



Te Whare Wānanga
o Awanuiārangi



abundant
intelligences

Critical Conversations About AI: Indigeneity, Language, Knowledge and Power

Awanuiārangi is a partner in Abundant Intelligences, an international research alliance currently consisting of 48 co-investigators and collaborators at 13 universities/research institutes and (to date) 8 community-based organizations in Canada, the United States, Hawaii, and Aotearoa. This research programme explores how to integrate Indigenous Knowledges and Artificial Intelligence systems.

Date: Friday 15 November

Time: 8:30am - 2:30pm

Venue: Whakatāne Main
Campus, Noho Centre

PANEL QUESTIONS

1. How does knowledge, power and language shape and influence AI technologies, and how do these technologies reinforce or disrupt existing social, cultural and political structures?
2. How do existing AI frameworks and methodologies — developed largely within Western, capitalist, and colonial paradigms — truly serve indigenous knowledge systems and the needs and aspirations of indigenous peoples?

AGENDA

8:30am	OPENING KARAKIA
8:45am	OPENING ADDRESS
9:00am	PANEL CONVERSATION ONE <i>The challenges addressing AI in an Indigenous institutional context.</i>
10:30am	MORNING TEA
11:00am	PANEL CONVERSATION TWO <i>The creative potential of AI for Indigenous institutions.</i>
12:30pm	LUNCH
1:30pm	AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES (TBC)

RSVP by Wednesday 13 November: Karamea.Tukukino@wananga.ac.nz

Panellists



Vaughan Bidois

Professor Vaughan Bidois is a professor of education. His teaching and research interests include critical pedagogy, kaupapa Māori theory and methodology, postcolonial studies, identity theory and cultural politics. He was a member of the TEC PBRF Sector Reference Group contributing to the redistribution of research funding and recognition of Mātauranga Māori and Kaupapa Māori based research. He is also a member of the Te Mātaiaho Rōpū Kaitiaki, which provides guidance and advice in giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi within the curriculum refresh work in Aotearoa New Zealand.



John Clayton

Professor Clayton is the leader of Tokorau - Indigenous Innovation Institute. He has led digital deployment initiatives in Open-Source Courseware, Utilisation of Evidence to Inform Clinical Practice, Mapping Māori Engagement in the Technology Sector and investigating the role of e-Learning in Building Workforce Capability. He has held advisory positions in national initiatives - Federated Identity Management Systems, e-Learning Reference Group, Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network. He was the principal researcher of Sino - NZ Model Vocational Education Programme and has facilitated international workshops in cultural-self, outcomes-based education, teaching and assessment in Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, and China.



Mawera Karetai

Dr Mawera Karetai is a mum, educator, indigenous ethnographer and activist, based on Whakatane. Her areas of interest are food sovereignty, indigenous, and youth activism, climate change impact, and computing as a tool for decolonisation. Mawera is the social science lead for the Our Changing Coast project, and is a lecturer, and ethics advisor in the Management School at Otago University.



Hēmi Whaanga

Māori, Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Mamoe, Waitaha

Professor and Head of Massey University's School of Te Pūtahi-a-Toi - School of Māori Knowledge, is recognized as a leading scholar researching the revitalisation, protection, distribution, and development of Māori knowledge and language, and incorporating mixed-method approaches, processes, and technologies to analyze, develop, present, and protect new and sacred knowledge in different linguistic, cultural, ethical, and digital contexts.



Jason Lewis

Kanaka Maoli, Samoan

Jason Edward Lewis is a digital media theorist, poet, and software designer. He founded Obx Laboratory for Experimental Media, where he conducts research/creation projects exploring computation as a creative and cultural material. He is the University Research Chair in Computational Media and the Indigenous Future Imaginary as well Professor of Computation Arts at Concordia University [and serves as the Co-Director of the Indigenous Futures Research Centre].



Scott Benesiinaabandan
Anishinaabe

Scott Benesiinaabandan is an Anishinaabe (Obishkkokaang) intermedia artist who works primarily in photography, video, audio and printmaking. Benesiinaabandan has completed an international residency at Parramatta Artist Studios in Australia, Context Gallery in Derry, North of Ireland, and University Lethbridge/Royal Institute of Technology iAIR residency, along with international collaborative projects in both the UK and Ireland.



Michelle Lee Brown
Euskalduna

Michelle Lee Brown is the Assistant Professor of Indigenous Knowledge, Data Sovereignty, and Decolonization at Washington State University, in their Digital Technology and Culture Program. She is a recent Eastman Fellow at Dartmouth College in their department of Native American and Indigenous Studies, and recently completed her PhD in the Indigenous Politics and Futures Studies programs in the Political Science Department at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.



Suzanne Kite
Oglála Lakhóta

Kite aka Suzanne Kite is an Oglála Lakhóta artist, composer, and scholar. Her artworks and performances have recently been featured at the 2024 Whitney Biennial; Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin; Center for Art, Research and Alliances (CARA), New York; and the 2024 Shanghai Biennial; among other venues. She is currently Director of Wihanble S'a Lab, Distinguished Artist in Residence, and Assistant Professor of American and Indigenous Studies at Bard College.

