

Indigenous cultures affirmed internationally

Two Auckland academics spoke with one voice at a United Nations seminar in Santiago, Chile.

The speakers were Dr Nin Tomas (Law) and Dr Kathryn Lehman (European Languages and Literature). The seminar they addressed was "Globalisation, human rights and indigenous peoples", held at the United Nations regional headquarters for Latin America (CEPAL) on 28 and 29 November 2006. Their collaboration was intended to provide a model for the leaders of Latin America in attendance, as well as other contributing legal academics and representatives from NGOs.

Nin, with Kathryn translating into Spanish, was originally to give a short presentation about Māori as indigenous people and how they define human rights and relationships. However, her draft paper raised the interest of the organisers, who asked her also to present an overview of globalisation in the opening panel on the first day.

In addition, Nin and Kathryn, with Kim Mazur – a Film, Television and Media Studies student who recorded the experience on film – received a special invitation (along with international human rights law expert James Anaya) to deliver part of a course on Conflict Management and Resolution in Temuco, Southern Chile.

Nin introduced her opening presentation at the UN meeting on "Māori and globalisation" in the traditional Māori way, with a whakatauki (proverb). She ended with a waiata sung in Māori and Spanish. Kathryn and Nin had practised inflections and delivery rhythms to provide an image of two people speaking in three languages conveying one message.

"In order to deliver the presentation properly, Kathryn had to abandon her own cultural background and get inside my head, and I had to let her – she had to get inside my culture, understand its concepts and feel it in order to convey it convincingly – or it would simply have sounded silly," said Nin.

"We started with a whakatauki, which I chanted, and there was complete silence. Kathryn came in straight after, not chanting, but with exactly the same inflection even though speaking in Spanish. During the entire presentation there was absolute silence. People using their own cultural processes when addressing others in these general forums is not common practice."



Dr Nin Tomas (second from right), and Kathryn Lehman (right) take part in the opening panel

The organisers hoped to show the use of indigenous styles and forms of address within a formal meeting framework. Nin and Kathryn were able to help in fulfilling this aim.

"Our presentation was innovative," says Nin, "we demonstrated how co-operation and trust between an indigenous person and two white people, none of whom could have achieved what they each wanted to on their own, can lead to a positive outcome for all three."

The content also provided a model: "I spoke about the principles that uphold tikanga Māori (Māori custom law) and the effects of globalisation on the application of those norms for Māori people, and how they may be reflected in other societies ... In a lot of South American countries, indigenous norms are not taken seriously. To have me speak about them in an international forum as being normal and carrying weight, was a way of affirming Māori culture, making it visible and giving it real value. This approach, in such a high-powered forum, was also a way of reinforcing the normality of the cultures of the other indigenous groups in the audience. They got it. And they let us know with sustained applause."

The next day's address was on "Territoriality and achieving peaceful autonomy in Aotearoa/New Zealand", while the presentation at the Temuco course was on Māori land negotiations.

The experience involved a complexity that was entirely invisible, Kathryn explains. "People tend to think translation and interpretation require a mechanical transferral of inputs and outputs, but when you work with several languages, cultural

traditions (Maori, English, Spanish and Mapudungun), and legal histories (indigenous customary law, English Common law and Napoleonic law), an effective translation requires a fair amount of work but should appear effortless and spontaneous, and the translator should be invisible."

The interviews and other footage filmed by Kim Mazur will provide important teaching and research resources, including indigenous voices from Latin America, not often heard in New Zealand.

"I lecture on the First Nations of Latin America," says Kathryn, "and the material consists of their words, their stories, and images, as much as possible as they intended them to be presented. The goal is to allow students to understand their strategies for self-determination."

"This is a critical moment in Latin American history, as shown by the election of Evo Morales of Bolivia, the first indigenous president in Latin America. People at this seminar spoke of the increased strength and visibility of indigenous movements. While transnational media tend to see this as a threat to stability, indigenous people see it as the start of a new era. Our project captured a bit of this hope on film."

Overall, legal academics from different parts of the world were together for ten days, discussing their work and the possibilities for collaborative research and publications. The presentations will be published.

Nin and Kathryn believe this venture shows how collaboration between disciplines at the University can be used positively to foster teaching, research and service to the community that extends beyond national boundaries.

