



TE KURA KETE ARONUI

Graduate and Postgraduate E-journal – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Volume One

Editorial

Cutting Edge and Innovative Research

Towards the end of 2004 a small conference was held in the Academy of Performing Arts, at the University of Waikato. The conference was entitled 'Society and Space' and it was hosted by the Department of Geography, Tourism and Environmental Planning. It was open to all graduate and postgraduate students in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Graduate and postgraduate students presented their research to other students and staff. From these exciting research sessions, four papers were submitted to an e-journal that, until now, did not exist.

A year later and the graduate conference is about to take place. It is now called the 'Annual Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Conference' and is hosted by the Faculty. The conference has grown bigger - attracting more participants (locally and nationally) and more papers. It seems fitting that this new journal - devoted to graduate research - be launched on the opening night of the graduate conference, 25 October 2005.

The name of this journal is borrowed from the te reo Māori name for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. It is chosen for the journal to prompt reflection on the importance of place for graduate and postgraduate students. Te Kura Kete Aronui demonstrates the capacity of bicultural communications to make links between different knowledges. Furthermore, TKKA is designed to be a forum for critical work that explores notions of difference and questions inequalities.

It is clear from the papers of this first volume that graduate and postgraduate students associated with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences have made some very distinctive and critical contributions to subjects that deal primarily with people and with humanity. Hume Johnson's paper 'Uncivil Encroachment' discusses the politics of people on the margins and community dons in Jamaica. Notions of civil society, political participation and protest are examined through the theoretical lens of encroachment. The subject of protest informs the paper by Dave Snell and Darrin Hodgetts. Taking a cultural studies approach, they examine critically heavy metal communities and white supremacy. They explore the ways in which heavy metal communities are often targeted by white supremacy groups. Xavier Burnett's paper 'No Sex in the City' considers resistances to hegemonic norms that influence young women's decisions to have sexual relations. Employing poststructuralist and feminist theories, Burnett notes that place is significant to her participants' feelings about not being sexually active. Place structures Jacqui Remnant's paper 'Perceptions of the Past'. Considering the establishment of a heritage trail, she unpacks the multiple meanings of heritage that were elicited from a survey conducted in the suburb of Hamilton East. Remnant concludes that historians and heritage professionals need to consider a wide range of perceptions and definitions of heritage.

The authors in this first volume showcase highly original and thought-provoking work. The publication of these articles will, I hope, encourage other graduate and postgraduate students to submit their work to TKKA. I am sure that this year's Annual Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Conference will foster much debate and provide more cutting edge and innovative research papers for this new e-journal.

Lynda Johnston
University of Waikato
Editor