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From The Dean

Internationally recognised research in Te Kura Kete Aronui, the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences (FASS), is helping to foster social and cultural innovation and adaptation.



Our society and culture are evolving rapidly as we adapt to new ideas, new technologies, shifting employment and trading patterns, and structural changes caused by population ageing and migration. FASS researchers are helping to chart these transformations and their effects so as to assist policymakers to meet the new realities in ways that will sustain us as a nation.

We are a diverse research-focused faculty, setting new trends from our inception in developing our teaching and research across three schools: the School of Arts, the School of Psychology and the School of Social Sciences – which was the first of its kind in the country. We also host New Zealand's only research institute dedicated to demographic research.

We are forging new paths in the creative industries, notably in music performance/composition and screen and media studies, and we attract considerable research funding across our other disciplines in recognition of the value we generate for business strategists and government policymakers.

We welcome enquiries from industry, government agencies and other potential partners, as well as from prospective research students. This booklet will give you more information about what we do, and what we can do for you.

Professor Robert Hannah

Dean

Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences

The Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences boasts an inspiring range of research that is both interdisciplinary and collaborative by nature.

Introducing Our Research

The Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences – which brings together the Schools of Arts, Social Sciences and Psychology – boasts strengths in a number of different research disciplines ranging from Applied Ethics, Media, Music and Psychology through to Traffic and Road Safety Research.

The Faculty is also home to the National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis (NIDEA), which is a virtual collaboration of demographers from the School of Social Sciences, economists from the Waikato Management School and public policy analysts from independent Wellington-based Motu Economic and Public Policy Research group. NIDEA is the only research facility in New Zealand dedicated to demographic research, providing a unique grouping of skills and resources.

The Faculty's researchers collaborate with leading-edge organisations across the world from Beijing Central Conservatory of Music, NORFACE and the OECD to international Muslim communities to support innovative developments across a swathe of disciplines.

Research highlights

Our researchers are at the forefront of developments in notions of artificial intelligence, population ageing, medical ethics, linguistics, real-time interactive net-based music performance, understanding homelessness and sustainable citizenship.

Research by our Traffic and Road Safety Research Group is informing government policy on driving, and our latest research in the new field of Games Studies will inform future censorship classification of video games.

Our English programme is the editorial home of the *Journal of New Zealand Literature*, and our linguistics researchers are undertaking the world's first large-scale comparative study of "mood systems" in the Vanuatu languages.



Our historians and social scientists are undertaking world-leading historical research on immigration, ethnicity and mental health, as well as a major study focusing on contemporary issues of sustainable citizenship; our philosophers are contributing to developments in artificial intelligence; and our geographers are leading the way in examining issues of place and gender.

Our psychologists are conducting the first longitudinal study in New Zealand of the social and healthcare outcomes for children who have suffered brain injury, and a unique programme of research on the Māori experience of death and dying which will help inform end-of-life care issues. Collaborative social work research analysing the experiences of volunteers who helped remove oil from the coastline following the Rena disaster will be used by official agencies to assist with future volunteer planning.

Our demographers are contributing to a multi-million dollar programme on immigration in Europe, investigating ethnic classification by governments around the world, and researching how our ageing population can maintain independence.

Our Conservatorium of Music is home to world-renowned classical performers and composers who are also charting new territory in intermedia and net-based works.



School of Social Sciences

The School of Social Sciences was the first school of its kind in New Zealand. It continues to be a leading player in teaching and research in areas ranging from anthropology to women's studies, and from environmental planning to tourism studies, as well as its core social science programme. Highlighted here is a selection of the School's research clusters that attract collaborative work both within the University and from further afield.

Geography, Tourism and Environmental Planning

www.waikato.ac.nz/wfass/subjects/geography

Geography provides insights into the relationships between people and our relationship with our environment. It covers diverse areas within the disciplines of human geography, tourism, climate change and the use and conservation of natural resources.

Our established research streams include: Geographies of Development; Gender, Place and Culture; Geographic Information Systems; Indigenous Geographies; Migration and Ethnic Relations; Environmental Studies and the human aspects of conservation.

Tourism is responsible for the largest flow of people throughout the world, bringing together many different cultures and introducing people to many different natural environments. The implications of this are complex. Research in Tourism focuses on Pacific issues, classifying visual landscapes, communities of practice, animal and wedding tourism.

Environmental Planning is based on the recognition that environmental problems and solutions involve social, economic and cultural dimensions as well as the natural and physical environment. Research carried out in Environmental Planning includes themes of sustainable development, environmental justice, local resilience planning, spatial planning and design, biodiversity conservation and Māori land and communities.

Recent research projects reflect these themes. Natural disaster management specialist Associate Professor John Campbell has studied the outcomes of colonial Pacific Island relocations with an eye on future climate change 'adaptation'. Social and cultural geographers Professor Robyn Longhurst and Professor Lynda Johnston have jointly and separately undertaken research in examining the geographies of love and the role of place in shaping sexual identity, and both lead research programmes that encompass feminist and poststructural theories.

History

www.waikato.ac.nz/go/hist

Historians study the past to understand the complexities of the present. Research themes at Waikato University include immigration and ethnicity, social history of health and medicine, science and environmental history, Māori and iwi history, oral history, political history and biography.

Research has included two Marsden-funded projects examining migration, ethnicity and mental health, led by Associate Professor Catharine Coleborne and culminating in two publications: *'Madness' in the family: Insanity and Institutions in the Australasian Colonial World 1860s-1914* (Palgrave Macmillan) and *Migration, Ethnicity, and Mental Health: international perspectives, 1840-1910* (Routledge).

Dr Raymond Richards' biography *Palmer: The Parliamentary Years* (Canterbury University Press) was nominated for a NZ Post Book Award. He is writing a biography of Sir Roger Douglas. Other recent publications include Dr James Beattie's *Empire and Environmental Anxiety: Health, Science, Art and*

Conservation in South Asia and Australia, 1800-1920 (Palgrave Macmillan), which has led to an international collaboration on a book provisionally entitled *Networks of Nature in the British Empire: new perspectives on imperial environmental history*.

Dr Rowland Weston researches the intellectual history of Europe's "long eighteenth century." He recently published "William Godwin and the Puritan Legacy" in *Nineteenth-Century Prose*. Nēpia Mahuika is the Chairperson of Te Pouhere Kōrero (the National Māori History Collective) and specialises in New Zealand history, Māori and indigenous histories, and oral history method and theory. His research focuses on Māori legal practices and murder cases in 19th-century New Zealand, and he has begun work on a history of martial arts in Aotearoa.

The History programme hosts the **Public History Unit**, directed by Dr Coleborne, to manage commissioned public history research projects and provide professional advice on historical and heritage-related projects.



