

## **Recent (2005-2008) Social Science-Relevant Books on New Zealand: a review essay**

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This review essay develops and briefly comments on a listing of the 'population' of recent (2005-2008) New Zealand-relevant and Social Science-relevant books. Since library catalogues are too non-discriminating to be entirely helpful, this list has been assembled from a range of sources, including particularly publisher's websites (see Appendix concerning New Zealand publishing), with some judgement being required as to which have sufficient academic merit and relevance to the topic. *New Zealand Sociology* has or might consider reviewing some of these, although it is certainly not intended that all in this array be covered in future issues. Although a few descriptive points are made about some of these books, it is rather more important that this exercise is used as an attempt to monitor where New Zealand-relevant social science-relevant books are being published, how they appear to be brought into being and what topics they cover. Examining this array also raises broader questions where answers can only be hinted at here: to what extent is the New Zealand social science community aware of and providing quality assurance in relation to these books and what impact are they having on scholarly knowledge production and debates (inside and outside New Zealand), let alone on policy.

There are some delicate lines around what constitutes a book or monograph. Here technical reports or working papers, are not included although they form a large contribution to the New Zealand social science knowledge-base, and moreover one that may often have heightened significance because of higher policy relevance. Geographically, attention is fairly closely confined to books with (a high element of) New Zealand content (whether or not written by New Zealand authors) and historically it is difficult to include a clear demarcation with 'social history' more likely to be included. Straight textbooks have not been

included (for a study of New Zealand sociology textbooks see Crothers, 2008).

Nearly 90 books were located, and undoubtedly a few more are lurking out there. This amounts to some two dozen a year, one a fortnight. Whether this is thought a feast or a famine depends on personal expectations: I was pleasantly surprised.

Of the books covered here fully half are multi-authored books, presumably indicating the limitations of the New Zealand publishing market.

The two main publishers – Auckland University Press and VUW’s Institute of Policy Studies – contribute perhaps a dozen each while the smaller publishers (CUP, VUP, OUP, Dunmore, Huia Publishers etc. - see Appendix 2 for abbreviations and urls for the major publishers) more like half a dozen each. A very wide-flung range of publishers provide only one volume, and the list is so diverse there are undoubtedly others out there that have been missed in the present compilation. Other publishers include: the Cambridge, Cornell, Hawaii, Oxford, Temple University Presses and ‘commercial’ publishers: Cengage/Thomson; Ashgate, Activity Press, Craig Potter, Palgrave MacMillan, Penguin, Reaktion, Reed and Random House. Finally there are a few specific-purpose publishers: the Environmental Defence Society, Save the Children and so forth.

Perhaps the most interesting and vibrant contributions come from a series of books from Huia Publishers including Bargh (2007); Berryman and Bishop (2006); O’Sullivan (2007) and Stewart-Harawira (2006). The New Zealand stock of policy-relevant knowledge has been particularly increased by VUW’s IPS which has produced an interesting series of policy-relevant monographs dealing with many of the issues of the day.

In terms of authorship, few have been written by ‘straight’ sociologists: those that have been are of heightened importance for *New Zealand Sociology* and will be separately reviewed in due course: these include books by Chris Brickell (2008) on gay relationships; Lyndon Fraser (2007) on Irish settlement on the West Coast; Newbold (2007) on prisons, Allison Kirkman on sexuality, Kevin Dew (and Matheson 2008) on health inequalities, Warwick Tie (2006) on restorative justice,

Georgina Murray (2006) on the Australasian power elite and Cassell's (2005) comparative ethnographic study of surgeons at Auckland hospital.

