



TE HUNGA RANGAHAU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION

2021



## Sutton-Smith Doctoral Award

*Michael Harcourt*

*Te Herenga Waka*

This is an extremely important and timely thesis that makes a significant and original contribution to research into history education in Aotearoa New Zealand. Michael has set out to investigate how teachers and students in senior History classes in New Zealand schools engage with the difficult histories of colonialism.

The thesis is firmly grounded in an appropriate critical literature and theoretical concepts drawn from research into the teaching of difficult histories, critical pedagogies of place and of emotion and a critique of coloniality as it applies to the valorisation of western over indigenous knowledges. Empirically, Michael has undertaken two nationwide surveys with teachers and students of history and four ethnographic case studies with senior history classes in four schools. This breadth of data is impressive, as is Michael's ability to draw a clear analytic line through it and weave it all into a coherent and highly readable account. The thesis clearly demonstrates Michael's independent research skills with both quantitative and qualitative.