

NZPSA

***Te Kāhui Tātai Tōrangapū
o Aotearoa***

newsletter

Summer 2024

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Message from the President He karere nā Te Tumuaki



Jeremy Moses

Kia ora colleagues,

Over recent weeks the NZPSA | TKTTToA Exec has been discussing a range of big issues that we want to tackle over the coming year, including rejuvenating the website, thinking about the future of the conference, and getting the networks functioning more effectively.

As you already know, we've been considering the future of the conference and have opened up an [online form for feedback](#). So far we are seeing support for a biennial NZPSA conference with network workshops in the alternating years. If you like this idea or have other ideas you want us to consider, please submit your thoughts in the coming week (the feedback form closes April 1st). We'll then be

sending out a link so people can vote on the preferred options.

Those of you who were at the AGM will know that there will not be another full NZPSA | TKTTToA conference this year (the next will be at Otago in late 2025), but we would like to experiment with network workshops at around the time the conference would usually be held (late November). As this is also the year in which NZPSA | TKTTToA usually allocates biennial grants to the networks, we are now in the process of thinking through how to make this work this year. I will be contacting the coordinators of the networks over the coming week to see which ones would like to put on workshops later in the year. If any networks have been inactive or are considering merging with other networks, now would be an excellent time to renew conversations with your colleagues about the future. More information about the biennial grants will follow in the coming months.

Finally, we are interested in hearing from you regarding our membership with the International Political Studies Association (IPSA). This membership is a big expense each year and finances are tight due to the drop off in membership during the covid years, so we want to be sure that the money we spend is producing benefits. We plan to take discussion on this to the AGM at the end of the year, but if anyone has feedback on benefits they receive from the IPSA membership or its benefit to NZPSA | TKTTToA as a whole, please do get in touch to pass on your views.

Thanks again for [maintaining your membership](#) in NZPSA | TKTTToA, and please keep reminding your colleagues to do the same!

Nga mihi,
Jeremy

2023/4 NZPSA | TKTTToA Annual Conference Report

Ko tā NZPSA | TKTTToA pūrongo mō Te Hui Taumata 2023/4

Waiapapa Taumata Rau | University of Auckland hosted the Association's Annual Conference on 15-17 February 2024. Those February dates emerged as a response to a conflict with the Australian Political Studies Conference, held in Sydney 27-30 November 2023. Moreover, holding the conference in the middle of summer ensured that delegates (90 or so in number) enjoyed good weather.

The sunny skies buoyed the delegates as we enjoyed the camaraderie of returning to an in-person event.

After a mihi by Professor Greg Booth, Professor Maria Bargh of Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington, opened the conference with the second-ever presidential address. The Association hopes that a presidential address will become an annual highlight in our Political Studies calendar, with the president of the Association and their nominee giving the address in alternate years. Maria augmented that developing kaupapa with a lecture that exemplified storytelling as method, helping delegates situate themselves and our gathering against the past and current histories of Waipapa Taumata Rau and Tāmaki Makaurau.



Delegates then moved to Old Government House where the Journal of Political Science hosted a generous reception at which the Association awarded three prizes. The 2023 Undergraduate Essay Prize in Māori Politics went to Mylia Kerehi-Ewington (Te Whare Wānanga o Otago | University of Otago) for an essay on The Future of Aotearoa's Failing Democracy: Insights from Māori Consensus Politics. The 2023 Undergraduate Essay Prize for Aotearoa New Zealand Politics went to April Vanner (Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington) for an essay on the Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Harm Minimisation) Amendment Bill. And the 2023 New Zealand Politics Postgraduate Conference Paper Prize went to Will Dreyer (Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington) for a paper on the Viscosity potential of legislative scrutiny in New Zealand subject select committees 1996-2020. We also marked the passing of J.G.A Pocock OZNM, one of Aotearoa's most lauded political studies scholars.

