CASE STUDIES

MĀORI GOVERNANCE

Dr Joseph’s research has found that the values, laws and institutions of Māori governance are different from those of mainstream New Zealand governance, and international literature confirms that there is no single world-wide ‘one size fits all’ model for best practice governance due to differences in legal systems, institutional frameworks and cultural traditions.

For Māori governance to be successful, Māori governance values, laws and institutions must have a place in mainstream New Zealand including the management and governance of lands, forests, fisheries and other treasures, including fresh water.

Dr Joseph believes good Māori governance is about creating capacity so that Māori are able to participate fully in society, education and the economy, as well as having ready access to the Māori world where whānau are prosperous and confident as Māori. Good Māori governance will have a correspondingly positive impact on New Zealand’s current and future economic, political and social development.

NGĀ NIHO TETĒ O PEKEHĀUA: NAVIGATING THE PATHWAY TO SELF-DETERMINATION

PhD student Rangimarie Mahuika is researching to what extent Ngāti Rangiwewehi can remain self-determining in a post-settlement governance entity. Her research accentuates Ngāti Rangiwewehi’s developing aspirations and visions for future governance arrangements. The research will offer potential solutions to help identify a pathway for establishing tribal governance structures that protect the self-determination of iwi while meeting the criteria set by Crown systems, policies and law.
ABOUT US

Te Mata Hautū Taketake - the Māori and Indigenous Governance Centre (the Centre) - is a new research centre within Te Piringa-Faculty of Law at the University of Waikato. The aims of the Centre are to:

• Meet currently unmet demands for cutting edge quality research on Māori governance best practice models
• Build a body of knowledge and wisdom to help improve Māori governance
• Report on Māori governance best practice models, practices and institutions
• Provide practical training for Māori and non-Māori who work in or with Māori governance organisations
• Learn from Indigenous governance experiences globally as well as sharing Māori successes
• Work with Māori to evaluate and report on their current governance effectiveness and enhancement for the future
• Seek collaborative research partnerships with Māori and other key stakeholders on Māori governance;

Our vision is to improve Māori governance generally, whether it concerns Māori trusts and incorporations, asset holding companies, iwi organisations, Te Ture Whenua Māori land trust and incorporation models; and Indigenous peoples’ organisations globally. The Centre will engage in collaborative research nationally and internationally by undertaking longitudinal research, in consultation and partnership with profit and non-profit Māori and Indigenous organisations.

A sustainable Māori economy (approx $36 billion) demands efficient and culturally appropriate good governance with Māori organisations, hence the importance of the Centre’s research.

OUR CURRENT RESEARCH AREAS ENCOMPASS:

• Māori and Indigenous good governance
• Effective post-Treaty of Waitangi settlement governance models
• Successful Te Ture Whenua Māori land trust and incorporation models
• Appropriate and effective Māori and Indigenous dispute resolution within governance institutions

KEY PEOPLE

DR ROBERT JOSEPH, PHD (WAIKATO), DIRECTOR

Dr Robert Joseph is a specialist in Māori governance; tikanga Māori and the law. Dr Joseph’s research areas have included the realisation of the Treaty of Waitangi; the interface of traditional Māori knowledge and western science; internal self-determination of Indigenous peoples and International Law; Canadian and North American Indigenous studies; Treaty of Waitangi settlement and post-settlement development; and Māori and Indigenous peoples’ governance in settler nation-states.

TE MATA HAUTū TAkETAKE TEAM

Te Mata Hautū Taketake team includes (pictured from left) Professor Bradford Morse (Dean of Te Piringa-Faculty of Law), Valmaine Toki, Linda Te Aho and Dr Robert Joseph (Director) and also includes Renee Rewi (Centre Manager), Matiu Dickson, Professor Barry Barton, Joel Manyam, Wayne Rumbles (Chairman of Te Piringa-Faculty of Law), Sadeq Bigdeli, Gay Morgan, Doug Tennent, Dr Richard Benton, as well as other scholars from the University of Waikato and other universities.

HOW WE CAN WORK WITH YOU

Te Mata Hautū Taketake offers research, consultancy and capacity building services. We collaborate with researchers from other universities, Crown Research Institutes, Whare Wānanga, Māori organisations and iwi providers to undertake projects on a “best team” basis to provide cutting edge research on Māori and Indigenous governance, research design advice, mentoring and training and project management.

Te Mata Hautū Taketake will also work to meet the governance research and development aspirations of Māori communities through:

• project management support
• Masters, Doctoral and researcher career development and support
• tailored courses and workshops
• public seminars
• identifying and defining intellectual property
• brokering relationships to facilitate knowledge transfer and uptake
• matching university expertise
• advisory services concerning Māori and Indigenous peoples’ governance.

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS INCLUDE:

• Comprehensive literature reviews re: Māori governance to 2012; Indigenous governance – the Americas, Asia, Europe to 2012; Indigenous governance in the Pacific – 2012; Indigenous governance in Australia – 2012; Māori Treaty settlement governance agreements, entities, legislation, policy to 2012; Māori dispute resolution mechanisms, fora, processes and results within Treaty settlements to 2012; and Māori and Indigenous co-governance and co-management of natural resources.