

NZPSA

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

newsletter

Autumn 2023

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Message from the President He karere nā Te Tumuaki



Richard Shaw

Kia ora tatou

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter. I wanted to begin by acknowledging the impact that the times in which we live are having on members. The ones that are uppermost in my mind are those stemming from the state of the university sector: our people from AUT are no strangers to this, of course, but they're now joined by colleagues at other universities who are also facing uncertainty. It's a good time (and I use that phrase with reservations) to keep in touch with friends and colleagues from other institutions...

A couple of other points. First, I would like to thank Stephen Winter, Nicole Wegner and Maria Ar-moudian at the University of Auckland | Waipapa Taumata Rau for the work they are doing on our next conference. There is a detailed Call for Items further on in the Newsletter, but for now a Big Thank You to those folk for the work they're doing to set up our first in-person conference in what seems like a very long time.

I also wish to mihi the work undertaken by NZPSA/TKTToA's Maria Bargh and Lara Greaves as part of the Independent Electoral Review. Maria and Lara (and, of course, the other review panel members) have provided both important service and a very thorough, and interesting, document. More on this anon.

And finally. We're into an election campaign, and many of you have expertise that you may wish to contribute to public debate. If this sounds like you, but you would find it useful to have a mediating mechanism between you and media requests, we're setting up a wee system that might be just what you need. Details below...

Mauri ora

Richard

NZPSA 2023 Annual Conference: University of Auckland TKTToA Te Hui ā-Tau: Waipapa Taumata Rau

The next NZPSA/TKTToA conference, the theme of which will be '*The Rising Pacific*', will take place in-person at the University of Auckland/Waipapa Taumata Rau on the **15, 16 & 17th of February 2024**.

This is a departure from our usual time slot of late November/early December. As this is our first in-person conference since COVID, we wanted to make sure everybody is able to attend, and the differing timing is an attempt by the organisers to avoid the cluster of conferences taking place towards the end of the year, including the decision by the Australian PSA to shift their conference to the final week in November. We're very much looking forward to being able to get the Association together once again!

(And a quick word on dates. Technically this will be our 2023 conference, even though it will happen in early 2024. Whether or not that is a permanent shift remains unclear.)

Items of Interest Ngā pitopito kōrero o te wā

Annual Conference | Te Hui ā-Tau - Call for Items

Deadline for Proposals: September 1, 2023

As sea levels rise in our region, the Pacific is also garnering a rising level of political attention. The Pacific is a site and source of political innovations for the complex and intersecting challenges faced by people and governments around the world. The Pacific confronts rising economic inequalities, increased international geopolitical tensions, a mutating pandemic, cataclysmic climate change and ongoing entrenched racisms, sexism, and other discriminations. At the fore in engaging with these, and other matters the Pacific may offer alternative responses, knowledges, and experiences.

The NZPSA/TKTToA 2023 conference theme is "*The Rising Pacific*". While the conference will welcome a broad range of Political Studies scholars and their works, we particularly encourage papers, panels, and roundtables that speak broadly to the theme.

Participants may wish to explore:

- How centring the Pacific as a region of study, or the Pacific as a collective of unique knowledges and histories, help us to better understand contemporary politics?
- What is "the Pacific", and do distinctions between Oceania, the Indo-Pacific, Polynesia, and Australasia, limit or enhance our theories and politics?
- What unique challenges confront the Pacific that suspend, obscure, generate, or stymie our existing ways of thinking and theorising about politics?
- What roles do Aotearoa New Zealand, and other Pacific nations, play in international politics in the Pacific and beyond?

The conference organisation team will welcome a diverse range of participatory formats. We encourage submissions of whole panels, author-meets-critic book roundtables, network-specific themed panels (e.g. local government, gender and politics, political theory, etc.) and professional development themed discussions.

For further questions, enquiries, or proposals, please contact NZPSA2024@gmail.com.

