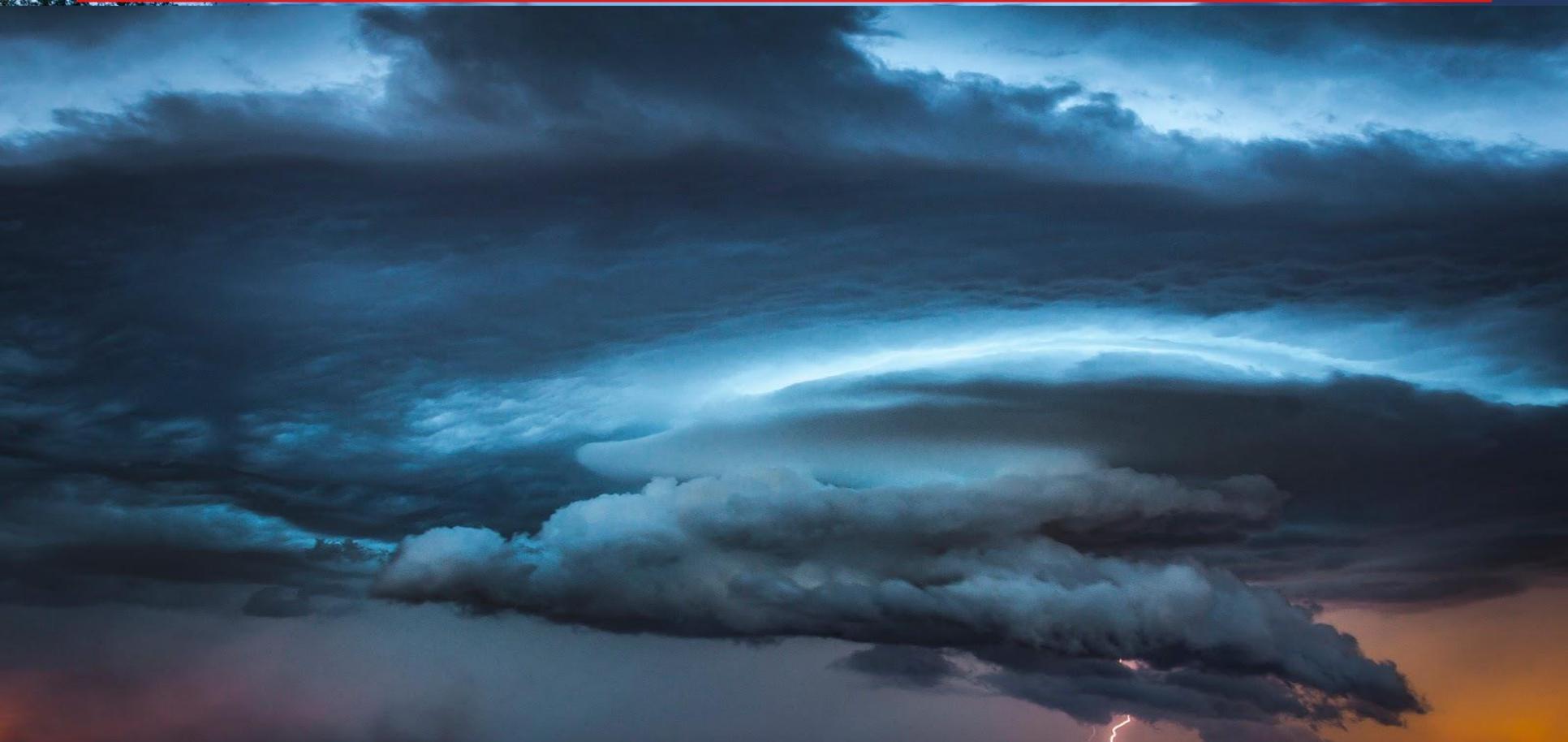


# Research tropospheres: assemblages of cows, sharemilkers and researcher in Aotearoa New Zealand

Gail Adams- Hutcheson, Geography Programme



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*



# Weather changes moods-

## Nirvana (*In Bloom*)



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*



**ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
TE KURA KETE ARONUI

[waikato.ac.nz/fass](http://waikato.ac.nz/fass)