Introducing our Research

Philosophy, Religious Studies and Ethics

www.waikato.ac.nz/wfass/subjects/phil-rels

Philosophy is about solving problems that confront us as we try to understand the world. It addresses ethical problems, problems about science, logic and the nature of reality.

The philosophy programme has been running at the University of Waikato since 1965. Since its inception, it has had a special relationship with the Faculty of Computing & Mathematical Sciences, and this has involved some joint teaching and research in the areas of logic and 'Artificial Intelligence'.

Research strengths include applied ethics and ethical theory, with recent publications by Dr Liezl van Zyl on virtue ethics and contract motherhood, and by Dr Ruth Walker on business and professional ethics.

Contemporary analytic areas, including language, mind, epistemology and metaphysics, are represented in the work of Dr David Lumsden, Dr Tracy Bowell, Dr Cathy Legg and Dr Justine Kingsbury. Dr Kingsbury also publishes in aesthetics.

The *Religious Studies* programme has been in existence at Waikato University since 1988. Research in the study of religion, including contemporary issues, interreligious relations, and the philosophy of religion, and with specialist focus on Islam and Christianity, is among the particular research work of Professor Douglas Pratt.

Political Science, Public Policy, Social Policy and Anthropology

www.waikato.ac.nz/wfass

The study of political life is a broad endeavour including a range of specialties such as international relations, political theory, public policy and social policy. *Public Policy* and *Social Policy* are both interdisciplinary areas of research examining how government bodies develop and implement policies in the context of political values and culture, economic constraints, and political party agendas. Social policy research is specifically concerned with how policy links to people's social needs.

Current research themes at Waikato University include health and ageing care; labour market and retirement issues; gender issues; immigration and sustainable citizenship; pacifism, terrorism and democracy; international relations and security. Recent research reflecting these themes includes:

A Marsden-funded project on sustainable citizenship led by Associate Professor Priya Kurian and focused on how citizens can have meaningful input into policy decisions, particularly

around new and emerging technologies; a Marsden-funded project led by Dr Rachel Simon-Kumar entitled 'Engaging Women and Migrants in New Zealand's public policy' to explore ideas of citizenship and democracy among minorities; and the third of a unique series of membership surveys for the NZ Dairy Workers Union members led by Dr William Cochrane.

Dr Carolyn Michelle from *Women's and Gender Studies* is an expert in popular culture and audience reception and is currently working on an international study assessing perceptions of Peter Jackson's new movie *The Hobbit*.

Our *Anthropology* research specialises in sociocultural anthropology with a particular focus on Pacific issues. It includes Dr Fiona McCormack's work on Māori fisheries, customary rights, and the effects of the 1992 Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Settlement Act.



National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis *Te Rūnanga Tātari Tatauranga*

www.waikato.ac.nz/nidea

Directed by Professor Natalie Jackson, the National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis (NIDEA) links together a virtual and evolving community of national and international researchers whose research focus is the interaction of demographic, social and economic processes.

Initially founded through collaboration between the University of Waikato's former Population Studies Centre, Waikato Management School, and Wellington-based Motu Economic and Public Policy Research Trust, the Institute's primary goal is to help inform choices and responses to the demographic, social and economic interactions that are shaping New Zealand's future. Reflecting this objective, NIDEA's research programme comprises five interconnected themes, and is supported and sustained by a strong capacity-building programme:

- » New Zealand 2050
(A structurally ageing New Zealand)
- » New Zealand's regions and communities
(A regionally diverse New Zealand)
- » New Zealand's individuals, families and households
(A socially informed New Zealand)
- » Te para one te tū mai nei (Māori and Indigenous Futures)
- » New Zealand's oceanic and global context
(A globally engaged New Zealand)
- » NIDEA Demographic Laboratory
(A statistically numerate New Zealand)

Current research includes the co-leadership of an international project analysing the impacts of immigrant diversity in Europe

(Professor Jacques Poot), a Marsden-funded investigation of state practices of ethnic counting and classification on a global scale (Dr Tahu Kukutai), and two Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment-funded investigations – the first looking at keeping older people active and independent (Professor Peggy Koopman-Boyden); the second looking at the impact of demographic change and migration on New Zealand's regions and communities (Professors Jacques Poot and Natalie Jackson, and Dr Mike Cameron, with Professor Paul Spoonley and colleagues from Massey University).

NIDEA researchers are also focusing on Pacific migration through the Pacific Island-New Zealand Migration Survey (PINZMS), which aims to quantify the benefits of migrating, including the effects on families left behind (Professor John Gibson with Dr Steven Stillman of Motu). Another MBIE-funded project is developing econometric models showing how New Zealand immigrants from 1996 onwards have integrated into the labour force, and using that information to identify pathways that overcome barriers to successful integration (Professor Jacques Poot with Professor Paul Spoonley from Massey).

The NIDEA Demographic Laboratory underpins the Institute's research with advanced analytical and technical support. It aims to develop new analytical methods and techniques to respond to cross-disciplinary research questions and novel circumstances. It also provides workshops for users of demographic data to build knowledge of demographic methods and enhance understanding of the interaction between fertility, mortality, migration, population composition and growth.



School of Arts

The School of Arts provides a home for teaching and research in English literature, Languages, Linguistics, Music, Screen and Media Studies and Theatre Studies. The School's strengths in research and postgraduate studies cluster around four main programme areas.

Introducing our Research

English

www.waikato.ac.nz/go/engl

Our research explores the diversity of writing in English. Current themes include New Zealand literature and cultural history, Renaissance studies, genre studies, travel writing, pedagogy and creative writing. Dr Mark Houlahan, who provides a link with the *Theatre Studies* programme, is a Shakespeare specialist who recently edited *Twelfth Night* for the Internet Shakespeare/Broadview Editions and is working on a book on Shakespeare as storyteller, is now focusing on a collaboration examining an emerging genre – steampunk – which is usually expressed through stories of a neo-Victorian era of airships, clockwork and steam power. Professor Anne McKim has just completed a critical edition of John Macky's *Journey through Scotland* and is now working on 18th century Scottish-Italian cultural exchanges as revealed in travellers' journals. With Dr Moffat, she is collaborating with others on a funded transdisciplinary project to support tertiary teaching

and learning. Dr Kirstine Moffat's *Piano Forte* (Otago) is the culmination of a Marsden-funded project examining the piano in colonial New Zealand culture and society. Dr Sarah Shieff's scholarly edition of *Letters of Frank Sargeson* (Random House) reveals one of New Zealand's best-known authors in a completely new light. She also edits the *Journal of New Zealand Literature*, the only international, peer-reviewed journal devoted to New Zealand literary studies. Dr Tracey Slaughter is completing a novel based on her award-winning short story *Note Left on a Window*, a project for which she received the 2010 Louis Johnson New Writer's Bursary. The English programme also hosts the University of Waikato's annual Writer in Residence. Recent graduate research has covered death scenes in Shakespeare, science and religion in 19th century literature, literary detectives, writing by Māori, trauma narratives, and endings in long-form fiction.