Prestigious award for selenium study

A study of Selenium levels in intensive care patients has resulted in a MacMahon Award for Professor Gil Hardy, recently appointed as Professor of Pharmaceutical Nutrition in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences. The award was given for the best scientific presentation at the 32nd annual scientific meeting of the Australasian Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (AuSPEN), held in Sydney.

This oral and poster presentation resulted from an international collaborative study – with Dr William Manzanares and a group of intensive care physicians in Montevideo, Uruguay – which investigated the blood levels of the essential micronutrient Selenium and related antioxidants in critically ill patients. It compared levels with those of healthy volunteers.

The results confirmed very low levels in intensive care patients, especially those with infections, suggesting that selenium supplementation might improve their antioxidant defenses. A supplementation study is now under way.

The presentation was selected from more than 50 papers at the AuSPEN conference for the highest

scientific content and best presentation of data.

Gil trained as a biochemist, with degrees from Bristol and Cambridge Universities in the UK. He subsequently worked in Belgium and Germany, before beginning research with Nobel Prize winner, the late Professor Sir Hans Krebs, at the University of Oxford. He pioneered work with combinations of amino acids and micro-nutrients such as selenium, for improving formulations of parenteral nutrition regimens.

Until 2002 he was Professor of Pharmaceutical Nutrition at Oxford Brookes University with international collaborations on formulation and metabolic research into nutraceuticals, cellular nutrition and protein synthesis.

A past chairman of the British Pharmaceutical Nutrition Group, Gil is an active member of the European Society for Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism (ESPEN), the British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (BAPEN) and several Latin American nutrition societies, and has recently been elected to AuSPEN Council. He serves on the research committee of the American Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN) and spoke this month at the society's annual conference in Phoenix.



Professor Gil Hardy (left) with keynote speaker Dr Mette Berger from Lausanne, Switzerland

He is recognised as an authority on the metabolic and health properties of the amino acid, glutamine, and is the founder and organiser of the internationally acclaimed Oxford Glutamine Workshops.

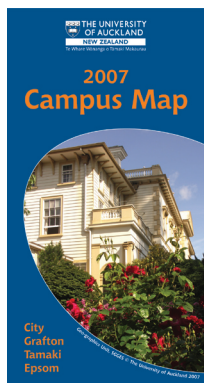
Gil's appointment at Auckland followed several years as visiting and honorary professor.

Campus map updated

The 2007 campus map is now available from Communications and Marketing.

It contains detailed maps of the City, Epsom, Grafton and Tamaki Campuses with an Auckland area map pinpointing their location, and folds into a neat pocket size.

Obtain your copies from Level 10, Fisher Building, 18 Waterloo Quadrant, phone ext 87467, or email tw.thompson@auckland.ac.nz



Links with India explored

The Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) is conducting a scoping exercise to gain an understanding of the linkages that the University has with Indian universities, institutions and academics.

Information gathered will be used to inform the Vice-Chancellor and the Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) and to develop a comprehensive strategy to further strengthen the University's linkages with Indian universities and institutions.

If you have linkages with India could you please inform Gurpreet Singh, Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), g.singh@auckland.ac.nz, ext 84202.

Marketing HOD awarded trans-Tasman fellowship

Professor Peter Danaher has led the Marketing Department since 2001, in this time enhancing its reputation as a leading provider of marketing education.

His prowess in research has been outstanding. His investigations into media exposure distributions, advertising effectiveness, television audience measurement and behaviour, customer satisfaction measurement, forecasting and sample surveys have been published internationally.

Peter was the Australian and New Zealand Marketing Academy (ANZMAC) Researcher of the Year in 2001 and a finalist for both the William O'Dell Award and the John Little Award, recognising outstanding journal articles. He has also contributed strongly to marketing through his work on editorial boards of leading international journals.

As a tribute to his work and achievement in all these areas, he has now been named a fellow of the Australian and New Zealand Marketing Academy (ANZMAC).

The fellowship recognises members who have shown outstanding leadership in research, marketing education and discipline development within their institutions and the academy. No more than three fellowships are awarded each year.

Increase your musical appreciation in eight weeks

Why should the kids be having all the fun? That was the question asked by parents whose children aged five to 18 were receiving specialist training at the Academy of Music.

