VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON TE HERENGA WAKA

CAPITAL THINKING. GLOBALLY MINDED. MAI I TE IHO KI TE PAE

Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies



Newsletter

August 2025

Update from the Director

There is so much going on at the Stout Research Centre, it seems best to focus on the four big events we are going to run until the end of this year. This week Friday, 15 August from 4.00pm we are celebrating 40 years of the SRC with a small symposium, acknowledging our 'patron' couple Sir Robert and Lady Anna Stout and the Stout Trust. I will also discuss with Jock Phillips, the founding director, the conception of the Stout Centre and the state of New Zealand Studies today. It has been a wonderful four decades. and Aotearoa New Zealand Studies are even more important now than they have been.

On 11 September we will launch two books that remind us of the huge events we run in 2024. BWB texts will launch *Pakukore: Poverty, by Design* and *Hardship and Hope*, the latter one the book our JD Stout Fellow Rebecca Macfie wrote in 2024. The former book is coming out of the Pakukore 2024 conference and has 13 chapters, all analysing the state of and reasons for poverty in Aotearoa New Zealand. https://www.bwb.co.nz/texts

The launch will be late afternoon in Rutherford house, our Pipitea Campus downtown; invitations will be sent out shortly.

On 29 October the Marsden funded project team on 'Honourable kawanatanga' and us will co-host a public lecture of Royal Society Fellow and Professor Dominic O'Sullivan on his upcoming book *Beyond the Crown: the treaty, equality and the future of New Zealand democracy*.

In mid-November our 2025 JD Stout Fellow Dr Toby Boraman will give the annual JD Stout fellow lecture and run a workshop on the big strikes in 1980s Aotearoa New Zealand. Invitations will be sent out in good time before these events.

Last not least, we are preparing the next big conference in collaboration with Te Rūnanaga o Toa Rangatira for April 2026; this will be a follow up from Pakukore: Poverty, and we will be asking 'What makes a good life for all'? What does Prosperity for all of us look like?

I hope to see many of you in upcoming months; it should be exciting and true to our aim to foster Aotearoa New Zealand Studies for our city, university and country.

Ngā mihi

Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich
Director

JD Stout Fellow 2025
Toby Boraman

Toby has published an impressive number of articles and book chapters about labour history and the history of social movements in Aotearoa New Zealand, specialising in the turbulent decades of the 1970s and 1980s. He has worked at the Waitangi Tribunal (as a historian) and at Massey University (as a political science lecturer) and also held a fellowship at the re: work International Research Centre for studying the global history of work at Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany.

During his fellowship he will be finishing his book 'Knocking Off: A History of Strikes in Aotearoa New Zealand from the late 1960s to the mid-1980s.' This was the most sustained and widely supported period of strike activity in the country's history. Yet this era of tumultuous conflict has remained largely unexplored by historians. The period under study was a key transitional phase that has profoundly shaped the present. Stoppages and associated wage rises were blamed frequently causing a cost-of-living crisis, rising unemployment, lost exports, and factory closures. The de-industrialisation of the 1970s and 1980s has to this day scarred and impoverished many blue-collar communities. Workplace conflict during this period also illustrates momentous shifts from Keynesianism to neoliberalism and from Fordism to 'post-Fordism.' Much like today, it also demonstrates how political polarisation, and right-populism, can develop rapidly in response to major crises and conflict.

This social history aims to uncover the hidden history of strikes and to capture previously excluded voices, including those of Māori workers, migrant Pasifika workers, women workers, and rank-and-file unionists. The project aims to provide a rich multi-dimensional history of workplace conflict, combined with critical analysis of those conflicts' complex causes, their reactions, lasting effects, and contested legacies.

Research Update – Adjunct Scholars

Emeritus Professor Richard Hill
Richard continues to work on security intelligence research, with a focus on interviewing. Recently he donated a sizeable amount of his policing history collection to the New Zealand Police Museum. His review of Lachlan Strahan's Justice in *Kelly Country: The Story of the Cop Who Hunted Australia's Most Notorious Bushrangers* (Monash University Publishing, 2024) was published in *Australian Historical Studies*, 56/2, 2025. He is also doing some peer reviewing for an academic publishing house.

