

Te Mauri Pakeaka – The Third Space

Piki Diamond

Auckland University of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand
pdiamond@aut.ac.nz

This showcase looks at bringing the two worldviews of te ao Māori and Industrialism together through establishing similarities. Similarities form the necessary seedbed that is nurturing and nourishing that enables and empowers students to be inquisitive, experimental and creative. In such a space the gifts from both worlds can be harnessed and students full potential can be exposed and developed. These gifts are the tools and economic resources from Industrialism and cultural awareness and identity encapsulated in being Māori. Bi-worldview education focuses on socio-cultural benefits to biculturalism rather than its political discourse. Recognising the potential on how a collaborative approach between te ao Māori and Western can create a seedbed for creation and knowledge, education could better guide students to being proactive citizens, who contribute, develop and create economic and cultural well-being within their communities. However with imbalance of Māori academic staff in most university faculties this research constructed a starter kit for academics with no-to-little mātauranga Māori to engage with Māori students and society. Similarities are established between Māori and Western theories that influence learning, development, creation and knowledge construct. These similarities form the seedbed to enable the formation of a bi-worldview, developing knowledge, tools and attitudes that can benefit the society as a whole. An attitudinal survey conducted on students, Māori and non-Māori, who engaged in papers with mātauranga Māori and Māori practices highlighted that in general the students found the inclusion of mātauranga Māori beneficial to understanding New Zealand society and culture.