



# “What’s the Point of the White Australia Policy?” *Ms. Fisher’s Modern Murder Mysteries*, Multiculturalism, and Immigration

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**Abstract.** The period drama *Ms. Fisher’s Modern Murder Mysteries*, set during the period of the White Australia policy, frequently addresses Australia’s relationship with immigration and immigrant communities. This article analyzes the series’ interaction with contemporary discourses about multiculturalism, immigration, and the role of British culture in Australia.

As a postcolonial and multicultural nation, Australia’s relationship with immigration and immigrant communities is and has been complex (Elder 115–46). Period drama *Ms. Fisher’s Modern Murder Mysteries* (Seven 2019–; hereafter MFMMM), taking place during (and being critical of) the White Australia policy, frequently addresses this topic with varying degrees of success. This essay will analyze the series’ interaction with contemporary discourses about multiculturalism and immigration in Australia, particularly given the complex postcolonial relationship between Australia and United Kingdom with which it also engages (Jackson *passim*). Because of that complex relationship, especially given MFMMM’s clear (and arguably subversive) intertexts to British spy *par excellence* James Bond and the British television series *The Avengers* (ABC 1961–69), the series’ overall progressiveness also can be used as social critique of contemporary British anti-immigration discourses. The series does express a variety of national and cultural stereotypes regarding nonwhite

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