Adjunct Professor Anna Green
I continue to work on the book based upon my Marsden-funded oral history project about intergenerational family memory among the descendants of nineteenth-century European settlers in New Zealand. In that context I gave a presentation at the end of April in the Stout

Research Centre seminar series 'Difficult Subjects - Researching the Perilous and Unknown'. In 'Researching and Writing Invisible History: a parallel narrative about the past' I discussed one of the difficulties inherent in cross-disciplinary research and posed a question about the responsibilities of oral historians when writing about family memories. A short piece for *Oral History in New Zealand* was published in the journal's regular section on 'Objects and Material Culture in Memory' earlier this year, which focused on my Fridge Magnets! And in a very different context, I have written a commissioned chapter on 'Oral history as Evidence: Multidisciplinary Approaches' for the forthcoming Bloomsbury Oral History Handbook. Meanwhile I remain president of the National Oral History Association Te Kete Kōrero ā-Waha o te Motu where we are working on a major refresh of the website alongside the revision of oral history documents and guidelines.

Adjunct Research Associate Kathryn Patterson
On 21 May Kathryn presented a seminar entitled *Tracing Invisible immigrants—Irish soldiers who took discharge from the Imperial Army in nineteenth-century New Zealand* as part of the series *Difficult Subjects—Researching the Perilous and Unknown.* More particularly, this seminar examined the ease or otherwise of tracking the acquisition of land by this group, an exercise that also revealed the difficulties encountered generally in uncovering information on these settlers. A recording of this presentation is available on the Stout Research Centre's website under Past Events.

Kathryn is currently completing research for a paper for the conference of the Irish Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand to be held in Dunedin 20-22 November 2025. The theme being *Health, Wellness and Care* Kathryn's paper will move on from an earlier conference paper which looked at the longevity of the discharged soldiers, to examining the causes of death for this group of invisible immigrants. This has meant a visit to Archives New Zealand to look at Coroners' inquest reports.

The library was pleased to receive recently a copy of *Eyeliner's Buy Now* by Michael Brown, a publication Michael was working on during his period as 2023 J D Stout Fellow.

Adjunct Research Professor Barbara Einhorn
Barbara is continuing work on her research project 'Transnational Identity under Observation' (https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/stout-centre/research-and-publications2/research-units/transnational-identity-under-observation).

She is returning to the archives in Berlin and in Poland will give a paper at the 2025 conference of the International Oral History Association Conference to be held in Krakow in September. Barbara will also be present at the ceremonies to lay Stolpersteine (https://www.stolpersteine.eu/en/) for several members of her family who were murdered in 1942 during the Holocaust, both in Berlin and in Grybów, Poland, and will speak to schoolchildren in both locations.

One of the most exciting and challenging aspects of this research has been digging in the archives in Berlin, both the Federal German Archives and those dealing with the Stasi's activities in Communist East Germany. I will be writing up the 'adventures and hurdles' to archival research on security services and their surveillance. The project traces the stories of Gestapo surveillance and imprisonment of family members and their close associates during the Nazi period, of her father's continuing surveillance by the SIS after fleeing Hitler's Germany and reaching the 'safe haven' of Aotearoa New Zealand, and of her own surveillance and incarceration for 'treasonable activity' during the early 1980s, following SIS surveillance in her student days at Victoria University.

Adjunct Research Fellow Dr Steven Loveridge
In March Steven attended a Waitangi Tribunal hearing in Waiouru as part of the Wai 2500 Military Veterans Kaupapa Inquiry. Here he gave evidence on his research into various aspects of the military deployments Māori servicepeople have been involved in since 1948. He is continuing to work, alongside Richard Hill, on a second volume of the history of security

intelligence in New Zealand. This book will cover the history of the subject from the founding of the Security Service in 1956 (now renamed as the Security Intelligence Service) and will conclude in 2001. Lastly, Steven's review of the edited anthology collection *Revisiting the British World: New Voices and Perspectives* is to be published in the mid-year edition of the *Journal of New Zealand Studies*.

