

A Kaupapa Māori Research Approach

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Caveats

- I do not (and can not) speak for all Māori.
- I am not a kaupapa Māori expert. But I have conducted several research projects using kaupapa Māori research methodology and I have published articles using kaupapa Māori research methodology [including in the highest ranked outlets].
- My points are based on the literature and my experiences.
- Apply ‘largely’ equally for qualitative or quantitative!

What is Kaupapa Māori research?

- Smith (1999, p. 2) defines it as

*An attempt to retrieve Māori research for Māori, and that meets the goals of increasing returns for Māori Academics and the people they effect with their research. It provides a focus through which Māori people, as communities of researchers and the researched, have been able to engage in dialogue regarding new priorities, policies and practices for research, **for, by, and with**, Māori.*

What is Kaupapa Māori research?

- A core concept of kaupapa Māori research methodology is research by, with, and for Māori. I do differ from many on the ‘by’! Why not use non-Māori (as well) if they are all for the kaupapa!!? I also think this can be a useful approach to research other cultures! The aim of the research should be to ultimately benefit Māori.
- A kaupapa Māori research methodology can be used to explain and understand Māori knowledge and experiences, and “affirms the right of Māori to be Māori”.

Why Kaupapa Māori research?

- Māori have a long history of being the ‘targets’ of research, with much of this research being of a negative focus, such as exploring the poor health outcomes of Māori (Smith, 1999).
- Durie (2005, p. 301) stated a new approach has focus on the interface between indigenous knowledge and other knowledge systems, such as science, to generate new insights, built from two systems”.

Doing Kaupapa Māori research

- The role of a kaumatua represents not only the traditions and historical linkages around Māori traditions, but to also provide a voice for the ‘people’ i.e., putting Māori at the centre of the research.
- It seeks solid scientific methods to be inclusive of an indigenous voice – and importantly, to embrace Māori traditions and worldview, and represent a positive focus where possible.

Doing Kaupapa Māori research

- Kaupapa Māori research focuses on with Māori not on Māori!
- It reinforces the community, the relationship of sharing, and not the “power” of expert over subordinate...
- It ensures that Māori maintain conceptual, methodological, and interpretive control over the research!

Doing Kaupapa Māori research

- These are my tips/guidelines. Three stages of conducting kaupapa Māori research:
 1. The Start (setting the research topic);
 2. The Middle (conducting the research), and
 3. The End (dissemination).

Start: Tino rangatiratanga

- **Self-determination is key. Can be organisation, hapu, iwi, or representative group (e.g., Māori lawyers' group).**
- **Encourage asking them for their Qs of interest? Pressing issues!**
- **But, as a researcher, we still have to conduct good science, ethical work etc. So, partnership.**
- **Tiaki model (mentor model), where Māori authority on the research context, mentors the researcher/s (or at least their focus).**

Middle: The Mahi

- **Research is conducted. Ethics!**
- **Mentoring community group? Other Māori researchers – especially less experienced researchers. Empowerment is a key factor in kaupapa Māori research**
- **Research in te reo Māori [oral or written]?**
- **Whangai model, where researchers are adopted by a whānau (extended family) or Māori community. Extend them training.**

End: Hui

- **Research has ended – now disseminate! Hui equals communication. Academic publishing is a given for academics. But consider Māori stakeholders as co-authors (e.g., paper, conference presentations).**
- **Manaaki ki te tangata (share and host people and be generous).**
- **‘Give back’ the research (e.g., transcripts, surveys). Empower!**

End: Hui

- **Dissemination of research findings is important! Present research back to Māori stakeholders and provide opportunity for participants to view/hear results (e.g., hui, youtube – te reo(?)! 😊). Translate!**

Similar Approaches?


