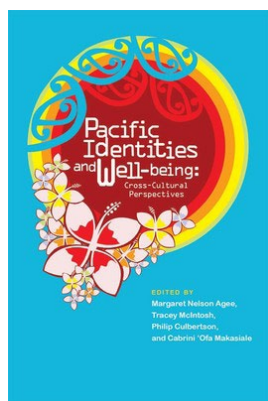


Partnerships

The newsletter of the School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work

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New book on Pacific mental health launched

An exciting new book on Pacific mental health was launched in September. First released by Routledge at the end of 2012 as part of the international Monographs in Mental Health series, *Pacific Identities and Well-being: Cross-cultural Perspectives* (edited by Margaret Nelson Agee, Tracey McIntosh, Philip Culbertson and Cabrini 'Ofa Makasiale) has also been published in soft-cover for local distribution by Otago University Press (OUP).

Rachel Scott, OUP publisher, welcomed a large gathering of contributors, their family members, colleagues and members of the wider Pacific communities to the University of Auckland's Tāmaki Innovation Campus. The celebrations were led by Reverend Mua Strickson-Pua, a contributing author, who had also opened the one day Pacific Research Symposium: *Pacific Identities, Mental Health and Well-being* on the campus in September 2010, from which the vision for the book evolved.

The book is divided into four parts: Identity, Therapeutic Practice, Death and Dying, and Reflexive Practice. The 26 contributing authors include Māori, Pacific and Pālangi practitioners and researchers from four universities including the University of Auckland. Among those from the School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work are Dr Margaret Agee, Dr Philip Culbertson, and Sarah Va'afusuaga McRobie who is completing her Master of Counselling degree and is a member of staff of the University Health and Counselling Service.

Dr Agee, who leads the Faculty of Education's Counsellor Education programme, says the intention was to make a significant contribution to available literature on mental health and identity-related matters specific to Pacific peoples, with a particular focus on culturally appropriate ways of thinking about and approaching the mental health needs of those who are often misunderstood within the dominant culture.

Introducing each section, leading poets Serie Barford, Selina Tusitala Marsh and Tracey Tawhiao give voice to the changing identities and contemporary challenges within their communities.



Reflecting the spirit of the book is a colourful cover design by Aneli Seumanutafa that draws people in.

"We want this book to be widely read and used as a resource, a guide and a source of insight," Dr Agee says.

From left to right: Cabrini 'Ofa Makasiale, Dr Philip Culbertson, Dr Tracey McIntosh, Dr Margaret Agee.

Welcome

This is my last column in this newsletter as Head of School. I welcome Associate Professor Christa Fouché who will be taking up the role and I wish her all the best.

We end the year as many social services will, living within the 'narrative of austerity'. There is a notion that we can somehow do more with less. With this reality in mind my final comment in this column is that advocacy matters. We cannot afford to diminish the significance of data, analysis and advocacy. Practitioners and researchers know the circumstances and experiences of citizens. We know and research the effectiveness of practice and the gaps in resources. Collectively we are all engaged to ensure the next generation of practitioners are well prepared and up for the task. It matters that our capacity for advocacy is sustained and effective.

In this light I would also like to pay tribute to our advisory groups that meet with programme staff. Advisory groups are a critical people from agencies and front line services, keeping us connected to trends and developments occurring in the field and I thank them for the wisdom they bring and the role they play in our School. Recently the Social Work Advisory Group debated the capacity of graduates to work with Māori—including the ability to speak te reo Māori in Kura Kaupapa settings. Recruitment of Māori students into social work degree programmes was also discussed and will be the subject of further kōrero in 2014. Opportunities for research collaborations also featured in dialogue and are expected to be ongoing.

The work and inquiry never stops.

I wish you all a relaxing break in the festive season and look forward to new things to do in 2014.

PHIL HARINGTON

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Mastering Social Work practice

Wednesday 13 November was a significant day for the School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work, as it marked the poroporoaki (farewell ceremony) for the first cohort of the Master of Social Work (Professional) programme. These students started their degrees in February 2012 and have learned a great deal over the past two years as they fulfilled the requirements of the programme and acquired the understanding, knowledge and skills to become critical and reflective social work practitioners. Director of Social Work (Qualifying Programmes) Dr Barbara Staniforth says she has great confidence that all the graduands are well equipped to make a significant contribution to the field and to the people they work alongside.