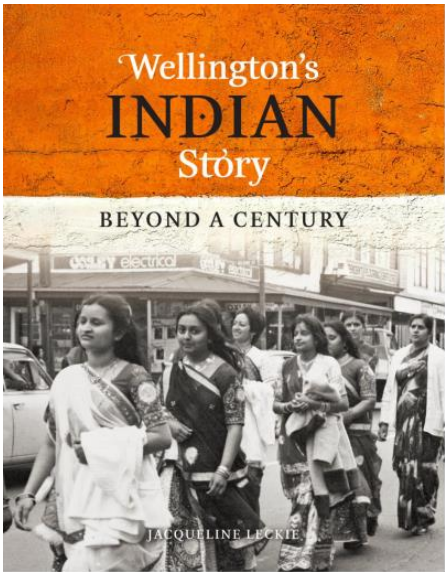
Adjunct Research Fellow Dr Brad Patterson

Brad reports substantial progress on his long-standing project on the dynamics of settler capitalism in early Wellington, having completed in May a chapter on transfers of capital and the financing of development, then more recently another on the origins of extensive pastoralism, focusing particularly on the formation of sheep runs in the out districts. He is now working on the evolving wool trade, tracing the development of wool as a key settlement staple and the role of the town merchants as brokers. He hopes to spend some time later in the year, when attending the ISAANZ (Irish Studies) conference in Dunedin, to spend some time consulting relevant documents at the Hocken Library. Brad continues to work on a collection of his writings over the past 50 years, both published and delivered as papers, on archives and records management issues in New Zealand. He is also preparing a contribution, due October, to a collection of essays on New Zealand responses to Ireland's 20th century revolutionary decade, to be edited by Lisa Marr and Rory Sweetman and published by UCD Press. Once more he is a member of the judging panel for the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand's Wards Prize, awarded annually to the major piece of historical writing published in the previous year best demonstrating innovative and/or exemplary use of primary research sources. As Chair of the unrelated Ian McLean Wards Memorial Trust, established to support archival and research institutions, including the provision of grants for research, he has been working with lawyers on an updated trust deed, and concurrently on a review of the Trust's form and functions.

Adjunct Research Fellow Dr Jacqui Leckie

Adjunct Research Fellow Jacqueline Leckie's book, *Wellington's Indian Story: Beyond a Century* was launched in July by Emerita Professor Barbara Brookes at the National Library. The Indian High Commissioner, Ms Neeta Bhushan, former Governor General Sir Anand Satyanand, and President of the Wellington Indian Association, Mrs Manisha Morar also spoke at the event. The book can be purchased via the Association's website https://www.wia.org.nz
Earlier in the year Jacqui was interviewed about this book on the Detail on RNZ. See https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/thedetail/543370/wellington-indian-association-turns-100-as-a-new-book-promises-to-lift-the-lid-on-the-community

Jacqui has been very busy researching a biography of the poet Meg Campbell. She is also co-editor of the *Journal of Pacific History*.



Doug Munro
Doug Munro chaired the judging panel for the inaugural Brij V. Lal Prize (for the best journal article on Indian indenture/diaspora), under the auspices of the Ameena Gafoor Institute, London. The winner will be announced on the AGI's website, 21 August: https://ameenagafoorinstitute.org/. On 12 August, Doug will present a paper on the late Brij Lal (via Zoom) as the keynote address at a seminar in Mauritius to mark the publication of *Dire l'engagisme dans l'océan Indien: histoire, circulations, pluralitès*, ed. Céline Ramsamy-Giancone. By that time Doug will be in Canberra finalising the research for a paper on 'The Colonial Oversight of Historical Research in 1950s Fiji'. In August, Doug was appointed to the International Scientific Committee of the Mauritius-based Indentured Labour Route Project.

