



MANU AO
Academy

Seminar Series 25 August 2010



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Challenges to cultural foundations for research in psychology – In pursuit of a balance.

Research quality is multidimensional in form and often involves weighing up a balance of different concerns and approaches. For example, for any particular study, the issues of appropriateness of methods involve negotiations and choices among reliability, generalisability and validity. The literature around methodology that comes from traditional streams, and Kaupapa Māori Research (KMR) streams, are often perceived as incompatible – are not in balance. New ideas and new directions for research, such as KMR, tend to lure researchers toward misconceptions about what KMR stands for, philosophically as well as scientifically. This presentation will affirm a set of changing conditions – where traditional approaches and KMR approaches are placed on a more equal footing.

*Angus Hikairo Macfarlane is of the Te Arawa waka and its confederate tribes. The thrust of his research activities is concerned with the exploration of cultural concepts and strategies that affect positively on professional educational practice, from which many publications have emanated. In 2003 he was awarded the inaugural Research Fellowship by the New Zealand Council for Educational Research, at which time he took up residency in Wellington to carry out further work in his area of interest. In 2004 his landmark book, *Kia hiwa rā! Listen to culture – Māori students' plea to educators*, was launched. *Discipline, Democracy and Diversity*, was published in August 2007 and this year 2010 he has edited a volume of readings on identifying and nurturing Māori students of promise entitled *Above the Clouds*. Another book, on restorative practices for educators, is with the publishers at this time. Angus is Professor of Māori Research at the University of Canterbury.*