

TE MANAHUA NZUWIL PARTICIPANT PROFILES



Naumai Hughes

AUT University

I am the Senior Management Accountant for the Faculty of Design & Creative Technologies at AUT, and I have worked within this Faculty for the past 5 years. I am responsible for the management of budgeting and financial aspects of the Faculty, including staffing and capital resources, and provide coverage for the Finance & Planning Manager as required. The current Faculty Finance team consists of four members and we work across various parts of the University including Schools, Research Institutes, and Central AUT divisions.

I began my career at AUT originally as a School Manager with the School of Education from 1999. At the same time I started studying toward a Business degree and continued working as a School Manager up until 2008 when I applied and gained the Management Accounting role within the Design & Creative Technologies Faculty. The change in role coincided with the completion of my honours degree in Accounting. I took a period of parental leave in 2010 when my twin boys arrived, and successfully completed the NZICA professional accounting school and exam that same year. On my return to work in 2011 I completed the remaining practical requirements to become a Chartered Accountant.

My down time is spent looking after my four busy sons, I enjoy running with my eldest son three times a week, and I also practice hot yoga. As a trustee for my Marae, Church and Waahi Tapu, I travel to Tautoro in Northland once a month for meetings and other whaanau gatherings.

[Note: Naumai is now the Finance and Planning Manager for the Faculty of Design & Creative Technologies at AUT. A NZUWIL participant in 2013.]



Michelle Blake

University of Waikato

I am the University Librarian at Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato and have been in this role since returning to NZ in September 2021. I previously worked in the UK for 15 years in a range of management and leadership roles including at the London School of Economics and the University of York (I was the Director of Library & Archives before I left). I have been a member of multiple national and global library and research related boards and since returning to NZ have been heavily involved in the national open research agenda.

I hold a Masters in Library & Information Studies and an undergraduate in Classical Studies and have undertaken various management and leadership courses and am committed to lifelong learning.

I am passionate about the value and impact of libraries and their transformative power for public good and work to challenge traditional notions of what a library is. I enjoy working in the leadership and organisational culture space, developing and empowering staff to reach their full potential and have started initiatives to indigenise the library. I believe in bringing my whole self to work, recognise and respect difference and endeavour to foster a culture where others do the same. I'm committed to always getting better at my job, and to becoming a wiser, kinder and more impactful human.

I am married with two children (8 and 6) and need my daily dose of exercise.

[Note: Michelle in addition to her role as the University Librarian is now a member of the University Council appointed in August 2023. A NZUWIL participant in May 2023.]

TE MANAHUA NZUWIL PARTICIPANT PROFILES



Gillian Lawson

Lincoln University

Gillian (Gill) is an Associate Professor and Head of the School of Landscape Architecture at Lincoln University, but is originally from Australia. Her work has focused on the sociology of education, social practices in public/private open spaces, green infrastructure and waterfront communities in landscape planning and design. She has supervised a large cohort of PhD students to completion within these areas in Australia. Her publications range from investigating the struggles of emerging landscape architects to the vulnerability of flood-prone communities in cities in an era of social and environmental change. Her current interests are in national learning outcomes for landscape architecture programmes in Australia, New Zealand and other Asia-Pacific countries, and on water as a catalyst for improving the adaptation of our cities to climate change.

Gill has worked and studied in landscape architecture at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in Brisbane, Australia, for over twenty years where she received her PhD in 2007. Prior to this, she attended the University of Sydney and the University of New England, Armidale, in Australia, where she studied agricultural and horticultural science. She has been a postdoctoral fellow at Tongji University in Shanghai, PR China, working on large waterfront redevelopment projects across China, and a visiting scholar at the OPENspace Research Centre in Edinburgh, Scotland. Gill is a registered landscape architect in New Zealand and previously in Australia.

Since arriving in 2018, Gill became the current Head of the School of Landscape Architecture and is interested in the NZ Higher Education context. She has been developing her networks with the landscape architecture profession and public institutions in NZ. Originally from Sydney where her family live, she calls Brisbane home. Recently she has taken up e-cycling and enjoys exploring Christchurch and other parts of New Zealand with friends and family on weekends, particularly in autumn and spring.

[Note: A NZUWIL participant in 2019.]



Jo Smith

Victoria University of Wellington

Jo Smith (Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoē and Waitaha) is Senior Lecturer and Programme Director in the Media Studies Programme at Victoria University of Wellington. Her research examines the socio-political power of media technologies with a primary focus on how colonial histories inform contemporary media practices. Her home discipline is Film and Media studies; however, she researches across three interrelated fields (Indigenous, Postcolonial, and Settler Colonial Studies) to ask new questions about the ways in which media technologies, institutions and aesthetic practices help shape notions of identity, nationhood and community.