The Master of Social Work (Professional) has grown over the past year with the first intake being around 15 students and the second intake being closer to 30 students. Students are able to study this degree both full-time or part-time. Applications are being accepted for the next intake, which starts in March 2014. For more information visit: www.education.auckland.ac.nz/msw-professional

Practicum Research Partnerships - the evolving story

There has been excellent progress with the research partnerships that were initiated with various NGOs at the start of this year. The aim of these jointly beneficial projects is to enable social work students to experience and participate in practitioner research opportunities in communities of practice, and for the agencies to engage in research to evaluate, develop and enhance their services.

One example is at Granger Grove (a service of the Anglican Trust for Women and Children – ATWC), where steady progress has been made towards their goal of evaluating the effectiveness of their residential programme.

The first student involved (a third year BSW student) completed her placement in July, leaving behind a thorough literature review as a basis for the next student to continue from. The second student (a first year MSW(Prof) student) was able to collate historic data from client feedback interviews that she then graphed. This will form the basis for the next phase of the project in 2014. The project work runs alongside the student's hands-on experience of client work.

Feedback from students indicates their growing appreciation of how their research will enrich the day-to-day delivery of service. This aligns with one of our research partnerships aims, which is for research in the context of social work practice to be seen as worthwhile, creative and enjoyable work that enhances and develops service to clients.

A Delphi Study of Supervision in Social Work

Last year, four researchers – Assoc. Professor Liz Beddoe (from School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work), Gillian Ruch (England), Synnove Karvinen-Niinikoski (Finland) and Ming Sum Tsui (Hong Kong) – met to discuss the current state of international understanding of supervision in the social work domain. Supervision is a hot topic in social work at present. It is seen as a vital activity for meeting many professional demands including the continuing development of professional skills, the safeguarding of competent and ethical practice, practitioner support and the oversight of casework. A strong research base is necessary to ensure that there is empirical support for supervision as a core practice in social work.

From their initial conversations, the researchers identified the following shared understandings, concerns and gaps in international knowledge:

- Recognition of the centrality of supervision for good practice in social work.
- The need for a global map of social work supervisory practices.
- Acknowledgement of the threats and challenges to supervision associated with economic conditions and new public management practices.
- The paucity of a coherent research agenda, including the lack of attention paid to identifying key areas for research and appropriate research methodologies.

The team are now seeking to access the views of colleagues with experience and interest in supervision research and development in social work and have chosen a modified Delphi survey as the method. If you would like to find out more about the Delphi study visit the project blog managed by Liz Beddoe: <http://socialworksupervisionagenda.wordpress.com/>

Summer Research Scholarships

Summer Research Scholarships give our students valuable experience in research. A productive summer is ahead for the School with eight summer research projects taking place. Project topics, students and supervisors are:

- People's relationships with non-professional helpers (student Ashley Balderston and Dr Barbara Staniforth)
- Identifying how new technology and information systems are influencing the way whanau/families access information and find support (student Alison Wills and Andrew Thompson)
- Community perceptions of child health, wellbeing, safety and protection (student Zoi Triandafilidis and Cherie Appleton)
- Developing an evaluation framework for a 'transition from care to independence' intervention, in partnership with Dingwall Trust (student Jonathan Sampson and Assoc. Professor Christa Fouché)
- Developing leadership and management practice standards for social workers in Aotearoa New Zealand (student John Darroch and Mike Webster).
- Out of hours access to medical care (student Catherine Ruscoe and Assoc. Professor Mike O'Brien)
- Counselling in pre-secondary schools (student Nadia Kennington and Dr Margaret Agee)
- Child well-being in diverse contexts: Refugee background communities living in Aotearoa New Zealand and implications for best practice (student Jade George and Dr Jay Marlowe, Dr Irene de Haan and Dr Allen Bartley)

We look forward to reporting on the finding of these projects in future issues of Partnerships.

