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BACKGROUND

The Māori and Psychology Research Unit (MPRU) was established in August of 1997. The Unit is designed to provide a catalyst and support network for enhancing research concerning the psychological needs, aspirations, and priorities of Māori people. The MPRU is well situated to draw together skilled and experienced interdisciplinary research groups by networking and establishing working relationships with staff and students within the University of Waikato’s School of Psychology, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and the University’s wider community.

The MPRU is also a leading international indigenous research/teaching entity and reflects and enacts the University of Waikato distinctiveness strategy and core goal to promote excellence in research and teaching. The Unit is a vehicle for addressing Māori issues at local, regional and national levels. In the last five years alone the MPRU has generated approximately 5 million dollars in external research income, over $500,000 in external scholarships, and several senior academics within the unit are recognized international leaders in their respective fields. With no core funding the MPRU has produced 3 books, 11 book chapters, 73 journal articles, 3 conference proceedings booklets, 128 conference papers, numerous keynote conference addresses and invited papers to symposia/conferences, student theses, 35 commissioned reports, and annual reports for the past 11 years.

Another important role played by the MPRU is in providing invaluable practical experience to both Māori and non-Māori students through involvement in Māori focused research, planning and management, and professional development activities. The MPRU graduates the largest cohort of Māori PhD and Masters Psychology students in Aotearoa and these students benefit from our ongoing contact with the UoW Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and School of Māori & Pacific Development, Te Whakaruruhau Māori Women’s Refuge (Hamilton), Te Runanga o Kirikirioa, numerous iwi groups, the Auckland City Mission, Victoria University of Melbourne, University of South Australia (Adelaide), The University of Notre Dame (Perth, Australia) and the London School of Economics. Through winning grants and awards, the Unit presents itself as an option for students to further their academic development and scholarly pursuits, enhance their professional connections and to supplement their income.

The MPRU also runs an advisory service to assist researchers in writing research proposals that will result in research products useful to Māori development. A particular focus is on constructing procedures that are culturally appropriate and practical for use with Māori. Increasingly, review committees require that the ethical standard of research be measured against Treaty of Waitangi principles and provisions. The MPRU provides advice on how to achieve these standards.
GOALS

» To provide a support structure which encourages Māori focused research in psychology.

» To serve as a scholarly resource to support Māori focused research projects and to promote new research initiatives among staff, undergraduate and graduate psychology students.

» To seek out new sources of research funding, respond to requests for proposals and tenders relevant to Māori issues, and to obtain continued external funding for Māori focused psychological research.

» To facilitate the professional development of Māori researchers and to continue to develop future leaders in Māori focused research and psychology.

» To provide a foundation for the teaching of psychology by enhancing availability and access to Māori focussed research experience and products.

» To promote the use of Māori focussed research products into the School of Psychology's curriculum

» To facilitate internal and external lectures and research seminars to support the development of new projects and disseminate the work of scholars in the Unit.

» To host visiting researchers and scholars

» To encourage collaborative research in Māori focussed projects across disciplines
**Director**
Assoc Prof Linda Waimarie Nikora (Tuhoe/Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti)

**Senior Research Officer**
Mohi Rua (Tuhoe/Ngati Awa/Ngati Whakaue)

**Post Doctoral Fellow**
Dr Tess Moeke-Maxwell (Ngai Tai ki Umupiuia/Ngati Pukeko)

**Principal Investigators**
Assoc Prof Linda Waimarie Nikora
Assoc Prof Darrin Hodgetts (Kai Tahu-Kati Mamoe)
Prof Ngahuia Te Awekotuku (Te Arawa/Waikato/Tuhoe)
(Centre for Māori & Pacific Development Research)
Mohi Rua
Dr Tess Moeke-Maxwell
Bridge Masters-Awatere (Te Rarawa/Ngai Te Rangi/Ngati Awa)
Dr Neville Robertson
Dr Ottillie Stolte
Prof Kerry Chamberlain (Massey University, Albany)
Prof Alan Radley (Loughborough University, England)
Dr Eci Nabalarua (University of South Pacific, Fiji)
Dr Pauline Norris (University of Otago)
Assoc Prof Kevin Dew (University of Otago)
Prof Pou Temara (Tuhoe)
Te Kahautu Maxwell (Te Whakatohea)
Enoka Murphy (Ngati Manawa)

**Research Associates**
Dr Michelle Levy (Tainui)
Dr Shaun Awatere (Ngati Porou, Landcare Research, Hamilton)
Prof Jonathan Gabe (Royal Holloway, University of London)
Helen Madden (Massey University, Albany)
Dr Shiloh Groot (Te Arawa)
Wen Li (University of Waikato) (PhD)
Dr Amanda Young-Hauser (University of Waikato)
Karyn McRae (Te Arawa/Waikato, Research Officer for the Centre for Māori & Pacific Development Research)
Waikaremoana Waitoki (Ngati Mahanga/Ngati Hako) (PhD)
Saburo Omura (PhD)
Prof Bernard Guerin and Dr Pauline Guerin (University of South Australia, Adelaide)
Prof Dan McNeil (University of West Virginia, USA)

