

NZPSA

*Te Kāhui Tātai Tōrangapū
o Aotearoa*

newsletter

Spring 2023

CONTENTS

Message from the President - He karere nā Te Tumuaki	1
NZPSA/TKTToA 2022 Annual Conference - Te Hui ā-Tau	1
Items of Interest - Ngā pitopito kōrero o te wā	2
• 2025 IPSA World Congress	
• New Zealand 2023 Post-election Conference	
Undergraduate and Postgraduate Essay Prizes - Ngā Whaka- whiwhinga Tuhinga a ngā Taurira Tohu Paetahi, Tohu Paerua	3
PhD Corner - Ko te kokonga tohu kairangi	3

Message from the President He karere nā Te Tumuaki



Richard Shaw

Kia ora tātou

We decided to skip winter entirely here at the NZPSA | TKTTtoA newsletter and go straight from the Summer edition to the Spring one. Given the weather recently, that may have been overly optimistic ...

A(nother) note on the challenging times a number amongst our community are experiencing as the structural issues associated with the tertiary sector continue to bite. If you know someone at one or other of the institutions facing cuts, do reach out – hearing from friends and colleagues can make all the difference when you're under the cosh.

The more reason, too, to come together in person to maintain and strengthen ties of community. Further on in the newsletter there are reminders and particulars of our forthcoming conference at the University of Auckland | Waipapa Taumata Rau. I'm conscious of the financial and other challenges many of us face these days – but the conference is an especially important moment in the calendar of the Association, and it would be a very good thing to have as many of us there as possible.

On a related note, Will Dreyer, our Administrator, has been doing sterling work tidying up our membership database. In so doing he's found that some people's membership has lapsed. If you've a moment to check your own status, I'd be very grateful. If you need help doing so, or have any questions at all about membership, please get in touch with either Will (admin@nzpsa.co.nz) or I (R.H.Shaw@massey.ac.nz).

Mauri ora

Richard

NZPSA | TKTTtoA 2023/2024 Annual Conference Te Hui ā-Tau

Coming up fast is the 2023/2024 Annual Conference, to be held at the University of Auckland | Waipapa Taumata Rau. We're really looking forward to getting together in person again! If you haven't [registered for the Conference](#) yet, then be warned, the early bird registration closes on the 15th of November.

Early bird prices are:

- Member: \$365
- Non-member: \$420
- Student member: \$205
- Student non-member: \$225

After the 15th of November prices will increase:

- Member: \$410
- Non-member: \$465
- Student member: \$315
- Student non-member: \$330

If you are not a member, and would like to join the Association for cheaper conference fees, you can do so [here](#). If you're not sure if you're a member, try logging in to the [website](#) or check by emailing admin@nzpsa.co.nz

Items of Interest Ngā pitopito kōrero o te wā

2025 IPSA World Congress

Seoul, South Korea, will host the 2025 IPSA World Congress of Political Science, on 12-16 July 2025. The Congress program will be prepared by Program Co-Chairs Prof. Irasema Coronado and Prof. Azul A. Aguiar Aguilar under the theme *Resisting Autocratization in Polarized Societies*.

The IPSA World Congress will be organized in collaboration with the Korean Political Science Association (KPSA). The Korean Association has already secured full support from the government of South Korea, the city of Seoul, and universities and organizations across the South Korean political science community.

For more information, head [here](#).



New Zealand 2023 Post-election Conference

The 2023 one-day Post Election conference will be held at Parliament on 6 December 2023. It will bring together political party leaders—including the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition—along with journalists, independent commentators, and academics.

Participants will examine 'what happened and why', looking at the 2023 campaign and its consequences for New Zealanders. It will provide an opportunity to hear from those most involved with the election campaign

and its outcome. Attendance is by registration. Numbers are limited, with refreshments—morning tea; lunch; afternoon tea—provided in The Grand Hall, Parliament Buildings.

Registration fee: \$45 (students), \$75 (others).

Register online [here](#) and check out the programme [here](#).

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Essay Prizes

Ngā Whakawhiwhinga Tuhinga a ngā Taurira Tohu Paetahi, Tohu Paerua

A reminder that at each year's Annual Conference, NZPSA | TKTTōA awards 5 prizes for the best Undergraduate and Postgraduate essays. These prizes are:

- An Undergraduate prize for the best essay on Māori Politics submitted in a course at any Aotearoa New Zealand University.
- An Undergraduate prize for the best essay submitted in a course on Aotearoa New Zealand politics in a New Zealand University.
- A Postgraduate Conference Prize for the best paper in the field of Aotearoa New Zealand domestic politics.
- A Postgraduate Conference Prize in any other field of political studies.
- A Postgraduate Conference Prize for the best paper in the field of Environmental Politics and Policy.

We encourage postgrad students attending this year's conference to submit their conference paper for consideration. And if convenors of undergraduate courses have seen any excellent essays that could be nominated for one of the undergraduate prizes, then we encourage you to nominate them! The dates by which nominations for Essay Prizes must be submitted are in the table below. For more information about the prizes and the nomination process, head [here](#).

Submission Date	Submissions to	Prize Title
5pm Tuesday 7 November 2023	Lara Greaves	Undergraduate Essay Prize in Māori Politics
5pm Tuesday 7 November 2023	Janine Hayward	Undergraduate Essay Prize for Aotearoa New Zealand Politics
5pm Friday 10 November 2023	Janine Hayward	NZ Politics Postgraduate Conference Paper Prize
5pm Friday 10 November 2023	Richard Shaw	NZPSA Postgraduate Conference Paper Prize
5pm Friday 10 November 2023	Priya Kurian	Environmental Politics and Policy Postgraduate Conference Paper Prize

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.