Jo is a graduate of Otago University graduating with a PhD in 2002. After two years as a lecturer in the Film and Media Studies department at Otago, Jo took up a lectureship at the University of Auckland and worked for four years in the Film, Television and Media Studies department. In 2007 she moved to Wellington to take up a lectureship at the Media Studies programme at Victoria. Recent research projects include a 2008-2009 Fast Start Marsden project on post-2004 New Zealand media and a 2012-2014 Standard Marsden project on Māori Television.

In her free time Jo likes to mountain bike, surf and play music.

[Note: Jo has been promoted to Associate Professor in the School of English, Film, Theatre and Media Studies at Victoria University. A NZUWIL participant in 2012.]

TE MANAHUA NZUWIL PARTICIPANT PROFILES



A black and white portrait of a woman with long, dark, wavy hair, smiling slightly.	<p><i>Kate Diesfeld</i> AUT University</p> <p>Kate Diesfeld travelled to New Zealand by a spiral route. She received her BS from Colgate University (New York), was a Probate Investigator for the State of Alaska and received her Juris Doctorate from the University of San Diego before representing people with developmental disabilities as an attorney for Protection and Advocacy (California). The University of Kent (England) invited her to design and supervise the Kent Law Clinic (Mental Health and Learning Disabilities).</p> <p>She also represented people under detention for 8 years in England. In 2001, she joined AUT and in 2003 became the Director of the National Centre for Health and Social Ethics. She teaches health law, supervises doctoral candidates and continues her research with people with disabilities.</p> <p>[Note: Kate has been promoted to Professor in Health Law in the School of Public Health and Psychosocial Studies at AUT University. A NZUWIL participant in 2008.]</p>
A color portrait of a woman with blonde hair, smiling, wearing a dark patterned top.	<p><i>Karen Stockin</i> Massey University</p> <p>Karen is a Professor in Marine Ecology for the College of Science at Massey University's Auckland campus. Appointed to faculty in 2007, Karen's research specialises in marine mammals, with particular emphasis being on human impacts affecting individuals, populations and species. Karen is a Rutherford Discovery Fellow (2019-2024) where her current research focus centres around both the conservation and welfare aspects of whale mass strandings.</p> <p>Karen arrived from the UK on a Commonwealth Scholarship in 2002 to commence her PhD at Massey University and soon after met her husband who works in sports management. Together they have a 6 year old daughter, Thea who shares their love of wildlife and the outdoors.</p> <p>[Note: Karen was a NZUWIL Steering Group member from Nov 2021 to June 2023. Appointed to the Board of Governors for the Society of Marine Mammalogy, as Chair of the Ethics Committee, in 2021. A NZUWIL participant in 2021.]</p>
A color portrait of a woman with brown hair, smiling, wearing a dark patterned top.	<p><i>Lynda Lipinski</i> Waikato University</p> <p>As the Tauranga Manager Student Services, I lead a team of five Student Advisors and two Programme Administrators.</p> <p>We work closely with students, helping to optimise their university experience from enrolment to graduation. It is a busy and rewarding role based in our stunning, award-winning campus in downtown Tauranga.</p> <p>I gained my Postgraduate Certificate in Management (Leadership in Higher Education) in 2012 through the University of Waikato and have worked in tertiary education for 30 years, the last seven of these with the University of Waikato.</p> <p>I love spending time with my husband, sons aged 27 and 23, and extended whānau. Playing pool, board and card games, biking, walking, tramping, gardening and catching up with friends are how I enjoy spending my spare time.</p> <p>[Note: A NZUWIL participant in 2022.]</p>

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Rawinia Higgins

Victoria University of Wellington

Associate Professor Rawinia Higgins (Ngāi Tūhoe) is the Head of School of Te Kawa a Māui, School of Māori Studies at Victoria University in Wellington. She is also Poukairangi Rangahau (Associate Dean, Research) for Toihuarewa, the Māori faculty at Victoria University.

Alongside Associate Professor Poia Rewi (University of Otago), she was appointed co-principal investigator of Te Kura Roa, a three-year, \$1.5m Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga Pae Tawhiti initiative for te reo Māori. She leads the Whaihua: Community Responsiveness project in collaboration with Te Ataarangi and Te Kōhanga Reo.

Rawinia is an alumna of Victoria University and completed her post-graduate degrees at the University of Otago. Her MA thesis was written in te reo Māori and examined the relationship between grandparents and grandchildren and her PhD thesis examined the identity politics of moko kauae. Her research is entrenched in the field of Māori Studies with a particular focus on the language and culture. Using these cultural paradigms, her work highlights the value of the language and Māori knowledge within modern academic discourse.