**PhD Candidates**
Shiloh Groot (completed 2010), Keriata Patterson (Ngati Tamatera/Ngati Maru), Bridgette Masters-Awatere, Mohi Rua, Amanda Young-Hauser (completed 2010), Wen Li (NZ Chinese), Dave Snell, Byron Seiuli (NZ Samoan), Jackie (Haki) Tuauipiki (Waikato, Ngati Tuwharetoa), Waikaremoana Waitoki

**Masters Students**
Teah Carlson (Ngati Whakaue), Te Whaiwhai Ritchie (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa), Hemaima Wihongi, Kiri Edge (Ngati Maniapoto), Des Ellis (Tuwharetoa), Aaron Harmon (Te Whakatohea), Juanita Jacob (Nga Puhï), Karyn McRae, Kathryn (Kate) Robins (Ngati Tuwharetoa), Ana Scanlan, Lolohea Tongi (NZ Tongan), Hemaima Wihongi (Nga Puhï), Brooke Hayward, Akanisi Tarabe (Indigenous Fijian)

**Directed Studies**
Catherine Lane (Ngati Whakaue), Te Whaiwhai Ritchie (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa), Hemaima Wihongi, Kiri Edge, Jessica Gosche (NZ Samoan/European), Pita King (Nga Puhï), Chloie Hoeata (Tuhoe, Ngati Kahungunu), Stanley Kamutingondo (Indigenous Zimbabwean).

**Visitors to MPRU**
Prof Dan McNeil of West Virginia University and resident MPRU Fulbright recipient was our visiting international for 2010. Dan arrived in Hamilton January 2010 and spent 6 months absorbing the rigors of the MPRU’s indigenous academy. During his time Dan gave a number of lectures within the School of Psychology and lead an MPRU supported project, interviewing key Māori about the influence of Māori culture on New Zealand’s society. He also facilitated a 10 day exchange programme where several of his student’s from West Virginia University travelled to the Waikato and immersed themselves into Māori culture. While in Aotearoa they attended the Kingitanga Pokai at Te Tokanganui a Noho marae (Te Kuiti). An experience they said they'll never forget. Dan remains in contact with the MPRU through the research project and hopes to reciprocate the MPRU’s hospitality.
Of the larger MPRU research group, the following are presented as a sample of researchers who have won a research grant and successfully completed degrees.

**DR TESS MOEKE-MAXWELL**

*(HRC funded Post Doctoral Fellowship)*

I come to MPRU from Ngai Tai ki Umupuia and Ngati Pukeko ki Poroporo. My mother has undoubtedly been the most influential person in my life as I have always thought of her as a ‘grass roots psychologist’. She always had a way of relating everything back to aroha andmanaakitanga.

Having a major in psychology was pivotal in my obtaining a job and registering as a counsellor. My key research interests are: Māori end of life and palliative care experiences, Māori mental health (from the perspectives of tangata whaiora) and sexual violation recovery.

My current role is as a HRC Research Fellow in the Māori and Psychology Research Unit and lead investigator for the HRC funded ‘Kia Ngawari: Investigating Palliative Care of Māori and Their Whanau’ study. This ethnographic study is designed to gather information about end of life experiences for Māori who live with an incurable illness, or disease, and their whanau.

Winning an HRC grant and leading the Kia Ngawari study that involves working with Māori who are dying and their whanau is the highlight of my career so far – it is a huge privilege for which I constantly give thanks to te Atua me nga tupuna. In the future I would particularly like to contribute more towards ensuring whanau have high quality end of life experiences; improved access to palliative care services and contributing to health practitioner’s competencies. In my humble opinion, studying psychology is a great career choice for Māori and Pacific students considering a career ‘healing’ in nature and intent, the potential for psychology to make a positive difference in people’s lives is limitless. We can help our whanau and the communities we care the most about by engaging with the discipline of psychology and making it our own.
I recently submitted and defended in an oral examination my PhD “Contextualizing street homelessness: A case study approach”. I was very fortunate to have Associate Professor Darrin Hodgetts, Associate Professor Linda Waimarie Nikora and Professor Ngahuia Te Awekotuku as my supervisors, all of whom I am profoundly privileged to have worked with. My PhD explored the nature of resilience through the lived experiences of Māori, Pacific Island and Pakeha homeless people. The study involved extensive field work, innovative visual methods for collecting data, direct observations, conversations, case conferences with staff and clients, workshops, the taking of field notes, biographical interviews, photo-production projects, and photo-elicitation interviews. This has undoubtedly been the highlight of my career in psychology.

I am currently based at Waikato University where I hold a fixed-term teaching and research position within the School of Psychology. Opportunities like this can allow people such as myself to not only develop our academic careers but, to reciprocate the support and faith of those who have mentored and fostered us thus far, and to contribute to the further development of our people. I am a Research Associate for the Māori and Psychology Research Unit (MPRU) and have been an active member of the Unit for six years. Being located within MPRU has allowed me to explore the relevance and application of Māori cultural concepts for understanding contemporary relationships and peoples’ efforts to cultivate a positive sense of self and place. My research interests are in Indigenous worldviews and communities, resilience, poverty and wellbeing. Following on from my research, I have been nominated as a member of the New Zealand Coalition to End Homelessness (NZCEH) Māori Caucus, where I have been asked to advise on the expansion of research strategies that will inform the development of national policy and service provision. This highlights the importance of having Māori and tagata Pasifika involved in high calibre research and applied practice as a way of advocating and assisting in the support of our peoples’ wellbeing.
LOLOHEA TONGI  
(Masters’ student)

Malo ‘e lelei!

