

# MaKenzie Award 2018



## *Stephen May* University of Auckland

Stephen May is a Professor in Te Puna Wānanga (School of Māori and Indigenous Education), University of Auckland. He has made a significant and exemplary contribution to educational research and to NZARE since 1990. He is regarded as a world authority on language rights and language policy, and an international expert in the related fields of indigenous language education, bilingual/immersion education, critical multiculturalism and multilingualism and language learning. He has published 25 books and over 100 articles and chapters on the topic to date, with over 7000 citations to his work. His academic work is at the very forefront of developments both nationally and internationally, in his areas of expertise.

Professor May was a Fulbright Senior Scholar in 2008 at both Arizona State University and City University New York (CUNY), researching, respectively, Navajo language education programmes and Spanish-English bilingual programmes. He was appointed in 2015 as a Fellow of the American Educational Research Association, only one of four New Zealanders to be so recognised. He is a Fellow of Te Apārangi/Royal Society of New Zealand. Along with Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith, they were the first educationalists to be appointed in 2016 as RSNZ Fellows in nearly 20 years. Professor May is also currently the Deputy Chair of the 2018 PBRF Education Panel.

Professor May's ground-breaking and award-winning book, *Language and Minority Rights* (now in its 2<sup>nd</sup> edition) – which focuses on the language education rights and related educational provision, attributed to Indigenous and other minoritised groups – is widely regarded as having redefined the field of language rights and language policy, as well as extending discussion of language rights in to the fields of sociology, political theory, human rights, and, most recently economics.

Professor May demonstrates a strong and ongoing commitment to being a public intellectual. He speaks tirelessly about the benefits of bilingualism, bilingual/immersion education and the importance and value of te reo, while also actively contesting the still ongoing negative attitudes regularly expressed towards these, in a wide range of educational and public forums, as well as in media.

Professor May has a longstanding and deeply held commitment to actively mentoring other academic staff and students in order to both strengthen and expand their research, and to facilitate its publication. In addition, he is a highly committed and engaging teacher, teaching both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes at Auckland and has a long history of successful masters and doctoral thesis completions. His academic and professional career is characterised by his wider commitment to social justice. For all these reasons, he is a worthy recipient of NZARE's 2018 McKenzie Award