



MANU AO
Academy

Seminar Series 21 September 2011

The Political Special

Maria Bargh (Member of MASS and Lecturer, Victoria University of Wellington) with Veronica Tawhai (Massey University) and Dominic O'Sullivan (University of Waikato)

This seminar will be a conversation with political educationalist Veronica Tawhai and political scientist Dominic O'Sullivan chaired by Maria Bargh. With the election looming in November the Māori political landscape looks vastly different from 2008, or even six months ago. There are questions to be asked about the parliamentary process, the participation of Māori in elections and the Māori political education. How are Māori, and young people in particular involved in elections and political education? Why do people vote and what might be the best ways to encourage more Māori to vote? And what of the referendum on the voting system? Who knows about it? What is motivating it and what are the best options for Māori?

Looking at Māori politics beyond parliament, how are Māori actively reshaping the political landscape at local levels? And looking beyond the shores of Aotearoa- how are Māori shaping their own politics in Australia? With economic and social opportunities abound in Australia what are the mechanisms Māori are using to play a role in decisions made in their Australian communities and communities in Aotearoa?



Veronica Tawhai (Ngāti Porou, Uepohatu) is a lecturer in the policy/politics stream at Te Pūtahi a Toi, School of Māori Studies at Massey University in Palmerston North. Her interests are in political and citizenship education and the effects this has upon engagements between indigenous peoples and states. Her PhD research explores the potential contribution of the discourse of indigeneity to the transformation of citizenship education and thereby understandings of citizenship in colonial-settler societies in particular.

Dominic O'Sullivan is a senior lecturer in politics at Charles Sturt University. He is from Te Rarawa and Ngāti Kahu and has a PhD in politics from the University of Waikato. He has published extensively on Māori and comparative indigenous politics and is author of 'Faith, politics and reconciliation: Catholicism and the politics of indigeneity' (Huia Publishers 2005), Beyond Biculturalism: the politics of an indigenous minority (Huia Publishers 2007) and with Russell Bishop and Mere Berryman 'Scaling-up education reform: addressing the politics of disparity' (NZCER Press 2010).

