

The savage as living ghost: representations of Native Americans and scholarly failures to dismantle the notion of the savage Chen, C.

Citation

Chen, C. (2017, March 21). The savage as living ghost: representations of Native Americans and scholarly failures to dismantle the notion of the savage. Retrieved from https://hdl.handle.net/1887/47360

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

License: License agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the

Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden

Downloaded from: https://hdl.handle.net/1887/47360

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



The handle http://hdl.handle.net/1887/47360 holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation

Author: Chen, C.

Title: The savage as living ghost: representations of Native Americans and scholarly failures to dismantle the notion of the savage

Issue Date: 2017-03-21

The Savage as Living Ghost Representations of Native Americans and Scholarly Failures to Dismantle the Notion of the Savage

Cui Chen



This research was supported by a fellowship from the China Scholarship Council.

Cover design & layout: Cui Chen

Printed by Ridderprint, the Netherlands

Copyright © 2017 by Cui Chen. All right reserved. No part of this book may be produced, stored in a retrieved system or transmitted in may form or by any means, without prior permission of the author.

The Savage as Living Ghost Representations of Native Americans and Scholarly Failures to Dismantle the Notion of the Savage

PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van
de graad van Doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,
op gezag van Rector Magnificus prof. mr. C. J. J. M. Stolker,
volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties
te verdedigen op dinsdag 21 March 2017
klokke 13:45 uur

door

Cui Chen

陈萃

geboren te Chengwu, China 13 March 1989

Promotiecommissie

Promotor: Prof. dr. Frans-Willem Korsten

Co-promotor: Dr. Maria Boletsi

Overige leden: Prof. dr. Kitty Zijlmans

Prof. dr. Peter Liebregts

Prof. dr. Federico Luisetti

Dr. Yasco Horsman

Dr. Esther Peeren

Contents

Introduction	1
0.1 The Barbarian-Savage Dynamic in the Western Context	3
0.2 Research Question: Attempts to Move Beyond the Oppositional Concept of the	7
Savage	
0.3 Method: Rubbing Theory and Art	10
0.4 Why the Paradigm of "the" Native American?	13
Chapter One	19
The Savage Hierarchy: Lord of the Flies and The Savage Mind	_,
Introduction	19
1.1 Mythical Knowledge Versus Modern Science: A Groundbreaking Distinction	21
and Its Discontents	
1.2 The Powers of <i>Vraisemblablisation</i>	25
1.3 The Term Savage as an Elusive Sign: A Differential Dynamic	32
1.4 Noble and Ignoble Savages in <i>Lord of the Flies</i>	37
1.5 Persistence of Binaries in Lévi-Strauss and <i>Lord of the Flies</i>	49
Conclusion	54
Chapter Two	59
Diremption, Satire and Difference within: Strengths and Weaknesses of a	
Poststructuralist Attempt to do away with the Notion of "Savage"	
Introduction	59
2.1 Brave New World as satire	61
2.2 Prefigurative Emplotment of History: Historiography and the Potential in	65
Satire	00
2.3 Brave New World Considered as Deconstruction avant la lettre: Oppositions	71
that Make one Captive of/to the World	
2.4 Savage Native Americans: Deconstruction as the Captive of Satire	79
Conclusion	85
Chapter Three	89
The Savage Multiplied: Inglourious Basterds and Unthinking Eurocentrism	
Introduction	89
3.1 Inglourious Basterds as a Postmodern Work of Art: Parody and Meta-history	91
3.2 Screening Native Americans: Or How to Multiply Within a Framing Gaze	96
3.3 The Racial Politics of Casting	105
3.4 Repetition and Resignification of Stereotypes: The Ghost as Representation	108
Conclusion	114
Chapter Four	117

Savages in Multiple Worlds and Histories: The Decolonial Attempt	
Introduction	117
4.1 Iñárritu and <i>The Revenant</i> : Hollywood, Casting, Language, and the Native	121
Perspective	
4.2 Theoretical Framework: The Decolonial Approach	125
4.3 The Revenant from the Perspective of Decoloniality: Coloniality of Power, of	130
Being, of Knowledge, and of Nature	
4.4 Decolonial Moments: The Disenchantment of Eurocentrism	146
Conclusion	151
Conclusion	155
Bibliography	161
Summary	179
Samenvatting (Summary in Dutch)	183
Acknowledgements	187
Curriculum Vitae	189