



TE HUNGA RANGAHAU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA
NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION

Lyn Foote Award for Student Research in Early

Childhood Education 2019



Olivera Kamenarac

Dr Olivera has won this award for her outstanding and highly relevant PhD thesis, entitled *Discursive constructions of teachers' professional identities in early childhood policies and practice in Aotearoa New Zealand: Complexities and contradictions*. Olivera's thesis researched how preschool teachers construct their professional identities over two decades of change in early childhood education and care policy and practice in Aotearoa New Zealand. The thesis built on her International Masters in Early Childhood Education and Care (IMEC) thesis about the concept of professionalism in Norwegian early childhood

education policies and practice.

As the Aotearoa New Zealand examiner stated: "Olivera builds the theoretical framework of her thesis to a stunning conclusion using the notion of 'discursive windows' and including more of her excellent diagrammatic frameworks. This is exactly how a good thesis should end, not just summarising past findings but taking the reader even further."

Olivera is maintaining an active research programme, conducting quality research and contributing to knowledge development through scholarship and publication; building and maintaining national and international research collaborations. Her research interests include philosophy in/of education, educational policies and politics, critical pedagogies, teacher agency, advocacy and activism, professional identities, professionalism, cultural diversity.