Linguistics and Languages

www.waikato.ac.nz/go/ling

Linguistics and *Applied Linguistics* are two closely related disciplines that involve the analysis of languages and of language-related issues, including language policy and planning and the teaching and learning of second languages. Staff in both disciplines have published widely over the past few years, including two books by Dr Ian Bruce (*Applied Linguistics*) on English for academic purposes, two co-authored books by Dr Diane Johnson (*Applied Linguistics*) on genre-based language teaching, and two collections co-edited by Dr Roger Barnard (*Applied Linguistics*) on language teacher cognition and classroom communities of learning. Dr. Julie Barbour (*General Linguistics*) is undertaking Marsden-funded research on mood systems in the Oceanic Languages of Vanuatu. Dr. Barnard has been involved in a project involving the design of English-based materials for trainee teachers at the University of East Timor using Waikato University's flexible

language acquisition software (FLAX). Dr. Diane Johnson has acted as co-Director of a collaborative research project on the teaching and learning of languages in Asia, North America and Oceania. Dr Ian Bruce has been involved in a range of research projects involving English for academic purposes. General and Applied Linguistics is also currently home to the University's Text and Translation Research Unit.

International Languages staff are researching a breadth of topics. Dr William Jennings (French) has research interests in literary innovation and French colonial history. Dr Norman Franke (German) focuses on culture studies, German romanticism and exile literature while Dr Laura Lopez (Spanish) is an expert in experimental poetry and society, contemporary Spanish and Latin American Literature. Researchers in East Asian Studies are concerned with Japanese socio-linguistics, and social and cultural developments in modern China.



Screen and Media

www.waikato.ac.nz/film

Communication is the most fundamental of all human activities and is an expression of culture and identity in both its manifestation and practice. Our research in screen and media is both critical and creative: we write books, we make television, we build websites, we are involved in policy-making. Our research clusters around the following themes: media and creative industries, media literacy and ethics, digital cultures and storytelling, popular culture and questions of identity, theory and practice of documentary film-making, screenwriting and animation, New Zealand film and television, game studies, and audience research. Investigations reflecting these themes include two Marsden-funded projects, one led by Dr Gareth Schott to study the impact of video games on players to help inform censorship classification, and one led by Dr Craig Hight to study online documentary. Recent publications include Professor Dan Fleming's *Making the*

Transformational Moment in Film (Michael Wiese) and *Media, Masculinities and the Machine* (Continuum Publishing), which explores the modern male fantasy of pushing technology to its limits, and Dr Adrian Athique's *Indian Media: Global Approaches* (Polity Press, Cambridge) and *Digital Media and Society* (Polity Press, Cambridge), which explores topics ranging from social networking and virtual lives to the rise of cybercrime and identity theft. The Screen and Media Studies programme hosts the **Audience Research Unit**, which is led by Dr Hight, and provides a forum for multi-disciplinary qualitative research activities focused on the role and significance of viewers, readers and users in the contemporary mediascape. A culture of practical inquiry is fostered through Mediarena, an on-campus studio that supports the production of experimental documentaries, music videos, digital storytelling and digital installation artworks.

Music

www.waikato.ac.nz/music

Music researchers have brought an international reputation to the University of Waikato in composition, performance, new technology and musicology. Their significant contribution has also been demonstrated by the Tertiary Education Commission's national assessment of research quality and performance that determines funding from the Performance-Based Research Fund.

Research in the Music Programme – is focused on a unique nexus of creativity, performance and advanced technology. Spearheading vocal performance is Dame Malvina Major ONZ, GNZM, DBE, one of New Zealand's most celebrated opera singers.

Working together, performance staff form the New Zealand Chamber Soloists (NZCS), a flexible ensemble renowned for dynamic performances of new music and reinvigorated core repertoire. The NZCS trio consists of Dr Lara Hall, violin, James Tennant, cello and Katherine Austin, piano.

One of New Zealand's leading baritones, David Griffiths is also a composer of vocal music and opera including the recent

Three Franks opera trilogy. Dr Rachael Griffiths-Hughes is a nationally recognised harpsichordist specialising in Baroque music and is also noted as a choral conductor.

Author and composer Associate Professor Ian Whalley has pioneered interactive real-time telematic works across multiple countries using synthesis, intelligent agent technology and traditional instruments. Michael Williams is an instrumental and opera composer whose music features an emphasis on integrating live digital technology. His *Juniper Passion* opera will be premiered in Italy in 2013. Associate Professor Martin Lodge is a writer and composer whose collaborative multimedia work *After Dürer* won the Prize for Most Innovative Work at Il Coreografo Elettronico 2008 in Naples.

The Music programme hosts the **Music Interaction and Innovation Research Unit** working on the intersection of music, new technologies, intermedia and musical traditions to develop innovative software, interactive performance and new works.



School of Psychology

Research in the School of Psychology ranges across all aspects of the discipline including a behavioural analysis (covering both human and animal behaviour and welfare), cognitive and developmental analysis, social analysis (examining individuals in the context of culture and community), and clinical trial work to examine the relationship between behaviour and our physiological systems. The School's research strengths cluster around the following programme and specialist areas.

Introducing our Research

Health

www.waikato.ac.nz/go/psyc

Health is determined by more than your genes and exposure to disease. Socio-economic status, physical and social environment, geography, and social exclusion all have a bearing on health outcomes. Our health research aims to generate a research base to support efforts to maximise the health and well-being of communities, families and individuals, and is also targeted at enhancing workforce development in health and social services.

Research themes include family and community health; health, place and environment; health populations; Māori health and social development; and mental health.

Major research reflecting these themes include a four-year Marsden project on homelessness led by Professor Darrin Hodgetts and Associate Professor Linda Nikora. This research examines how social structures contribute to health

inequalities and its findings are being shared with service providers to enhance support for homeless people.

Dr Nicola Starkey is leading the first longitudinal study in New Zealand of the social and healthcare outcomes for children who have suffered brain injury in a collaborative project funded by the Health Research Council and Lotteries Grants Board.

Other studies have included: psychosocial analyses of sexual offenders; how media and communications contribute to society's understanding of health; how Global Information Systems technology can shed new light on health inequalities and geography; and how medical ethics informs practices around the treatment of health populations, including the intellectually disabled.

Learning, Behaviour and Welfare Research Unit

www.waikato.ac.nz/go/lbwru

The Learning, Behaviour and Welfare Research Unit aims to advance the understanding of human and animal behaviour. It includes application of psychological principles to human behaviour problems and to the improvement of animal welfare. Animal models of human learning have a long tradition in the behavioural sciences, and many of the advances in behavioural therapies, especially with children with severe developmental disability have their basis in laboratory research that was conducted with non-human animals. Some of these research areas are directly relevant to both the experimental analysis of behaviour with animals and humans and to the applied analysis of behaviour with humans, such as research on method of establishing preferences, research on self-control, and on stimulus generalisation.