Before the postgraduate feature, this issue your Postgraduate Reps, Youjeong and Will wanted to highlight the upcoming Postgraduate Workshop, to be held the first day of the 2023/2024 Conference.

This is going to be a great opportunity for Postgraduates across the country to connect, hash out the state of study, and make some plans for next year. In addition, we're going to have a few sessions designed for postgrads from some more senior academics to provide tools, tips, and tricks for getting those dissertations and theses done, and for finding success after submission.

If you're keen to join us, just make sure to register for the Postgraduate Workshop when you register for the Conference. We're really looking forward to seeing you all!

- Youjeong and Will

PhD Profiles

Rachel Billington is a PhD candidate in Politics and Social Anthropology at the University of Otago. Her thesis explores the political identity formation of adolescents online, with a focus on recognition, affect, and lived experiences of belonging and non-belonging. Rachel has surveyed close to 500 teenagers aged 16-19 across Aotearoa New Zealand and conducted a series of interviews with 21 of these teenagers to discover how online affective and epistemic networks influence their developing political identities and perspectives.



Rachel Billington

The resulting insights show how teenagers' political identities are dialogically constructed in line with the interpretative frames, epistemic resources, and moral expectations that become available in their online and offline social worlds, and are mediated by the affective experiences of both belonging and non-belonging. The project raises questions about how such frames, resources, and expectations come to be available in the profit-driven, algorithmically-enhanced tech landscape, and considers how political identity formation is mediated by simultaneously autonomy-enhancing and autonomy-inhibiting technologies. As such, Rachel's findings illuminate issues of power and governmentality, and have prompted her to consider how we might theorise "technojustice" in the algorithmic age.

Publications:

[Billington, R. A. \(2022\). Book Review: *Affective Politics of Digital Media: Propaganda by Other Means*. *New Media & Society*, 24\(6\), 1526–1529.](#)

[Billington, R. A. \(2022\). Book review: *Challenging Online Propaganda and Disinformation in the 21st Century* by Miloš Gregor and Petra Mlejnková. *European Journal of Communication*, 37\(1\), 114–116.](#)



Mengdi Zhang

Mengdi Zhang is a final-year PhD candidate in International Relations at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington. Her research "The Oscillating Economic-security Nexus in New Zealand's Relations with China" focuses on changes in New Zealand policymakers' depictions of the interactions between economic and security ties with China. Mengdi's research is inspired by discussions of New Zealand's dilemma between economic and security partners because of the increasing US-China rivalry and the argument about the primary impacts of external factors on New Zealand's foreign policy.

Mengdi's research employs an analytical conception of the virtuous and vicious cycles from security studies and International Political Economy to investigate New Zealand's foreign policy documents and practices from 2008 and 2022. She recognises non-linear changes in the two logics of economic and security relations in New Zealand's China policy. She argues that the economic-security nexus is not pre-given and static in New Zealand's China policy and New Zealand's China policy is the result of gradual changes. Both external-level and domestic-level factors influence the changes.

Her research helps to better understand influential mechanisms of New Zealand's foreign policy and lends support to theories of the instability of the economic-security nexus.

Publications:

English

[Mengdi Zhang, "First Criminal Extradition Case from New Zealand to China—a Political Perspective," Women Talking Politics: 2022:24-27.](#)

Chinese

[Mengdi Zhang, Weiguang Wang, and Ying Li, "Overview of New Zealand's Domestic and Foreign Affairs in 2021", in Shen Fei, Shaomin Xu, Xuedong Wang, and Pengqiao Lu \(Ed.\), Annual Report on Development of Oceania \(2021-2022\), Social Science Academic Press \(China\), 2023:34-50.](#)

[Mengdi Zhang, "Overview of New Zealand's Domestic and Foreign Affairs in 2020", in Xuedong Wang, Shen Fei and Shaomin Xu \(Ed.\), Annual Report on Development of Oceania \(2020-2021\), Social Science Academic Press \(China\), 2022:41-65.](#)

[Weiguang Wang, Mengdi Zhang, 'Relations between China and New Zealand in 2019: Interactions, Issues and Adjustments', in Changsen Yu, Sheng Fei and Jun Li \(Ed.\), Annual Report on Development of Oceania \(2019-2020\), Social Science Academic Press \(China\), 2021:95-112.](#)

[Weiguang Wang, Mengdi Zhang, You Wu, 'Evolution and Development of the NZ-China Relationships since 2018', in Sheng Fei and Jiayu Shen \(Ed.\), Annual Report on Development of Oceania \(2018-2019\), Social Science Academic Press \(China\), 2020:134-152.](#)

[Weiguang Wang, Mengdi Zhang, Tong Xu, 'Evolution of NZ's Domestic Politics and Diplomacy After the 2017 Election and Impacts on Relationships between China, NZ and the United States', in Changsen Yu \(Ed.\), Annual Report on Development of Oceania \(2017-2018\), Social Science Academic Press \(China\), 2018:70-84.](#)

Conference Paper

Mengdi Zhang, 'Oscillating Positive and Negative Depictions of New Zealand's Economic-Security Relations with China', New Zealand Asia Studies Society 24th Biennial International Conference, 2021.