



Welcome to the first edition of the NZPSA's quarterly newsletter for 2017. I trust everyone has had a relaxing summer break. 2016 will be remembered for significant upheaval in the world of politics, electorally, ideologically, and in terms of international security. Many of these issues were discussed at our annual conference last December and our thanks to Patrick Barrett, Priya Kurian, Reuben Steff, Jacob Tapiata, Dan Zirkir and Frances Douch for putting it all together with such calm and efficiency. For those of you who are new to the NZPSA, welcome, and if you have any items to share with our members, please let us [know](#). Wishing you all a belated happy new year, [Jennifer Curtin](#), NZPSA President

The highlight of last year was the **2016 NZPSA Conference** hosted by the Political Science and Public Policy Programme at the University of Waikato in Hamilton from 1-3 December.

The conference theme was "Divergent Democracies: Politics in the 21st Century" and featured an engrossing keynote talk from Professor Margaret Mutu on 'New Possibilities for our Democratic Future: Matike Mai Aotearoa and its Proposal for Constitutional Transformation'. A public lecture by five panellists addressed the conference theme from a range of regional perspectives and received an excellent turnout, while a plenary of distinguished panellists considered the causes and implications of the Brexit for the EU and wider European Project.

The conference attracted more than [140 abstracts](#), many of which addressed different aspects of the conference theme, including the state of democracy in New Zealand and challenges to local governance, Māori politics and participation in the electoral process, environmental politics, the role of religion, media and institutions in democracy, campaigns and voting, political demography, and the contemporary democratic experience in the US, European Union, Australia, Southeast Asia and Middle East. Other abstracts covered a range of themes: from international relations and comparative politics to non-violence, pacifism, and peace and conflict; displaced peoples, asylum seeking and immigrants as well as issues of inequality in NZ and the UK and the roles of NGOs; the politics of gender, ethnicity and identity as well as colonial legacies and indigenous experiences; and topics related to political theory, climate change politics and issues within the discipline.

The postgraduate network also enjoyed a pre-conference workshop event that considered how to build peer networks, manage the postgraduate supervision process and effectively make the transition from postgraduate study to work. And we were pleased to be able to host [Australian Political Science Association](#) President Professor Jenny Lewis.

The 2017 NZPSA Conference will be hosted by the University of Otago on 29 November-1 December, so put those dates in your diary now. [More information soon](#).

[NZPSA Prize Winners](#)

Undergraduate Essay Prize in Māori Politics: Awhina Milne (Victoria University of Wellington).

Undergraduate Essay Prize for Aotearoa New Zealand Politics: Matthew van Wijk (University of Auckland).

NZPSA Postgraduate Conference Paper Prize: Jovanie Camacho Espesor (University of Canterbury) for the paper 'Democracy, Insurgency and Hybrid Regime: Interrogating the role of non-government aid organisations in democracy promotion in conflict-ridden communities of Mindanao'.

Environmental Politics and Policy Postgraduate Conference Paper Prize: Timothy Given (University of Waikato) for the paper 'International Investment Dispute Arbitration: An Analysis of the Environmental and Social Justice Implications of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement for Environmental Governance in New Zealand'.

Honorary Lifetime Membership

[Professor Raymond Miller](#) from the University of Auckland has been awarded an Honorary Lifetime Membership for his services to the NZPSA. Raymond was the long-time editor of the New Zealand Government and Politics textbook, royalties from which he donated to the NZPSA to fund prizes in New Zealand Politics.

Women Talking Politics

Priya Kurian and Greta Snyder launched the [2016 edition](#) of *Women Talking Politics*, featuring a range of pieces by early career scholars as well as profiles of recent graduates. You can find it on our website, along with back issues of the publication. If you wish to contribute to this year's edition, please contact [Priya direct](#).

IPSA News

In 2018 the Australian Political Studies Association (APSA) conference and the Oceanic Conference on International Studies (OCIS) will be incorporated into the IPSA 25th World Congress of Political Science in Brisbane (21-26 July). While still a long way off, the calls for submissions will open in May 2017 and close in October. You can find more information here:

<http://www.ipsa.org/world-congress-brisbane-2018>

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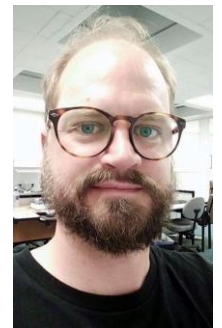
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PhD Profiles



[Yadira Martínez Pantoja](#) completed her PhD at the University of Auckland in December 2016. Her doctoral research titled **“United States Promotion of GM Foods in Mexico: An Application of a Public Diplomacy Model”** focuses on the diplomatic relationship between the United States and Mexico in regards to biotechnology and genetically modified (GM) foods. Yadira's thesis proposed a public diplomacy model to assess the communications and interactions between governments, multinational corporations (MNCs), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), at both international and domestic levels. It also includes the identification of the reactive, proactive, and relationship-building strategies and instruments of public diplomacy that state and non-state actors employ to promote biotechnology and GM foods in Mexico. Yadira has presented her research at the First CPD Conference on Public Diplomacy at USC Center on Public Diplomacy, the ISA 58th Annual Convention, and the 2013 and 2014 NZPSA Conferences. She was supervised by A/Prof Stephen Hoadley and A/Prof Jennifer Curtin and she is interested in pursuing an academic career to contribute new ideas to the field of public diplomacy area, a better understanding of the US-Mexico relations, and the role of non-state actors as emergent players in world politics.

[David Belgrave](#)'s thesis titled **“Actually or Potentially Within Reach: The Place of China in New Zealand's Grand Strategy 1965-1972”** charts the radical changes in New Zealand's foreign and defence policies between the creation of the Ministry of Defence in 1964 and Norman Kirk's recognition of China in 1972. During this period, multiple forces reshaped New Zealand's grand strategy and the assumptions that drove that strategy. Central to this change in strategy was a reshaping of New Zealand's assumptions about the People's Republic of China, the threat that it posed to New Zealand's interests in South East Asia, and the willingness of New Zealand's great power allies to assist in securing those interests. David's work focuses on how New Zealand policymakers assessed China as an international actor between the years 1965 and 1972. David was supervised by Professor Robert Ayson and Associate Professor David Capie, at the Victoria University of Wellington. Since finishing his thesis David has lectured Politics and International Relations at Massey University Albany. His current writing ties his thesis to contemporary challenges in Asia-Pacific security as well as a range of other research interests.



[Eduardo Abou Ltaif](#)'s thesis **“The Development of Consociational Politics in Lebanon: 1825-2015”** interprets consociational democracy as a political framework for deeply divided societies using Lebanon as a case study. Eduardo claims that consociational practices in Lebanon are hampered by three main characteristics of the country: ethnurg (the politicization of cultural identities), mobilization, memory and trauma. His intention is to create a balance between internal factors, represented in the characteristics of Lebanese factors and external ones, represented in the regional dimension. Consequently, these characteristics may be used to study consociational practices in other deeply divided societies. His research shows that internal factors have more influence than regional factors in promoting or hindering consociational arrangements. Moreover, this identifies memory and trauma as a factor in promoting or hindering consociational provisions. A legitimate consociational system needs to respect and manage not only the conflicting identities, but also the traumatic memories of groups in order to establish a stable system and avoid the possible emergence of emotionally-motivated memories that would threaten peace and coexistence. Eduardo completed his thesis at the University of Otago under the guidance of Professors William Harris and James Headley and he is now working at the Lebanese American University in Beirut.



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To let us know about a recent doctoral completion email
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