Giving children a voice: hearing their side of the story



PhD student Anna Martin says when a child misbehaves parents may react negatively and respond with some form of discipline to correct the child's behaviour. But during the past seven years as a Child, Adolescent and Adult Counsellor she has come to realise there are two sides to every misbehaving story – the parent's and the child's.

As part of her thesis, Anna will research adult and child perceptions of a disciplinary event. She will collect data by interviewing up to 30 children aged 10-11 years old and the disciplining adult within 24-48 hours of the discipline 'event'. The data will then be used to analyse the different, or in some cases similar, perceptions of what occurred and why and consider the potential impact on attunement.

Anna says her research is primarily about gaining further understanding of the discipline process and giving children a voice, which could improve child-parent relationships.

"I have primarily worked in the area of attachment and parent-child relationships and therefore aware that the child's voice often does not get heard in a process that impacts on them significantly."

She says it's important for parents to understand why and how to discipline children as it can affect their development and relationships, even as adults.

"They have as much right to have their voices heard as adults do. They are not just little people you can control, they have feelings and rights and they deserve to have those rights valued."

As a mother of two, Anna knows it can be difficult for parents to understand there could be underlying reasons or issues behind a child misbehaving.

"We want to provide further insight on the discipline process, which may help parents and children feel more attuned and be on the same page. It's about empathetic listening and adults determining why they respond to the discipline event the way they do, therefore understanding their own triggers. The child might have done something inappropriate but awareness of the bigger picture is helpful."

PhD research in action



Shirley-Ann Chinnery is undertaking her PhD and is also a part-time lecturer within the School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work. She explains her research project:

Working Title of Thesis: Attachment State of Mind: In search of 'secure-base' care.

Social work assessment of care quality in applicant foster parents is acknowledged internationally as an important domain to include in care practice evaluations. But use of targeted methods and

tools to support this process have yet to be clearly articulated, implemented and evaluated in the domestic context. Attachment literature demonstrates that differences in the quality of parental care are associated with different manifestations of attachment in children. A growing body of research in the field of foster care highlights variation in care quality as a powerful mediator of attachment revision in the fostered child, irrespective of kin tie. My study intends to explore what attachment knowledge is perceived to be essential to a reliable social work assessment of care quality in applicant non-kin foster parents.

I plan to address this query using a three-phased, exploratory mixed methods sequential research design. Key informant interviews are planned for the first phase of the study where the views of people who have specific experience and knowledge in the field of foster care will be gathered. An online survey is planned for the second phase of the research. The view of social work practitioners who have or have had specific responsibility for assessment of non-kin foster parents is of particular interest to this phase of the study. The final phase of the research will comprise two focus groups of key informants from phase 1 and participants from phase 2. It is hoped that the resultant research work will contribute to the development of a clearly articulated method in support of the assessment of the indices of care quality in applicant non-kin foster parents.

Be part of this research!

An invitation to participate as a key informant in phase 1 of the research will soon be circulated, pending ethics approval of the project. If you have experience in the field of non-kin foster care and are interested in participating, please email Shirley-Ann so that your contact details can be recorded for future reference.

Email: s.chinnery@auckland.ac.nz



New Staff - Jinling Lin

Jinling Lin has joined the School's Practice Learning team. With her vast connections in the social work community, she is a strong addition to the team and will be providing quality practicum experiences for MSW(Prof) and BSW students and their fieldwork educators.

Jinling has a strong relational focus to her work and promotes positive and respectful working relationships. She comes to the University of Auckland with more than 15 years' volunteer and professional experience in social work settings in New Zealand, working in a community health agency, statutory and non-government agencies with a focus on children and

families, as a social worker, team leader, supervisor and practice leader.

Jinling was an Associate Professor in Xian Engineering University with many years teaching experience before migrating to New Zealand. She has completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Supervision and has previously mentored and tutored social work students at the University of Auckland as well as lectured at another tertiary provider.

Jinling is currently undertaking research for her Master of Social Work thesis on the experiences of students from Mainland China in pursuing a social work qualification within New Zealand tertiary institutions.



