

University of Auckland – School of  
Psychology

# Māori and Pacific Psychology Committee

Annual Report 2015

MPPC

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## Annual Report 2015

Shiloh Groot & Jade Le Grice



School of Psychology, University of Auckland, PB 92019, Auckland 1142

Email: [s.groot@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:s.groot@auckland.ac.nz) or [j.legrice@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:j.legrice@auckland.ac.nz) ph: 09 3737599

## Mission Statement

The Māori and Pacific Psychology Committee (MPPC) has developed to provide the impetus and support network for enhancing research, teaching and practice which has at its core the psychological needs, aspirations, and priorities of Māori and Pacific peoples. Through networking and establishing collaborative relationships with academic and professional staff and students within the School of Psychology, Faculty of Science as well as the wider University, and the broader community, MPPC aims to build researcher and practitioner capacity, interest amongst students and an emerging reputation for scholarly excellence.

A central role played by the MPPC is in providing invaluable practical experience to both Māori, Pacific and allied students through involvement in Māori and Pacific focussed research, planning and management, as well as professional development activities. The MPPC acknowledges the unique position of Maori as tangata whenua and is committed to supporting the development Pacific initiatives within the School of Psychology. This responds to all New Zealand universities' obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi, as well as the Code of Ethics for New Zealand Psychologists, with the aim of producing a capable and strong Māori workforce through the production of further peer reviewed publications, cutting edge research, culturally competent practitioners, and unparalleled mentorship.

Alongside this, MPPC strives to ensure that research conducted with Maori and Pacific communities within the School of Psychology is responsive to current ethical guidelines. To this effect, an advisory service is provided to researchers on culturally appropriate research methods and ethical standards to maintain when working with Māori and Pacific peoples, this is firmly grounded in the principles espoused by the Treaty of Waitangi. MPPC also provides a networking function with other Māori and Pacific researchers and professionals, and Centres within New Zealand that enrich Indigenous knowledge and praxis.

## MPPC Goals

- To serve as a scholarly resource to support Māori and Pacific focussed research projects and to promote new research initiatives among staff, undergraduate and graduate psychology students
- To facilitate the professional development of Māori and Pacific researchers and practitioners by continuing to develop future leaders in Māori and Pacific focussed research and practice, building networks with Maori and Pacific researchers, and advocating for Maori and Pacific professional and academic staff positions
- To provide a foundation for the teaching of psychology by enhancing availability and access to Māori and Pacific focussed research and content
- Identifying and facilitating the use of culturally appropriate teaching practices and assessment within the School of Psychology, for Māori and Pacific students
- To support the development of culturally competent graduates, researchers and practitioners
- To promote the use of te reo, tikanga and mātauranga Māori, and Pacific languages and knowledges among staff within the School of Psychology
- To support the Tuākana programme to deliver learning and career support, and pastoral care to Māori and Pacific students
- To facilitate internal and external lectures and research seminars to support the development of new projects, and to disseminate and promote the work of scholars in the MPPC
- To encourage collaborative research in Māori focussed projects across disciplines, and meaningful consultation with Pacific colleagues in Pacific focussed projects
- To advocate equity of outcome for Māori and Pacific within the School of Psychology, at a student, staff, and societal level, including developing retention strategies for Maori and Pacific students

## MPPC Staff & Associated Groups

### Māori and Pacific Psychology Committee Members

Shiloh Groot, Jade Le Grice (*co-chairs*), Elaine Ballard, Virginia Braun, Michelle Burstall, Sue Cowie, Andrea Mead, Fred Seymour, Atua Parkinson/Sonia Pope, Michael Steedman.

Thank you to all members for your service on the MPPC this year, your input is valued and much appreciated.