The response from the academy was to create a course of musical education and appreciation for adults. The aim is to provide a friendly and stimulating atmosphere in which people can broaden their knowledge of classical music. No prior knowledge is assumed.

The eight-week course, to be held on Wednesday evenings from 21 February at the Epsom Campus, will cover the composers and characteristics of Renaissance, baroque, classical, romantic and twentieth-century music. It will also look at how music communicates and speaks to us, and the relationship between composer, performer and listener, as well as imparting basic knowledge on musical ingredients and notation.

The tutor is well-known composer and educator, Dr Leonie Holmes (School of Music), who has been involved with the Academy of Music since it began in 2001 and was its director from 2005 to 2006.

For more information on the course phone ext 88348 or email academyofmusic@auckland.ac.nz

For an application form go to www.creative.auckland.ac.nz, select "Community" and then select "Academy of Music" and look under "Academy programmes".

STAFF BOOKS

Supporting independent language learning

People learn foreign languages in many different contexts and for many different reasons.

However, they all have in common the need to be able to learn independently in some way. Recent years have seen a growing interest in various forms of independent language learning.

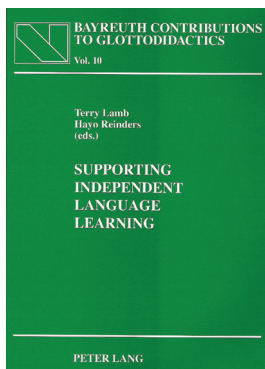
This book – *Supporting Independent Language Learning: Issues and Interventions*, edited by Dr Hayo Reinders, Manager of ELSAC, with Terry Lamb – brings together a range of chapters (including two by University of Auckland researchers) focussing specifically on ways to support independent learning.

The volume comes in two parts, the first dealing with common issues in the field and the second, labelled “interventions”, with solutions and approaches to learning foreign languages.

The book describes a range of contexts for independent language learning around the world, some related to children, others to adults, some to classrooms, others to self-access centres or even to distance learning.

They explore issues to consider when supporting these learners, and describe practical interventions. The book, published in Frankfurt by Peter Lang Publishers, also includes a thematic bibliography of publications in this field.

This collection offers multiple perspectives, both theoretical and highly practical, on a fascinating and increasingly important topic of interest to educators and researchers.



Score More

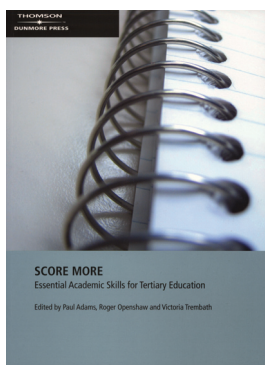
Why do some tertiary education students obtain better marks and grades than others? *Score More: Essential Academic Skills for Tertiary Education* provides some of the answers.

Edited by Victoria Trembath (Centre for Academic Development) with Paul Adams and Robert Openshaw from Massey University, and published in Melbourne by Thomson (Dunmore Press), this book is designed to help students produce better assignments, gain higher marks and, ultimately, to complete their qualifications faster and more easily. Contributors include Dr Joce Jesson (Social and Policy Studies).

Score More covers five academic areas: setting yourself up for success; finding, evaluating and recording information; academic writing; academic conventions; and academic forms.

Intended for undergraduate students (and those new to post-graduate study) it introduces core academic skills such as getting organised for studying, using the library and library databases, note-taking, writing clearly (with appropriate structure and grammar), citation, quotation and referencing formats (APA style) with a particular emphasis on on-line sources. It also covers the use of core academic forms such as essays, reports, posters, journal articles, and oral presentations. The text is 250 pages long and has an excellent index.

Score More was originally launched at Massey University but its publication was celebrated at the Epsom Campus on 16 November.



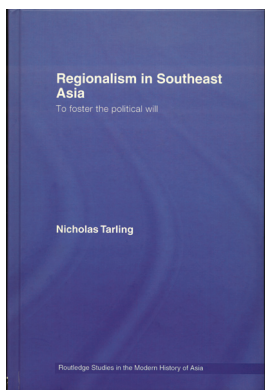
Regionalism in Southeast Asia

This book, written by Emeritus Professor Nicholas Tarling, a Fellow of the New Zealand Asia Institute, provides the reader with an historical analysis of Southeast Asia from the distinct perspective of regionalism.

