

## EDITORIAL

The Editorial Board has been pursuing a programme to make Sites more visible and available to more readers and more writers. Although this is a multi-year effort, the results are already apparent in the increased interest in our journal, and in our participation in Creative Commons and in more indexing services. Perhaps as a result, both issues of Volume 13: the Special Issue, *Peripheral Cosmopolitanisms*, and this General Issue, have more papers and book reviews than usual.

The Board is pleased to announce the winner of the 2016 Sites Graduate Student Essay Competition: Ryan Metzler of Otago University, for his essay 'Creative Cross-Cultural Collaboration'. Thanks to the Award committee convenor, Jenny Lawn and the members, and Congratulations to Ryan.

In the current issue we publish papers from the disciplines of anthropology, cultural studies, ethnomusicology, social psychology and sociology. Authors engage with pressing social concerns, experiment with ways of writing, and debate methods and theories.

The theme of Māori indigeneity in the face of repeated assimilation attempts is addressed in Steven Webster's paper in which he proposes that the concept of commodity fetishism has much to offer the analysis of this most recent, neoliberal, phase of attempted assimilation. Fiona McCormack's work provides the main basis of his discussion and the Issue is enlivened by the inclusion of Fiona's collegial response in which she gifts us a comparison of Hawaiian and New Zealand fisheries. Avril Bell provides us with glimpses of the complex Māori and settler histories of a historic site, Te Ahu, in Kaitaia, which has been a not-always-peaceful meeting place for centuries. It is now a community centre in and through which contemporary relationships are being worked out. Bell argues for greater attention to be paid to place as we grapple with our histories. Jeffery Sissons takes another approach to the land, specifically to sacred sites. He argues that mid-nineteenth century Māori rites of ritual pollution, of which he gives wonderfully detailed accounts, were aimed at removing tapu from sacred sites and separating the gods and ancestors from kin groups. The

process changed the nature of tapu. Land and history also feature in Cameron Boyle's analysis of the writings of Elsie K Morton between 1914 and 1933. He argues that nostalgia for childhood experiences in the forest, or the bush, as it is called locally, have acted as an antimodern response to and critique of deforestation in New Zealand and to modernisation more generally. He points to the absence of Māori in the 'Maoriland' writing which immediately preceded Morton's and in Morton's own work. The bush of Pākehā nostalgia was uninhabited; pristine.

Contemporary relationships of a more negative variety than those of Te Ahu figure in the work of Sylvia Pack, Keith Tuffin and Antonia Lyons who analysed the experiences of some, mainly older, Māori to overt racism over their lifetimes. The authors conclude that although subtle racism certainly exists and is powerful, overt racism has by no means disappeared and continues its well-documented and long-lasting ill-effects into the twenty-first century. An 'impressionistic tale' is the means chosen by Leo Revell and Chrystal Jaye to create an ethnography of homeless people in a regional New Zealand city. They show how providing a home is only the first step in relieving homelessness – in addition, the structural barriers and life courses of disadvantage have to be addressed. The pleasures of a feral life as well as the daily struggle to secure the necessities of life in the intimately-observed interstices of the city are evoked. Most of these homeless people had problems with alcohol and sometimes other substances. Connecting such lived experience with social structures is the suggestion that Aotearoa New Zealand has an overarching 'culture of intoxication.' This is proposed by Fiona Hutton, based on a study with university students which was part of an effort to reduce alcohol-related harms during university orientation activities. Read together, the authors of these three papers share a number of suggestions as to how the social issues that they analyse may be addressed by policy and practice.

Some of the many faces of globalisation find academic responses in this issue of *Sites*. Henry Johnson and Oli Wilson use the example of the music video, 'Stranger People', by New Zealand band, Doprah, to analyse the extent to which Japanese pop culture has become enmeshed in global cultural flows and how media response to site and sound creates meaning for audience and artists alike. Doprah and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement probably do not occur often in the same sentence but both are enmeshed in globalisation. Sasha Maher's research into the TPP suggests that a focus on secrecy in the negotiations surrounding this mega trade agreement was not only instrumental in state formation but distracted from militaristic and foreign policy objectives of the US.

Tuhina Ganguly canvasses with great subtlety some of the complexities of doing fieldwork as a 'native' in India among 'foreign' residents. Tuhina has just submitted her PhD in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Canterbury University. Anthropologist, Professor Patrick McAlister of this Department, died in September and is sadly missed. Tuhina writes: 'I was touched by Patrick's sincerity and support to all students at all times'. Patrick has been a supporter of *Sites* as an author, reviewer of manuscripts, and, as in this issue, as a book reviewer. Our condolences to his colleagues and family.

My three-year term as General Editor ends with this issue. I thank everyone I have worked with over the period, especially the Chair of the Editorial Board, Ruth Fitzgerald, and the layout editor, Les O'Neill, the Board Secretaries, Sherema Bower and Emma McGuirk, the Financial Administrator, Cathrine Waite, our reviewers and our copy-editors, the Book Reviews Editor, Graeme McCrae, and the editors of the Special Issues. I acknowledge the late Cyril Schäfer who showed me the ropes. I wish our incoming General Editor, Chrystal Jaye, who also helped with this issue, all the very best, as *Sites* continues from strength to strength.

*Julie Park*, Professor Emerita,  
Anthropology, University of Auckland.