The research with animals includes the study of animal learning and abilities (including psychophysics), the measurement of animal needs and preferences and has most recently involved domestic hens, brush-tailed possum, horses and domestic dogs.

The research with humans includes studies based in Behaviour Analysis covering both applied behaviour analysis and the experimental analysis of human behaviour. Recent theses include topics such as fluency building and precision teaching, relational responding, classroom interactions, preference measurement, establishing operations, dealing with challenging behaviour, and acceptance and commitment therapy.



Māori and Psychology Research Unit

www.waikato.ac.nz/go/mpru

Under the directorship of Associate Professor Linda Waimarie Nikora, the Māori and Psychology Research Unit (MPRU) aims to provide a catalyst and support network for advancing research which has at its centre the psychological needs, aspirations, and priorities of Māori people. Research themes include community wellbeing, health and heritage, and the unit draws together interdisciplinary research groups around these themes.

Major projects reflecting these themes include the Tangihanga research programme made up of three major studies funded by the Royal Society (Marsden Fund), Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga and the New Zealand Health Research Council to examine contemporary Māori experience of death, from end-of-life

care issues encompassing cultural and spiritual needs, to the process and rituals and how they strengthen whānau (families).

Other projects include examining Māori men's relational health; health and homelessness; how the use of medications intersects with everyday social practices in domestic households; transforming cultural concepts and indigenous psychology; and a recently-completed major study of the history and modern resurgence of ta moko (Māori tattoo) and the psychology of cultural identity. Aligned with the interests of the MPRU are studies into migrant experiences and world views.

Traffic and Road Safety Research Group

www.waikato.ac.nz/go/tars

Founded in 1993, the Traffic and Road Safety (TARS) Research Group has established an international reputation and is an independent provider of quality research for a wide range of public and private organisations, including the New Zealand Automobile Association Driver Education Foundation, Road Safety Trust, New Zealand Transport Agency, the New Zealand Police, the Accident Compensation Corporation, and local and regional road controlling authorities. Research is clustered around four themes: young drivers and driver training, driver behaviour, driver perceptions and attention, and road design.

The TARS group, Associate Professors Robert Isler, Samuel Charlton, John Perrone and Dr Nicola Starkey, have conducted leading-edge research into truck driver fatigue, distractions produced by cell phones, perceptions of risk, eye movement behaviour, safety at intersections, the design of road workers' safety vests, patterns of driving behaviour in New Zealand,

the design of overtaking lanes, the effectiveness of road signs, urban threshold design, and many other topics.

TARS' research outputs have ranged from improvements to specific intersections to development of a nationwide novice driver education and training programme. It has established a state-of-the-art research capability which includes innovative technologies for field study of behaviour as well as the most advanced driving simulator laboratory in New Zealand. These factors have established TARS as New Zealand's pre-eminent centre for road safety research.

A study of the impact of video game violence on young kiwis will help to develop the censorship that guard them.



How should video games be censored?

Research at Waikato University is producing results that will help inform video gaming censorship classification in the future.

Screen and Media Studies senior lecturer Dr Gareth Schott is leading a new genre of international academic research, Game Studies, to examine the impact of video game violence on young New Zealanders in context with the culture of gaming, and the experiences and ideas of the players.

His research is revealing differences in impacts between the “viewed experience” and the “played experience”. For example, gamers can be so intent on their playing strategy that they are oblivious to screen content that may actually cause them to flinch when they watch the game later.

The rules of the game, the nature of the encounters, and the choices available also has an impact on players that is not currently reflected in video game classification systems worldwide, as these are based on film classifications that consider the “viewed experience” only.

“Gaming has all kinds of negative stereotypes associated with it. Yet kids aren’t automatically being duped and brainwashed by games. There are instances where they are actually learning useful creative practices inspired by playing them.”

Dr Schott draws together physiological, psychological and game studies research methodologies to assess the nature of violent content within video games via the experiences and articulations of the young gamers themselves. This pioneering, Marsden-funded research also takes account of the interactive properties of the games, the medium itself, the social dimension of play, and the cultural practices of gaming in order to provide insight on the attraction of video game violence, as well as to help analyse its effects.

Supported by the Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden Fund.

www.waikato.ac.nz/mediarena

A deeper look at the languages of Vanuatu

In English, we use tense to describe events as happening in the past, present or future. With the many languages in Vanuatu, they simply describe events on the basis of whether those events are real or unreal.

Dr Julie Barbour of the Linguistics programme has been awarded a Marsden Grant to complete the world's first large-scale comparative study of "mood systems" in the Vanuatu languages.

With a population of around 200,000, there are more than 100 different languages spoken in Vanuatu, many of which have never been written or described. The study is the first of its type in the world.

For her PhD Dr Barbour examined the Nevever language, recording and documenting its grammatical system. Her new research extends her PhD by looking at one specific element

of that grammatical system – mood marking – and compares Nevever with other Vanuatu languages.

"When I was studying Nevever, one of the things I noticed was the mood system was completely different to the system we use in English."

Mood marking is a term that has been around in typology for the last 30 years or more. "What I'm trying to do is understand how these languages work inside their own systems and not simply translate them into English."

Dr Barbour says that the greatest value in the project is that the data collected can be fed back into the community and she hopes that these languages can be established in the education system so that they don't become eroded over time.

Supported by the Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden Fund.



Real or unreal? These are the terms used to describe events in the languages of Vanuatu.

Netspace: the final frontier...

Waikato University researchers are exploring the musical boundaries of netspace through synchronous interactive performances that will alter our perception of live concert-going and music composition.

For three years a team led by composer Associate Professor Ian Whalley has opened the annual Telemusic Concert at the international MUSICACOUTICA festival in Beijing with works performed live by musicians playing together from sites in at least three different countries simultaneously. The musicians and the Beijing audience have been linked by multiple HD digital video and high quality audio channels over high-speed research internet through the new IPV6 format.

These concerts have delivered a three-phased proof of concept for new music composition and performance in netspace. In the first year, musicians in Canada, China and New Zealand used acoustic instruments and intelligent agent machine applications to perform a Whalley composition *Mittsu no Yugo*. In the second year musicians from Singapore, China

and New Zealand performed another Whalley work, *KishiKaisei* using digital instrument software played through net distributed real-time controllers for the Beijing audience, and streamed live worldwide.

For his latest performance at MUSICACOUSTICA – which also featured musicians in Canada, the United States, China and New Zealand – Ian Whalley composed *Sensai Na Chikai* to showcase a pioneering new musical scoring system for net music. His 'Graphic Network Music Interactive Scoring System' (GNMISS) simultaneously provides a solution for interactive scoring, keeping the players in time, and offering a visual rendition of the work for the audience.