Current & Recent Visiting Scholars and Fellows

Anna Castelli
Anna Castelli's research examines contested heritage, focusing on how contemporary art practices engage with issues of restitution, return, and repatriation within the frameworks of decolonization and indigenization. In recent years, artists globally have increasingly confronted complex historical narratives, using their work to reinterpret and challenge debates surrounding contested heritage. This engagement occurs within the framework of museums that are undergoing significant transformation, striving to become post-ethnographic institutions—places that move beyond colonial, ethnocentric narratives and practices. Castelli's research investigates a range of artistic approaches, analyzing how artists navigate tensions between museum practices, cultural identity, the role of conservation science.

Anna is a researcher specializing in art and anthropology within global art history. She is a PhD candidate in Visual and Media Studies at IULM University, Milan, and holds a Master's in Contemporary Art Theory from Goldsmiths College, London. Castelli is the author and editor of several publications, including *Scambiarsi le arti* and *L'infanzia del segno*.

Federica Pieristè
Federica is from the Sapienza Università di Roma, undertaking a PhD in History, Anthropology, Religions. She is also working at Te Puna Vai Mārama Cook Islands Centre for Research. Her working title: "Gastro-decolonising Oceania. Transnational trajectories and the localisation of food sovereignty across the Cook Islands and Aotearoa-New Zealand". This research investigates the historical dimensions and contemporary impacts of colonization on food practices in the Cook Islands, utilizing the concept of "gastro-colonialism", understood as the extensive range of ongoing colonial and neo/colonial dietary impositions on indigenous food systems, that frame subjectivities and bodily experiences of the people of Oceania.

Mikko Myllyntausta
Mikko received his PhD in history from the University of Turku (Finland) in 2022. His PhD thesis entitled *Proving Grounds: The Formation and Use of Competing Claims to Knowledge about New Zealand Māori in the 1830s British Debates on Colonisation* examines the movement of knowledge between New Zealand and Britain before the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. His broader research interests lie in the history of knowledge, with a particular focus on the dissemination of colonial knowledge related to the Pacific region. He is currently working as a postdoctoral researcher examining trans-imperial connections of Finnish popular education in the project "Trans-imperial mobilities in the Grand Duchy of Finland, c. 1860-1918". He is also an editor and author in the book *Tiedonhistoria* (2023), which is the first contribution in Finnish to the development of the budding field of the history of knowledge.

In the beginning of 2026, Mikko will start a new project "Weaving Webs across the World: Networks of Knowledge from the Pacific to Finland and Germany in the Long 19th Century". This research investigates the formation and functioning of global networks of knowledge during the long 19th century by examining various connections between two geographically distant regions that were relatively marginal to each other: the Pacific region, including New Zealand, and Finland and Germany.

During his visit to the Stout Research Centre, Mikko will prepare the beginning of the upcoming project and undertake initial archival work for the project.

Chris Lipscombe
Chris joined the Stout in August. For the past two decades Chris has provided strategic planning and business support for companies entering the Chinese, Japanese, and South Korean markets. He has formerly served as co-chair of China and New Zealand Business Council, board member of New Zealand China Trade Association, president of Wellington Xiamen Association, and national president of the New Zealand China Friendship Society. Currently he is trustee of the New Zealand Chinese Language Week Trust, board member of the Pacific China Friendship Association, committee member of The Printing Museum Te Whare Taonga Perehitanga, and president of the Wellington Branch of New Zealand China Friendship Society (NZCFS).

During his time at the Stout Research Centre, Chris will be working on a book introducing the life and work of New Zealand academic and China correspondent James Bertram to readers in New Zealand and China. Chris has a Bachelor of Arts (History) from University of Canterbury, a Postgraduate Diploma in Business (Marketing) from University of Auckland Business School, and a Master of International Relations (Distinction) from Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington.