Tucked in alongside the professional sociology contributions there is a small literature from New Zealand intellectuals and commentators and the vestiges of a popular sociology. Brown (2007) has brought together an interesting and useful compilation of views on New Zealand. Sociological works have from time to time been accompanied by attempts to depict the everyday lives of people and Busch and Connew (2005) have assembled a range of documentary photography material which documents the daily lives of New Zealanders. Perhaps the most intriguing of the 'pop sociologies' is the little monograph by Caldwell and Brown (2007) who postulate that in their (unspecified!) research they found New Zealanders chary of commenting on class and also that views of a single ideal New Zealander didn't work and instead they delineate eight distinctive social identities (other market researchers might call these 'life-style segments') which are particularly defined by the places where they are concentrated: North Shore, Grey Lynn, Balclutha, Remuera, Otara, Raglan, Cuba Street and Papatoetoe. These hidden classes (or tribes) for the most part cut across financial, racial, age, gender, ethnic and occupational boundaries but center on how people see themselves and what their key attitudes are.

More general social scientists contribute many books which sociologists should closely attend to. In particular, there are several collections which are particularly pertinent.

In the period covered only the NZCER have been active in terms of methodological works, although their aim is often the junior practitioner, with their offerings including Mutch (2005) on educational research more generally, Mutch (2006) on researching 'others', Podmore (2006) on observation studies, and Piggott-Irvine and Bartlett (2008) on *Evaluating Action Research*. New Zealand is seldom the site for intense theoretical work, but local theorists have taken the opportunity of the visit of an international theorist to produce commentaries on Zizek (Simmons et al., 2005). In addition to its many highly technical volumes the NZCER Press has also branched out with Gordon's (2005) thoughtful

consideration of the Knowledge Society and its implications for education.

Concern with Maori issues is attended to in a range of books including Durie's (2005) essays; Eruti and Charters (2007) on Maori property rights; Maaka and Fleras (2005) on the politics of indigeneity in Canada and New Zealand; Palmer (2008) on the Treaty; O'Sullivan's theoretical essay (2007) *Beyond Biculturalism* and on the empirical side Berryman and Bishop's educational ethnography (2006), Skinner's (2008) study of Maori carvers and other artists, and Webber (2008) on Maori-Pakeha identities. A major contribution comes from Amiria Henare (2005) with her extensive and thoroughly theorised study of the two-way flow of artefacts between New Zealand and Scotland and the role of museums in representing these. A beautifully-crafted essay from Sissons (2005) explores issues relating to a wide range of 'first peoples'.

The ethnicity and also identity themes are the focus for a considerable cluster of books. Again, collections hold central attention. Rata and Openshaw (2006) assemble a comparative study of contemporary processes of ethnic boundary-making which is heavily focused on New Zealand since it is argued that these processes are most visible in New Zealand, with an extended and explicit argument structure which is explored through a range of essays dealing with ethnic statistics, education, the Anglican church and other apparent manifestations of these processes. Other edited volumes focus on Identities (Liu et al, 2005) and Asian New Zealanders (Johnson and Moloughney, 2006). But there is also an array of monograph length studies which include Phillips and Hearn's (2008) broad treatment of Settlers, Bozic-Vrbranci (2008) on Croats and Maori; Manying Ip (2008) on Maori-Chinese; Leckie (2008) on Indians; and Tatz et al. (2008) on the remigration of South African Jews.

Culture studies often receives both public and academic interest, and has produced an array of interesting titles, including Evans (2007) and Fox (2008) on New Zealand literary culture, Labrum and Lam (2007) on clothing, Leach (2008) on the pavlova, McAra (2007) on Buddhists and wider collections edited by McNaughton and Adam Lam (2006) and McNaughton and Newton (2006).

Language continues to be a prime indicator of New Zealanders' attitudes and behaviour and the period covered in this review notes the contributions of an edited overview book (Bell et al, 2005) and the forthcoming work (Gordon, 2008) both of which are highly sociologically relevant.

Politics also provides a popular angle of vision with essays collected by Ladley and Martin (2005) on *The Visible Hand: The Changing Role of the State in New Zealand's Development* and Miller and Minstrom's edited study (2006) of *Leadership*. Shaw and Eichbaum (2005) provide an overview of *Public Policy in New Zealand* (including an important chapter on the social development model) while Hughes and Calder (2007) provide advice on swaying policy-making. Oddly, the steady prior stream of books commenting on elections has slowed, with only Levine and Roberts's (2007) treatment of the 2005 elections in the publications hustings, although almost in compensation it is the only book in the array reviewed here which comes with an attached CD-rom full of election visual memorabilia.

