

EDITORIAL

SITES 12(2) 2015 opens with the essay by Hannah Gibson which was awarded first place in the inaugural ‘*SITES* Graduate Student Essay Competition’. This is to be an annual Award. Publication in *SITES* is the prize. This year the Award committee was chaired by Sita Venkateswar who was assisted by other members of the Board and the International Editorial Committee.

Hannah’s essay compares the potential contribution of Actor Network and Cyborg theories to posthumanist studies of disability and technology. She concludes that while Cyborg theory makes useful contributions, in situations where all is not equal, Actor Network Theory creates the possibility for more powerful insights. The strong thread of equality, or equity, present in Hannah’s work resonates with several of the articles in this issue. Heather Came and Tim McCreanor present a scholarly analysis of racism in relation to Māori in New Zealand and provide a multi-layered framework for a practical national strategy for addressing racism. Lars Weckbecker’s article on the complex ways in which Māori and Māoritanga were incorporated into National Film Unit documentaries serves both as an illustration of the historical ambivalence of state governmentality regarding Māori and of how studies of film can reveal these changing strategies of power.

With his focus on contemporary marae, Pounamu Jade Aikman introduces another major theme of this issue: that of place. His ethnographic study uses Heidegger’s concepts of dwelling, building and the fourfold to examine the everyday richness of two rural marae communities to which he has personal links. Yet historical racism and displacement, along with more recent rural depopulation, have led to a ‘crisis of people’, as one of his participants tells him, for these and other rural marae. Pounamu suggests that exploring how kin can still ‘dwell’ on marae in the current circumstances of their lives is key.

That New Zealand is a place where all may safely dwell is an issue for the final two articles in this issue. Muslim women and physical activity is the focus for Nargis Ali, Deborah Payne and Erica Hinckson. Their research shows that some of their participants found difficulties in finding safe (including free

from racism), acceptable and accepting places for exercise, and that those women for whom being-Muslim was an integral part of their lives had different approaches to physical activity than those for whom doing-Islam was regarded more as a set of practices. In a different context of safety, the safe dwelling of aged care residents in Christchurch was disrupted in February 2011 by earthquakes. Chrystal Jaye, Beatrice Hale and Sue Carswell worked with displaced residents and staff and their hosts in Christchurch and Dunedin. In this article they conclude that the social and cultural capital of the residents and those around them underpinned the resilience of these often frail elderly people in this shared disaster. They caution, however, against over-reliance on the concept of resilience, and stress the importance of the residents' ability to exercise agency.

As always, this issue of the journal would not be possible without the work of many. I particularly wish to single out for thanks our copy-editors who give freely of their time to improve the quality of *SITES*.

Julie Park