

## TE ARA RIRIKI: Keynote Speakers



**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR LEONIE PIHAMA**  
*Te Ātiawa, Ngā Māhanga a Tairi, Ngāti Māhanga*

Associate Professor Leonie Pihama is a mother of six and a grandmother of three. Leonie is an Associate Professor and the Director of Te Kotahi Research Institute at the University of Waikato, and Director of Māori and Indigenous Analysis Ltd, a Kaupapa Māori research company. She has worked as a senior lecturer in Education at the University of Auckland teaching in the fields of policy analysis, Māori women's issues, and the politics of representation of indigenous peoples. She has served on Māori Television's establishment board and worked in film and media production, and in late 2013, she was appointed as a Director on the Te Māngai Paho Board. She has completed a Fulbright Scholarship with the University of Washington, and has extensive expertise connecting her to a wide-range of communities and iwi, which enables her to relate to people throughout Aotearoa New Zealand. Leonie is currently the Principle Investigator on four Health Research Council projects, 'Te Ara Ririki: Taranaki Trauma Informed Care', 'He Oranga Ngākau: Māori Approaches to Trauma Informed Care', 'Honour Project Aotearoa', and 'He Ngākau Māori: Investigating Māori Cultural Constructions of Emotions'.



**HINEWIRANGI KOHU-MORGAN**  
*Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahungunu, Tauranga Moana*

An artist, poet, and a visionary. She is a Board Member of the International Indian Treaty Council and is a Representative for the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific movement. Hinewirangi teaches in New Zealand and abroad, conducting workshops on all aspects of Māori philosophies of mental, physical, and spiritual well-being. Hinewirangi works in the area of trauma recovery, having helped Māori sex-abuse victims for the past 30 years. Her experience as a rape-victim, mental health patient and drug addict have been used to help inmates, offenders and paedophiles. Her areas of expertise include traditional Māori parenting and healing; Māori flute-making; and indigenous poetry and drama.



**Dr MICHELLE JOHNSON-JENNINGS**  
*(Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma)*  
**Director, Research for Indigenous Community Health (RICH) Centre**

An integrated primary care psychologist, she presently serves as Associate to the Dean for Indigenous Research, tenure-track faculty in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Minnesota, Duluth campus and as the Research for Indigenous Community Health (RICH) founding Director. RICH is an interdisciplinary College of Pharmacy and School of Medicine center and developed from her research career and motivation to reduce AIAN health disparities. Dr Johnson-Jennings oversees the weekly writing/mentoring workshops with UMD undergraduate, graduate students and junior faculty, resulting in 32 Indigenous health disparities manuscripts in progress. Her expertise lies in biopsychosocial health interventions (including brief cognitive behavioural therapy, motivational interviewing, and providing integrated care) and the cultural health beliefs among Indigenous peoples including traditional healing practices. In 2014, she was approved as a collaborating Principal Investigator for NIH/NIDA R01 with UW IWRI and the Choctaw Nation for Indigenous health intervention against obesity and substance use. She was further approved for funding as a co-investigator for an additional NIH/NIDA R01 addressing Indigenous substance use with Florida Atlantic University. In 2011 and 2014, she was awarded the NIH/NIMHD L16 Career Development Award and was awarded the NIH, NIMH Indigenous HIV/AIDS Research Training Fellowship. She has served as a co-investigator for a NIH/NIDA R01 examining cultural health protective factors against substance use among American Indian youth with Montana State University. Dr Johnson-Jennings has successfully coordinated, budgeted and held two international Indigenous health summits, which included student research poster mentoring.



## TE ARA RIRIKI: Keynote Speakers



**KERI OPAI**

**Te Atiawa, Ngāti Ruanui, Waiohua, Ngāti Te Ata and Ngāti Porou .**

Te Pou o te Whakaaro Nui: Paeārahi - strategic lead

Hailing from the centre of the universe – Taranaki, his experience is predominately in education, teaching te reo Māori and tikanga Māori since he was a teenager. Keri Opai is a licensed interpreter and has a Master’s Degree in Mātauranga Māori (Māori Knowledge). His current role at Te Pou o te Whakaaro Nui is to help with responsiveness and engagement with Māori. Keri Opai is leading an initiative updating and creating Māori language used in the mental health, addiction and disability sectors. The project is called “Te Reo Hāpai – the language of enrichment”. There is an appetite for using te reo properly; correctly and with respect. This project is researching and creating Māori words and terms that adequately and accurately reflect the best use of Te Reo Māori in the mental health, addiction and disability sectors in 2016 and into the future.



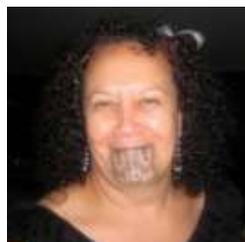
**Tonga Karena**

**Taranaki, Te Atiawa, Tuhoē**

Phd Student

He pūāwai au no runga i te tikanga, he rau rengarenga au no roto i te raukura ko taku raukura rā he manawanui ki te ao! (Te Whiti o Rongomai)

For the most part of his academic career Tonga has been involved in teaching Te Reo Maori at various levels from developing honors papers in Te Reo as well as being part of community revitalisation of his own tribal dialect. The creative field of contemporary and traditional Maori music and composition of Maori forms of music has also been a passionate interest. Participating in the role of the maintenance of language, cultural norms, epistemologies and its literary expressions revealed the extent to which bridging the cultural divide is fraught with challenges. Moreover as an active tribal member of Taranaki Iwi, with his own papa kāinga at Parihaka the home of the peace movement established in 1866 revealed a legacy of peace and culture that has yet to be analysed within a peace studies framework. The central foci of his doctoral thesis aims to draw upon the cultural legacies of Parihaka and to posit the ontological perspectives of the past and present within the social and academic context of peace studies. Unravelling these threads will generate the discursive formations that will be part of a normative and philosophical framework that can allow the Parihaka experience to be relived and potentially institutionalised in the current political settings of Aotearoa/New Zealand.



**Ngaropi Cameron**

**Ngāti Mutunga, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairoa**

Ngaropi is the foundation member, Director and Senior Domestic Violence Programme Facilitator and Educator of Tu Tama Wahine O Taranaki. Ngaropi has worked in the social service area in a variety of environs for over 25 years. Throughout this time she has been involved in numerous local and national community development projects implementing a variety of kaupapa Māori services, trainings and resources. Ngaropi was the only ACC accredited Maori sexual abuse counsellor for Taranaki for over 10yrs years, is a former member of the Ministry of Justice Domestic Violence Programme Approvals Panel 2002 – 2011 and former member of Maori Advisory Board National Taskforce on Family Violence.

