White Saviours in Purgatory
Destabilizing Settler Colonial Myths in *The Revenant* and Idle No More

Dr. Matt Sheedy
North American Studies Program

*The Revenant* was filmed mostly in Canada in 2014, not long after the rise of the Idle No More Movement, the largest pan-Indigenous uprising in Canadian history. Although the film focuses on the real-life saga of white frontiersman Hugh Glass, Alejandro G. Iñárritu’s adaption of this American legend incorporates a number of Indigenous narratives that Idle No More helped to popularize during this time period. These narratives function to destabilize settler-colonial myths of the white saviour toward an entirely new and radical vision of settler-Indigenous relations in North America.

Dr. Matt Sheedy holds a Ph.D. in Religion from the University of Manitoba and is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor in Canadian Studies at the University of Bonn.

nas.uni-bonn.de