

**GRAHAM, James** (Ngāti Kahungunu)

Ko Kauhehei te maunga, ko Te Roto-a-Tara te waiu, ko Te Whatu-i-āpiti te tangata.

Massey University College of Education

Ruawhāro Centre - Napier

James is currently employed as a lecturer working in both the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes at Massey University College of Education. He has a BA in Māori Studies and a MEd completed in 2002 that focuses on the notion of partnership between schools and their Māori communities. James is at the initial stages in the PhD programme at Massey University where his research is centred within the field of Māori education; he will be employing the notion of whakapapa as his research methodology.

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***Nā Rangi, nā Papa tāua: - a Research Framework based on Whakapapa***

This paper will explore the notion of whakapapa as providing a legitimate research framework for engaging in research with Māori communities. By exploring the tradition and meaning of whakapapa, the paper will legitimate how whakapapa and an understanding of whakapapa can be used by Māori researchers working among Māori communities. Therefore, emphasis is placed on a research methodology framed by whakapapa that not only authenticates Māori epistemology in comparison with Western traditions, but that also supports the notion of a whakapapa research methodology being transplanted across the indigenous world; indigenous peoples researching among their indigenous communities. Consequently, indigenous identity is strengthened as is the contribution of the concept of whakapapa to indigenous research paradigms world-wide.