New Zealand social scientists seem to still be exorcising the 1980's scourge of Rogernomics (but not so much the 1990s Ruthernomics) since we have coverage focusing on this era from Clark's (2005) collection, Morris and Janiewski (2005) Roper (2005) together with a new edition of Duncan (2007). Sharp (2005) has edited a collection of Bruce Jesson's writings, much of which are directed at this topic.

It is useful that Lunt et al (2007) provide a more contemporary refocusing of attention on the social welfare performance of the current Labour government. Working at a global scale, but placing New Zealand within this context, are Bargh's canvas (2007) of indigenous response to neo-liberalism; Easton's text on globalisation (2007), and the grand sweep of Stewart-Harawira's (2006) *The New Imperial Order* which creatively reviews the globalisation literature but from a First People's perspective. The chapters in Patman and Rudd (2005) explore the interaction between globalisation and New Zealand's policy-making apparatus, political culture and sense of national identity and our role in international relations, Holland (2007) covers New Zealand's relations with Europe, and Gould (2006) provides an abrasive commentary on the

effects of globalisation. Kennedy (2008) attends to regional government in the Pacific, while Huntsman and Kalolo (2007) focus on the dynamics of decolonisation in the Tokelaus.

Social policy concerns are the focus for a recent trio of important publications. Lunt et al (2007) provide a general argument (partially supported with appropriate evidence) concerning the 'social development/investment' model that has pertained over the 8-9 years of Labour-led governments, whereas St John and Wynd (2008) assemble a range of critiques that document those areas in which the NZ welfare state is still failing its would-be beneficiaries. Dew (2008) has assembled a collection for a very serious examination of health inequalities in New Zealand. These collections are supported by a wide range of more specialist volumes include those on climate change, the aging population (Boston and Davey 2006), ethnicity in relation to policy (Boston et al., 2006; Callister, 2007); voluntary organisations (Crib, 2006) and White's (2007) investigation of the Official Information processes.

Community development often trails or leads concerns about social issues and here contributions are Chile 2007, Cribb (2006) and from a thoroughly researched historical aspect Tennant (2008).

New Zealand is often left behind in international comparative studies, not just because we sometimes lack the data to plug into the international matrix but more often because we are laggard in providing international clearing houses with the data. So for New Zealand social scientists to take a lead in an international comparative study is refreshing (Freeman et al 2007 – this is a sociological study of Trade Union activity). Attention to work environments is also provided by a well-documented collection on the work-life balance (Waring and Fouche, 2007) and an interesting case-study of Dunedin's industries edited by Inkson et al. (2007). In addition, Corliss (2007) has contributed an annotated bibliography of NZ Trade Union studies.

Academics often are motivated to write about their own situation: a relevant policy-issue which has generated a couple of books is the PBRF (Bakker et al., 2006 and Smith and Jesson, 2005). Academia has also been tackled in a couple of recent institutional histories (Page, 2008;

Reid, 2008) and a broad canvass on New Zealand intellectuals (Simmons, 2007).

The sociology of deviance often is an interesting site for studies and there is a strong showing of recent New Zealand books in this area: Anae et al. (2006) have provided a partial history of the Polynesian Panthers; Brickell (2008) contributes a well-illustrated tome on gays; Newbold (2007) has studied Prisons in depth; and there are also Butterworth's (2005) recent history of the police and Stenning's (2008) investigation of the prosecution process. New Zealand has an international reputation for the early development of 'restorative justice' approaches, especially in the Maori context and this area of scholarship is represented by two volumes: Maxwell and Liu (2007) and Tie et al. (2006).

Urban studies is an important area of study for New Zealand social scientists, although here the pickings seem to be thin apart from an extensive collection edited by Freeman and Thompson-Fawcett (2006) which builds on their earlier volume in exploring dimensions of community planning and in so doing consolidating much of the community-related research which has been carried out on New Zealand.