Update: Head of School

Phil Harington finishes his three-year term as Head of the School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work at the end of the year. The Head of School role is a critically important leadership role in the faculty and University, and the Dean of Education, Professor Graeme Aitken, thanked and acknowledged the contributions that Phil has made.

"Phil has been a powerful advocate for the staff and School in an increasingly constrained environment. Under his leadership the School has not only maintained its growth momentum but it has significantly expanded the two undergraduate programmes [Bachelor of Social Work and Bachelor of Human Services] and postgraduate growth has been impressive including the development of a PhD in Social Work programme.

"Through the heavy demands of the role, Phil has never lost his humanity. He has been a generous academic citizen contributing willingly and effectively to faculty-wide work on top of his School responsibilities."

Associate Professor Christa Fouché has been appointed to the position of Head of School for the School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work. Christa will start her term in this role from January 2014.

Protecting the Public: Enhancing the Profession

Social Workers Registration Board Conference November 2013

Over 200 delegates and presenters gathered at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington on 11–12 November to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the implementation of the Social Workers Registration Act 2003.

Eight staff from the School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work gave presentations at the conference:

- Associate Professors Christa Fouché and Liz Beddoe and Dr Barbara Staniforth reported on their research into public perceptions of social work and social workers in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Dr Barbara Staniforth also presented on a related theme — how the media analysed social work in Aotearoa from 2008 – 2012, and facilitated a panel discussion on social work education asking: 'The student voice: Are we getting it right?'
- Associate Professors Christa Fouché and Liz Beddoe gave an account of their joint research (with Allen Bartley) into how overseas-qualified social workers perceived their professional and cultural transition to New Zealand.
- Associate Professor Liz Beddoe also drew from her extensive research into continuing education with a presentation entitled 'Taking ourselves seriously: Continuing education and the social work profession in Aotearoa New Zealand.'
- Associate Professors Christa Fouché also presented 'Dreaming of gold: Effective mining of practice data to inform practice decisions' built on a research methodology, clinical data mining.
- Members of the practicum team (Cherie Appleton, Matt Rankine and Jenny Hare) explored the team's roles as a gardener – cultivating and nurturing the developing social worker, and as a gatekeeper ensuring best and safe practice.
- Dr Carole Adamson presented 'Can social work sustain its vision for social justice in a regulatory environment?'
- Mike Webster presented 'A vision for social work leadership: Critical conceptual elements.'

If you would like to contact any of these staff for information on their presentations, visit www.education.auckland.ac.nz/chsswk for contact details.



Early Career Excellence in Teaching

Congratulations to Dr Jay Marlowe, Senior lecturer in the School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work, who is the recipient of a 2013 University of Auckland Teaching Excellence Award for Early Career Excellence in Teaching.

The University of Auckland Teaching Excellence Awards recognise, encourage and reward excellence in teaching. The Dean of Education stated when congratulating Jay on this significant achievement, "It is thoroughly deserved recognition of Jay's ability to engage students in research-informed teaching, and for his hard work and commitment to increasing student interest and success."

"It is a great honour to receive this award and it is a recognition of the collegial relationships and synergies that exist within our School," Jay says. "It is also a credit to the passion that our students have as future human service and social work professionals. These relationships have been instrumental in my development as a lecturer and I would like to thank all of those who have contributed."

Jay's Teaching Excellence Award will be formally recognised at next year's Graduation Ceremony in May.

Thank you!

A big thank you to the following people, agencies and teams who provided stimulating field placement experiences to our social work students on practicum in Semester Two 2013.