Key groups within the School of Psychology and Faculty of Science that MPPC co-ordinate with are:

### Tuākana

Tuākana is a University-wide mentoring and tutoring programme for Māori and Pacific students. Each Faculty has their own Tuakana staff and meeting spaces and develop their own programme to enhance the local teaching and learning environment. The School of Psychology Tuākana Programme provides tutoring and mentoring for Māori and Pacific students to facilitate achievable outcomes via tutorials, workshops, study groups and sessions with tutors and mentors. Through such mentoring initiatives students become more connected to the School and are able to proactively engage in the University experience. The Tuākana programme is evaluated annually by students who enrol in the Tuākana tutorial streams (at Stage 1 and 2) and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The School of Psychology Tuakana programme is also connected to and monitored by the Faculty of Science in liaison with Michael Steedman (Kaiarahi, FoS) and alongside this reports to the TEC.

Hineatua Parkinson and Sonia Pope (*Tuākana co-ordinators*): this position requires co-ordinators to maintain communication among students and staff. Specifically, core responsibilities include notifying staff and students about MPPRG meetings, distributing information about scholarships, employment opportunities, and upcoming conferences or seminars. The co-ordinators also source appropriate people to assist Māori and Pacific students with their studies where possible. Co-ordinators are expected to produce an annual report with input from the co-chairs of MPPC and must regularly attend MPPC meetings. MPPC co-chairs support the Tuakana co-ordinators in embedding the Tuakana programme within the School of Psychology.

## Māori and Pacific Psychology Research Group (MPPRG)

In 2008 the Māori & Pacific Psychology Research Group (MPPRG) was established in the School of Psychology at the University of Auckland. An important role played by the MPPRG is in providing invaluable practical experience to Māori and Pacific students (primarily), through involvement in Indigenous focussed research, planning and management, as well as professional development activities.

MPPRG was set up to provide leadership, inspiration and support to Māori and Pacific students conducting research in psychology. This group engages in informal research progress meetings and presentations by guest speakers from psychology and a variety of related disciplines. Members are primarily of Māori and/or Pacific descent or are completing research on Māori or Pacific issues. The support and skill development attained from being a part of the group is crucial and highly valued by students.

The group is co-ordinated by a postgraduate student who maintains communication among student and staff group members. They are responsible for scheduling and organising one hour fortnightly meetings during the semester, sending meeting reminders as well as further useful information about scholarships, employment opportunities, upcoming conferences/ or other support with their studies. The fortnightly meetings can include informal group meetings to discuss goal setting, new research, disseminate findings, and discuss any challenges encountered in their research. The aim of these sessions is to create an inclusive and dynamic space in which students can motivate and support each other through the research process. In addition, the MPPRG co-ordinator is responsible for inviting Māori and Pacific academics and leaders from various fields to talk with the group about their own research, and offer advice during discussion time. This also requires appropriate manaakitanga to support the visitor to book flights, organise taxis, and meet them at a place of convenience.

Dr Jade Le Grice, Dr Shiloh Groot, and Associate Professor Virginia Braun provide the academic research mentorship to this group.

## Māori and Pacific Governance Group (FoS)

# 2015 Summary Report

## **MPPC projects/ongoing tasks:**

The summary below provides a brief overview of the various projects and ongoing tasks of the committee. These items will be fully reviewed at the first meeting of 2016, under strategic planning for the year (prioritization of ongoing/new tasks for the MPPC).

### 1. Curriculum (planning & development)

#### a. Stage one teaching and retention

As part of the review of the undergraduate curriculum in conjunction with the School review the retention of Māori and Pacific students, particularly at Level 1, continues to be a source of concern. This year, out of 206 Māori and Pacific students in PSYCH 109 a total of 100, or 48.5%, did not pass. In PSYCH 108, out of 222 Māori and Pacific students a total of 99, or 44.6% did not pass.

In addition to considering curriculum development, the MPPC has considered and debated interconnected areas of influence through the Tuakana programme support structures for stage one students, Science and Arts entry criteria, and relevant preparation for stage one through High School students' NCEA subject choices. MPPC members who are involved in stage one teaching discussed this at the stage one teaching team review meeting in December.