Others have contributed empirical studies on a wide range of topics which are useful additions to the empirically-based knowledge of New Zealand society:

- Gauld and Goldfinch 2006 on the organisational dynamics of installing computer systems;
- Newman (2008) on the exigencies of the internet;
- Miller (2007) on the development of the Town Planning profession;
- Pearce's (2006) study of *The Fenoterol Story*;
- Tyso and Norman (2007) on controlling meningococcal B;
- Peart's (2007) study of the interrelations between different agencies in the management of coasts;
- Scobie et al (2005) on household wealth;
- Pool et al's (2007) magisterial volume on the demographic history of the family;
- Wood et al. (2008) on the political history of physical punishment of children;

It is difficult, given the thinness of intellectual life in New Zealand, to access any particular institutionalised arena within which intellectual debates concerning NZ society are located, and this function is provided only to some extent by the books published on New Zealand. Reception of books in New Zealand is limited to evanescent attention alongside a wide slew of other New Zealand and non-New Zealand books in (Sunday) newspapers, magazines (the *New Zealand Listener*) and *Radio NZ* on the one hand and on the other a longer-term, scattered and staggered reaction through book reviews in New Zealand's scholarly periodicals. There is little cumulativeness of any debate and it is easy for relevant books to escape appropriate attention let alone reaction. Very few are brought to public attention (for example, perhaps, being available to be bought in bookshops in provincial centres).

The main contribution that New Zealand social science book publishing makes seems to be the provision of outlets for a steady diet of empirically-based studies, many of which are policy-relevant. The main drawback is that given the small number of published studies, the coverage is highly uneven and contingent. A particularly important format for such empirical contributions has been through the provision of several highly important collections of materials.

It is not clear to what extent these New Zealand materials circulate in international intellectual spaces but I suspect that visibility is not high since most New Zealand publishing is not well-connected with global outlets and the international publishers are not (in the main) highly visible ones (since University Presses are quality rather than quantity publishers).

While New Zealand social science publishing is mainly in the hands of a mere half a dozen important houses (mainly New Zealand University Presses) and is therefore readily monitored, other presses do throw up important books and New Zealand social scientists need to be alert to these. It is possible that the limited range of publishers and more importantly types of publishers limits New Zealand social science publishing, but clearly this is not totally limiting as many authors have not limited themselves to the more heavily subscribed publishers. An interesting lesson I have learned is that publishers I was not particularly

alert to – such as IPS, NZCERPress and Huia Publishing - were engaged in interesting work.

Only a couple of academic sociology and one popular sociology books are published each year on average. Perspectives other than straight sociological are more popular with historical inflections or cultural approaches clearly being preferred by publishers and publics. Linking to social policy concerns is another important approach. Yet, even if core sociology is only lightly represented in New Zealand publishing as one of a much larger range of publishing clusters, there is much material for New Zealand sociologists to harvest from the wider array of material. Fortunately, social science book publishing in NZ is alive and well.

This review essay is also seen as a small contribution – through laying down a data-base of titles - to further understanding of the operation of the social sciences in New Zealand, and clearly many questions deserving of further research have been raised concerning the New Zealand public, publishing, policy-makers, politicians and the interactions between publishing and the reception of books.

### ***Appendix 1: New Zealand Book Publishing***

Some pertinent websites include several devoted to NZ publishers or books:

<http://www.nzbooks.org.nz/>

<http://www.booksellers.co.nz/>

<http://bpanz.org.nz/>

<http://publicationsnz.natlib.govt.nz/>

<http://www.bookcouncil.org.nz/index.html>

Readers might consider also New Zealand's book review journal:

<http://www.nzbooks.org.nz/>.

The BPANZ website carried copies of Colmar Brunton's annual survey of the publishing industry - which covers books published in NZ by revenue and by genre, export trends, size and types of publishers, number of employees, growth indicators and revenue from imported titles. Book publishing in New Zealand is attracting a considerable book coverage in its own right: see Bohan (2001) on Reed, Griffith et. al.(2000) more broadly and MacEldowney (2001) on the AUP.

