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The Nature of the Gaze: A conceptual
discussion of societal privilege from an
indigenous perspective

A thesis submitted for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy

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College of Health
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Belinda Borell

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Whakatauākī

Ruia taitea, ruia taitea, kia tū ko taikākā anake

Strip away the sapwood until only the heartwood remains

Abstract

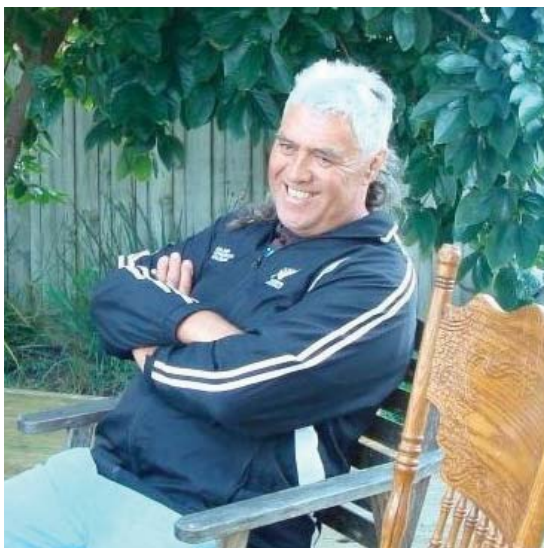
This thesis explores how Kaupapa Māori paradigms can make important contributions to research topics that may not be of direct or immediate relevance to Māori communities. Insights gained from a Kaupapa Māori investigation of white privilege in Aotearoa New Zealand are discussed. I argue that cultural hegemony is maintained through structured forgetting, silence, and suppression of dissent that has dire consequences for dominant cultural groups as well as marginal. Structural racism and privilege are amenable to analyses utilising similar frameworks albeit from opposite sides that can provide valuable insights to understanding inequity more broadly. I also examine ways in which Kaupapa Māori analyses of white privilege can illuminate pathways of redress that will benefit all New Zealanders and provide more embracing perspectives of nationhood.

He Maimai Aroha



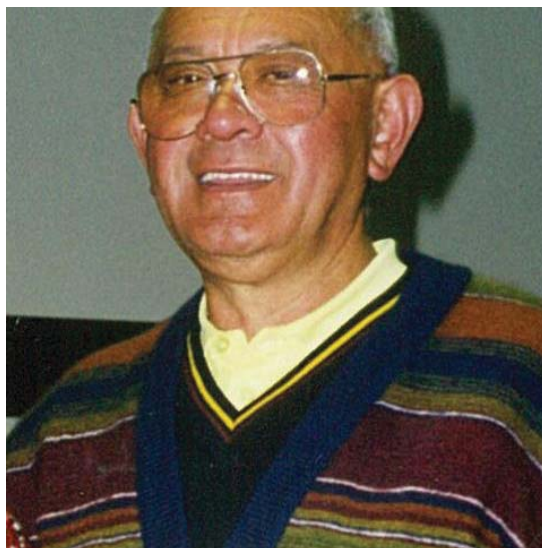
Reginald Borell

15.05.1937 – 02.05.2015



Hori Pomana

23.12.1954 – 01.01.2017



Alex Whaiapu

23.03.1929 – 15.12.2015

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Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| Whakatauākī | iii |
| Abstract | iii |
| He Maimai Aroha | iv |
| Acknowledgements..... | v |
| Introduction | 1 |
| Aims and Objectives:..... | 1 |
| Background | 3 |
| The Nature of the Gaze | 5 |
| Racism | 10 |
| Whiteness..... | 16 |
| The Chapters | 22 |
| Chapter 1: When the marginalised research the privileged: One Māori group’s experience..... | 29 |
| Abstract | 29 |
| Introduction | 29 |
| Indigenous controlled research | 32 |
| ‘Ghettoised’ or ‘romanticised’ research | 33 |
| Whāriki journey..... | 35 |
| Challenging the ‘gaze’ | 37 |
| Assessment/funding..... | 39 |
| Ethics | 40 |
| Discussion..... | 43 |
| Conclusion | 44 |
| Chapter 2: Theorising the structural dynamics of ethnic privilege in Aotearoa: Unpacking “this breeze at my back..... | 47 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Abstract | 47 |
| Introduction | 48 |
| Background | 49 |
| Colonisation and privilege..... | 52 |
| Privilege and public health..... | 53 |
| Privilege discourse | 55 |
| Theorising privilege..... | 56 |
| Societal privilege | 56 |
| Institutional privilege | 58 |
| Interpersonal privilege | 59 |
| Internalised privilege..... | 60 |
| Discussion..... | 61 |
| Determinants of social and health inequity..... | 62 |
| Structural analysis of Pākehā cultural beliefs/values | 62 |
| Pākehā identity work | 63 |
| Policy frameworks..... | 64 |
| Conclusion | 64 |
| Chapter 3: Fumbling in a Vacuum: Explanations Of Mainstream Privilege | 66 |
| Abstract | 66 |
| Introduction | 66 |
| Hegemony and Discourse | 69 |
| Silence, Pauses and Rhetorical Incoherence..... | 71 |
| The Research | 72 |
| Research findings | 73 |
| Discussion..... | 80 |
| Conclusion | 82 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Chapter 4: Beyond the veil: Kaupapa Māori gaze on the non-Māori subject..... | 87 |
| Abstract | 87 |
| Introduction | 87 |
| Background | 88 |
| Accounting for inequity..... | 88 |
| Expanding our accounts | 90 |
| Māori Episteme | 91 |
| Privilege project | 93 |
| Kura Te Waru Rewiri – epistemology and painting practice | 94 |
| Wāhi ngāro | 95 |
| Privilege is wāhi ngāro to the privileged..... | 98 |
| Conclusion | 101 |
| Chapter 5: Conceptualising Historical Privilege: The flip side of historical trauma, a brief examination | 104 |
| Abstract:..... | 104 |
| Historical Privilege - Definition..... | 107 |
| Conclusion | 120 |
| Discussion..... | 121 |
| Where to with Kaupapa Māori theory | 121 |
| Where to with structures of hegemony | 126 |
| Where to with challenging hegemony..... | 128 |
| References..... | 131 |
| Appendices..... | 164 |
| Appendix 1: Statements of Contribution | 166 |
| Appendix 2: Copies of papers as published | 172 |

Glossary

Aotearoa: New Zealand

Hapū: sub tribe, kinship group of multiple whānau

Hui: a gathering or meeting

Iwi: nation, tribe

Kaitiaki: guardian

Kākahu: cloak, garments

Kaupapa: underlying base, general principles, topic, platform

Korowai: cloak with black fibre tassels

Mana: authority

Mātauranga: knowledge

Mihi: form of address, greeting

Mokopuna: grandchild, descendant

Pākehā: people of European origin

Rangatahi: youth, adolescent

Rōpū: team, group

Tangata whenua: indigenous people of the land

Te reo Māori: Māori language

Tikanga: Māori protocols, practices or processes

Wāhi ngaro: lost or hidden place; realm of the supernatural

Waka kōiwi: bone repository

Whakataukākī: significant saying, aphorism

Whānau: extended family groupings and structures

Whāriki: chiefly mat