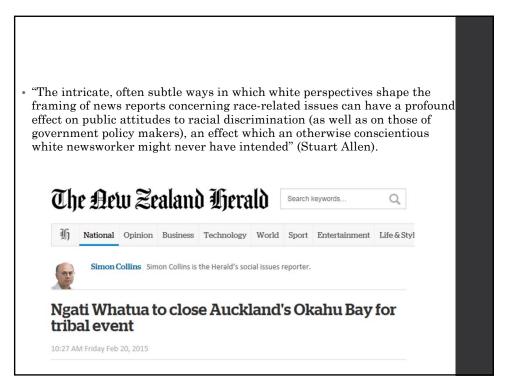
Hall, S. (1973). The determinations of news photographs. In S. Cohen & J. Young (Eds.), The manufacture of news: Social problems, deviance and the mass media. (pp. 176-190). Beverly Hills: Sage Publications

Framing

- Workers offered to settle the industrial dispute for an increase of 2% in wages, but management demanded they only get 1%.
- Management offered to settle the industrial dispute with an increase of 1% in wages, but workers demanded 2%.

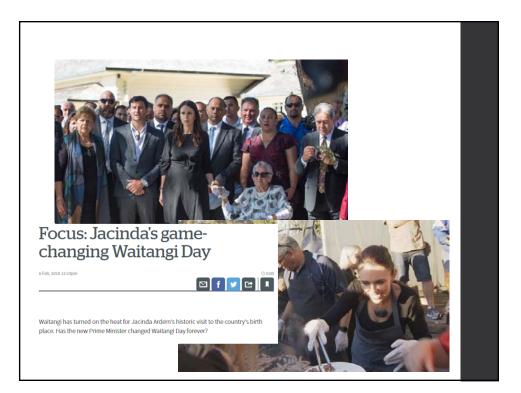




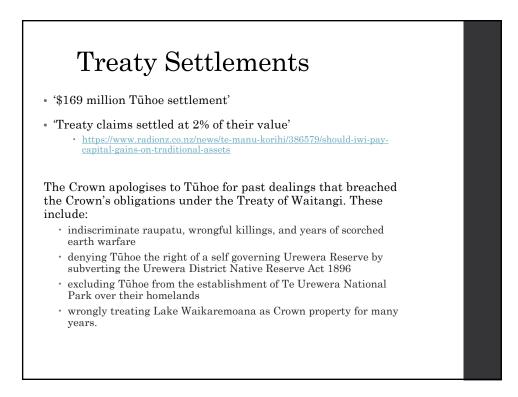








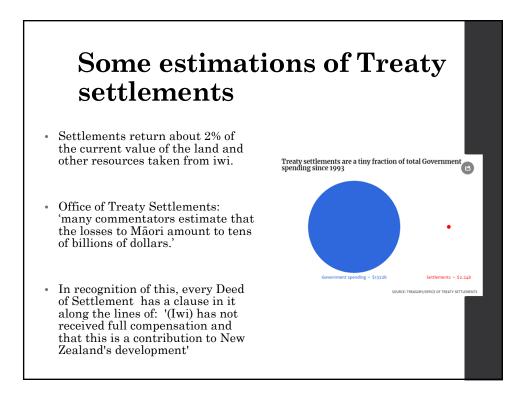






- Focus of media coverage of Treaty settlements is on the amount of redress ("taxpayers' money") given to iwi
- Statements by Chris Finlayson, Minister of Treaty Settlements, about what the redress is for are, if reported, mentioned in passing or at end of story.





UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007: Article 16

- Indigenous peoples have the right to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-indigenous media without discrimination.
- States shall take effective measures to ensure that State-owned to ensure that State-owned media duly reflect indigenous cultural diversity. States, without prejudice to ensuring full freedom of expression, should encourage privately owned media to adequately reflect indigenous cultural activity.

Report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Indigenous People, Rodolfo Stavenhagen, 2005.