My name is Lolohea Tongi, a proud New Zealand born Tongan female. I am one of six children, but like many other Tongan families I am sometimes one of many children (temporarily adopted children). I was raised in Auckland and spent some of my high school years in Sydney, Australia.

In 2007 I completed an undergraduate degree, a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Psychology and Criminology. During that same year I worked as a Probation officer. I moved to Hamilton in 2008 where I completed a Bachelor of Social Sciences with honours degree at the University of Waikato. In the summer period of 2008 to 2009, I completed a summer studentship in collaboration with the Māori and Psychology Research Unit ‘Exploring shared understandings and cultural practices of medications among Pacific Peoples’, which was funded by the Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC). Following on from my summer studentship I was privileged to receive a Pacific Masters scholarship from the HRC, which enabled me to commit full-time to my Master of Applied Psychology degree. Under the supervision of Associate Professor Linda Waimarie Nikora and Associate Professor Darrin Hodgetts I completed my thesis ‘Exploring medications amongst Tongan Households in New Zealand’. My Masters research was located within a larger Medications project funded by Marsden and HRC and involved primary investigators from Massey University (Auckland), University of Waikato, Victoria University, Otago University, Loughborough University (England) and the University of London.

I am indebted to the Māori and Psychology Research Unit (MPRU) at the University of Waikato. Their academic brilliance and faith has allowed me to complete both my qualifications. The Unit, my friends and family have been the most influential people during my time at the University of Waikato. Qualifications in psychology open up a vast array of career opportunities in areas such as health and education in roles of management, policy, facilitating, research and teaching. Like any other field of study, students should approach these qualifications with an open mind and a willingness to learn. In studying Psychology, Māori and Pacific students are equipped to make a strong contribution to bettering the social conditions in which minority groups can find themselves in.
A REVIEW OF PROJECTS

Tangihanga Research Programme

Prof Ngahuia Te Awekotuku, Assoc Prof Linda Waimarie Nikora, Prof Pou Temara, Te Kahautu Maxwell, Mohi Rua, Enoka Murphy, Rolinda Karapu

Funded by Nga Pae o te Maramatanga and the Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden Fund

Overview and aim of project

Death, observed through the process of tangihanga, or tangi, is the ultimate form of Māori cultural expression. It is also the topic least studied by Māori, or understood by outsiders, despite the televised funeral rites of Māori leaders, and intrusive media engagement with more humble family crises. It has prevailed as a cultural priority since earliest European contact, despite missionary and colonial impact and interference, and macabre Victorian fascination. Tangi, and actual death rituals, have yet to be rigorously examined in the oral Māori canon, and the archival and historic record which may be discarded or reinforced by current practice. As researchers we are committed to studying tangi, conscious of the belief that such work in itself carries the inherent risk of “karanga aitua” or calling misfortune by drawing attention to it. This volatile subject nevertheless demands careful and comprehensive scrutiny, to extend and enrich the knowledge base, to reveal the logic guiding ritual, to inform the wider NZ community and more importantly, to support the cultural, social, ritual, economic and decision-making processes of bereaved whanau, marae, and iwi communities. We are also considering the interpretation and transmission of traditional knowledge and the enactment of invented forms. Rituals change, but death remains, engaging whakapapa, intergenerational relationships, and being Māori.

Current status

The Tangi research programme is midway through the second year of its three year funding.

Highlights

The highlight for 2010 has been our attendance to the Nga Pae o Te Maramatanga Indigenous Knowledge conference (June; see report), the submission of six Nga Pae conference presentations for publication in the Nga Pae conference proceedings (2011), the completion of several wananga with our community researchers, permission to co-ordinate and edit a special issue for the Nga Pae o te Maramatanga AlterNative journal (2011). The special issue will cover off on issues relating to Tangihanga and will be co-edited by Assoc Prof Linda Waimarie Nikora and Prof Ngahuia Te Awekotuku. In addition, the Tangihanga Programme recently held the Death Studies in Aotearoa New Zealand Symposium (11th November; report below) where researchers, practitioners, health and human service providers, students, and stakeholders interested in death studies gathered, shared, informed and considered future directions. A proceedings for this symposium is scheduled for publication in 2011.

