

TE KOPERE GROUP

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Te Kopere – The Parallel Māori Research Group in the Constructive Conversations: Korero Whakaaetanga Research Project

New Zealand

Te Kopere is the Maori caucus of the Constructive Conversations/Korero Whakaaetanga project. From diverse backgrounds members include Bevan Tipene-Matua (Kai Tahu, Kahungunu), Hazel Phillips (Ngati Mutunga), Fiona Cram (Kahungunu, Kai Tahu), Murray Parsons (Kahungunu ki Wairarapa), and Trina Taupo (Tainui, Nga Puhi). Bevan, the Kaiarahi at Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (CPIT), co-leads the overall project with Rosemary DuPlessis. His area of expertise is in Maori environmental and intellectual property right issues. Hazel, Tumuaki Rakahau at CPIT, leads Te Kopere and comes from an education and kaupapa Maori research background. Fiona's background is in Psychology and Maori health. Currently she works as a kaupapa Maori research consultant. Murray is an Ethnobotanist and Marine Phycologist who also works as a private consultant. Trina is the research student in the project. She is completing her M.A. in Sociology at the University of Canterbury.

Making Space for Mātauranga Māori in a Mainstream FRST-Funded Project

The need for public dialogue on the cultural, social, spiritual and ethical implications of genetic testing and gene therapies and increased public participation in policymaking decisions in this area has become ever more urgent given the increasingly rapid development of associated technologies. The Kōrero Whakaaetanga: Constructive Conversations research project responds to the need for better information about the cultural, social, spiritual and ethical elements of new biotechnologies and the need to find new ways of engaging people in dialogue. This presentation will explore how Māori researchers in this large FRST funded project have carved out a space for mātauranga Māori that informs the projects methodology and method as well as the way in which Māori participants' narratives are understood and theorised. Te Kopere, the Māori caucus of the Kōrero Whakaaetanga project, will provide a work in progress account of the way members have created a space for the development of a parallel process in which Mātauranga Māori and tikanga both guide researcher practice and analysis, and add to the growing body of Māori knowledge. In doing so key findings from the first phase of the research will be provided.