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Uprising at Oka: A Place of Non-identification

Alexa Conradi

Abstract

Abstract: Grounded in rhetorical theory, this paper examines the "Oka crisis" and suggests that the conflict created a place of non-identification where assumptions about the superiority of Canadian (or Québécois) values and norms became unsettled. It argues that by embodying a Mohawk political style embedded in an indigenous rhetorical culture, the protestors at Oka paved the way for the emergence of a rhetoric of listening in which partialities became visible and the conditions for new forms of judgment arose.

Résumé : Appuyé par la théorie rhétorique, cet article analyse la « crise d'Oka » et propose de voir celle-ci comme un lieu de non-identification où la présomption de supériorité des valeurs et normes canadiennes (ou québécoises) a été déstabilisée. L'auteure suggère qu'en incarnant un style politique mohawk prenant forme dans le contexte d'une culture rhétorique autochtone, les manifestant-e-s à Oka ont permis l'émergence d'une rhétorique de l'écoute qui contribue à la mise en évidence de la partialité des points de vue et ouvre la voie à de nouvelles formes de jugement.

Keywords

Oka; Rhetorical analysis; Non-identification; Intercultural communication; Indigenous knowledge

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