

**HARVEY, Graham**

Religious Studies

Open University

United Kingdom

Graham Harvey is lecturer in Religious Studies at the Open University, UK. His research interest and publications engage with the vitality and performance of identities among Jews, Pagans and indigenous communities. He is interested in the challenge made by indigenous protocols and knowledges to academic pursuits. Graham's most recent publications have reconsidered the utility of the term 'animism', the relationship between indigeneity and diaspora, and that between ritual and religious belief. His website is:

<http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/relstud/harvey.htm>

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*Guests and Hosts: Transforming Academic Paradigms in Conversation With Māori  
Diaspora Communities*

Academics typically position themselves as experts even when they first introduce themselves to a group of people among whom they wish to conduct research. At the same time, the power dynamics of modern societies encourage the perception that academics are indeed experts. Evidently, academic researchers new to a place, community or situation cannot be entirely expert but may be presumed to be there to learn. In this paper, I argue that indigenous protocols for encounters between strangers and potential hosts, especially those of the Marae, provide a more appropriate model on which to construct academic paradigms about researchers' engagement with host communities. Since these relationships are fundamental to every aspect of research (not just its conduct but its outcomes and dissemination), the proposed paradigm shift is of considerable importance to academia. It also promises to be of great benefit to indigenous host communities, immediately in the sense that the 'guesthood' paradigm recognises and celebrates the sovereignty and prestige of hosts, and in the longer term in that guest-researchers will necessarily seek the well-being of their hosts.