



MANU AO
Academy

Seminar Series

8 June 2011



Mere Kēpa

Life and Living in Advance Age Cohort Study in NZ (LiLACS NZ). Critical Issues for Māori Academic in Collaborative, Longitudinal Research

One of many ideas being investigated in the quantitative study, *Life and Living in Advanced Age: A Cohort Study in New Zealand* is the conception of well-being and that I interpret as happiness. I reject John Stuart Mill's Utilitarian definition of happiness as pleasure and the absence of pain; a matter of feeling good or being pleased. I understand happiness as a virtue, a desirable quality, a good value, and a conception of high merit lived over a whole life. In the presentation, I will draw upon the virtuosity or knowledge of the *LiLACS NZ Rōpū Kaitiaki o Ngā Tikanga Māori, Protectors of Principles of Conduct in Māori Research* to discuss the conceptual role of happiness in carrying out the longitudinal research between Māori and non Māori people in the University of Auckland and the researched sites in the Bay of Plenty. Therefore, I shall commence by setting the scene for LiLACS NZ and then I shall convey the duties or responsibilities carried out the Rōpū Kaitiaki, in turn to depict the conceptual role of happiness.

Mere Kēpa of Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Whātua, Ngāi Tūhoe, Whakatōhea and Te Whānau Rūtaia completed her doctoral study in Education at the University of Auckland. Her research and publications have primarily been in the areas of Indigenous and Migrant Education, Language, Culture, Politics, and Education, Pasifika Education, Multilingual Education, Mother-tongue Education, Pedagogical Decolonisation, Indigenous Knowledges, and Indigenous Māori Leadership; Gerontology/Elderly Care, Community Engagement and Research, the Resource Management Act (1991), Environmental Management and Public Policy Planning for Sustainability in Aotearoa-New Zealand, International development.