Looking ahead

Over the next 12 months we will continue our auto/ethnographic inquiry, tangi wananga, hapu case studies and key informant interviews with our marae based community researchers as well as the publishing of the symposium proceedings and the Tangihanga special issue for the AlterNative Journal. We look forward to this and many more lectures, conferences and community presentations.
Medications in Everyday Life: Understandings and Social Practice Research Project

Principal Investigators: Prof Kerry Chamberlain (Massey University, Albany), Assoc Prof Darrin Hodgetts, Dr Pauline Norris (University of Otago), Assoc Prof Kevin Dew (University of Otago), Assoc Prof Linda Waimarie Nikora, Prof Jonathan Gabe (Royal Holloway, University of London), Prof Alan Radley (University of Loughborough) & Ms Helen Madden (Massey University, Albany)

Funded by the NZ Health Research Council and the Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden Fund

MPRU staff and students are involved in a study of medication use in everyday life. The project is a collaboration with researchers from Massey, Victoria and Otago Universities and England. This project aims to extend knowledge of relationships between people and domestic settings in the context of their medication use. We have conducted research with 20 households to date. These households contained a range of ‘medicative’ forms, including prescription drugs, traditional remedies, dietary supplements and enhanced foods. The location and use of these substances within domestic dwellings speaks to processes of emplacement and identity in the creation of spaces for care. Our analysis contributes to current understanding of the ways in which objects from ‘outside’ the home come to be woven into relationships, identities and meanings ‘inside’ the home. We demonstrate that, as well as being pharmacological objects, medications are complex, socially embedded objects with histories and memories that are ingrained within contemporary relationships of care and home-making practices. The project is progressing well with a number of conference papers and journal articles being produced. Two MPRU students have completed their Master’s theses as part of the project, a third student will submit her thesis for examination in early 2011 and one student is doing a 2010-2011 Honours level directed study.

Figure 1: Composite map depicting emplacement of medications in households.
“More than Bricks and Mortar” Homelessness Research Project

Principal Investigators: Associate Professor Darrin Hodgetts, Associate Professor Linda Waimarie Nikora, Professor Kerry Chamberlain, Professor Alan Radley and Dr Ottile Stolte

Funded by the Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden Grant

The “More than Bricks and Mortar” study is a three-year Marsden funded research project conducted in collaboration with homeless people, the Māori and Psychology Research Unit, three city councils and leading non-government organisations. This project employs an action research strategy that incorporates homeless people and agency staff throughout the research processes. The general aim of this project is to gain insights into street cultures and the daily practices, social networks, material circumstances, and reintegration experiences of homeless people. Thus, this project focuses on issues surrounding links between homeless people, places and mainstream society.

The last twelve months have been spent on graduate supervision, maintaining a key partnership with the Auckland City Mission, and dissemination of research findings to various stakeholders and academic groups. Over the previous year we have produced two international keynote addresses, seven peer reviewed journal articles, one commissioned report, three conference papers, 1 PhD and 3 masters theses. A further two journal articles are currently in draft form and will be submitted for publication in early 2011. Total publication outputs for the three years is ten journal articles, one book chapter, one commissioned report, one conference proceedings article, thirteen conference presentations, two keynote addresses, four masters theses, and one PhD.

The project has generally progressed as planned as well as being refined to meet the needs of community partners. Data collection is completed and analysis, writing and feedback phases are advanced. Key activities are now the writing of further journal articles, further feedback meetings with agencies and workshops with social workers.

The training of graduate students is an important objective of this project. Our graduate students participated in an international conference, which provided them with opportunities to engage with leading international academics and to participate in international academic discussions. Further, our recently completed PhD candidate has been elected as a member of the New Zealand Coalition to End Homelessness (NZCEH) Māori Caucus, where as part of the larger project she will advise on the expansion of research strategies that will inform the development of national policy and service provision.

The research team has facilitated three advisory group meetings with agency staff and stakeholders. We have also conducted workshops based on five specific case studies aimed at refining services for homeless people and engaging in dialogues regarding the enhancement of service provisions for homeless people. A further journal article is being drafted that explores the broader functions of such workshops in social science research.

The above image shows Joshua (pseudonym) a participant in the Homelessness project, pan handling outside of McDonalds, Queen Street Auckland.
Māori staff and students from the Hamilton and Tauranga campuses attended the 2010 NZPS Annual Conference as one whanau group. This is the eighth year in a row a Māori cohort from the School of Psychology has attended but the first time we’ve combined with our whanau from the Tauranga campus. Ki a koutou ma, kei te mihi. This was especially important as it provided an opportunity for Tauranga students to meet kanohi ki te kanohi with their peers from the Hamilton campus, and feel part of a larger Māori and psychology whanau. This was endorsed by one student who said…

The entire weekend was very enjoyable and an invaluable experience. Meeting the students from the Hamilton campus and students from Massey University was a highlight, and to be amongst other likeminded Māori and academics such as whaea Celia Hotene was truly inspiring (Undergraduate student, Tauranga campus).

Our attendance at the annual conference is an important component to the support and development of our Māori students. It provides students with an opportunity to gain a wider understanding of psychology as a subject and career. In addition, students can chat and network with practising psychologists, clinicians, academics and/or researchers to gain a greater understanding of the discipline. The impact of this event on our Māori students was positive. Feedback suggests that significant personal development has occurred as a result of their collective experience at the conference. Through these experiences students take comfort in knowing they have a place in a discipline that can be isolating for Māori psychologists.