Concurrent panels started the next morning. Then, after lunch, Professor Joanne Wallis, of the University of Adelaide, delivered the keynote lecture. Speaking to the conference theme 'The Rising Pacific', Professor Wallis spoke about the importance of bringing Pacific research into the centre of the international relations literature, including both Pacific subjects and researchers. Later that afternoon, delegates enjoyed a reception hosted by the American Consulate before proceeding to the conference dinner.

When the conference concluded on 17 February, panel presentations had ranged across the broad field of political studies with a good mix of postgraduate students and faculty academics. The conference team would like to thank those organisations that supported the conference, including funding from the School of Social Sciences towards Professor Wallis' visit, and the Faculty of Arts which provided some administrative support. Those sponsorships, alongside the cost-effective engagement with a local sustainable group, Conscious Eats, helped the conference turn a small profit for the Association. Therefore, with a sigh of relief, the University of Auckland gladly passes the conference-hosting-baton to the Te Whare Wānanga o Ōtākou | University of Otago.

Associate Professor Stephen Winter

Waipapa Taumata Rau | University of Auckland

News from the Networks

He kawepūrongo nā Ngā Hononga

Aoteaora New Zealand Politics and Local Government Network

At the Conference **Aoteaora Politics Network** meeting we agreed that it would be good to expand the description of the Aoteaora Politics Network to more clearly signal that we are open to scholars and teachers of NZ politics across a wide range of topics and methods, including (but not limited to): Māori politics, Pacific politics, central government, local government and public policy (comparative and domestic). As part of these changes, the **Local Government Network** will close and its members will be incorporated into the APN.

At the network meeting we also agreed to start the monthly online seminar series again. The seminar series is an open format - presenters are welcome to present new research, propose a roundtable, or identify a topic deserving of discussion as a network (e.g. the seminar we ran last year on how to talk to media in the lead up to the election).

If you are interested in presenting or hosting a seminar, please let us know your topic and preferred date/month. Postgraduate students are extremely welcome, both as network members and presenters in the seminar series (this is a great opportunity to test out new work in front of a friendly and supportive audience!).

If you know someone who might want to be a part of the network, especially with this expanded brief, please invite them to get in touch with us. If you have other ideas or suggestions for the network, please let us know. We welcome new ideas!

Civics, Citizenship & Political Literacy Working Group

In October 2023 Bronwyn Hayward indicated her intention to step down as the **Civics, Citizenship & Political Literacy Working Group** chair. We are delighted that Dr Helena Cook, political scientist and expert in identity politics and Pacific youth issue working in Education at the University of Canterbury, has agreed to be nominated as incoming chair, confirmed at the Working Group Network meeting at the Annual Conference. Many thanks to Bronwyn for driving the Civics, Citizenship & Political Literacy Working Group over the years.

International Relations Network

At the Conference, it was agreed that Matt Castle would take over as full Convenor of the **International Relations** Network from Jeremy Moses (the role was previously split between them). Thanks to Jeremy for his work!

Women Talking Politics and Women's Caucus

NZPSA women are invited to a joint meeting of **Women Talking Politics** and the **Women's Caucus**. This meeting will be held in the week of the 15th to the 19th of April online. We would like to appoint a new board for WTP and also discuss the role of the women's caucus and the women's officer and see who would like to be involved in activities over the next year. We anticipate most of these will take place online. We'd particularly love to hear from post-graduate students who love talking politics! Please [fill out this poll](#) to indicate your preferred times.

Best,

Shirin (NZPSA | TKTTToA Women's Officer)

On behalf of the Women's Caucus and Women Talking Politics

Items of Interest Ngā pitopito kōrero o te wā

Future Conference consultation

Following discussion at the AGM, the NZPSA | TKTTToA Executive are now calling for your views on the future of the Annual Conference so we can narrow down the options and offer you a final say in the coming months. If you have thoughts on this, [please fill out this online form](#), where you will also find a link to an updated version of the discussion document on this matter that was prepared for the recent AGM.