Frank Baumgartner

Frank Baumgartner has been awarded a one-year Guggenheim Fellowship and is keen to do a lecture tour in Aotearoa New Zealand if there is sufficient interest. He prefers March/April 2024, but could also do April/May 2024. He can fund his travel to NZ, but would be looking for internal air travel and accommodation for the lecture tour. He will probably be based in Christchurch, but that is yet to be finalised.

If your department is interested in hosting a lecture by Frank, please email [Jeremy Richardson](mailto:Jeremy.Richardson) and he can then look at how things might work out.

Please find attached Frank's CV [here](#).

Job Recruitment

The University of Waikato | Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato is hiring a lecturer in International Relations who ideally specialises in the international politics of the wider Indo-Pacific and covers one of the following regions: South Pacific, Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia or South Asia. This role will involve teaching relevant undergraduate and postgraduate courses, actively contributing to the School's research culture, and supervising research students.

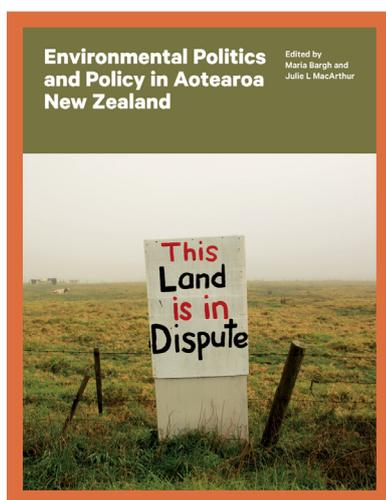


They are open to applications from any theoretical or methodological perspective – including traditional paradigms and critical approaches that valorise other ways of knowing (such as Indigenous, non-Western, or feminist).

Applications close on the 7th of July. For more information, check out the full advertisement [here](#).

Environmental Politics and Policy in Aotearoa New Zealand

Some of you working on areas of comparative environmental policy, Indigenous ecopolitics and ecological theory might be interested in this new book Maria Bargh and Julie MacArthur co-edited. Coincidentally, it speaks to the theme of our next conference, and features the work of some of the leading Māori scholars of environmental politics, law and policy as well as some thought provoking chapters on agricultural history, urban planning, land reform, waste, biodiversity, energy politics and environmental values and valuation (to name just a few).



Book description: Global warming, threats to biodiversity, contamination of waterways and other environmental issues confront today's citizens with critical challenges that are fundamentally political. Power, authority and state action enable current practices – and through politics and policy that power can be harnessed to create a more ecologically sustainable planet. In this book, leading scholars from around Aotearoa introduce students to environmental politics and policy based in this country's unique institutional, cultural and resource context.

The text focuses on the key importance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the characteristics of the natural environment in Aotearoa and the role of gender dynamics in the distribution of power, before turning to how this unique setting informs and is, in turn, informed by the global context of environmental politics. The authors take a systemic view of environmental politics and governance in New Zealand, addressing the philosophical and ideational debates about who and what matters (both human and non-human), the political institutions that embed and enact these ideas, and how these ideas then manifest in particular arenas – from climate and freshwater to energy and farming. Practical tips – how to make a submission, organise a protest, write a policy brief or a press release – are woven throughout.

The book is available through the [Auckland University Press](#) and the [Book Depository](#).

Independent Electoral Review | He Arotake Pōtitanga Motuhake



Maria Bargh

You'll remember that our esteemed colleagues, Maria Bargh and Lara Greaves were appointed to the Independent Electoral Review Panel by (now former) Minister of Justice, Kris Faafoi, mid-last year.

Well, after 10 months of work, on the 6th of June the Interim Report of the Independent Electoral Review was released.



Lara Greaves

You can find the full report [here](#), and the Executive Summary [here](#).

The Review made many recommendations, the implementation of which will majorly change our electoral system. Two recommendations which may be of particular interest for members of this association are:

- Developing a funding model to support community-led education and participation initiatives, with this model also providing for 'by Māori for Māori' activities; and
- Retaining access to electoral rolls and habitation indexes for social scientific and health research, but with tighter controls on data access and use and a stronger ethics approval process.