The bicultural symposium was excellent and it shined a light on many issues that I wish to study and investigate in the future, and also answered many questions I have been pondering. It was good to know that there are others out there thinking the same thing. The post-tsunami seminar was also really relevant to my studies as it showed what psychologists can do out in the field, not just in the office and in theory (Graduate student, Hamilton campus).

And this from another student…

Of particular interest were the seminars conducted by fellow Waikato university students Anna Scanlen and Celia Hotene. Anna’s seminar was about health, homelessness and spaces for care and Celia’s seminar was about studying the effects of hereditary hearing impairment in her Māori family. Both seminars were thought-provoking and very enjoyable (Undergraduate student, Tauranga campus).

In addition, Māori student attendance is beneficial to the wider psychology community. Having access to a congregation of Māori students provide opportunities for non-Māori to engage in meaningful discussions and experiences relating to issues of concern for Māori. In addition, our Māori students can appreciate the many challenges psychology and psychologists face in responding positively to the psychological needs and aspirations of Māori. This particular conference has far reaching benefits for the School of Psychology and the University of Waikato as a place of choice for Māori. The reputation of the University of Waikato resonates positively throughout the wider psychology community because of student conduct, interest and participation at this conference.
At this point we acknowledge those groups without which our attendance would not have been possible. The Māori and Psychology Research Unit (MPRU), the Pro VC Māori Office, Te Aka Matua FASS Māori Mentoring Unit, the School of Psychology and the Waikato Student Union. A report reflecting on student feedback has been completed and distributed to these entities. Their investment in our attendance contributes significantly to the ongoing academic, personal and whanau development of our Māori students.

*Whaowhia te kete matauranga*

*Fill the basket of knowledge*

Na Aaron Harman  
Kaupapa Māori Student Advisor  
School of Psychology
The Nga Pae o te Maramatanga 4th International Indigenous Conference, Matauranga Taketake: Traditional Knowledge

The Owen Glenn Building, The University of Auckland (6-9 June)

Earlier this year, staff, students and community researchers from the Māori & Psychology Research Unit (MPRU) and Centre for Māori & Pacific Development Research (SMPD) attended the 4th International Indigenous Conference at the University of Auckland. The four day event was hosted by Nga Pae o te Maramatanga. Over 460 indigenous scholars, leaders, community groups, students and peoples from over 12 countries were welcomed with a magnificent afternoon powhiri at the Auckland University marae, Waipapa. That evening Prof Ngahuia Te Awekotuku represented the Tangi Research Programme with her keynote presentation titled Tanenuiarangi – Difference through a metaphor of death and memory. Tanenuiarangi, the monumental carved house at Waipapa also represents everything meaningful to Māori – histories, rituals, tribal narratives, spirituality, values, adornment, differences and similarities too. Her presentation reflected on recent conflicts and their resolution, the significance of inscribing identity and the potential of remembering, memorializing and reflecting on common human experience. She set an exciting platform for wider discussion and engagement among indigenous and non-indigenous people.

Presentations: On day two of the conference, all 14 staff, students and community researchers from MPRU and CMPDR presented in the Owen Glenn Building (Business School).

MPRU: The full day programme started with Shiloh Groot presenting findings from her doctoral research on Homelessness. Associate Professors Linda Nikora and Darrin Hodgetts presented findings from the Medications project together with Masters Students Teah Carlson and Lolohea Tongi and PhD Student Wen Li. In addition to the above presenters, Prof Dan McNeill of the University of West Virginia and resident School of Psychology Fulbright recipient attended as part of MPRU. We were also humbled by the presence of former MPRU students delivering their PhD research findings.

Tangi Research Programme (TRP) Symposium

An afternoon mini-symposium for the Tangi Research Programme (TRP) was chaired by Mohi Rua. The session began with Ngahuia and Linda presenting an overview of the research programme, followed by Dr Tess Moeke-Maxwell talking about her HRC funded post doctoral project Kia Ngawari. Student researchers Kiri Edge, Karyn McRae (MPRU) and Hare Rua (SMPD) presented their Masters theses and Vincent Malcolm-Buchanon (SMPD) on his doctoral proposal. We also had three marae based community researchers or ‘nannies’ (Vicky Bhana, Te Roro o te Rangi marae, Rotorua; Ngamihi Crapp, Pukeko Marae, Whakatane; Heeni Poutu, Hauiti marae, Uawa/Tolaga Bay) give a panel presentation entitled, “Ask your Nannies”. They reflected on the changing nature of tangihanga. Their combined life experience of attending to the smooth running of marae and supporting whanau during a critically emotional event revealed incredible insights and poignant stories. Mixed with humour and humility they induced a sense of awe, respect and appreciation. They made us laugh, remember, sigh and cringe reminding a largely academic audience about the role of community members in research. They took questions from the audience and challenged us as much as we challenged them. The mini-symposium concluded the day’s events with a festive conference evening meal back at the marae. For the presenters Day three of the conference was a more relaxed affair as everybody was able to attend, probe and speak with various presenters.
Concluding comments

Overall the conference provided an inspirational forum for indigenous and non-indigenous peoples from around the world to share knowledge, build networks and develop relationships. Extremely well organized the conference was supplemented by food that was delicious and plentiful. We had an incredible time and rank this as the premier indigenous conference in Aotearoa and look forward to the next one.

