

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

McKenzie Award 2014



Nick Zepke

Associate Professor Nick Zepke's exemplary research career has extended across four decades. Nick has made a significant contribution to educational knowledge as an historian, futurist, critic, theoretician and practitioner. He has worked in polytechnic, community and adult education settings, and most recently at Massey University.

As a member of the New Zealand Commission for the Future in the late 1970s Nick contributed to, and personally wrote, many publications on possible futures for New Zealand. Later his focus shifted to adult education in the tertiary sector, where his sustained research efforts and many publications have made an important contribution to new knowledge. Nick has successfully instigated, resourced and led collaborative research projects that have opened up opportunities for others. His advice was influential in the establishment of Ako Aotearoa as a National Centre for Excellence in tertiary and adult education research.

Internationally, Nick is held in high esteem in his research field. His work is important because he is able to capture both the complexity and breadth of constructs such as engagement with learning. Some of his studies have subsequently been replicated in other countries. Nick was invited to be a foundation member of the editorial board for the highly regarded journal *Active Learning in Higher Education* and served for some years as editor of the *New Zealand Journal of Adult Learning*. His many publications are widely cited by others and in 2011 he was awarded the HERDSA/TERNZ Research Medal. Nick is frequently invited to speak at international conferences, where he is renowned both for his theoretical contributions and for the innovative, practical pedagogical strategies and advice that he develops and tests in response to his findings.

Nick embodies the virtues of an excellent educator. He is open to new and different ideas, willingly reflects on his own practice, and brings a keen scholarly intellect to all his endeavours. True to his commitment to adult learning, he is generous with his time and expertise. Nick has provided challenging but supportive research mentoring for many novice researchers. He has actively promoted and facilitated research by Māori and Pasifika researchers in Aotearoa/New Zealand. His humility, integrity, willingness to work in preferred Māori ways and tireless efforts, have earned him considerable mana and esteem among members of these communities. As one former student noted, the enlightenment that comes from learning with and from Nick is a "seed planted abroad", ready to take root and grow in many different settings. Nick Zepke is a very worthy recipient of the 2014 NZARE McKenzie Award.



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