Events and Seminars

From 2 April to 21 May, the Stout ran a series of seminars under the theme entitled 'Difficult Subjects: Researching the Perilous and Unknown'. Full information on each seminar is available at: https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/stout-centre/about/events/previous-events/difficult-subjects-researching-the-perilous-and-unknown

Presenter	***Seminar***
Emeritus Prof Richard Hill and Dr Steven Loveridge	[redacted] Uncovering [redacted] Covert [redacted] History **Richard S. Hill** is an Emeritus Professor at the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies. Among his outputs are four books in the History of Policing in New Zealand series, and two on Crown-Māori relations in the twentieth century. **Steven Loveridge** is an adjunct Research Associate at the Stout Research Centre. His published work includes some major studies of New Zealand society during the First World War, and work on diplomatic history and security intelligence.
Violet Blue	**No Idle Threat - On dangerous ground investigating Aotearoa New Zealand's Covid-19 response** Violet Blue is an author and journalist from San Francisco and is currently a visiting scholar with the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies.
Dr Awhina Tamarapa	**Overcoming the Perilous: Wāhine Māori in the Taonga Māori Research Space.** Dr Awhina Tamarapa is the postdoctoral Māori Research Fellow with the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies.
Dr Anna Green	**Writing Invisible History** Anna Green is an Adjunct Professor and oral historian at the Stout Research Centre, Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington, and is currently president of the National Oral History Association Te Kete Kōrero-a-Waha o Te Motu. She taught history at universities in Aotearoa New Zealand and the United Kingdom, and her research and publications are in the fields of oral

	history, public history, memory studies and history and theory. She is currently writing a book about intergenerational family memory among the descendants of nineteenth-century British and European settlers
Doug Munro	**Home Front Casualties: Uncovering war-related suicides in WWII New Zealand** Doug Munro, the presenter of this seminar, has attachments at both the University of Queensland and the Stout Research Centre. A historian of varied interests, his last two book are *History Wars: the Peter Ryan – Manning Clark controversy* (2021) and (with Geoffrey Gray and Christine Winter), *Chicanery: senior academic appointments in Antipodean anthropology, 1920–1960* (2023).
Dr Sandra Thomas	**The Enigma of a Posthumous Prosecution: Who Brought Ihaka Takaanini before the Compensation Court in 1865, and Why?** Sandra Thomas recently completed her PhD with the Stout Centre examining the operation of the Compensation Court in the South Auckland and the Waikato in the 1860s and how the settler government rationalised its poor treatment of its 'friends'. Sandra has an LLB/BA (Hons) in History and Political Science from Victoria University of Wellington and has worked in Treaty settlements and as a lawyer before completing her PhD in 2023. In 2024 she received a Judith Binney Trust writer's award and is currently working on a book, based around her thesis.
Kathryn Patterson	**Tracing Invisible immigrants - Irish soldiers who took discharge from the Imperial Army in nineteenth century New Zealand** Kathryn Patterson is an Adjunct Research Fellow with the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies.

ARANZ Event

ARANZ Award to Stout Research Centre Historians

At a ceremony hosted by the Archives and Records Association (ARANZ), held at the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies, Emeritus Professor Richard Hill and Dr Steven Loveridge were awarded the Ian Wards Prize for their book *Secret History: State Surveillance in New Zealand, 1900-1956*, published by Auckland University Press in 2023. The Prize honours the late Chief Government Historian Ian McLean Wards. It recognises innovative and exemplary use of primary source materials in work that represents 'a model of scholarly good practice'.

The judges found that *Secret History* stood out among 'an especially strong field of contenders'. Their citation declares that 'this substantial and wide-ranging volume admirably fulfils all of the stated Wards Prize criteria', despite the severe difficulties faced by the authors in accessing material held by New Zealand's intelligence agencies. That was especially so with regard to the organisations and individuals who were surveilled by the political police in the period covered. 'In their interpretations', the judges added, 'the authors add texture as a result of their earlier published works on policing and New Zealand in wartime.'

