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**Moral Frameworks and Policy-Making:  
Enacting Appropriate Decision-Making  
in the  
Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand**

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A thesis presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree  
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## **ABSTRACT**

Policy-making has become a central practice of Western society as policies themselves become a fundamental part of neoliberal governance. This thesis argues that paying attention to the moralities which generate policy-making practices is an important focus for the anthropology of policy. Using Bourdieu's (1980:12) Practice Theory, which argues that "the social world is made and remade through the actions of people," I explore the ways in which the Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand's policy-making practices reproduce their Charter Principle of Appropriate Decision-Making. By examining the work of the Policy Committee, the Party membership, and Caucus in the policy-making process, I argue that balancing the four principles of what I have called Green decision-making – consensus, democracy, congruence, and electoral safety – are part of the moral project of enacting the Charter Principle of Appropriate Decision-Making. Making sense of the Greens' policy-making shows that their practices generate and are generated by the doxa of the moral Principle of Appropriate Decision-Making. Working from the level of practice and foregrounding moralities is important for the anthropology of policy because they offer additional entry points for understanding the work of policy-makers, the meanings which constitute their social worlds, and their policies.

Key words: Anthropology of policy, Practice Theory, moralities, policy-making, Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand.

## **DISCLAIMER**

Policies, documents, and their content referred to in this thesis do not necessarily reflect the view of the Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand, unless specifically referred to as 'ratified policy'.

They are confidential to the Green Party and not for dissemination or publication, except by myself, who has been given permission to do so for the purposes of this research.

All names of participants that appear in this thesis have been changed.

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