

Kia ora from the new Editor

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Te Kaharoa is one of very few academic journals that aims to publish scholarly and creative work by Māori and Pasifika (and Indigenous) academics. It therefore has an educational and politically significant role and purpose, over and above the 'normal' responsibilities of an academic journal to advance and foster sound research in the discipline. Te Kaharoa is part of the Tūwhera stable of open-access, AUT-based academic journals supported by Te Mātāpuna/the Library. But the history of Te Kaharoa pre-dates Tūwhera by about 10 years, its origins within Te Ara Poutama starting in 2008, conceived as a flagship journal for Māori/Pasifika/Indigenous research and researchers in Te Ara Poutama and beyond.

Te Kaharoa was ahead of the curve of digital publishing, beginning as a journal with a website (www.tekaharoa.com) and run via email, before the advent of online platforms for managing articles from first submission through to publication. A change of editorship marks a transition point in the lifetime of a journal, and while not as disruptive as (say) moving house, it is still a cross-roads, a point in time where some people are stepping away from the journal, and others are starting with it, as I am doing now. I want to acknowledge all of the previous Editors of the journal, and all its supporters along the way, led by Professor Pare Keiha.

It is my honour to take up this role with the journal, to provide the editorial leadership to bring it fully into the Tūwhera stable, while exploring what else a Māori academic website might do. Aims for Te Kaharoa in my first year include: to set up an Editorial Board; regularise reviews and operations through the online system; adopt a simple template for formatting articles that authors are encouraged to use; review editorial policies and processes; and meet the criteria for DOAJ and Scopus indexing.

OJS publishing enters the arena of website politics, and a lack of support for researcher-led online content. Academics have no 'speaking rights' on the university website, so are obliged to set up their own sites to fully exercise their

(online) academic freedom, which is a special case of the legal right of freedom of speech (Stewart, 2022). It goes without saying that Te Kaharoa takes a critical, pro-Māori stance in publishing research that is robust politically as well as academically. In terms of the politics of language, knowledge, culture and education, Kaupapa Māori research is seen as world leading (Smith, 2021).

Te Kaharoa is a venue for critical conversations in Kaupapa Māori (Hoskins & Jones, 2017). Te Kaharoa is a journal for Māori Studies, with all of its interdisciplinary connections—to art and design, creative writing, environmental science, education, philosophy, and others. Te Kaharoa has editorial capacity to accept and publish submissions written in te reo Māori. Māori are considered the Indigenous peoples of Aotearoa, so it makes sense for Te Kaharoa to also include Pasifika and other Indigenous researchers and their work in its scope.

It is poignant to take up a role as Editor of a journal that champions Māori research at the time of a larger cross-roads and crisis point in our national identity, following a recent change of government, with an extraordinary triumvirate now in charge. Quixotic attitudes are on display from leaders and politicians who claim their Māori heritage only to justify their anti-Māori rhetoric. The response of te ao Māori is beginning, as in last Saturday's mass gathering at Tūrangawaewae Marae in Ngāruawāhia, the home of the Māori King on the banks of the mighty Waikato river. A journal for Kaupapa Māori research is now more important than ever.

Call for submissions and proposals

My most important task is to encourage new submissions through the website, to revive and regenerate this amazing journal of te ao Māori, me ngā iwi taketake o te ao katoa (the Māori and Indigenous worlds). We are open to research on all relevant topics, while especially interested in work that responds to the current moment for Māori identity in the national imaginary, with the incoming National-led government and its signals.

We run an annual 'rolling' issue, which means we publish each article online once Accepted. As an online journal, we are not limited in the number of articles we can publish each year, but all articles we publish must meet high standards of academic content and writing.

We are also calling for proposals for special issues on topics of importance to Māori and Pasifika in New Zealand, but reserve the right to ask for changes, and to require high standards for acceptable proposals.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Coming soon: Updated guidance for authors, and a journal house style template in Word.

References

Hoskins, T. K., & Jones, A. (Eds.). (2017). *Critical conversations in Kaupapa Māori*. Huia Publishers.

Smith, L. T. (2021). *Decolonizing methodologies: research and indigenous peoples* (3rd ed.). Bloomsbury.

Stewart, G. T. (2022). Whiteness masquerading as academic freedom. In R. Watermeyer, R. Raaper, & M. Olssen (Eds.), *Handbook on Academic Freedom* (pp. 178-190). Edward Elgar. <https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/gbp/handbook-on-academic-freedom-9781788975902.html>