Associate Professor Ian Whalley is also collaborating in a three-year multi-national Australia Research Council-funded project exploring the development of intelligent agent technology to make computers into autonomous interactive music players.

www.waikato.ac.nz/music



IPv6 – the latest international internet protocol – has been used to perform a piece of music in real time from three different countries thousands of kilometres apart.

Although best known for his short stories, Frank Sargeson was also a playwright, acclaimed novelist, memoirist, and wrote over 6,000 letters in his lifetime.

Letters of a literary legend

Hamilton-born Frank Sargeson was considered one of New Zealand's most distinguished short story writers. He was also an avid letter-writer.

A single pencil-written letter by Sargeson to the American short story writer Sherwood Anderson was the only prompt Dr Sarah Shieff needed to start compiling *Letters of Frank Sargeson* (Random House, 2012). "It was one simple fan letter from one writer to another, so touching and personal, and from that, I wanted to read more."

Dr Shieff tracked down about 6,000 Sargeson letters, the majority in Wellington's Alexander Turnbull Library, and set about selecting 500 of them for the book. "That was a publishable size and I selected on the basis of biographical and literary interest, historical interest and general liveliness."

Sargeson wrote letters to friends and lovers, and to prominent and aspiring writers in New Zealand and overseas. They reveal him to be an environmentalist – he made his own compost, and as early as the 1940s objected to the use of chemical fertilisers in farming.

"Frank loved looking after people," says Dr Shieff. "He made his home available to other writers, and gave away most of what he earned to the shabby older men he was so fond of. But he could also be malicious, gossipy and interfering. He really was a character in his own life story."

The Journal of New Zealand Literature

Dr Shieff is also the editor of the internationally-recognised *Journal of New Zealand Literature (JNZL)*, which is New Zealand's only international, fully peer-reviewed journal devoted to New Zealand literary studies. It is published annually, hosts an annual prize for New Zealand literary studies, and carries scholarly essays on all aspects of New Zealand literature and cultural studies.

www.waikato.ac.nz/wfass/ttru

Photo: Frank Sargeson in his garden at 14 Esmonde Rd, Takapuna, mid 1940s. Photo by Frank Hofmann. Courtesy of Stephen Hofmann.

Issues around surrogacy have sparked global debate; should women be paid to conceive, carry and deliver a baby?

New take on a global debate

Waikato University research has introduced a new dimension to the ongoing global debate about surrogate motherhood.

Dr Liezl van Zyl and Dr Ruth Walker have undertaken research on surrogacy or what is now often called, 'contract motherhood'.

Their argument, to be published in the leading journal *Bioethics*, is that surrogate motherhood should be treated as a profession, much like nursing, teaching and social work. As such, surrogate mothers should be adequately compensated, bound by a professional code and protected by government regulation.

Dr van Zyl, a senior lecturer in philosophy, began looking at surrogacy in the 1990s when it was very new. Over 20 years on, the multifaceted issues around surrogacy continue to generate heated debate.

"The focus of my earlier work was on the moral acceptability of surrogate motherhood and the question of who should be considered the 'real' parents of the child," Dr van Zyl says.

"But the debate has moved on. Most countries now allow a form of surrogacy, but there is wide disagreement over the form it should take."

Dr van Zyl said the debate appears trapped between two very different models – that of altruism on one side and commercial surrogacy on the other. She considers there are problems with both models.

She and Dr Walker, an expert in professional ethics, argue that a purely commercial relationship, such as the model practised in India, is often exploitative and could also endanger the child.

They also argue that the altruistic model, in which no payment is involved, undervalues the effort needed to conceive, carry and deliver a baby, and also leaves the surrogate vulnerable to exploitation.

"We propose a third alternative, a professional model, in which contract mothers are motivated by altruism but still receive fair compensation for their labour."

Artificial intelligence on the horizon?

A unique collaboration between researchers from the fields of computer science and philosophy may be taking us one step closer to the notion of artificial intelligence.

Most people are now proficient at using search engines like Google. However, those search engines still only provide internet users with raw information which users must then read and interpret.

Professor Ian Witten and Dr Cathy Legg from Waikato University want to change that. They have received significant support from the Marsden Fund to design and implement an ambitious new model of automated knowledge discovery.

Dr Legg says the research aims to develop ontologies in computer-searchable form by mining online sources such as Wikipedia.

"Rather than merely gathering facts in a pile, our process will model the thinking of human scientists who put forward

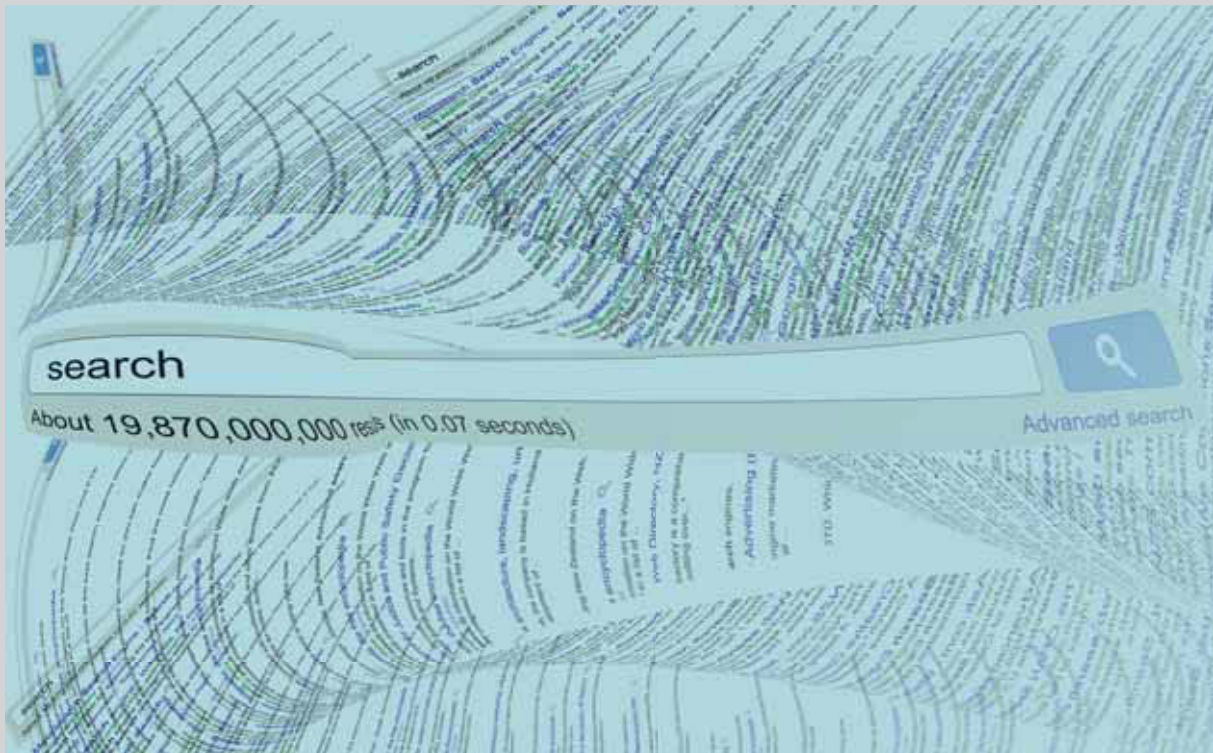
hypotheses and test them before accepting them as fact," Dr Legg says.