- At Heart – Filipa Chipper
- ADHB Starship Children's Health – Jacqueline Cherewyk, Andrew Thompson, Sarah Lewis, Karen Barnett, Robyn Beauchamp and teams
- Refugee Services Manukau – Eliza Bailey and teams
- Equip – Anne-Marie Burton, Sue Erby and teams
- Eastern Women's Refuge – Hono and teams
- NZ Ethnic Social Services Trust – Nargiss Nassery and Glenda Ryan
- The Parenting Place – Caroline Jones
- CMBD Middlemore hospital – Jackie Chadwick
- Te Ruruha o Mere – Tracey Davies and teams
- The Salvation Army Manukau – Sue Iripa, Estiban Espinoza and team
- Youth Horizons Trust – Kylie Matthews and teams
- Family Start (ATWC) Otahuhu – Kawkeb Sadik and teams
- Marinoto (WDHB) – Phil Brooks and team
- Department of Corrections Women's Prison Wiri – Catherine Russell
- ADHB Kari Centre – Penelope Arthur and team
- A Girl Called HOPE – Makerita Siaoosi and team
- NZ Police: Genesis – Panmure: Mike Veukiso and team, Mangere: Jack Scanlan and team
- Pacific Islands Safety and Prevention Project – Osaiasi Kupu (Ozzie) and team
- Granger Grove (ATWC) – Katrina Berntsen and team
- Barnardos Royal Oak – Preetika Anshumala and team
- ADHB Allied Health – Tivinia Ngauamo and team
- Child, Youth and Family, Korowai Manaaki Auckland Youth Justice Residence – Marilyn Lockwood, Betty Otini and teams
- Child, Youth and Family Grey Lynn – Allie Edmonds and team, Victoria Musatova, Cecil Santacruz and team
- Child, Youth and Family Panmure – Rebecca Dale and team, Vivian Jang and team, Jeni Smith and team
- Shine, safer homes in New Zealand every day – Deanne Littlejohn
- Child, Youth and Family Onehunga – Lima Taungahihifo and team, Gloriann Scerri and team
- Child, Youth and Family Otara – Amatanga Ioane and the YJ & C&P teams
- Child, Youth and Family Masterton – Cecil Ramon and team
- Child, Youth and Family Clendon – Davinia Dumlao, Tekau-Marua Ashby and teams
- Youthlink Trust – Kelly Manning and teams
- Faleola (CMDHB) – Bronwyn Laupa, Clerk Petero and teams
- CMBD Whirinaki Child and Adolescent Mental Health – Kaberi Rajendra and team
- NZ Chinese Youth Trust – Mario Tang
- Asian Family Services Problem Gambling Foundation – Gus Lim and Teams
- ICANZ Overseas Adoptions Services – Wendy Hawke
- Youth Development Trust – Jolene Cartwright
- Hospice Waikato – Nancy James
- ADHB Allied Health – Jennifer Collins, Brenda Dwyer and teams
- Family Start Henderson – Colin Birch
- Taonga Education Centre – Rhoda Tautari
- Edge Life Skills MYND – Lipi Lafaiki and teams
- Vision West – John Tuamoheloa and Vivian Anson
- Youth Horizons Trust – Reona Jarvis
- Lifewise – Rochelle Allport
- Idea Services – Polo Aguirre
- Roskill South Oasis – Bronwyn Guptill
- Glenn Innes Family Centre – Kathleen Nelson
- Father and Child Trust Services – Brendon Smith
- ADHB Lotofale – Sioli Vaiangina and colleagues

Celebrating together



Every year the Practicum Learning Team holds a celebration morning tea to honour and reflect on all the student placement opportunities given to Year Three and Four Bachelor of Social Work and Year One and Two Master of Social Work (Professional) students.

Over one hundred students, staff, fieldwork supervisors and educators attended this year's celebration on 13 November. It is the School's opportunity (and absolute pleasure) to show appreciation to the fieldwork supervisors for all their support, coaching and modelling of the students on behalf of the School.

Programme leaders talked about the great progress and achievements students have derived from their practicum placements and students presented their fieldwork supervisors with certificates of appreciation. The highlight was when each student introduced their supervisor in front of the group and spoke about their experiences and learning. Supervisors also talked proudly about their students and the contributions and achievement they had made, with many saying they saw it not only as a learning journey for the students but also for themselves. They also expressed their commitment and passion to continue supporting the School and students on placement. Students whose supervisors were unable to attend the celebration also shared their experiences with the audience and spoke highly of their supervisors and learning from the agency.

Being able to come together and celebrate is a real joy. We thank you all for the part you play in growing the next generation of social workers.

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