In their concluding remarks, the selectors noted: 'In outlining the New Zealand state's early reactions to perceived threats, both internal and external, *Secret History* contributes significantly to this country's historiography and is likely to be of wider interest. Together with a forthcoming volume carrying the analysis beyond 1956, it promises to be a longstanding work of reference. Professor Hill and Dr Loveridge are to be congratulated on producing yet another distinguished winner of the Wards Prize, in this instance one that would have been particular personal interest to the scholar it commemorates.'

For further information please contact the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Stout Research Centre for NZ Studies 40th Anniversary

15 August 2025 at 4.00pm
Hunter Council Chamber, Level 2 Hunter Building

Welcome:	Professor Averil Coxhead Dean of Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Introduction:	Celebrating 40 years of Scholarship and Outreach Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich
Dr Jock Phillips	A conversation with Dr Jock Phillips Looking back to look forward: New Zealand studies in the spotlight

Professor Geoff McLay

The many lives (and opinions) of Sir Robert Stout
Sir Robert Stout (1844-1930) lived many lives in New Zealand: Immigrant, teacher, lawyer, investor, liberal (and not so liberal), Premier, imperialist, founder of our University, leader of the opposition, Chief Justice, Māori land reformer, prohibitionist, penal reformer, a controversial and opinionated public combatant. This talk will look at some of these lives as windows into a particular kind of our history, good and bad in which ideas were always important, if sometimes flawed.

Monica Webb

A Born Crusader: the political life of Lady Anna Stout (1858 – 1931)
Lady Anna Stout was a leading figure in the early women's movement in New Zealand and widely known throughout New Zealand in her lifetime. She was an energetic, outspoken and often controversial proponent of women's political, economic and educational development as well as a staunch promotor of New Zealand's image within the British family of nations. Anna Stout was unique among New Zealand women for the breadth and scope of her profile and reputation locally and internationally. This presentation will consider the radical nature of this complex and controversial New Zealander, her 50-year partnership with her husband Robert and the public role she willingly chose to play for over 30 years to help redefine the political and social norms for women in New Zealand and beyond.

A video appreciation	Students and Scholars talk about their experience.
Concluding Remarks	Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich
Reception/Drinks Function	Hunter Common Room



Lydia Wevers Scholarship 2025

Hannah Merrett-Kaufman

Hannah is the recipient of the Lydia Wevers Scholarship for 2025, and is a masters student in Landscape Architectural Studies at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington.

I chose to study Landscape Architecture because it combines everything that I am passionate about. It is a combination of complex problem solving both creatively and analytically, and it is where I see myself being able to make a positive impact in the world. I am passionate about the bridge between people and nature, and how this connection can appear in many forms. My thesis work explores "How can Belmont Regional Park be transformed from post-agricultural landscape into a recreational ecosanctuary through design by fire."

I was a finalist in the NZILA Student Awards, and my speculative design work was awarded the Vectorworks International Scholarship in 2023. I was also part of the winning team at the CERF Student Design Competition in Portland, Oregon, where we proposed nature-based solutions for coastal resilience. Following that, I gained valuable international experience at Louisiana State University's Coastal Ecosystem Design Studio, working on interdisciplinary strategies for climate adaptation. These experiences continue to shape my commitment to designing landscapes that are ecologically attuned, culturally grounded, and responsive to the challenges of the future.

Research Abstract:

Globally, an estimated 385–472 million hectares of abandoned agricultural land exist *(Campbell, 2008),* predominantly in high- and middle-income countries *(Yang, Yi, et al., 2020).* Agricultural intensification has significantly altered landscapes, impacting biodiversity, trace-gas emissions, water quality and flow, soil health, and climate *(Wade, Gurr, et al., 2008).* While abandoned agricultural lands can contribute to carbon sequestration through natural vegetation recovery, this process is often slow or incomplete without active intervention, leaving some landscapes degraded for decades *(Yang, Yi, et al., 2020)*. This design-research thesis investigates the application of 'design by fire' restoration strategy to transform the 3,500-hectare Belmont Regional Park in Aotearoa New Zealand from a peri-urban landscape into a thriving recreational ecosanctuary. This park is undergoing a significant land-use transition as historical agricultural leases are set to expire in 2026.