"It will allow us to extend the reach of searches across the web so that more knowledge can be integrated. It will make searches far more useful and will provide a much greater degree of quality control. In essence, we are trying to build the world's first self-correcting knowledge base."

The researchers are being assisted by Dr Sam Sarjant who worked with Dr Legg on a project which originally focused on integrating knowledge from Wikipedia and Cyc, a long-running hand-coded ontology project.

"That was a 10-week summer project. Support from the Marsden Fund means we are now able to massively expand the scope of our work and hopefully create a platform that can be very widely used."

Supported by the Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden Fund.



Looking for information on the web can be like looking for a needle in a haystack – particularly if you don't know what you are looking for.



Policy implications currently reside in the hands of 'experts'; sustainable citizenship could see the public have a voice in decision-making.

Sustainable citizenship championed

Waikato University researchers are passionate about a concept of citizenship which enables non-experts to have their say on some of the biggest issues facing humankind.

Associate Professor Priya Kurian from the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences and Associate Professor Debashish Munshi from Waikato Management School have been awarded a prestigious Marsden Grant to research the concept of sustainable citizenship.

Their research is focused on how citizens can have meaningful input into policy decisions, particularly around new and emerging technologies like nanotechnology and synthetic biology.

"These technologies have incredible potential because of the radical change they can bring about and billions of dollars are being spent on them worldwide," Dr Kurian says.

"But really, while experts are steeped in the issue, the public is not very engaged and there is no consensus on how we should be approaching these technologies in a policy sense."

Dr Kurian said such technologies could provoke strong views. Some champion them as a "path to utopia" while others claim their use could lead to a dismal and toxic future. Very often, the public prefer to leave discussion and debate about such technologies 'to the experts', she says.

"Apart from environmental activists, there has been very little debate, certainly in New Zealand.

"But we argue that citizenship must be a holistic concept, taking environmental, cultural and political issues into account. These issues and their policy implications shouldn't just remain in the hands of 'experts'; the public has an important voice that should be listened to."

The Waikato University researchers have now developed and articulated the theoretical concept of sustainable citizenship. That has provided a framework for the empirical research now underway in an international collaboration; research which may one day make it easier for all of us to have our say.

Space, place and sex

Cyber-sex and online dating, mail-order brides, the history of the church in relation to weddings, and sex, romance and beaches. These are just some of the themes that Professors of Geography Lynda Johnston and Robyn Longhurst explore in their latest book *Space, Place and Sex: Geographies of Sexualities*.

"Sexuality affects the way people live in and interact with space and place, and space and place, in turn, affect people's sexuality" says Longhurst. "Hamilton's statues are obvious examples of this. The *Farming Family* statue at the north end of Victoria Street reinforces the familiar image of the heterosexual Pakeha family. *Riff Raff*, at the south end of Victoria Street, offers the public an alternative expression of gender and sexuality."

The two geographers examine the role of place in shaping sexual identity in an accessible way, drawing on queer, feminist, gender, social, and cultural studies.

"Our own bodies, where we live and how we live can all influence our sexuality," says Johnston.

"We wrote the book to unravel some of the diversity and complexity that surrounds and inhabits the embodied experiences of sex and sexuality."

Amongst the New Zealand stories are Mystery Creek Fieldays' Bachelor of the Year, the Middlemarch singles' ball, Air New Zealand's Pink Flight to Sydney Mardi Gras, asexual Gerald, a character from *Shortland Street* and Georgina Beyer, New Zealand's and the world's first openly transsexual mayor.

Each chapter in the book weaves original research and popular culture with critical reviews of existing literature to advance the carefully nuanced argument that space and place matter to sex.

www.waikato.ac.nz/wgrn



In today's world of online dating and mail-order brides, space and place matter to sex.

Mental health and migration

Each year New Zealand and Australia take in tens of thousands of new migrants, many of whom suffer mental health problems as the result of the stress of moving to a new country.

A recent unique international research collaboration between Dr Catharine Coleborne, a mental health historian from the University of Waikato, and Professor Angela McCarthy, a migration historian from the University of Otago, looks to the past for answers.

Their three-year Marsden funded project has focused on records from 19th century migrants in medical and welfare institutions in Australia and New Zealand in order to gain understanding on how migrants are affected by social change through migration.

"We examined the medical records of thousands of past patients and learned of their struggles, finding their intensely personal stories inside the archival records," says Coleborne.

"Many of these immigrants could not speak English and were unable to explain their mental distress to medical authorities and tended to languish inside institutions as a result."

Drawing on records from public and private institutions for the insane in Dunedin, Auckland, and Melbourne between 1860 and 1910, and over 7,000 mental health records, it is the largest scale study of its type to date.

The project will culminate in a book for Coleborne, and joint research outcomes such as monographs, theses, journal articles, chapters, an edited collection, and public presentations.

Dr Coleborne and Professor McCarthy hope that this study will not only enhance the history of medicine, migration and ethnicity, but also contribute to our current understandings of the challenges facing migrants and provide insights to improve our own systems in place for the mentally ill.

Supported by the Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden Fund.

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Looking to the past for answers; what 19th century mental health records of migrants can teach us about our current systems.

For the volunteers who helped clean up the coastline after the Rena disaster in 2011, a sense of community spirit offered a positive experience.

Maritime disaster under spotlight

The grounding of the cargo ship *Rena* off Tauranga in October 2011 and the resulting oil spill has been nothing but a bad news story.

Collaborative research undertaken by the University of Waikato, Bay of Plenty Polytechnic and Bay of Plenty Regional Council has offered a much more positive insight into the maritime disaster.

The research focused on understanding the experiences of volunteers who helped to remove oil from the coastline. It involved an online survey and qualitative interviews of the volunteers as well as interviews with key individuals who were heavily involved in the clean-up effort.

Dr Rebecca Sargisson from Waikato University's School of Psychology says the research has already provided valuable insights into what motivates volunteers. It has already been published in the *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management*.

"All of those involved in the research recognised the *Rena* was a unique opportunity to document and learn about what motivates volunteers," Dr Sargisson says.