Since the conference all eight presentations have been accepted as papers for publication in the conference proceedings. In addition, the Tangi Research Programme is currently writing toward a Special Issue for the Nga Pae journal, AlterNative. At this point we would like to acknowledge the following for their tremendous support. Nga Pae o te Maramatanga, the Marsden Fund, Health Research Council, conference organizers, Kirsten Gabel of Mai ki Waikato and ProVC Māori Office and Kate Wynard of Te Aka Matua (FASS).

Our Crew at the Conference

Research members from MPRU and CMPDR at Nga Pae o te Maramatanga 4th International Indigenous Conference: Matauranga Taketake: Traditional Knowledge, Auckland University (6-9 June 2010)

Back L-R: Vincent Malcolm-Buchanon (PhD), Prof Ngahuia Te Awekotuku (CMPDR), Hare Rua (Masters), Enoka Murphy (SMPD), Mohi Rua (PhD), Assoc Prof Darrin Hodgetts, Saburo Omura (PhD), Syd Davies (PhD)

Front L-R: Shiloh Groot (PhD), Karyn McRae (Masters), Kiri Edge (Masters), Ngamihi Crapp (Pukeko marae researcher), Vicki Bhana (Te Roro o te rangi marae researcher), Heeni Poutu (Hauiti marae researcher), Assoc Prof Linda Waimarie Nikora and Dr Tess Moeke Maxwell.

Absent: Prof Pou Temara, Te Kahautu Maxwell and Rolinda Karapu

Death Studies in Aotearoa New Zealand – A symposium

Thursday 11th November 2010, University of Waikato, Hamilton (Room SG.02)

Jointly hosted by Professor Ngahuia Te Awekotuku (Centre for Māori & Pacific Development Research), Associate Professor Linda Waimarie Nikora (Māori & Psychology Research Unit) and Associate Professor Darrin Hodgetts (Centre for Health and Social Research)

Researchers, practitioners, health and human service providers, students, and stakeholders from the funeral industry were invited to gather, share, inform and consider future directions. Death, dying, mourning and disposal practices in the 21st century are complex and diverse. In Aotearoa New Zealand the intersection of culture, ethnicity, history, class, gender, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, and environment all influence how death practices are understood, engaged with, and are changing. The University of Waikato currently has over 25 staff and graduate students from various disciplines engaged in research of relevance to the study of death; the largest endeavour being the Tangihanga Research Programme. This symposium was one way of bringing interested stakeholders together in the same space to survey and share issues, work in progress, research possibilities, experience as practitioners, interesting dilemmas and expertise of those in this field of interest. It was hoped that through sharing we can all explore potential areas for interdisciplinary research, policy and practice in the sector.

The symposium was an all day event (9am-4pm) with 100 people attending from all over Aotearoa and significant representation from the funeral industry, celebrants, relevant government agencies, marae, social support agencies and local providers. The day began with Dr Tracey McIntosh of the University of Auckland who opened proceedings, as the keynote speaker. From Te Urewera, she is a social scientist with a special interest in extreme death experience. While she has conducted research into everyday violence at a very high systematic level, her presentation was an overview of the death studies field and presented a good platform for the rest of the day which comprised sixteen presentations by people or groups who have something they wanted to share. Our second keynote speaker Dr Wallace Bain, Coroner for the Bay of Plenty region considered Cultural Practices Surrounding Death: The New Coroners Act 2006 - perspectives. We are now in the process of compiling these presentations for publication in 2011.

Presentation topics varied in their focus: current research interests of staff and students; research and training needs across the sector; the types of services provided by government and non-government agencies; the types of business opportunities and challenges; societal and community shifts in understanding death and supporting those who are dying to name but a few. Contributions provided information about agencies and services, training and intervention programmes, research in progress and scholarly papers.

Na te Tangihanga Research Programme

Na te Tangihanga Research Programme
Members of the Tangi Research Programme at the Death Studies in Aotearoa/New Zealand Symposium (11 November, Waikato University)

L – R (middle and back): Enoka Murphy, Vince Malcolm-Buchanan, Reti Kee, Byron Seiuli, Wen Li, Rangihunihia McDonald, Kiri Edge, Karyn McRae, Vicki Bhana (Marae based community researcher)

L – R (front): Prof Ngahuia Te Awekotuku, Prof Pou Temara, Dr Shiloh Groot, Assoc Prof Linda Waimarie Nikora

Absent: Mohi Rua (Symposium Chair), Te Kahautu Maxwell, Assoc Prof Cathy Coleborne (Symposium Chair)
STUDENT SUPPORT

Student Supervision

*Tangi Research Programme:*
Keriata Patterson (PhD), Karyn McRae (Masters Thesis, completed), Kiri Edge (Directed Study & Masters Thesis), Hemaima Wihongi (Directed Study), Te Whaiwhaia Ritchie (Directed Study), Catherine Lane (Directed Study), Rolinda Karapu (Directed Study), Hare Rua (Masters Dissertation, completed), Juanita Jacobs (Masters Thesis), Akanisi Tarabe (Masters thesis, University of the South Pacific, Fiji), Byron Seiuli (PhD), Aaron Harmon (Masters thesis)

