

Marcia Langton and I recently had an email exchange about Boris Frankel's review of her Boyer Lectures. In this exchange I argued that there is a clear difference between critical review and racism. While I do not agree with everything in Boris Frankel's 'Against the Current' essay in Arena Magazine my view is that it constitutes robust critical review. I also followed with interest the AASNet debate on the first Boyer lecture and spotted nothing 'racist' there. These views constitute disagreement not racism! Such name-calling can be interpreted as a means to silence dissent. If we label critique racist then we conveniently dismiss it as unworthy of consideration. Such labelling should not be condoned, even with polite silence, in an 'open society'.

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