She said the team quickly realised that their perspective on the disaster may well have been different to that of other New Zealanders.

"Most people were constantly seeing or reading about the negative impacts of the spill. However, we also saw some positive outcomes," she says.

"For example, it had a major influence on building community spirit. Most volunteers said despite their anger at what had occurred, the experience of volunteering was positive and satisfying."

The research will be used by official agencies to assist with future volunteer planning. "Nobody would ever want anything like the *Rena* to happen again. But we will always need volunteers in times of disaster and this research will help agencies mobilise those volunteers effectively."



"We know that in older years, the more active you are – both physically and mentally – the happier and healthier you are" – Professor Koopman-Boyden

Active ageing a research focus

Within the next quarter of a century, the number of New Zealanders aged over 65 will double. This will create challenges as to how best we can respond to such a profound demographic shift.

A major research project being led by Waikato University's Professor Peggy Koopman-Boyden aims to provide policy makers with the information they need to respond to that change. The project will also help inform society on what it might do to assist older people to age actively so they can continue to be happier and healthier and enjoy a meaningful life.

"We know that in older years, the more active you are – both physically and mentally – the happier and healthier you are," Professor Koopman-Boyden says.

"We also know that older people have a great deal to contribute; but some may need assistance to do so."

The research project – *Making Active Ageing a Reality* – has secured funding from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and is based at Waikato University's

National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis. It will undertake research in three main areas.

"We want to ask older people, 'what is it that makes life meaningful for you?' That may be different for each person but we expect many will talk about friendship and connectedness and contributing socially and economically," Professor Koopman-Boyden says.

"We also want to explore the implications of continuing paid work in older years, and employers' perspective on this."

Thirdly, the researchers will look at how older people can use digital technology to keep them connected to the outside world and to live better.

"Most of us will live to old age," Professor Koopman-Boyden said. "And if everyone can age actively, everyone wins."

Supported by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

www.waikato.ac.nz/nidea

Children focus of head injury research

Research already indicates that the rate of brain injury in New Zealand may be much higher than suspected.

However, at Waikato University work is now underway to identify the impacts of those injuries, particularly on the long-term health and wellbeing of children and young people.

Senior lecturer in psychology, Dr Nicola Starkey, is heading research into what has been dubbed “the invisible epidemic”. Along with colleagues from AUT, Auckland University and the Waikato District Health Board, she has been studying traumatic brain injury.

“Around 24,000 New Zealanders each year suffer from mild brain injury,” Dr Starkey says.

“Unfortunately however, it’s not always taken seriously. Some people say, ‘oh it’s just a concussion’. They’re wrong. It’s not ‘just concussion’. It’s an injury to the brain.”

The research has been funded by the Health Research Council and Lotteries Grants Board and involves the first longitudinal study in New Zealand of children who have suffered brain injury.

It is one of largest studies of its type in the world and is unique as most similar studies focus only on those admitted to hospital. This research focuses on the effects of mild injury and to date, has involved more than 100 children and young people.

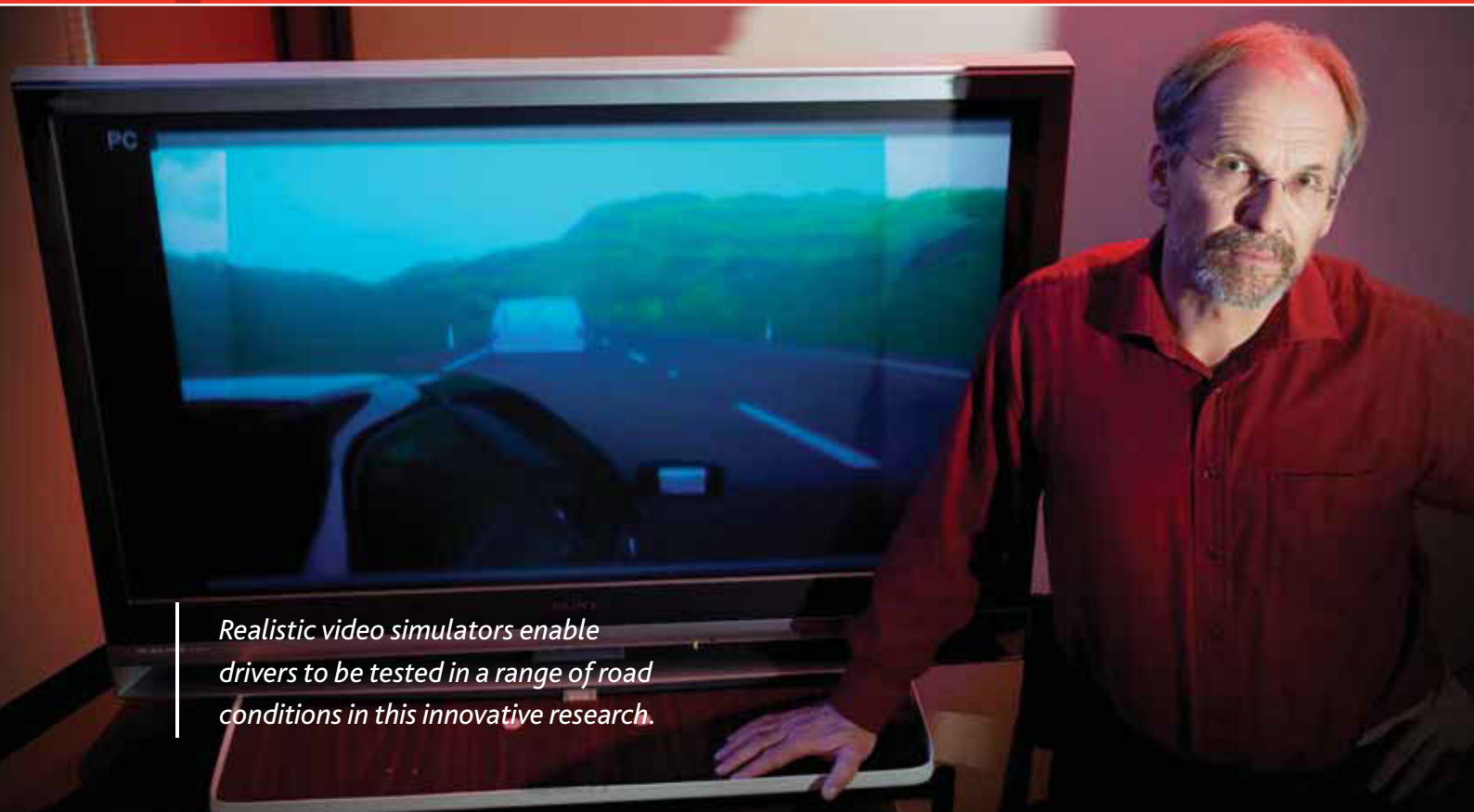
“Studying the long-term impact of a brain injury in children can be quite difficult because we can’t isolate that injury from everything else going on in their lives,” Dr Starkey says. “And of course, brains aren’t fully developed until the age of 25.”