The university receives twice/1.5 the FTE for Māori and Pacific students (at first year and PhD), as such, there needs to be greater recognition for getting these students through. There is scope for growing the culture and psychology component of PSYCH 108 from two to four hours which would provide increased insight into the significance of the area, particularly for cultural competency in clinical psychology. Likewise, future editions of the Auckland textbook are likely to offer a full chapter on Māori and Indigenous psychologies (Erana Cooper and Shiloh Groot co-authored the current textbook Chapter section). Jade taught two hours this year while on a temporary contract, in 2016 a further two hours of a Pacific guest lecture will be incorporated. This will need to be discussed with Michael Hautus (Academic Committee chair) and Will Hayward (HoS) in January/February 2016. Discussion among the PSYCH 108 teaching team will also need to be held about how to tie this in together so students can see connections across the whole course.



- i. Shiloh and Jade are currently doing this with their stage two and three material
- ii. There is a need for greater collaboration with Speech Science teaching staff who have noted a lack of Māori and Pacific staff and subsequently a decline in interest by Māori and Pacific students

b. Revise dormant status PSYCH 318: Culture & Psychology

A limited capacity to coordinate and deliver cultural content across all levels in psychology has been identified in previous School reviews (including Department Of Psychology Survey Of Māori Psychology Teaching/Research Practice, 2009) and this year. It is a significant concern that has been raised by staff and students, particularly within the professional programmes.

Currently, Māori Studies 130 is offered as a recommended course for psychology students and is compulsory for those applying to the clinical programme. Two new Lecturer appointments in Māori Psychology (Jade Le Grice and Margaret Dudley), alongside continuing Māori academic staff (Shiloh Groot), present the opportunity to better localise mātauranga Māori within the School. This is crucial as dependence on outsourcing cultural learning has proven to be inefficient as Māori studies 130 sits outside of the School of Psychology and, as such, its application to psychology is not fully realised or integrated. Particularly since most students are unaware that the paper is compulsory when applying to some professional programmes and it does not necessarily affect their application if they have not sat it.

To address these omissions, there is the potential to revise the dormant status of PSYC 318: Culture & Psychology. Discussions with Will Hayward (HoS) would signal some support for this initiative, this will need to be further developed in 2016 in light of calendar adjustments. Māori studies 130 would still be encouraged alongside this and eventually PSYCH 318 could be set as a pre-requisite for clinical professional programmes.

c. Māori/Pacific staff – Building capacity:

- i. Replacement of Erana Cooper with 2-year fixed term Māori Psychology lecturer Jade le Grice (and from January 2016, Margaret Dudley in a permanent clinical lectureship) provides increased visibility and support to students, but the fixed-term nature of Jade's appointment means the benefit of this long-term is not certain.

ii. Auckland has the largest Polynesian population in the world, and the University of Auckland comprises the largest Polynesian student body in the country, there is great potential to grow the number of Māori and Pacific achievers in Psychology overall, both at undergraduate and particularly at postgraduate levels. The School currently has a higher intake of Pacific students than Māori in stage one, but Pacific students' numbers decline rapidly after stage one and Pacific students under-perform in comparison to Māori.

The Committee will advocate for a Pacific lectureship, with a clear argument and vision for the role, to be made to the School & Faculty in early 2016, and for this to be prioritised in discussions related to developing a hiring policy.

## 2. Tuākana Programme: (please see 2015 summary report, attached to email)

The Tuākana programme continues as a strength within the School, providing support for Māori and Pacific students across multiple levels. However, budget cuts to the Tuākana programme have notably restrained co-ordinators ability to meet student needs. The retention of Māori and Pacific students, particularly at Level 1 and at Post-Graduate level, continues to be a source of concern.

Two new Lecturer appointments in Māori Psychology will offer greater support and presence for Māori students, but this will take time and needs to be well integrated. One of Jade's key activities includes liaising with Tuākana co-ordinators to offer structured support within the School of Psychology. The fixed-term nature of Jade's lectureship leaves any developments or carry-over in this area uncertain in the future. There is still a need for a similar equivalent in Pacific psychology.

Tuākana co-ordinators need to be attending MPPC meetings regularly.