*Homelessness Project:*
Shiloh Groot (PhD completed), Diana Johnson (Masters Thesis completed), Des Ellis (Masters Thesis completed), Anna Scanlan (Masters Thesis completed), Sally Meuller (Masters Thesis completed), Jessica Gosche (summer directed study)

*Medications Project:*
Teah Carlson (Masters Thesis completed), Lolohea Tongi (Masters Thesis completed), Stanley Kamutingondo (Honours directed study)

*Sustainability in a rural Māori community:*
Mohi Rua (PhD)

*Intimate Partner Violence:*
Kathryn Robbins (Masters Thesis completed), Pita King (3rd yr directed study); Chloe Hoeata (Honours directed study)

*Others:*
Marie Townsend, (Masters Thesis), Moana Waitoki (PhD), Bridgette Masters (PhD), Dave Snell (PhD), Wen Li (PhD), Amanda Young-Hauser (PhD completed)

Student Scholarships

MPRU was successful in winning externally funded scholarships and awarded internally funded stipends to support several student projects. The total amount awarded for 2010 was $85k.

*Māori & Psychology Research Unit Scholarships*

- Kiri Edge (Masters Thesis)
- Hemaima Wihongi (Masters Thesis)
- Marie Townsend (Masters Thesis)
- Juanita Jacob (Masters Thesis)
- Moana Waitoki (PhD Thesis)
**Doctoral Awards and Scholarships**

» Byron Seiuli (Health Research Council Pacific PhD Scholarship; Tertiary Achievement in Pacific Ako (TAPA) Award)

**2010-2011 MPRU Summer Internships (10 weeks)**

» Chloe Hoeata (Health Research Council Summer Studentship; Nga Pae o te Maramatanga6 Summer Internship)
» Pita King (Health Research Council Summer Studentship; Nga Pae Summer Internship)
» Jessica Gosche (Nga Pae Summer Internship)
» Stanley Kamutingondo (Nga Pae Summer Internship)

**End of year reflections**

MPRU held an End of Year Wrap-Up Event which took place in December 2010. This event was an opportunity for students and our Post-Doctoral Fellow to reflect on and share their experiences from the research field in 2010. Each student took the opportunity to comment on how they came to pursue their topic of investigation, the people they met, the ethical dilemmas they confronted, and even those aspects of the research process that did not always go as planned.

One student likened undertaking a Masters thesis to climbing a mountain and how daunting reaching the “summit” appears. Difficult though the journey may be, the determination to succeed remained. Another commented on the difficulties of recruiting participants, and another, on how they had structured their daily life around a fulltime PhD investigation. One particular student lamented the loss of interview data, the need to not be overly reliant on technology as a form of data recording, and not to lose sight of the role of the interviewer as recorder. Many students remarked on the invaluable roles of their supervisors, friends, agency staff, and participants. The forum offered valuable insights for both staff and students and was enjoyed by all. Given its success, MPRU intends to continue with this forum.

6 Hereby known as Nga Pae
Projects in progress

Title: Aitua: Death in a changing Māori world (2009-2011)
Principal Investigators: Prof Ngahuia Te Awekotuku and Assoc Prof Linda Waimarie Nikora
Associate Investigators: Prof Pou Temara, Te Kahautu Maxwell, Enoka Murphy
Grant agency: Nga Pae o te Maramatanga ($250,000)

Title: Apakura: The Māori Way of Death (2009-2012)
Principal Investigators: Prof Ngahuia Te Awekotuku and Assoc Prof Linda Waimarie Nikora
Associate Investigators: Prof Pou Temara, Te Kahautu Maxwell, Mohi Rua and Rolinda Karapu
Grant agency: The Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden Grant ($950,000)

Title: Kia Ngawari: Investigating Palliative Care of Māori and their whanau (2009-2011)
Principal Investigators: Dr Tess Moeke-Maxwell with AProf Linda Waimarie Nikora
Grant agency: Health Research Council ($330,000)

Title: Whatukura: A bioengineered model of the human eye (2009-2011)
Principal Investigator: Dr Jason Turuwhenua
Associate Investigator: Bridgette Masters-Awatere
Grant agency: Nga Pae o te Maramatanga ($230,000)

Title: Māori Student’s Experiences of Māori Student Support Services at the University of Waikato in 2008
Principal Investigators: Mohi Rua, Saburo Omura, Lynley Uerata
Funder: ProVC Māori Office, University of Waikato ($3,000)

Title: Medications in Everyday Life: Understandings and social practice
Investigators: Prof Kerry Chamberlain (Massey University, Albany), Assoc Prof Darrin Hodgetts, Dr Pauline Norris (University of Otago), Assoc Prof Kevin Dew (University of Otago), Assoc Prof Linda Waimarie Nikora, Prof Jonathan Gabe (Royal Holloway, University of London), Prof Alan Radley (University of Loughborough) & Ms Helen Madden (Massey University, Albany)
Grant agency: Health Research Council ($1m)
Title: 'A pill for every ill': The domestic life of medications in consumer society