*Appendix 2: Major Publishers*

AUP	Auckland University Press	<a href="http://www.auckland.ac.nz/aup">Www.auckland.ac.nz/aup</a>
CUP	Canterbury University Press	<a href="http://www.cup.canterbury.ac.nz">Www.cup.canterbury.ac.nz</a>
Dunmore		<a href="http://www.dunmore.co.nz/">http://www.dunmore.co.nz/</a>
Huia Publishers		<a href="http://www.huia.co.nz">www.huia.co.nz</a>
IPS	Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University	<a href="http://ips.ac.nz/publications/categories/contents/1">http://ips.ac.nz/publications/categories/contents/1</a>
NZCER		<a href="http://www.nzcer.org.nz/default.php?cPath=345_139">http://www.nzcer.org.nz/default.php?cPath=345_139</a>
OUP	Otago University Press	<a href="http://www.otago.ac.nz/press">www.otago.ac.nz/press</a>
VUP	Victoria University Press	<a href="http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vup">www.victoria.ac.nz/vup</a>

*References*

- Anae, Melani; Laitofa Iuli and Lelani Burgoyne (eds.) (2006) *Polynesian Panthers: the crucible years 1971-74* Reed
- Bakker, Leon et al. (eds.) (2006) *Evaluating the performance-based research fund: framing the debate* IPS
- Bargh, Maria (ed.) (2007) *Resistance: an indigenous response to neo-liberalism* Huia
- Bell, Allan; Ray Harlow and Donna Starcks (eds.) (2005) *Languages of New Zealand* Wellington: VUP
- Berryman, Mere and Russell Bishop (2006) *Culture Speaks: cultural relationships and classroom teaching* Huia
- Bohan, Edmund (2005) *The House of Reed 1907–1983: Great days in New Zealand publishing* CUP
- Boston, Jonathan; Paul Callister and Amanda Wolf (2006) *The Policy Implications of Diversity* IPS
- Boston, Jonathan and Judith Davey (eds.) (2006) *Implications of Population Ageing: Opportunities and Risks* IPS
- Bozic-Vrbanci, Senka (2008) *Tarara: Croats and Maori in New Zealand* OUP
- Brickell, Chris (2008) *Mates & Lovers: A History of Gay New Zealand* Random House
- Brown, Russell (ed.) (2007) *Great New Zealand Argument: Ideas about ourselves* Activity Press
- Busch, Glenn and Bruce Connew (2005) *My Place: 'A Place In Time' 21st Century Documentary Project* CUP
- Butterworth, Susan (2005) *More than Law and Order: Policing a Changing Society 1945-1992* CUP
- Caldwell, Jill and Christopher Brown (2007) *8 Tribes: The Hidden Classes of New Zealand* Wellington: Wicked Little Books
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- Cassell, Joan (2005) *Life and Death in Intensive Care* Temple University Press
- Chile, Love (ed.) (2007) *Community development in New Zealand: exploring good practise* Institute of Public Policy, AUT .
- Clark, Margaret (ed.) (2005) *For the Record: Lange and the Fourth Labour government*. Dunmore
- Corliss, Paul (2006) *Words at Work: An annotated bibliography of New Zealand trade union literature* CUP
- Cribb, Jo (2006) *Being Accountable: Voluntary Organisation, Government Agencies and Contracted Social Services in New Zealand* IPS
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- Durie, Mason (2005) *Nga Tai Matatu: Tides of Maori Endurance* Oxford University Press
- Easton, Brian (2007) *Globalisation and the Wealth of Nations* AUP