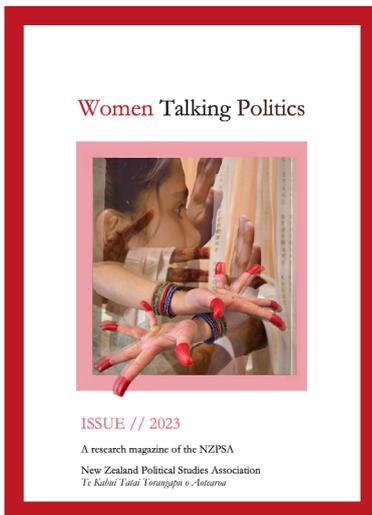
Women Talking Politics

The [2023 Issue of Women Talking Politics](#) is out now.

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā karangatanga maha, tēnā koutou katoa.

Welcome to the latest edition of Women Talking Politics, where we continue to push boundaries and amplify voices at the forefront of feminist discourse. This is in a context where women continue to be affected disproportionately in terms of abuse, war violence and the effects of climate change and yet struggle to have a seat at the decision-making table. Nowhere is this more obvious than in Gaza where the death toll has now past 27,000 and two million people are facing starvation, continuous bombing, and a lack of political will for an immediate ceasefire. In this

issue, we've curated a dynamic collection of articles, poems, and perspectives that delve deep into the intersection of feminism, climate change and human rights.



Our commitment to inclusivity shines through as we feature a diverse array of voices from various disciplines, each offering unique insights into the complexities of gender dynamics. From exploring the nuances of race, culture, and class to confronting issues of violence and sexuality, our contributors fearlessly tackle pressing issues facing women today. By actively working to address these issues, we can create a more equitable and inclusive society where the contributions of women and gender scholars and activists are valued and celebrated. In a world reshaped by the pandemic, we've embraced remote collaboration, innovation, transcending geographical barriers to bring you this journal from four separate locations across continents. This innovative approach not only underscores our adaptability but also highlights the power of connectivity in driving meaningful dialogue and collaboration. As editors, we take pride in curating content that challenges the status quo and sparks critical conversations. We invite you to engage with our thought-provoking articles and poems, knowing that your perspectives contribute to the rich tapestry of feminist discourse. At Women Talking Politics, we're more than just a journal—we're a community dedicated to empowering scholars, activists, and students alike. Join us in our mission to elevate voices, bridge gaps, add depth and richness to the discourse. We particularly welcome contributions by early career researchers and from underrepresented groups.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Ka kite anō,
The Women Talking Politics Editorial Board

International Conferences

A series of international conferences hosted by our counterparts in other countries are upcoming:

CSPA: "[Approaches, Knowledges and Methods for the world of tomorrow](#)" at McGill University, 12-14 June.

IPSA: "[Challenges and New Directions in Multi-Level Governance](#)" at Concordia University, 25-26 April 2024.

UKPSA: "[After \(Neo-\) Liberalism: Towards an Alternative Paradigm?](#)" at the University of Strathclyde, 25 – 27 March 2024.



Undergraduate and Postgraduate Essay Prizes

Ngā Whakawhiwhinga Tuhinga a ngā Tauira Tohu Paetahi, Tohu Paerua

A big congratulations to the three winners of the Annual Conference Essay Prizes!

The **Undergraduate Essay Prize in Māori Politics** was won by **Mylia Kerehi-Ewington** (Te Whare Wānanga o Otago | University of Otago) for their paper "The Future of Aotearoa's Failing Democracy: Insights from Māori Consensus Politics."

The **Undergraduate Essay Prize for Aotearoa New Zealand Politics** was won by **April Van-ner** (Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington) for their paper on the Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Harm Minimisation) Amendment Bill.

The **NZ Politics Postgraduate Conference Paper Prize** was won by **Will Dreyer** (Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington) for their paper "Viscosity potential of legislative scrutiny in New Zealand subject select committees 1996-2020."