"66. ...newspaper and television are fairly unbalanced in their treatment of Maori people and issues. A minority of newspapers as well as television programmes included themes relevant to Maori. Often programmes portray Maori as unfairly having benefits which are denied to others. Some of the most prominent media often highlight the potential or actual Maori control over significant resources as a threat to non-Maori.

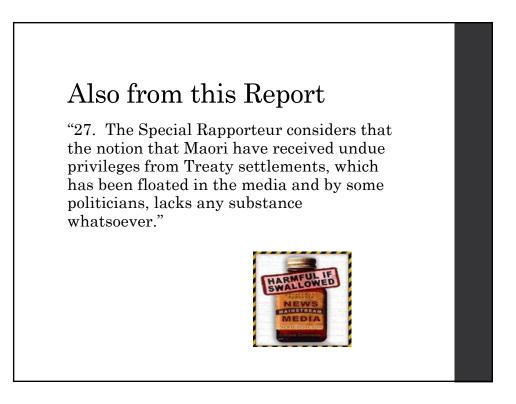
Sir Bob Jones says his Māori Gratitude Day column was satire. So what was he satirising?

0



t should be clear his NBR column was a "piss take". (file ph

... Another recurrent issue is the portrait of Maori as poor managers, either corrupt or financially incompetent. In general, the study reported that "bad" news about Maori predominated over "good" news. In some media denigrations and insulting comments about Maori were reported. These findings are of special concern to the Special Rapporteur and highlight a systematic negative description of Maori in media coverage, an issue that should be addressed through the anti-racism provisions of New Zealand's Human Rights Act."



Demonstrating 'salience'

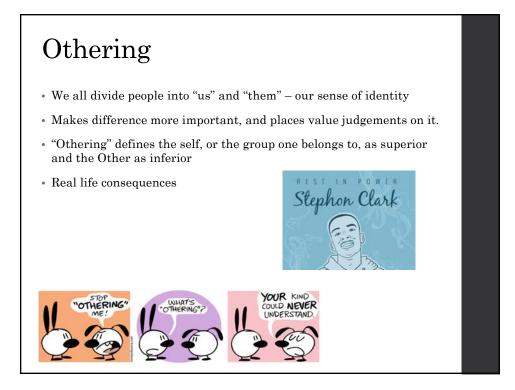
- The order of news items in a bulletin, or the stories chosen to go on the front page (and the size of their headlines)
- The amount of coverage
- The use of photographs to support the report
- The period of prolonged reporting



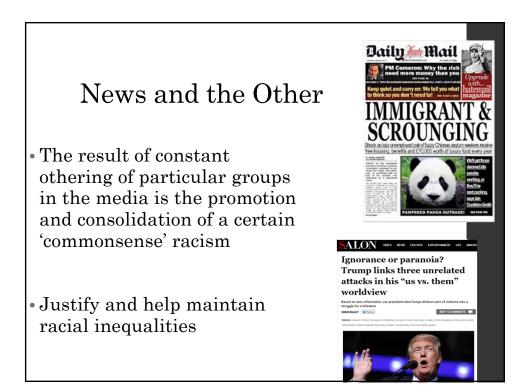
The news media commonly project a sense of a collective national "us" which is opposed to "them"

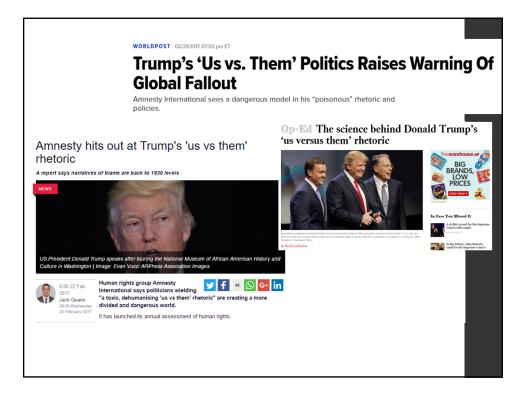
- Them	- Us
War machine	Army, Navy and Air Force
Censorship	reporting guidelines
Kill	eliminate/neutralise
Destroy	take out
Hordes	lads/troops
Cowardly	cautious
Blindly obedient	loyal
Ruthless	resolute
Fanatical	brave
Cause civilian casualties	cause collateral damage
Shot out of the sky	high rate of attrition

