Faculty of Arts and Literatures, Identity and Culture (LIC) present:
“Global History, Local Modernities: World War I and II in Native Canadian and Maori Fiction”
Professor Frank Schulze-Engler, Goethe University Frankfurt

Wednesday 14 March
12:30pm – 2:00pm
Room 19.1003

In looking at the significance of World War I and II for colonized people in general and indigenous people in particular, it is tempting to frame this involvement of non-European people in global history in terms of an anticolonial story – a story of colonized subjects manipulated by powerful colonizing overlords and of subaltern soldiers coerced to fight Europe’s wars. This storyline seems particularly tempting in the case of indigenous people from Europe’s overseas colonies: Native Canadians, Aboriginal people from Australia or Maori from New Zealand were doubly disenfranchised, as members of colonial nations that were still struggling for recognition, and as a minority population dispossessed and marginalised by the white majority population. While the acknowledgement of the role of indigenous people in both World Wars and the recognition of their sacrifices undeniably remain pressing issues, a storyline of indigenous peoples as forgotten victims of a double colonial manipulation is arguably much too limited to come to terms with the global significance of the World Wars for indigenous societies, cultures and literatures all over the world.

The lecture will analyse the multi-facetted representation of indigenous war experiences in World War I and II in Joseph Boyden’s *Three Day Road* (2005) and Patricia Grace’s *Tu* (2005) and show that in both texts agency, modernization, transformation and the struggle for citizenship are key features of the involvement of indigenous people in global wars. Both novels, I will argue, provide striking examples of specific articulations of global history and local indigenous modernities during World War I and II that have left behind legacies that remain crucial even today.


For More information please contact Susan Flint (sflint@uow.edu.au) or Leonie Clement (lclement@uow.edu.au)