

*Illusion: 'The free and informed, consensual native'. Reality: the imprisoned, un-informed, non-consenting native'.*

## ABSTRACT

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Colonialism has manufactured 'the free, informed consensual native', and in this process has tied itself in knots for centuries. Those knots are evident in Australian law's processing of Aboriginal peoples and the colonial project of assimilation-settling down the native. Both illusion and reality coincide producing a violence that ties all peoples to the body of colonialism. In this untangling process I engage a number of problems and questions.

- How does the illusion impact on the capacity for Aboriginal peoples to live?
- Colonialism carries us along with the notion of 'progress' towards an end point, but what feeds the colonial project when the end is met?
- What lands, slaves and minds will feed the beast when it reaches the end particularly when natives are 'settled' and 'civilisation' was fed and founded on the lands and work of the 'native other'?
- What if any connection can be made between the idea of an end point and what I call the death wish of colonialism?
- I want to explore further the connection between trauma and colonial violence.
- And to consider the potential capacity for peoples to settle or to heal trauma

This is a developing work in progress building on earlier ideas. Further questions and problems will be sifted and untangled for the workshop discussion.