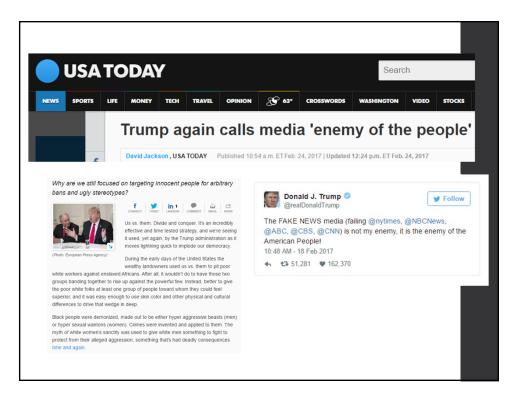
(terms all used in British press reporting of first Gulf War – Stuart Allen) $% {\displaystyle \int} {\displaystyle \int } {\displaystyle \int } {\displaystyle \int} {\displaystyle \int } {\displaystyle \int } {\displaystyle \int } {\displaystyle \int} {\displaystyle \int} {\displaystyle \int} {\displaystyle \int } {\displaystyle \int$



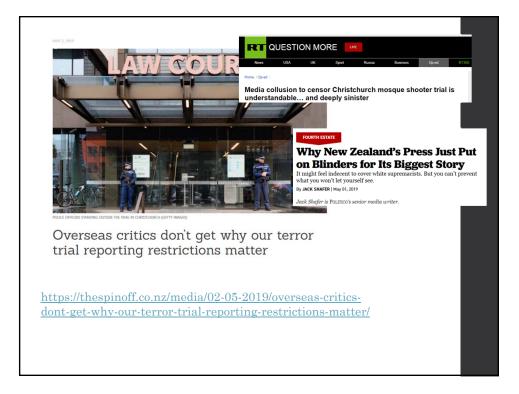


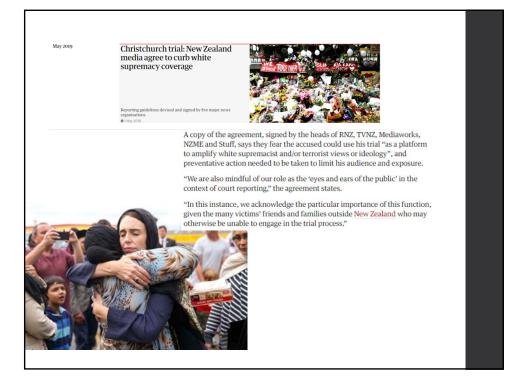












Stuart Hall: 'The West and the Rest'

- discourse which lumps all "non-Western" countries together as inferior to so-called Western countries.
- The notion of the West is also a discursive construction that is, it is constructed through language, it is not determined by geography.
 - East/West?
 - 'New' world?



Michel Foucault:

- Questions the notion of 'Truth', 'facts'
- Real effects in practice, because people act on what they see as 'true'.
- It is power, rather than the facts about reality, which make things 'true', which produces 'knowledge'.
- The question of whether a discourse is true or false is less important than whether it is effective in practice.