PhD Corner

Ko te kokonga tohu kairangi

Postgraduate Workshop

On the 15th of February, the first day of the conference, the Postgraduate Network held a Postgraduate Workshop. It was great to meet and talk to postgraduates finally in person!

Throughout the day, there were some insightful discussions, making the workshop very productive. Thanks to Associate Professor Kate Schick, Professor Richard Shaw, Dr. Claire Timperley, Professor Jack Vowles, and Dr. Nicole Wegner for sharing their experience and knowledge across three sessions: *Job Market and Careers*, *Work Sustainability*, and *Publishing*.

During the Annual General Meeting, we had a discussion regarding the expectations of Postgraduates from the Association and the Postgraduate Network. Three broad topics in common were learn-

ing workshops, working events, and internal community building (for more details, please check out [our Facebook page](#)).

Lastly, we held an election for postgraduate representatives. Thanks to students who kindly volunteered, we now have representatives from different universities. Currently, we are compiling a database of postgraduates - anyone who is interested in or conducting research on politics/public policy - to get more students involved so the network can flourish. So, for those aware of colleagues who have yet to join the Network, please encourage them to reach out to us!

Now, for our regularly scheduled content:

PhD Profiles

Nityanand Jayaraman is a PhD scholar at the University of Waikato, New Zealand. He has spent three decades as a journalist and solidarity activist writing about and fighting alongside communities resisting land-degrading, worlds-erasing projects such as mines, ports, and power plants. His research draws from his experiences as a grassroots activist.



Nityanand Jayaraman

Subaltern activism and environmental justice struggles are increasingly acknowledged, though still understudied, as forces of sustainability transformation. Using the case of a decades-long struggle by artisanal fishers against industrial transformation and degradation of the Ennore wetlands in the south Indian coastal city of Chennai, Nityanand's research explores the power of subaltern struggles to usher in radical transformative change towards sustainability and equality. Applying a Foucaultian framework of "epistemology of resistance," the research examines Ennore fishers' struggle as an assertion of agency from the margins whereby subjugated, marginalised knowledges are resurrected to reignite settled contestations and open up new avenues for radical transformation.



Shirin Brown

Shirin Brown is completing a PhD in Local Government at AUT. Her thesis explores local board member experiences of success within Auckland Council during the 2016- 2019 local board term. The primary focus is on the complexities of both institutional and personal factors which contribute to that success. Adopting a critical diversity lens, within a critical realist paradigm, there is also a reflection on how this experience differs as more women and a greater range of ages and ethnicities are elected, as was the case in the third term of this iteration of Auckland governance.

The key findings are that aside from the obvious issues of budget, success depends on navigating both the wider bureaucracy and interpersonal relationships within each local board. This requires quite specific skills and knowledge, as well as the ability to build trust across projects. A key challenge in local board work is identified as the ability to make meaningful decisions which will be enacted by the Auckland Council. Although limited in their decision-making, the key value of local boards is identified as their ability to advocate for communities.

Ironically, one in two members reported bullying by fellow board members as a fundamental challenge in their role. Board members that did not conform to the group and adopted an oppositional advocacy position in favour of the community were more likely to experience negative behaviour, regardless of their politics or difference from the accepted norm of older, European and male elected member. The continued ineffectiveness of the code of conduct process as well as its use to manage dissenting board member behaviour was noted. Given that board members talked of the importance of addressing bullying as it arose, and the ineffectiveness of existing mechanisms, the Workplace Safety Act 2015 was identified as a way of empowering anyone who witnesses bullying in a workplace to step in, regardless of the dynamics and chains of authority operating within a local board.

When not polishing the final document, Shirin tries reasonably unsuccessfully to grow vegetables, learn Te Reo Māori and have better marine protection in the Hauraki Gulf.

2024 NZPSA/TKTToA Office Holders

Ko te hunga mau tari o NZPSA/TKTToA 2024

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