Investigators: Prof Kerry Chamberlain (Massey University, Albany), Assoc Prof Darrin Hodgetts, Dr Pauline Norris (University of Otago), Assoc Prof Kevin Dew (University of Otago), Assoc Prof Linda Waimarie Nikora, Prof Jonathan Gabe (Royal Holloway, University of London), Prof Alan Radley (University of Loughborough) & Ms Helen Madden (Massey University, Albany)

Grant agency: The Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden Fund ($645k)

Title: Health & Homelessness: Social reintegration in Aotearoa

Investigators: Assoc Prof Darrin Hodgetts, Assoc Prof Linda Waimarie Nikora, Prof Kerry Chamberlain, Dr Eci Nabalarua & Prof Alan Radley.

Grant Agency: The Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden Fund ($795k)
Intimate Partner Violence Project

**Principal Investigators:** Assoc Prof Linda Waimarie Nikora and Dr Neville Robertson

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a widespread concern nationally and internationally and is described as a significant social issue and major public health threat (Goodyear-Smith, 2004; McHugh & Frieze, 2006; Moffit et al., 1997). According to the New Zealand Domestic Violence Act 1995, IPV, as a form of domestic violence, involves an individual committing violence against another person with whom that individual is, or has been, a spouse or partner (“Domestic Violence Act 1995”, 1995). IPV includes a range of physical, verbal, sexual or psychological abuse that manifests as threats, intimidation, or allowing a child to witness abuse (Goodyear-Smith, 2004). It is estimated that physical assault occurs in more than a quarter of intimate relationships, with the rates of abuse varying among different cultural and ethnic groups (McHugh & Frieze, 2006). In New Zealand, research illustrates that Māori are disproportionally represented in IPV (Mayhew & Reilly, 2007; Morris, Reilly, Berry, & Ransom, 2003). Intimate partner violence research often focuses on measuring intimate violence, the conceptualisations of the victims and the perpetrators (McHugh & Frieze, 2006) and dealing with the aftermath of IPV. In this study we step back and explore the nature of intimate relationships. As relational beings (Gergen, 2009), intimate relationships are significant and interpersonal rejections of betrayal or unrequited love are particularly hurtful (Leary, 2001). In this research we consider broader questions such as: How do we go about finding and signalling to potential others our want and need for intimacy? Once mutually recognised, how do we express, negotiate, commit to and invigorate continuing relationships that sustain and nurture a positive intimate partnership? Why is it that some intimate partnerships enjoy life-long journeys of satisfaction and celebration, and others all too frequently spiral into the miserable spaces of manipulation, control, silence, abuse, violence and possibly death? There are now an enormous number of studies of domestic violence, or, as it is increasingly being called, intimate partner violence. While the term is silent on gender, it does at least have an advantage over the term ‘domestic violence’ in that it identifies intimacy, rather than cohabitation, as the defining feature and means that dating violence and violence between intimates who do not live together is included. It also includes sexual violence which occurs between intimates. This too is useful as there has been a tendency for domestic violence research and sexual violence research to treat each other as distinct and non-overlapping fields.

At this time we have one student, Kathryn (Kate) Robins, who completed her Masters of Social Science thesis titled, *Exploring mothers’ experiences of separating from an abusive partner*. We also have two students funded for their 10 week 2010-2011 summer studentship projects. They are Pita King and Chloe Hoeata, both of whom are funded by the Health Research Council’s Summer Studentship and Nga Pae o te Maramatanga’s Summer internship.
TOWARDS 2011

» Better supporting Māori and Pacific students through mentoring and involvement in MPRU activities

» Consolidating our research agenda to be better positioned to win longer-term programme grants.

» Expanding our collaborations across the University, other research institutions and our international partnerships

» Maintaining and extending our working relationships through joint projects and activities with our research associates and collaborating entities

» Presenting and disseminating research findings at national and international conferences

» Increasing the MPRU publishing capacity and profile

» Establishing the MPRU as a supportive and productive environment for Post-Doctoral Fellows, Fullbright scholars and students, and for visiting scholars.
2010 RESEARCH OUTPUTS

In total the MPRU is able to report 120 research outputs for the 2010 year. These include 14 peer reviewed articles, 6 articles in press, 3 articles under review, 3 books, 1 book chapter and 4 book chapters in press, 2 invited keynote presentations, 27 invited address, 32 conference presentations, 2 guest lectures, 9 completed student theses, 5 reports, 5 working papers and 7 media articles/interviews.

Peer Reviewed Articles


ARTICLES IN PRESS


ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW


**BOOKS**


**BOOK CHAPTERS**


**BOOK CHAPTERS (IN PRESS)**


Te Awekotuku, N. (In press). Memento Mori: on memory, death and moko. In

**INVITED KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS**


**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**


**GUEST LECTURES**


**COMPLETED STUDENT THESES**


**REPORTS**


WORKING PAPERS


MEDIA ARTICLES/INTERVIEWS