Southeast Asian history is usually written from a national point of view, which underplays the links between neighbouring states and nations, and the effects of these bonds on the development of regionalism. This innovative book first defines the meaning of “region” and “regionalism” and then applies it to periods of history in Southeast Asia to show how patterns of regionalism have shifted through time to the present day.

Providing a rare historical treatment of the ASEAN, Nicholas Tarling examines the economic and political relationship among the states within the association and their relations with external powers. In focusing on the regional perspective, *Regionalism in Southeast Asia* provides a stimulating and original treatment of Southeast Asian history, its political dynamics and its international relations.

Published by Routledge in Britain and simultaneously in the United States and Canada, this volume completes a trilogy of books on Southeast Asia by Nicholas Tarling. The other titles, *Imperialism in Southeast Asia* (2001) and *Nationalism in Southeast Asia* (2004), are also published by Routledge.



Whither the Six Party Talks?

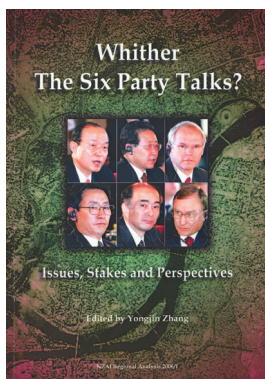
This book, fully entitled *Whither the Six Party Talks? Issues, Stakes and Perspectives*, forms part of the Regional Analysis Series of the New Zealand Asia Institute (NZAI) and was edited by its director, Professor Yongjin Zhang.

The NZAI Regional Analysis Series consists of papers relating to policy. They address international policy issues confronting regional policy communities.

The papers are designed in particular to deepen understanding of, and stimulate debate on, policy issues of significance to New Zealand's political and economic engagement with Asia.

Among contributions to this volume from University of Auckland staff are “The six party talks and challenges to multilateralism” by Dr Xin Chen (a research fellow in the NZAI), “From dogmatism to pragmatism” by Dr Paul Buchanan (Political Studies), “South Korea and the six party talks – Beyond the missile crisis” by Dr Changzoo Song (Korean Studies), “A matter of lips and teeth – China, North Korea and the prospect of the six party talks” by Dr Jian Yang (Political Studies), and “The denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula — Where to go from here?” by Professor Yongjin Zhang (Director, NZAI).

Papers in the NZAI Regional Analysis Series are published both online and in print. Individual authors remain responsible for their own points of view and analysis.



From the collection

Artist Robin White and poet Sam Hunt met in 1968 when they were both 22 years old.

He was visiting Auckland to perform at the University Arts Festival and she had finished her Diploma of Fine Arts at Elam and was training to be a teacher. When Robin was offered a job at Mana College in Porirua in 1969, Sam found her a cottage to live in next to his at Bottle Creek on Paremata Harbour north of Wellington.

Their relationship was close, and the following October she painted this work, *Sam Hunt, Bottle Creek* 1970, the second of four major oil portraits she made of him in seven years. It is divided into three parts, like the triptych format traditionally used for altarpieces in churches.

Sam wrote several poems which refer to Robin, including "A White Gentian" (1971):

Remember Ruapehu,
that mountain, six months ago?
You sat in an alpine hut
Sketching scoria, red
rusted outcrops in the snow.

I climbed some southern peak
and made up the sort of song
men climbing mountains sing:
how, no longer your lover,
I knew it was over.

I thought I'd try out my song
when I returned that evening
as though there were nothing wrong.
Instead I brought a flower down
Smelling of the mountain.

As a poet, Sam is described by

one reviewer as "a kind of Kiwi Jack Kerouac, laconic and somewhat gauche, whose poems or roadsongs are direct and simple, surprised by their own powerful emotion". Sam is known for his ability to recite poetry from memory, and Robin White has portrayed him as the lone performer

whose lyrics are deliberately uncomplicated and colloquial like his appearance.

In May 1970 Robin first began making silkscreen prints using fabric dyes, stylising landscapes and buildings into simplified forms with strong outlines. This printmaking

technique fed back into her painting. Sam appears in front of his home like an actor in front of a stage set, with foreground, midground and background carefully measured out into three stages of recession behind him.

Linda Tyler



Robin White (b.1946), *Sam Hunt, Bottle Creek* 1970 oil on canvas.