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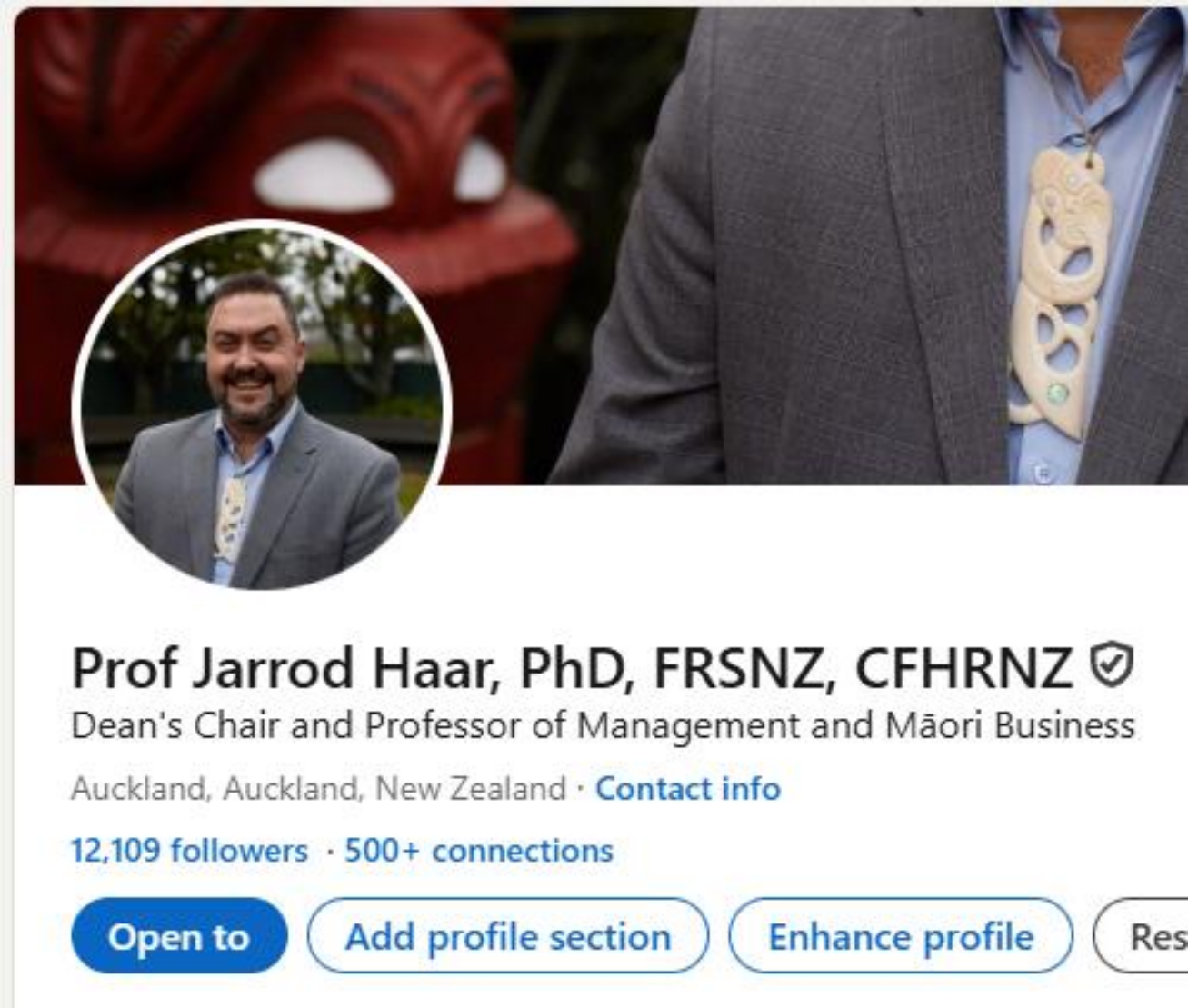
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Summary

- **Plan: mentor + voice [not just yours!]**
- **Be culturally safe: for Māori, by Māori, and with Māori.**
- **Student? Be realistic → small is best!**
- **Seek a positive story [or an important negative one!].**
- **Follow those three stages ;-)**
- **Enjoy research – its amazing!**



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