

**NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATION**  
**TE HUNGA RANGAHAU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA**

# *McKenzie Award 2015*

## *Linda Smith* *University of Waikato*



Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith's (Ngati Awa and Ngati Porou) significant, sustained and diverse contribution to educational research has been highly influential in regard to policy development and educational practice here in Aotearoa. She has been instrumental in the Kaupapa Māori educational movement and the revitalisation of te reo and tikanga. Informed by a strong social justice agenda, Linda has played a major part in the establishment of Te Kohanga Reo, Kura Kaupapa Māori, Whare Kura and Whare Wananga. These involvements within Te Ao Māori have created transformative outcomes for Māori across all sectors of education.

Linda is an exemplary researcher. Her perceptive and gifted scholarship both as a writer and an orator has captured the attention of national and international colleagues as well as their local communities. Linda's groundbreaking work, focused on indigenous education, has inspired and empowered indigenous peoples throughout the world. Her text "Decolonizing methodologies: Indigenous peoples and research", is considered a seminal text for indigenous scholars across the globe. In addition, her work has been integral to the creation of the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education and the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

True to her commitment to social justice, Linda has been an outstanding research mentor. She has empowered graduate students to formulate education as a site of resistance, relevance, inclusiveness and transformation. In doing so she has developed a critical mass of scholars, nationally and internationally. In turn these scholars have gone on to take on senior roles in the domains of Māori and indigenous education and have made major contributions to the education sector.

In addition to serving on key policy and ministerial advisory committees, Linda has been instrumental in the establishment of regional and national Research Institutes: Nga Pae o Maramatanga Māori Centre of Research Excellence; The International Research Institute of Māori and Indigenous Education, and Te Kotahi Research Institute.

Linda's scholarship and her leadership have had a profound impact on policy and practice. It is therefore fitting that she be awarded the 2015 McKenzie award. Linda is a very worthy recipient.



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