History of Magic in North America and Wizarding Schools:
Reproducing British Imperialism and the Colonial Attitudes in J. K. Rowling’s Pottermore texts

Scholars such as Jackie Horne and Giselle Liza Anatol explore how J. K. Rowling’s Harry Potter series represents racial otherness. Adrienne Keene, Debbie Reese, Ebony Thomas among others critique Rowling’s digital text History of Magic in North America for its erasure of Indigenous characters. While critics have engaged with the racial dynamics of Rowling’s Harry Potter world, they have not yet formally considered the Potterverse in its entirety because the Pottermore text Wizarding Schools remains unexplored. Wizarding Schools reproduces imperialist power dynamics and hierarchical colonial narratives through the Euro-centrism of the geographic distribution of the seven known magical schools, their educational standards, and their magical knowledge. I draw from the original book series, literary criticism, and mainstream conversations from blogs, Twitter, and news websites to contextualize Rowling’s History of Magic in North America and Wizarding Schools. My analysis reveals the underlying ideologies in these texts. I argue that colonial attitudes are evident in Rowling’s Wizarding Schools. The Pottermore texts portray British ways and people as more advanced and “civilized” than others. Rowling’s account of the history of magic in North America and descriptions of schools around the world replicate power dynamics and cultural hierarchies consistent with British imperialism. While many literary critics give Rowling credit for at least superficially raising issues of race and discrimination, her more recent Pottermore texts need to be taken into consideration because her magical world loses complexity and becomes highly stereotypical as her focus moves away from Hogwarts. Wizarding Schools reveals that knowledge and education remain firmly framed within a Euro-centric narrative in Rowling’s recent Pottermore additions. In the Pottermore texts, magical knowledge and power appear to be situated in Europe thereby implicitly marginalizing non-European people and institutions.