Dr Higgins holds ministerial appointments on the Waitangi Tribunal and Te Māngai Pāho. She has also served on Te Kotahi a Tūhoe (Tūhoe Settlement Negotiation Trust) and the Tūhoe Fisheries Charitable Trust and is a mother of Kuratapirangi, her 18 year old daughter.

[Note: Rawinia has been promoted to Professor and is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Maori) at Victoria University of Wellington. A NZUWIL participant in 2014]



Rebecca Grainger

University of Otago

Rebecca is an Associate Professor of Medicine at University of Otago Wellington. Her key research focus is exploring how technology can “make things better” in health care and medical education. Her wider portfolio includes outcome measures in arthritis, social media, participatory health and learning for the future. Her work week also includes clinical work as a specialist Rheumatologist and teaching medical students.

Rebecca graduated in Medicine from Otago. She was awarded a PhD from University of Otago with research undertaken at the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research, examining inflammatory mechanisms in gout arthritis. She was employed as a senior lecturer at University of Otago Wellington (UOW) in 2009 and was appointed to the role of Associate Dean of Medicine Education in 2018. In this role she provides governance and leadership in the delivery of the Advanced Learning in Medicine curriculum for the 300+ medical students at UOW and for the Te Pou Whirinaki/Education Unit, and also provides input to numerous committees across the Otago Medical School. Rebecca sits on several national level grants committees and is Chair of the Scientific Advisory committee of the Wellington Medical Research Foundation.

Rebecca has a strong commitment to the wider health sector, serving in governance roles for the Royal College of Physicians, New Zealand Rheumatology Association, Arthritis New Zealand and she is currently Chair of Health Informatics New Zealand.

Rebecca is married to Ewan and they have twins, Daniel and Sarah-Kate, aged 9 plus a delightful Schnauzer – Bosley. Rebecca enjoys keeping active everyday, cooking, yoga and being with her family.

[Note: Rebecca has been promoted to Professor of Medicine at the University of Otago in January 2022. A NZUWIL participant in 2019]

TE MANAHUA NZUWIL PARTICIPANT PROFILES



Megan Putterill

University of Auckland



I am currently the Strategic Projects Manager for the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at the University of Auckland. I lead the strategy and engagement components of the Academic Health Alliance which is a strategic partnership between the University of Auckland and the three Auckland metropolitan District Health Boards. The Auckland Academic Health Alliance was formed to foster closer relationships between University academics and the metropolitan Auckland DHB staff to accelerate the translation of technologies and discoveries to improve the care and treatment of patients; and to ensure that real clinical problems inform and motivate university research directions.

My background is in technology transfer – the commercialisation of University intellectual property and I have previously worked in this sector for both the Universities of Otago and Auckland and also the Garvan Institute in Sydney in a variety of business development and leadership roles.

Outside of work I lead a busy family life with teenagers.

[Note: A NZUWIL participant in 2019]

Clemency Montelle

Canterbury University



Clemency is a graduate from the Department of the History of Mathematics, Brown University, USA, which she completed as a Fulbright scholar. She currently researches and teaches in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Canterbury. Her consideration of the mathematical achievements of early cultures is carried out by the examination and analysis of primary source material in Sanskrit, Arabic, Greek, Latin, and Cuneiform. Her first book, “Chasing Shadows-Mathematics, Astronomy, and the Early History of Eclipse Reckoning”, focusing on the theoretical treatment of eclipse phenomena in the ancient world, was recently published by Johns Hopkins University Press.

She is currently immersed in an international project on the history of mathematical astronomy in Sanskrit sources supported by a five-year Rutherford Discovery Fellowship awarded by the Royal Society of New Zealand. Her work involves travelling to India to locate Sanskrit manuscripts, reading the mathematics they include, and making their contents available to the scholarly world and beyond. To mitigate the challenges of being a travelling academic and mother, she simply brings her husband and their three children (13, 10, and 3) with her on longer trips. India is a common destination, to everyone’s delight; her daughter had her first taste of curry before she could walk!

While endlessly trying to balance work and life, she enjoys hiking in the mountains with her family, baking bread, yelling at her son’s ice hockey team from the sidelines, and tries to make it to her book group as often as possible.

[Note: Previously a Senior Lecturer when a participant on the NZUWIL in 2016 Clemency has since been promoted to the role of Professor and is the Head of School of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Canterbury. Appointed to the NZUWIL Steering Group in June 2021.]