“But there is a lot of evidence already that having a brain injury can alter social functioning and it is the long-term social and healthcare implications that we are particularly interested in.”

Supported by the Health Research Council and Lotteries Grants Board.



A recent psychology study urges us to take head injuries in children more seriously to reduce long-term social and healthcare implications.



Realistic video simulators enable drivers to be tested in a range of road conditions in this innovative research.

Drive to the conditions

Waikato University is leading innovative research which aims to make roads safer.

School of Psychology Associate Professor Robert Isler and Dr Nicola Starkey of the Traffic and Road Safety Research group (TARS) head a project that uses high-definition video to simulate road hazards in a range of conditions.

When complete, researchers will have tested and worked with 96 drivers with vastly different levels of driving experience.

Dr Isler, an acknowledged road safety expert, says the research already indicates that driver age and experience plays a critical role in road safety and crash avoidance.

The laboratory-based research involves the use of extremely realistic video simulators and enables drivers to be tested in a range of road conditions. Future research will focus on eye movements; an area where little research has yet been undertaken.

"Road safety comes down, always, to the drivers. They are what makes a road dangerous," Dr Isler says.

"We know inexperienced drivers are poor at identifying hazards because they often lack good situational awareness. They simply take longer to identify hazards, and longer to react to them.

"We know that the time it takes people to react to hazards is directly related to crashes."

The researchers found that age also plays a role in hazard identification. By the time drivers were 25, age was no longer a risk factor. By then higher-level cognitive functions like impulse control, planning ahead, emotional control and a sense of responsibility were fully developed.

An inability to perceive hazards may also impact on speeding, he says. "Perhaps people are better at choosing the right speed when they can perceive all the hazards and that seems to come with experience."

Dr Isler says the research has a number of practical implications and was likely to inform future road safety policy as well as potentially impact on driver training programmes.

www.waikato.ac.nz/go/tars

Learning, behaviour and welfare

Waikato psychology researchers are working to identify behavioural treatments, and methodologies which may potentially be applied to humans and non-human animals alike.

The team forms the Learning, Behaviour and Welfare Research Unit, part of the School of Psychology at the University of Waikato. Their research aims to understand more about animals' preferences, needs and abilities in order to look at a range of issues, including animal welfare.

Chair of the School of Psychology, Dr Lewis Bizo, says the unit was involved in a range of projects working with animals and humans. Team members were focused on using the application of behavioural principles to help human problems. They included ways to help teach those with developmental disabilities or helping people deal with chronic pain.

"Our work involves asking animals questions, essentially by providing them with choices. We require them to work

for access to different foods or different environments for example," Dr Bizo says.

"There are lots of different ways of asking questions and some of the work we are trying to do is to develop better science around assessing preferences. It's about understanding things that help shape new behaviour or control the choices organisms make, such as motivation, rewards, and schedules of reinforcement."

Researchers have discovered that, just like humans, some animals have idiosyncratic food preferences, which could have significant implications for conservation efforts.

Dr Bizo said while other groups around New Zealand were doing similar work, the University of Waikato unit was the only one focused purely on behavioural research working with both human and non-human animals.

www.waikato.ac.nz/go/lbwru



From assessing animals food preferences to helping people deal with chronic pain, the Learning Behaviour and Welfare Research Unit is working towards behavioural understanding of humans and animals.

With the abundance of negative statistics available for Māori men focusing on illness, a positive focus on wellness could lead the way for good strategy and policy.

Research focuses on wellness, not illness

The importance of supportive relationships and their impact on Māori men will plug a crucial research gap into what keeps Māori men well.

Lead researchers Mohi Rua and Professor Darrin Hodgetts are heading a two-year project that focuses on supportive relationships and positive social interactions. The project has received \$650,000 from Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga – the Auckland-based Centre of Research Excellence that invests in Māori community research.

Mr Rua, who is currently completing his PhD, says most research on Māori men is illness-focused, reflecting the abundance of negative statistics but providing few answers.

“What we don’t see is anything relating to Māori men that suggests they are healthy and well with positive relationships. There is very little about the importance of relationships to maintaining and fostering health and wellness, particularly in the face of adversity.”

Researchers are working very closely with three diverse groups of Māori men; those engaged in traditional practices at home, men who have migrated to an urban centre and homeless men.

“We knew it wasn’t as easy as looking at individual models of personal responsibility; it’s a lot more complex than that,” Mr Rua says. “The different groups also reflect the huge diversity in our Māori world.”

A number of world-class researchers drawn from different fields are involved in the research project.

“In our work, we have all seen some of the disparities between those who are able to fulfil their potential and those who aren’t, and generally those who aren’t are Māori,” Mr Rua says.

“As a result of the research, we hope to develop different ways and strategies of involving Māori men by working with them. Good policy is developed when those who are affected the most have a say.”

Supported by Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga.

www.waikato.ac.nz/go/mpru

Changing our understanding of homelessness

Social scientists at Waikato University are urging New Zealanders to view homelessness as not simply a housing issue, but also as an issue about relationships and our responses to poverty.

An expert in societal psychology, Professor Darrin Hodgetts, is an international leader in his field. In 2008, Professor Hodgetts and his colleagues Associate Professor Dr Linda Nikora and Professor Kerry Chamberlain were awarded \$800,000 from the Marsden Fund to study homelessness in Hamilton and Auckland.

The funding has allowed for specific research into the relationship aspects of homelessness, including people's experiences of it, and reasons for it. It shows that as a society, we have a long way to go in even understanding homelessness.

"Many of the services we provide for the homeless reflect the assumptions of middle-class people rather than the lived realities and motivations of homeless people," Professor Hodgetts says.

"We tend to treat homelessness as a temporary transitional thing but in fact, it's not like that for everyone. A lot of people have been there for a long time."

The work involves researchers working directly with homeless people. The team is also in constant contact with those who provide services to the homeless, working alongside service providers.

"Psychology is an engaged discipline; I'm not interested in 'armchair criticism'," Professor Hodgetts says.

"It's about doing research in partnership with community agencies. Our work involves engaging with people at the coalface who set the agenda, and then supporting them. In turn, we share resources; it's how social science should be done."

Supported by the Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden Fund.



"We tend to treat homelessness as a temporary transitional thing but in fact, it's not like that for everyone. A lot of people have been there for a long time." – Professor Darrin Hodgetts

The Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences works with a broad range of industry, business and government organisations and we are always keen to establish new partnerships.

Want To Know More?

We are happy to come to you and talk in more detail about your needs and opportunities, and how our work could contribute. If you are interested in meeting please contact:

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