The Panel is seeking feedback on their recommendations until the 17th of July. Submissions can be made [here](#).

Election media coverage database

As the 2023 General Election approaches our members are receiving more frequent requests for comment in the public arena.

Some amongst our membership have considerable media experience; others, however, have indicated that it would be helpful to have a mediating mechanism placed between themselves and requests for comment. So, we thought we might set up just such a system.

Basically, follow this [link](#) if you would like to enter your particulars, including your areas of expertise, on a database of people willing to respond to media inquiries. The database – minus contact details – will be publicly available on our website. Requests for comment will come initially to the NZPSA Administrator, who will pass them on to the relevant NZPSA expert for actioning.

The form also provides members (irrespective of whether or not they wish to field media requests) with the opportunity to be part of a wider group of colleagues happy to support those who do comment in the public domain.

News from the Networks

He kawepūrongo nā Ngā Hononga

Ako Network Postgraduate Roundtable

On April the 3rd, the Ako (Learning and Teaching) Network and Aotearoa Politics Network co-hosted a roundtable for postgraduate students aimed at revealing the 'hidden curriculum' of postgraduate study. Speakers included Zoe Tims, recently graduated MPOLS student (THW), Dr. Claire Fitzpatrick, Teaching Fellow (THW), and Eric Jeunot (now Dr. Jeunot!), PhD candidate (THW).

In their discussion, they highlighted some key aspects of their postgraduate experience, including the importance of community; treating study like a 'job' (working during the week, but building in leisure time/weekends off, where possible); and learning to prioritise writing, and tools for supporting writing (including Pomodoro sessions, writing groups, and scheduled writing time). We also discussed strategies for finding a suitable research topic and advisor, and what to do when things don't go as planned.

For students who were unable to attend, there are some great resources to support postgraduate students, including:

- Jessica McCrory Calarco's book *A Field Guide to Grad School: Uncovering the Hidden Curriculum*, Princeton University Press, 2020. (Available online in most University libraries.)

While this book is aimed at American students, much of the advice is relevant for students in New Zealand. There is a digital copy of the book available on Te Waharoa - you can access it with your student log in.

- Joan Bolker's *Write Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day*, Macmillan Press, 1998.

This book has a number of valuable chapters, including Chapter 3 on making a mess and cleaning it up, setting daily goals, and creating a 'writing addiction'.

- Paul J. Silvia's *How to Write a Lot: A Practical Guide to Productive Academic Writing*, American Psychological Association Life Tools Series, 2019. (Available online in most University libraries.)

This book includes a highly recommended chapter 'Specious Barriers to Writing a Lot'.

The Ako and Aotearoa Politics Networks will hold another session for postgraduates later in the year focused on conferences and grant applications. If you are interested in being involved, either as a presenter or participant, please [email Claire Timperley](mailto:claire.timperley@nzpsa.ac.nz).

Ako Network mātauranga Māori workshop

NZPSA/TKTToA provided a grant to support the Ako (Learning and Teaching) Network to run a full day workshop on mātauranga Māori in the context of learning and teaching, led by Associate Professor Meegan Hall, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (mātauranga Māori) at Te Herenga Waka.

The workshop was attended in person and online by political scientists and postgraduate students across the motu on April the 21st. The day started with whakawhanaungatanga, followed

by an interactive presentation led by Associate Professor Hall. The final session of the day was designed for participants to discuss their learning and teaching contexts, particular challenges or opportunities for their courses, and work through possible modifications for their course design and approaches to learning and teaching.

For those who were unable to attend, Meegan recommended Joan Metge's [*Tauira: Māori methods of learning and teaching*](#), Auckland University Press, 2015.

NZPSA/TKTToA and the Ako Network would like to acknowledge and thank Associate Professor Hall for so generously sharing her time and expertise with us.