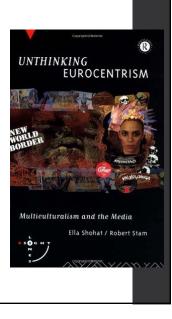


AIRPORT SECURITY CHECK



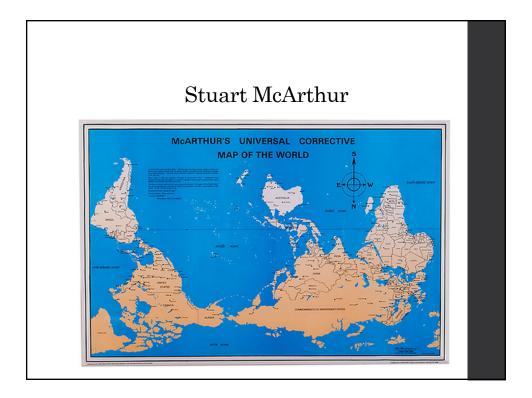
EUROCENTRISM

- an approach that takes European/Western values, judgements, beliefs and cultures as normal, natural and ideal
- makes European/Western values central, and dismisses others to the periphery



"Eurocentrism, like Renaissance perspectives in painting, envisions the world from a single privileged point. . . Eurocentrism bifurcates the world into the "West and the Rest" and organizes everyday language into binaristic heirarchies implicitly flattering to Europe: our 'nations,' their 'tribes'; our 'religions,' their 'superstitions'; our 'culture,' their 'folklore'; our 'art,' their 'artifacts'; our 'demonstrations,' their 'riots'; our 'defense,' their 'terrorism.' "

- Shohat, Ella and Robert Stam. "Unthinking Eurocentrism".



Orientalism

• "Orientalism can be discussed and analysed as the corporate institution for dealing with the Orient – dealing with it by making statements about it, authorising views of it, describing it, by teaching it, settling it, ruling over it: in short, Orientalism is a Western style for dominating, restructuring and having authority over the Orient."









- Refugee
- Immigrant
- Freedom fighter
- Terrorist
- Riot
- Protest



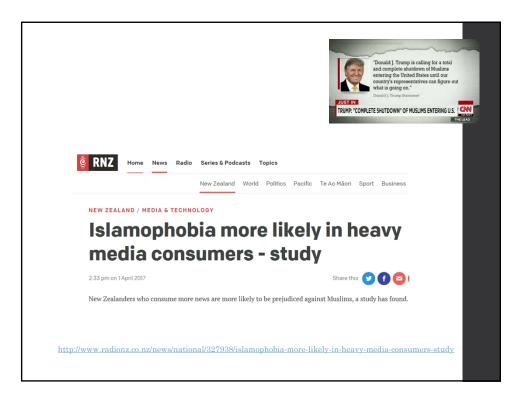
Stuart Hall

- **Overt racism**: media give favourable coverage to what are explicitly or openly racist positions or arguments.
- Inferential racism: "those seemingly naturalized representations of situations where racist premises or propositions are being inscribed in the media covered *as a set of unquestioned assumptions*".

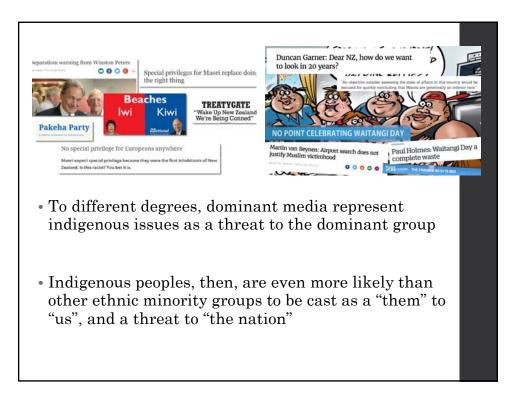












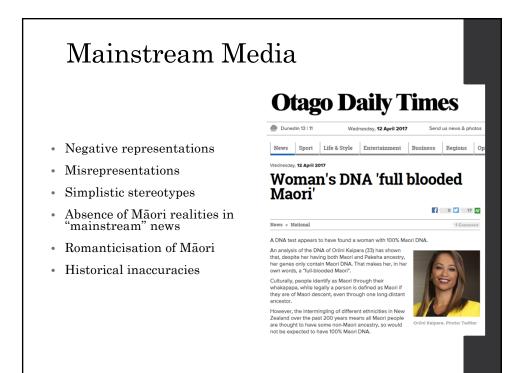


Wilson and Gutierrez (in Allen chapter)