The park was established in 1986, under the name Waitangirua Farm operating as a sheep and beef breeding farm *(Preserve Belmont Farm Park, 2022).* However, the grazing license is due to change to phase out farming without renewal in January 2026. This shift presents both challenges and opportunities for ecological restoration and community conservation. The study explores a restoration strategy globally known as design by fire. In Aotearoa indigenous knowledge and skills of Māori and fire use (te ahi) had an important role in the conservation and protection of the natural environment *(Stone, Langer, 2015).* This approach combined with strategic community conservation can transform Belmont Regional Park's post-agricultural land into a recreational ecosanctuary. Creating regeneration, restoration, revitalization, and resilience.

Buchanan Scholarship

Aria Gardiner
Buchanan Scholarship Recipient 2025

Religion Out of Bounds: How Gen Z Are Creating Meaning in the Face of Existential Crises Beyond Tradition in Aotearoa New Zealand

Generation z is the first generation who have grown up with the awareness of arguably the biggest existential threat this world has ever faced; climate change. Through schooling, media and various modes of communication, vast amounts of information covering explicit details of climate change and other related existential threats, backed by scientific knowledge, have been shared with this generation. Confronted with unprecedented existential threats unique to their generation, gen z are navigating their existence and beliefs in a world with a science backed expiry date.

In my research I am looking at generation z's awareness of existential threats and mortality salience, in order to understand the connection between gen z and awareness of their future and death, so that we can grasp how gen z are reimagining religion and spirituality in Aotearoa Zealand. As a core function of religion is often understood as playing a role in helping people cope with awareness of death, I wish to probe into how gen z are reconfiguring religion and/or spirituality in order to cope with awareness of existential threats.

Religion plays a vital and interesting role in New Zealand's history, is embedded in much of our culture and fills a dynamic role in our society. However, the religious and spiritual beliefs of generation z in Aotearoa is deeply under-researched. New data shows that for the first time in census history, a greater population of New Zealanders identify as non-religious than religious. This shift is significant; however, a gap remains in that there is little to no research done on what 'non-religious' actually looks like.

Another key theme of my research is how spirituality is being performed by gen z in Aotearoa. From a Faith and Belief study in New Zealand, gen z was the most likely generation to hold 'spiritual beliefs', as separate to affiliation with religion, although there is limited information on what these beliefs consist of. I intend to examine this through interview style research.

Taking in the unique situation of generation z in relation to mortality salience and awareness of existential threats, I aim to inspect how this is being absorbed by gen z and further, if and how it is influencing how gen z are wrestling and absorbing religion and/or spirituality in unique ways. This is a project focused on resilience and creation, acknowledging the secular, religious and spiritual perseverance of gen z in Aotearoa New Zealand. The findings from this research will begin to map the religious landscape of young people in New Zealand, an area that has not been researched before.

Journal of New Zealand Studies, published by the Stout Research Centre

The next issue [NS38] of the Journal will be published in August.

https://ojs.victoria.ac.nz/jnzs/issue/view/1015

Call for Papers

The journal publishes two issues a year online, in June and December. Please submit articles for future issues of the Journal through our online registration:
http://ojs.victoria.ac.nz/jnzs/index

Access to all issues of the Journal can be found at: https://ojs.victoria.ac.nz/jnzs/about

Lydia Wevers Scholarship in New Zealand Studies

Fundraising for two Masters Scholarships in New Zealand Studies are underway.
Please see more information below:
https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/engage/giving/donate/areas/donate-to-the-lydia-wevers-scholarship-in-new-zealand-studies

History of Giving

The Stout Research Centre was founded in 1984 through the generous support of the Stout Trust, which was established from a bequest left by Dr John Stout. The Stout Trust continues to fund the annual Stout Fellowship, which has enabled research into many aspects of New Zealand society, history and culture. John Stout's gift is valued highly by today's researchers at the Stout Research Centre. We also value the contribution of all our Friends and supporters and welcome opportunities to talk with you about continuing your support through a gift in your will. All gifts are managed by the Victoria University Foundation, a registered charitable Trust established to raise funds in areas of strategic importance to the University, such as the Stout Research Centre. For further information on how you can support the Stout Research Centre through a gift in your will, please contact the Development Manager – Planned Giving, Victoria University of Wellington Foundation, telephone 0800 VIC LEGACY (0800 842 534).