PhD Corner Ko te kokonga tohu kairangi

This is a space for PhD students to share their achievements and research. If you would like to feature in the PhD Corner then please email Will at admin@nzpsa.co.nz.

This month features **Peyton Bond** and **Joshua James** from the University of Otago | Te Whare Wānanga o Otāgo. Peyton recently graduated and Joshua is in his final year.

Peyton Bond is a Teaching Fellow at the University of Otago in Aotearoa New Zealand. Her primary research interest is gendered labour, particularly in feminised service industries. Affect, commodification, workers' rights, hierarchies, and resistance to neoliberal/capitalist norms are key themes of her work in this area. She uses feminist qualitative methodologies in her research and is especially interested in people's stories of their working lives. She is also interested in post-work imaginaries and wishes to pursue more research in this area, including friendship and camaraderie as resistance to contemporary systems of work.



Peyton Bond

She is part of a pilot project teaching inside of Aotearoa New Zealand corrections facilities. On campus, Peyton teaches into sociology, gender studies, and criminology courses and is further interested in prison/police abolition and alternative justice futures.

Peyton's thesis, [*'What can you do? Capitalism exists' Sex work and the contemporary work system in Aotearoa New Zealand*](#) saw her interview 28 brothel, agency, and/or independent sex workers from across decriminalised Aotearoa New Zealand about their workplace experiences. This thesis makes use of two frameworks (structural and post-structural) to explore beyond the exploited/empowered binary that radical (exploited) and liberal (empowered) feminism often uses to discuss sex work. She uses Marxist feminism to situate sex work within a reproductive labour framing as well as to illuminate the wider gendered relations of labour and the labour market, and use a post-structural approach to interrogate the gendered, patriarchal, capitalist, and neoliberal norms ('contemporary work system') that participants both resist and acknowledge in their work.

The thesis concludes that sex workers offer a striking critique of modern work conditions, systems,

and structures. Although changes such as higher welfare payments, increased flexibility for workers, and higher wages across industries could be useful, this thesis argues that, following Weeks and her 'reasonable utopia,' a feminist demand for basic income could prove impactful for shifting both material and discursive conditions for workers, especially workers in feminised industries. A basic income provides a 'floor beneath which workers cannot fall' (Cruz, 2013, p. 484) and could make significant impacts in terms of workers' rights.

If workers have a basic income and thus a space to agitate from, power could shift from management/capital to workers and improve work conditions. If the imminent threat of poverty, an inability to afford food/housing, and/or provide for whānau is significantly lessened with a basic income, there is space, time, and resources to make the labour market a 'workers' market.' What people find most beneficial about the sex industry (the comparably high compensation and flexibility) could be replicated across other industries, at the same time as the stress of precarity and inconsistent incomes that (sex) workers experience is reduced with the net of a basic income.



Joshua James

Joshua James is a final year PhD candidate in Gender Studies and Politics at the University of Otago. His thesis examines the complexities of political identity formation, with a specific focus on how the homosexual radical right navigate any tension between their political and sexual identities. The gay radical right are often characterised (both within the Academy and in mass media) as leather queens who have a BDSM fetish, however Joshua's thesis shows that the gay radical right hold authentic political beliefs.

Joshua's research suggests that the gay radical right engage in hypermasculinity to navigate their stigmatic relationship with the homophobic radical right. Joshua's research also suggests that the role of whiteness and 'the other' has changed over time: there has been a shift from Jews to Muslims as the perceived primary threat to gay (and white/western) liberation. This ultimately contributes to a better understanding of the radical right, as well as the relationship between sexuality and politics.

This research was inspired in part after completing a Master of Arts at the University of Otago, where Joshua investigated voting behaviour of gay men in Aotearoa New Zealand. The results of his Masters suggests a diminishing gay voting bloc (article forthcoming). Both areas of his research are significantly understudied and positioning himself between Gender Studies and Politics enables Joshua to take a unique perspective to both disciplines.