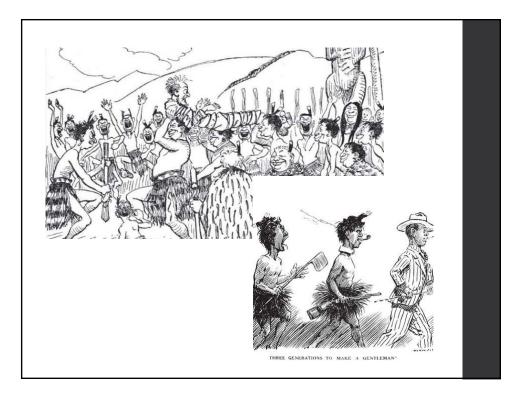
- the coverage of people of colour by white news organisations goes through five developmental phases
 - exclusionary phase
 - threatening-issue phase
 - confrontation phase
 - stereotypical coverage phase
 - multiracial coverage phase

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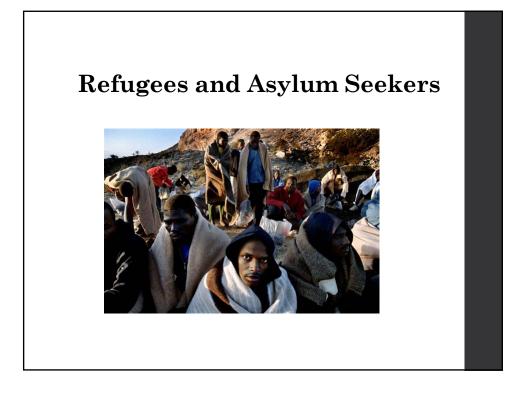










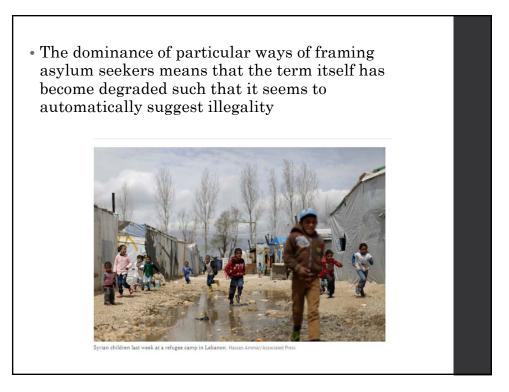


Patterns from a range of studies

- "rather than being presented as people who are trying to escape threat, they are, in most cases, represented as *the* threat" (Bailey and Harindranath, 2003, 283)
- media reports draw on nationalistic discourses along themes of familiarity, security and a sense of community of 'us' and 'our home', which exclude asylum seekers (Saxton, 2003)

• News coverage of refugees and asylum seekers falls into binary oppositions which "contantly simplify complex situations, whether in debates about terrorism, which invokes the other as evil, or about refugees, which reach back to colonial representations of non-Western populations as duplicitous and dangerous to Western values" (Bailey and Harindranath, 2005, p. 277)

• Language used: 'flood', 'tidal wave'



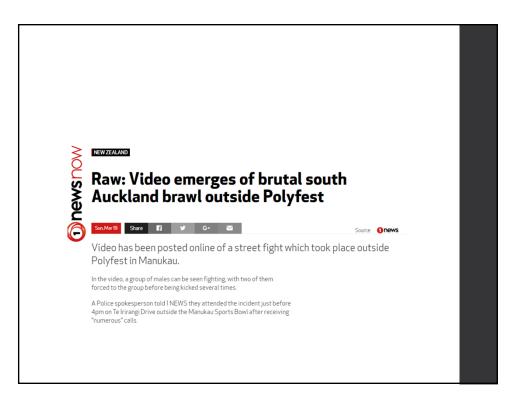












"Every culture has a right and a responsibility to present its own culture to its own people. That responsibility is so fundamental it cannot be left in the hands of outsiders, nor be usurped by them." (Barclay, 1990: 127)