The Tuakana programme celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, members of the School of Psychology, Tuakana, and MPPC attended in support:



**Figure 1: School of Psychology Tuākana staff presenting at the 25<sup>th</sup> Tuākana Anniversary Celebration**

The School of Psychology Tuākana co-ordinators and Tuākana represented their work in a recent forum of their Faculty of Science peers at a Tuākana in Science symposium, as part of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration (see Figure 1). Their presentation illustrated our longstanding tradition of innovation, creativity and determination.

### 3. MPPRG

MPPRG had a promising start in the first semester of 2016 with well attended meetings, and a contingent of students and staff attending ‘Te Waka Rangahau Hinengaro,’ a research symposium hosted at Auckland Massey University in July 2015. However, MPPRG faced challenges in the second semester of 2016 as a consequence of parallel changes in leadership in both Tuākana and MPPRG co-ordinator roles. This gap in postgraduate support has to some extent been supplemented by a regular Māori and Pacific Psychology Supervision Clinic co-ordinated by Jade Le Grice (and Shiloh Groot in the second semester). This has highlighted the importance of consistency in leadership to provide strong direction and organisation to the group. Further, the lack of any academic Pacific staffing remains a gap compared to our student numbers wanting to participate in such initiatives.

### 4. Student support – summer scholarships

In 2010 a full bibliography of research from across the social sciences pertaining to Māori was published at the School of Psychology. This was a summer internship consisting of members of MPPRG, the Tuākana programme and Māori and non-Maori academic staff. This is a significant resource that is publicly available and provides students and staff with a comprehensive overview of key research in the area: <http://hdl.handle.net/2292/15921>

The New Zealand Psychological Society's National Standing Committee on Bicultural Issues, a key psychological organisation, approached Jade Le Grice in her capacity as the current Maori academic psychologist for an updated version of 'He Kohikohinga Rangahau: A Bibliography of Māori and Psychology Research' and the development of a Pacific companion. In response, this year Jade and Shiloh offered two summer projects for a Māori and Pacific student through the FoS scholarship programme, and both positions were filled.

The first project will update 'He Kohikohinga Rangahau: A bibliography of Māori and Psychology Research'. This involves seeking out new and innovative scholarship in Māori psychology research through networking and liaising with key contacts in the field of psychology, familiarisation with key literature through systematic searches, thematically sorting through texts, and compiling them into a final document for publication.

The second project will develop a Pacific companion piece to 'He Kohikohinga Rangahau: A bibliography of Māori and Psychology Research'. Funds will be sought to provide a cultural advisor, Sam Manuela (PhD candidate), in the development of the Pacific companion piece. This is in response to the urgent need to resource and support the development of a Pacific psychology within the School, as well as beyond.

#### 5. Ethics and Māori/Pacific research in the School of Psychology (resource development)

Jade Le Grice has begun developing a webpage on 'Māori and Pacific research ethics within the School of Psychology' as part of the School of Psychology website to support non-Māori staff and postgraduate researchers who wish to include Māori and Pacific people as part of their research, and do so in a way that treats all those involved respectfully. This will be discussed with the MPPC before going live for the new 2016 postgraduate student intake. Shiloh and Elaine will write a collaborative vignette outlining experiences of doing research with Māori. This will include research procedural safeguards in developing relationships and maintaining protocols that extend beyond research endeavours.

Michael Steedman is collating a series of best practice examples and sourcing other examples in health research papers as well as developing a more systematic process within the Faculty of Science. This includes assisting researchers with professional development, vision mātauranga Māori and creating an awareness of iwi priorities.

Resources and links to guidelines for research with Pacific communities will also be provided in consultation with colleagues.

To discuss in 2016:

- Powhiri for Margaret Dudley, the date is currently set for the 16<sup>th</sup> of February, 10-1pm, Waipapa marae
- Strategic plan/prioritization of tasks to focus on for the year
- Committee membership (reviewed annually)
- Confirm meeting dates (time/day) for the year

Shiloh and Jade to contact committee members in January regarding a first meeting date for 2016.