- Eruti, Andrew and Claire Charters (eds.) (2007) *Maori Property Rights and the Foreshore and Seabed* VUP
- Evans, Patrick (2007) *The Long Forgetting: Post-colonial literary culture in New Zealand* CUP
- Fox, Alistair (2008) *The Ship of Dreams: Masculinity in contemporary Pakeha and Maori fiction of Aotearoa/New Zealand* OUP
- Fraser, Lyndon (2007) *Castles of Gold a History of New Zealand's West Coast* Irish OUP
- Freeman, Claire & Michelle Thompson-Fawcett (eds.) (2006) *Living Together: Towards Inclusive Communities* OUP
- Freeman, Richard; Peter Boxall and Peter Haynes (eds.) (2007) *What Workers Say: employee voice in the Anglo-American workplace* Ithaca and London: ILR Press/Cornell University Press
- Gauld, Robin and Shaun Golfinch (2006) *Dangerous Enthusiasms* OUP
- Gilbert, Jane (2005) *Catching the Knowledge Wave? The Knowledge Society and the Future of Education* Wellington: NZCER
- Gordon, Elizabeth (2008) *Finding Our Own Voice: New Zealand English in the Making* CUP
- Gould, Bryan (2006) *The Democracy Sham: how globalisation devalues your vote* Nelson: Craig Potter
- Griffith, Penny; Peter Hughes & Alan Loney (Eds.) (2000) *A Book In The Hand Essays on the History of the Book in New Zealand* AUP
- Henare, Amiria (2005) *Museums, Anthropology and Imperial Exchange* Cambridge University Press
- Holland, Martin (ed.) (2007) *The Europa Lectures 2001-2006* CUP
- Hughes, Frances and Stephanie Calder (2007) *Have Your Say: influencing public policy in NZ* Dunmore
- Huntsman, Judith and Kelihiano Kalolo (2007) *The Future of Tokelau: Decolonising Agendas, 1975-2006* AUP
- Inkson, Kerr; Victoria Browning, and Jodyanne Kirkwood (eds.) (2007) *Working on the Edge: A Portrait of Business in Dunedin* OUP
- Johnson, Henry and Brian Moloughney (eds.) (2006) *Asia in the Making of New Zealand* AUP
- Kennedy, Graham (ed.) (2008) *Models of Regional Governance for the Pacific - Sovereignty and the Future Architecture of Regionalism* CUP
- Labrum, Bronwyn; Fiona Mckergow and Stephanie Gibson (eds.) (2007) *Looking Flash: Clothing in Aotearoa/New Zealand* AUP
- Ladley, Andrew and John Martin (eds.) (2005) *The Visible Hand: The Changing Role of the State in New Zealand's Development* IPS
- Leach, Helen (2008) *The Pavlova Story: A slice of New Zealand's culinary history* OUP
- Leckie, Jacqueline (2008) *Indian Settlers: The Story of a New Zealand South Asian Community* OUP
- Levine, Steohen and Nigel Roberts (2007) *The Baubles of Office: the New Zealand General Election of 2005*. VUP
- Liu, J.H., McCreanor, T., McIntosh, T., & Teaiwa, T. (eds.) (2005) *New Zealand identities: Departures and Destinations*. VUP.

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- Maaka, Roger and Augie Fleras (2005) *The Politics of Indigeneity: Challenging the State in Canada and Aotearoa New Zealand* OUP
- McAra, Sally (2007) *Land of Beautiful Vision: making a Buddhist Sacred Place in NZ* Honolulu: U Hawaii Press.
- McEldowney, Dennis (2001) *A Press Achieved: The Emergence of Auckland University Press, 1927-72* AUP
- McNaughton, Howard and Adam Lam (eds.)(2006) *The Reinvention of Everyday Life: Culture In The Twenty-First Century* CUP
- McNaughton, Howard and John Newton (eds.)(2006) *Figuring The Pacific: Aotearoa And Pacific Cultural Studies* CUP
- Manying, Ip (2008) *Being Maori-Chinese: Mixed Identities* AUP
- Maxwell, Gabrielle and James Liu (eds.) (2007) *Restorative Justice and Practices in New Zealand: Towards a Restorative Society* IPS
- Miller, Caroline (2007) *The Unsung Profession: A History of the New Zealand Planning Institute* Dunmore
- Miller, Raymond and Michael Mintrom (eds.)(2006) *Political Leadership in New Zealand* AUP
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