

ENGL4976 Issues in
Postcolonial Literature
&
ENGL 5804 Studies in
Canadian Literature

Making Settler-Colonial Modernities

When Did Indians Become Straight? is the provocative title of one of the books we'll be reading in this course. Its title raises the kind of question we'll be looking at in 19th century Canada, the time and space in which much of common-sense Canada, the Canada that is obvious and taken for granted today, was installed. It's the moment to go back to for a host of similar questions, all of them negotiated in the period's fiction. When did some people in Canada become "Indians"? When did French-speaking Catholics become "white"? When did it become possible to say 'home' in English and not refer back to Britain? When did reading a Canadian book, or choosing a Canadian husband, cease to be an expression of bad taste? When was *The Importance of Being Monogamous* established in marriage law? When did a family come to mean a married couple with children? When did it become respectable to be a business person?



*Bring me before a Court
Maria Monk*