

Copyright is owned by the Author of the thesis. Permission is given for a copy to be downloaded by an individual for the purpose of research and private study only. The thesis may not be reproduced elsewhere without the permission of the Author.

**A COMPARISON STUDY OF THE PRESENTING SYMPTOMS  
BETWEEN MAORI AND PAKEHA PATIENTS  
DIAGNOSED WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA.**

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements  
for the degree of Master of Arts in Psychology,  
Massey University.

Lisa Cherrington

1994

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Acknowledgements .....	i
Abstract .....	ii
List of figures and tables .....	iii
JADE OR POUNAMU? .....	iv
TE TIMATATANGA: INTRODUCTION .....	1
CHAPTER 1: THE EXPRESSION OF PSYCHOPATHOLOGY ACROSS DIFFERENT CULTURES .....	6
Similarities versus differences .....	6
Research supporting the similarity view of schizophrenia across cultures .....	7
Research supporting the differences view of schizophrenia across cultures .....	14
Conclusion .....	20
CHAPTER 2: MAORI CONCEPTS OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS .....	22
A Maori view of health .....	22
Maori concepts of illness .....	26
Conclusion .....	32
CHAPTER 3: THE RELATIONSHIP OF CULTURE TO THE EXPRESSION OF PSYCHOPATHOLOGY .....	34
Theory 1 .....	35
Theory 2 .....	42
Conclusion .....	50
Summary .....	52

The present study .....	53
CHAPTER 4: METHOD .....	55
Design .....	55
Participants .....	55
Procedure .....	57
Research instruments .....	59
Data analysis .....	64
CHAPTER 5: RESULTS .....	66
CHAPTER 6: DISCUSSION .....	75
CHAPTER 7: CONCLUSION .....	90
Summary of research recommendations .....	90
Practical implications .....	92
TE POUNAMU .....	94
REFERENCES .....	95
APPENDIX A: Information sheet and consent form .....	105
APPENDIX B: Present Status Examination .....	108
APPENDIX C: Revised Paranormal Belief Scale .....	140
APPENDIX D: Test of Maori Knowledge .....	141
APPENDIX E: Provisional Maori Cultural Identity Questionnaire .....	147
APPENDIX F: Symptom clusters derived from PSE items .....	149

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ko Parakioreore te maunga  
Ko Maruarua te awa  
Ko Ngati Hine te hapu  
Ko Ngapuhi te iwi  
Tihei Mauriora  
Naku te mihi atu ki te hunga ora  
Tena ra kōutou katoa.

He mihi ki nga tangata katoa i hoatu te tautoko, te āwhina hoki ki ahau. Kia ora ra kōutou katoa.

Special thanks go to the participants who allowed me to come and talk with them. I also appreciated the co-operation and support I received from the managers and staff of the units I visited. Tena ra kōutou katoa.

Thanks also to my supervisor, Malcolm Johnson. Your openness to this kaupapa, advice, humour and pens were much appreciated. Tena koe e hoa.

To Su/Mum, thank-you for your pearls of wisdom, support and encouragement. You are the best listener and hugger I know. Thank-you especially for your invaluable proofing skills and suggestions. Aroha atu ahau ki a koe.

Ki toku Kohatu. Tena koe whaiāipo mo tō āwhina, tō tautoko, ki ahau.

He mihi hoki ki a Mason Durie mo tō tautoko i te tīmata o tēnei kaupapa.

The encouragement I received from the post grad students and psychology staff was also appreciated. A special mention to Tony C. who helped me through a few 'crises'.

Thank-you also Penny, Christine and Esther for your help in formatting.

Nga tangata katoa i hoatu te tautoko ki ahau,  
Tena ra kōutou mo tō kōutou taonga.

Naku noa  
Lisa Cherrington

## ABSTRACT

The exact relationship between culture and the expression of psychopathology among different cultural groups within New Zealand has yet to be firmly established. The present study investigated the relationship between culture and presenting symptomatology of Maori and Pakeha patients diagnosed with schizophrenia. More specifically, the main aim of the study was to investigate whether differences exist between Maori and Pakeha in the expression of schizophrenia and to explore whether paranormal beliefs and cultural knowledge influence the frequency and content of specific symptoms. Three specific hypotheses were tested. First, the hypothesis that Maori and Pakeha differ in respect to levels of Maori knowledge and strength of paranormal beliefs was explored. Second, the hypothesis that Maori have higher frequencies of hallucinations, delusions of control and subcultural delusions and hallucinations was investigated. Third, the hypothesis that paranormal beliefs and cultural knowledge influence the frequency of presenting symptoms between Maori and Pakeha was explored. A total of 14 Maori and 16 Pakeha patients currently admitted to mental health services with a diagnosis of schizophrenia were interviewed using the Present Status Examination (PSE). The Test of Maori Knowledge (TMK), Revised Paranormal Belief Scale (PBS-R) and a Provisional Maori Cultural Identity Questionnaire (PMCIQ) were also administered during the interview (the latter administered only to Maori participants). The findings indicated that Maori participants experienced significantly higher frequencies of hallucinations and delusions than Pakeha participants. There were no significant differences between groups in strength of paranormal beliefs nor were paranormal beliefs found to influence the frequency with which hallucinations and delusions were reported. However, Maori participants had significantly higher levels of Maori knowledge. Moreover, the findings suggest that Maori knowledge was an influencing variable in the content and frequency of subcultural delusions and hallucinations. Limitations of the study, future research recommendations and implications of the findings for the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of Maori psychiatric patients are discussed.

## LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES

Figure	Page
1	Percentage of positive responses on the Provisional Maori Cultural Identity Questionnaire . . . . . 69
 Table	
1	Age distribution by ethnicity . . . . . 67
2	Place of admission by ethnicity . . . . . 67
3	Education by ethnicity . . . . . 68
4	Mean scores and standard deviations for Maori and Pakeha participants on the Paranormal Belief Scale and subscales . . . . . 71
5	Means, standard deviations and t statistic for Maori and Pakeha frequencies of presenting symptoms . . . . . 72

**JADE OR POUNAMU?**

*See this taonga I wear?*

*Kia āta titiro e hoa*

*For I see*

*the tears of Ranginui*

*te wehi o Papatuanuku*

*I hear the korero of my tūpuna*

*and feel the love of my koro*

*Te mauri o te pounamu*

*Tauīwi*

*Jade or Pounamu?*

*What is it that you see?*

- Lisa Cherrington