WHERE THE WORLD IS GOING

# Sharemilking...



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

- What is (HOSM) sharemilking? – explaining landless and mobile farming practices
- Contractual arrangement developed over time that shares the costs and benefits of operating a dairy farm
- Figures from 2013: 34% dairy farms operate sharemilking contracts which produce 42% of NZ's milk – worth close to NZD\$13.6 billion (Pepper 2013)
- The average operation milks 285 cows

# Gypsy Day 1 June



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

- Gypsy Day – 1<sup>st</sup> June
- Moves are emotionally, economically and physically stressful on everyone concerned incl. animals



# Mobilities and rhythm



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

- The combined movements of people, objects, animals and information in all of their ‘complex relational dynamics’ (Sheller 2011) come into focus.
- Highlighting a cascade of mobilities at different scales which are entangled in the multitude of technological and non-human mobilities (rhythms) and moorings
- The importance of rhythm – paying attention to circadian/diurnal rhythms of farming as well as seasonal cycles

# Agential power of the weather: extending atmosphere



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

- Ben Anderson and James Ash (2015) – atmospheric methods and affect
- The background matters, weather matters – on being outside and light matters (Ingold 2011; Edensor forthcoming)
- *Attunement* and bodily capacities (Ash 2013)
- Somatic memory: relational weight of atmospheres



# Assemblage theory



- Deleuze and Guattari (1986) underline the agency of the assemblage – not just of members but also the groupings themselves
- Assemblage is about emergence, multiplicity and indeterminacy
- Purposeful and experimental – researcher risk, opening up to uncertain and fragile compositions

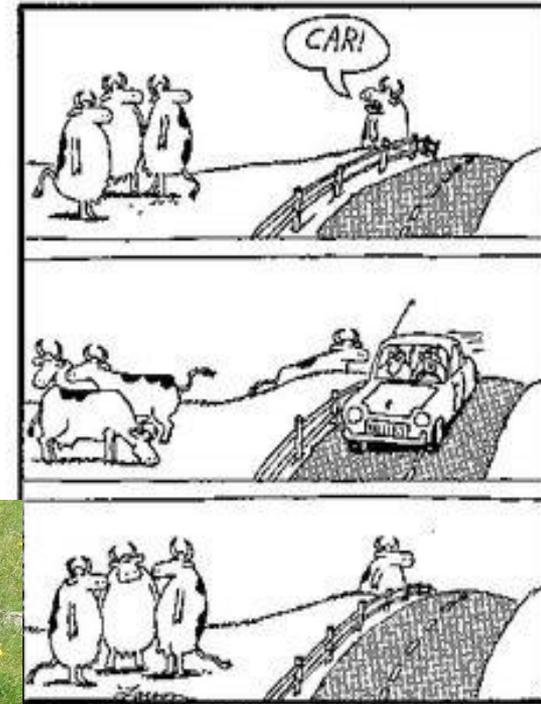


# In-depth methods with 10 sharemilker families



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

- Semi-structured interviews
- *In situ* (farming with) interviews
- Participant observation and interviews before, during after Gypsy Day: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016
- Participant diaries/photos



# Warm & sunny: early summer 2015



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*



**ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
TE KURA KETE ARONUI

[waikato.ac.nz/fass](http://waikato.ac.nz/fass)

WHERE THE WORLD IS GOING

# Suffocating heat: late summer 2016



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

- Drought - the tyranny of a cloudless day over and over again
- Urban beach weather – farming nightmare
- Mournful lowing cows, guilt and powerlessness
- The heat cloaked everything...troposphere affect – a suffocating interview atmosphere



# Wet, muddy & Cold: late winter 2016



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

- Sacrifice fields, thick coagulations of mud and muck
- Depression/suicide and farmers on the edge – wettest winter season in 20 years
- Bad tempered cows, grumpy farmer and sullen researcher (everyone's in a bad mood)





THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*



**ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
TE KURA KETE ARONUI

[waikato.ac.nz/fass](http://waikato.ac.nz/fass)

WHERE THE WORLD IS GOING

# Summary



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

- We need to attend to the fluxes of wind and weather
- To feel the air and walk on the ground is not to make external, tactile contact with our surroundings but to mingle with them
- Enveloping ambience is shared and transferred between human/nonhuman/atmospheric bodies
- ‘To inhabit the open is to dwell within a weather world’ (Ingold 2011, 115).