My academic journey

Over the years my research has focused on issues that impact on the health and social service workforce.

My academic journey commenced many years ago when I completed a Diploma in Nursing from Wellington Polytechnic gaining my registration to work in all areas of nursing. At that time, I made a decision to work in the areas that many consider unglamorous such as mental health, addictions, disabilities and aged care. I practised for a number of years in both in-patient and community settings. I then decided I should undertake more studies, so embarked on a Bachelor of Arts at Victoria University of Wellington, completing majors in educational psychology and women’s studies. When I moved into the education sector, I picked up a Master of Education (policy and research) again from VUW, while working at Whitireia Community Polytechnic. After a period of time, I worked at the Central Regional Health Authority as a contracts manager as well as having responsibility for developing and contracting new services. It was at this time that I completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Health Services Management, followed by a Master of Management (Health), before moving to the Ministry of Health as Senior Advisor (Nursing). After a year, I moved into the position of General Manager of Mental Health and Addictions at Hutt Valley District Health Board. Seven years later, I was appointed to Wellington Institute of Technology (WelTec) where I undertook a number of roles and commenced my doctorate. My doctorate combined two areas: organisational change using an appreciative inquiry approach, combining this with understanding where mental health support workers fitted into the health and social service continuum. It was during this time of study that my research activity really got underway. I wrote a number of articles including a chapter of a book about workforce development, as well as the application of appreciative inquiry as an alternative way of viewing sentinel events in the health sector. I found there was a high congruence between appreciative inquiry and New Zealand’s philosophical approach to mental health services, ie the use of recovery and strength-based approaches. I am still using the data gathered from my doctorate as I continue to work on a number of publications.
And I thought this was going to be easy

As the area I had undertaken for my PhD involved interviewing mental health consumers, I knew that I would need ethics approval. One year later I had everything signed off; this is my account of what it took to get there.

My first application was to the Auckland University of Technology Ethics Committee (AUTEC). There were a few minor changes this committee requested such as how I would protect information if I was using a Facebook account. This I altered to a PB Works account. So this part of the approval was easy. However, this committee did not feel they were able to give a final approval as the research was throughout New Zealand. Therefore they required me to lodge an application with the Multinational Ethics Committee. My supervisor advised that this was outside her comfort zone, as she had never had to get approval from this committee. I submitted my application and was invited to present to the committee. I received approval from the committee with a few minor alterations. Again, there is a “however”. As a result of the 2011 Christchurch earthquake, those people that had agreed to take part now wished to withdraw. A site that I had not intended to recruit participants from now wished to take part in the study, so this then became my next round of applications. As it was a different site and involved staff from two district health boards, I had to make an application to the Otago University Ethics Committee, as they had delegated authority to act for the district health board. There was also a requirement to meet Ngai Tahu’s requirements. This application also required site approval for recruiting participants. The application was finally completed by Otago University and sent to the Ministry of Health, which provides secretariat support for the ethics committees. These changes meant that I also had to go back to AUTEC and get their approval. All was now going to plan until the Ministry of Health rang me to ask the reference number assigned to my study. They had received a signed approval from Otago University but the name of the lead investigator had been changed from mine to a professor from the university (not sure how that happened). Finally one year later, I had approval across the whole country but was still required to provide regular update reports to three committees.

The learning from this experience for students is that unless their programme of study is all research-based or they have the ability to navigate the system, then they are better off focusing on secondary data sources as, once human subjects are directly involved, the requirements become intense. For students at undergraduate level or even Master’s, I believe careful guidance is required in order to have a positive research experience.
Conferences

2-4 October 2017
CITRENZ conference
“Agile and industry-ready IT education”
EIT, Hawke’s Bay
conference.citrenz.ac.nz

11 -12 November 2017
Development of Research in Social Sciences, Humanities, Business and Management Studies
“Exploring and nurturing research excellence”
Rydges on Swanston, Melbourne
anissh.com/conferences/drshbm-nov-2017

20 – 21 November 2017
International Business Research Conference
Rendezvous Hotel, Melbourne
www.austconfo.com

23-25 November 2017
Third East-West Dialogue on Tourism and the Chinese Dream
Marriott Hotel, Gold Coast
www.tourismchinesedreamconference2017.com.au

27-29 November 2017
ALANZ / ALAA / ALTAANZ conference
“Applied Linguistics in the new millennium: Multiple theories, pathways and practices”
AUT University
www.alanz.ac.nz

30 November – 2 December 2017
ATLAANZ conference
“Build and rebuild: Responding to new realities”
Lincoln University
www.facebook.com/ATLAANZ/

6-8 December 2017
Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management
RMIT, Melbourne
www.anzam.org/events/types/events-conference

11-12 November 2017
Develo Physical Research in Social Sciences, Humanities, Business and Management Studies
“Exploring and nurturing research excellence”
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“Build and rebuild: Responding to new realities”
Lincoln University
www.facebook.com/ATLAANZ/

15 – 16 January 2018
CRIE (Centre for Research in International Education) International conference
“Online Learning in International Education”
Auckland Institute of Studies
crie.org.nz/conferences.htm

5-8 February 2018
CAUTHE Annual Conference
“Get smart: Paradoxes and possibilities”
University of Newcastle, Australia
www.facebook.com/CAUTHE2018

5 – 7 October 2018
CLESOL (Community Languages and ESOL) conference
“Transforming our landscape”
Christ’s College, Christchurch
www.clesol2018.org.nz
Staff outputs


Ali, E. (2017). Private universities and higher education in Bangladesh. Presentation at the 7th IIMS international conference, Shih Chien University, Taiwan, 24-27 November.


Cabling, D., Kumar, R., Choe, K. W. & Watts, M. J. Moodle: An Analysis of its utilisation, benefits, problems and it support as perceived by the students of Auckland Institute of Studies. In *Proceedings of the 30th Annual CITRENZ Conference*.


Hennessy, J. (2017). Surfing the waves: Did we miss the wave? Mental health support workers: Could we have done things differently? Presentation at the College of Mental Health Nursing Conference, Hamilton, 10 October.


Jackson, K. E. (2017), Finance as just a constraint on economic growth or a way to sustainable development. UK Development Studies Association Conference, “Sustainability Interrogated: societies, growth and social justice”. University of Bradford, 6-8 September.


Jackson, K. E. (2017). Global Dimensions of Labour Markets and Economic Development: a scoping study of the cases of Bangladesh and Malaysia in terms of migration, remittances and economic growth. In Faculty of Economics, Foreign Labour and Economic Development: The Experience of Asia (pp. 9-22), Kyushu, Japan: Saga University.


Quadding-Mierink, L. (2017). Inquiry research: Beliefs held by teachers that hinder the implementation of Web 2.0 into ESOL classes. Master’s in Education (eLearning) dissertation. Massey University.


