

Significant research projects to date include:

- + longitudinal research on the impact of New Zealand's standards-based NCEA on student motivation
- + research on autism and on alternative augmentations communication development
- + evaluation research on effective professional development for teachers to engage in culturally responsive pedagogy
- + tertiary assessment policy and practices including student experiences and programme approaches to assessment
- + educational strategies to support evidence-based numeracy policy and practice related to positive student outcomes
- + International Research on World-Mindedness among undergraduates across the disciplines in four countries.
- + effective interventions to address behavioural challenges at all levels of schooling
- + an investigation into Asian dimensions in New Zealand's initial teacher education programmes
- + investigation of factors associated with undergraduate study as part of international student exchange agreements
- + investigations of effective professional development and teacher practices in gifted education, early childhood education, secondary assessment, intercultural language teaching, Māori education, and e-learning teaching and assessment

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Jessie Hetherington

Jessie Hetherington was a distinguished pioneer in evidence-based education in New Zealand. Jessie graduated from the Auckland University College with a BA in 1902 and sailed for England in 1904. She studied law at Girton College, Cambridge, and subsequently received an MA from Trinity College, Dublin.



Jessie began teaching in England and became involved in the campaign for women's suffrage. She moved to Australia in 1909 where she taught in Sydney but returned to England after three years and completed her Diploma in Education at St Mary's College, London. She became an assistant lecturer at the Cambridge Secondary Training College for Women in 1913.

In 1914, Jessie returned to New Zealand and was appointed Tutor and Librarian at the Wellington Teachers' Training College. She went on to achieve a full lectureship and also lectured on the history of education at Victoria University College.

Jessie resigned from the Teachers' Training College after hearing that her application for the post of Vice Principal would not be considered because she was a woman.

In 1926, Jessie became the first woman in New Zealand to be appointed as a full inspector of secondary schools. After her retirement in 1942, she continued her strong involvement with education and women's interests.

Want more information on Jessie Hetherington?

<http://www.dnzb.govt.nz/dnzb/>

Research Centre Activity

The Jessie Hetherington Centre for Educational Research is a major research centre at Victoria University. Named after a pioneer of New Zealand education practice, the centre supports significant and strategic educational research and development activities in the Asia Pacific region and collaborative research internationally.

The Centre operates in partnership with He Parekerekere and encompasses the Institute for Early Childhood Studies and the Mathematics Education Unit. Working relationships have been established with the Centre for Applied Cross-Cultural Research (CACR) and the Roy McKenzie Centre for the Study of Families with an emphasis on areas related to education and the educational sector.

The Centre focuses on research to enhance theoretical and evidence-based educational policy and practice from early childhood to higher education and strives to promote collaborative research linkages across disciplines and with the profession to foster a positive impact on education. Activities include a focus upon research partnerships addressing bicultural and multicultural aspects of education in Aotearoa New Zealand and the Asia Pacific region as well as internationally.

The Centre's research goals are:

- + national and international recognition for excellence in selected areas according to identified individual and group strengths
- + significant contributions to educational research across all areas represented in the research conducted by our faculty
- + significant contributions to research-led teaching university-wide, including enhancement of research on teaching and learning at tertiary level across disciplines.

Ongoing research undertaken through the centre aligns with half of VUW interdisciplinary strengths, which include:

- + understanding historical and contemporary societies
- + international engagement and understanding
- + information, problem solving and learning
- + management and human interaction
- + Māori knowledge and development.

The Jessie Hetherington Centre Management Team



Director of the JHC, Professor Luanna Meyer is responsible for the Faculty of Education's research development portfolio. Professional areas of interest include social science research and evaluation methods, behavioural intervention, developmental disabilities, and children's social interactions and relationships.



Professor Jeff Sigafoos, Deputy Director, received his Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from The University of Minnesota in 1990. He specialises in research and interventions for persons with developmental and physical disabilities.



Associate Professor Carmen Dalli is Associate Director JHC and Director of the Institute for Early Childhood Studies. Her research includes: issues of development in the early years, particularly the experience of group-based early childhood services for infants and toddlers; early childhood professionalism and ethical practice; and early childhood policy.



Dr Joanna Higgins is Associate Director JHC and Director of the Mathematics Education Unit. Joanna's research includes: policy, implementation and evaluation of mathematics programmes for the school sector; teachers' professional learning; and students' learning in classrooms.



Professor Wally Penetito, Director of He Parekerekere, specialises in theory, policy and practice in Māori and indigenous education. He is the Victoria University representative on Te Mana Whakahaere for Te Wānanga o Raukawa, on the research committee for Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga and on the Ministry of Education Strategic Advisory Group (Pae Rautaki) for Māori secondary school and wharekura teachers.