Museum and Heritage Studies Programme

2025 has been a busy year so far for the programme with a lot happening in teaching, research and external engagement. The MMHP has a bumper crop of 18 students, including 5 internationals from the US, Indonesia and China. Mid year work placements have been completed in Wellington institutions and around the country at New Plymouth, Ashburton, Hokitika and Whangarei. Meanwhile the class of 2024 have completed internships at Parliament, Auckland Art Gallery, Aotea Utanganui in Patea, the HPFS conservation studio in New Plymouth and Te Manawa in Palmerston North.

The wānanga this year at Hongoeka marae, run in partnership with Experience Wellington Wheako Poneke, was the biggest yet with over 50 students and professionals attending the two night three day noho marae in March. The 2025 programme, coordinated by Conal McCarthy and Moana Parata from Te Papa, included sessions on taonga, tikanga, mātauranga Māori, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and related issues. Discussions are ongoing with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Toa and Te Kawa a Māui about creating an undergrad and master's pathway for tribal members in preparation for the development of their whare taonga in Porirua. Te Rauparaha Horomona from Ngāti Toa completed his MMHP earlier this year with an internship at Tūhura Otago Museum under Gerard O'Regan and is back working at TRONT developing an iwi exhibition for Pātaka.

The PhD cohort is growing with the addition of Ping Wei from China who will start her research later in the year with possibly another two students by year's end. Amanda Wayers graduated in May and has secured a job in Australia working on public art which was her thesis topic. Valentin Gobachev, Matteo Collina and Robert McClean are nearing the end of their PhD journey with complete drafts written. Ruihe Qi is working on his literature review, and Anamaria Rojas Munera has just begun her fieldwork, as will Chris Mallows. A writing retreat is being planned for October and seminars in November.

Postdoctoral fellow Dr Awhina Tamarapa has completed her AHRC funded project on indigenous rights and responsibilities and has started work on an FLF funded project on indigenous heritage and climate change also through the University of Exeter working with Bryony Onciul. In March she hosted a cultual exchange between Ngāti Toa and the Kumugwe Society from Vancouver Island, Canada. In November, she will deliver the Michael Volkerling Memorial Lecture at Te Papa, when she will discuss her postdoc project aimed at reconnecting with taonga in museums overseas.

Staff have also been busy this year. Lee Davidson has published a major book with Routledge: *The Visitor Studies Guide: Theory and Practice for Heritage Contexts* and a related article in the *Visitor Studies* journal and a conference paper at the Visitor Studies Association virtual conference in July. She has also been working with UNESCO on a project to promote intercultural dialogue through museums and heritage sites with a publication and an online course. Planning is progressing for the 2026 ACHS conference hosted at VUW with Davidson chairing the working group for this major international event in critical heritage studies. Conal McCarthy is completing a large edited book for Palgrave on intercultural heritage with Tamarapa, Horwood and another graduate Kolokesa Mahina-Tuai. He is also coordinating a digital leadership programme for ICOM with online workshops led by global experts and 1:1 mentoring for nine fellows from Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Earlier this year he and graduate Anna Abernathy completed a survey of museums and public funding in Oceania as part of a global ICOM study. Finally, we are pleased to welcome Dr Michelle Horwood, a graduate and experienced museum and heritage professional, as an adjunct Research Associate and Teaching Fellow for 2026-7.



Kumugwe Cultural Society and Ngāti Toa Rangatira group photo after pōwhiri,
Hongoeka Marae 3 Feb 2025



Jeannine Walker and Melanie Norris, Waitangi Day 2025 Performance