



Geography **Auckland**



Kia ora tatou ...

The Auckland branch of NZGS promotes the activities of geographers and the development of the discipline in the Auckland region. It has proven an effective platform for hosting and sponsoring public seminars and workshops, and talks by prominent local and international geographers; running competitions for schools; providing opportunities for young geographers to attend conferences; and for bringing geographers together to discuss issues of public and disciplinary concern. One recent initiative is to seek better links with professional geographers beyond the university and schools. One recent success has been the Innovative Fieldtrip Competition (see News for Teachers).

The Auckland Branch activities now include Monthly Geography Dialogues with Wine. The Branch invites any members with ideas for other activities to bring them forward for discussion and development. It also encourages new members to join. Membership of the New Zealand Geographical Society includes branch membership. See this month's abstract on Page 2.

As mentioned earlier this year, the UoA has welcomed a cluster of new geographers to the School of Environment, including: Murray Ford, John Tunnicliffe, Francis Collins, Annie Bartos, and JC Gaillard. Professor John Morgan has joined the Education Faculty. All bring fresh ideas and talents to our community.

Once again CONGRATULATIONS - for 2014 NZGS awards:
NZGS Distinguished Geographer (Medal): Robin Kearns
NZGS Distinguished Service Award: David Hayward
Best Masters Thesis in Geography: Hayley Sparks
Best PhD thesis in Geography: Thomas Hetherington

These awards will be presented at the NZGS AGM in Auckland on 19th September*

Auckland Branch Executive

Executive Office Holders

President	Graeme Campbell
Vice Presidents	June Logie, Mary Flaws
Chair	Karen Fisher
Secretary	June Logie
Professional Geography Liaison:	Kiri Le Heron
Treasurer	Thomas Hetherington
Honorary Auditor	Nihal Jayawickrama
BoGT Rep	Steve Mouldey

Committee Members

Jane Evans	Jane Foster (AGTA)
Richard Le Heron	Daniel Exeter
Ward Friesen	Lyndsay Blue
Erena Le Heron.	David Hayward
Pippa Mitchell	Annie Bartos
Regan Solomon	JC Gaillard
Nick Lewis	

What's on?

MONTHLY GEOGRAPHY DIALOGUES WITH WINE

These meetings give a chance for Geographers to talk informally about their research.

The Auckland Branch invites you to attend the third meeting

Wednesday 20 August

University of Auckland
School of Environment
Room 731

The speaker will be
Marc Tadaki

4.00pm to 5.30pm

Celebrate Geography,
Get excited

Karen Fisher (k.fisher@auckland.ac.nz)

June.logie@me.com (secretary)

News for teachers:

2015 Innovative Field Trip Competition will be launched later this year on 22nd October with a presentation from last year's winner

For your diary:

Monthly Geography Dialogues with Wine
24th September, 22nd October, 19th November

*NZGS AGM (Auckland this year!)

4.00pm **Friday 19th September**, Old Government House (upstairs)

4.30pm **Drinks and Nibbles**

5.00pm **Awards Ceremony**



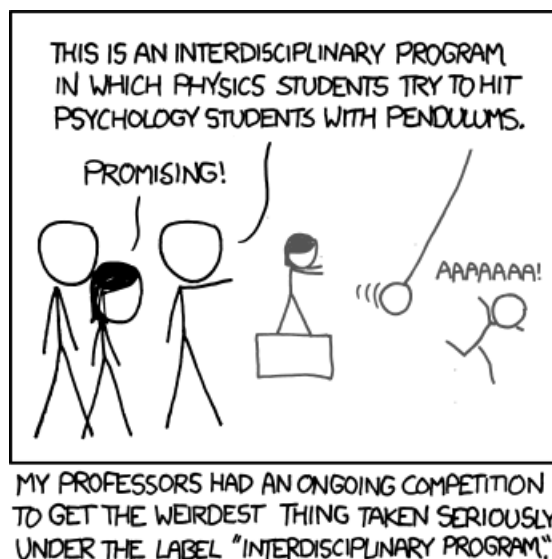
In defence of discipline: articulating the value of Geography in an inter/trans/post-disciplinary world

Marc Tadaki^{1,2}

¹PhD Student and Killam Doctoral Scholar, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia

²Marc completed his BSc, BSc (Hons) and MSc in Geography at the School of Environment, and maintains a number of ongoing collaborations with School faculty. Marc has been an active member of the New Zealand Geographical Society since 2011, thinking about the future of the discipline and those sorts of things.

In a world increasingly enamoured with 'interdisciplinarity' as a (presumably desirable) knowledge production project, the notion of intellectual discipline is often regarded as old fashioned and irrelevant. The social and biophysical worlds that we study, we are told, are complex and cannot be known by any one discipline alone. While this is most undoubtedly the case, I argue that this mantra has led to an unreflexive bandwagoning of environmental inquiry along 'interdisciplinary' lines, leading to an *anything goes* (so long as it is interdisciplinary) ethos which can blind us to the *choices* we make about how to study the world, and the *effects* that those choices produce in the world.



From: <http://xkcd.com/755/>

For this 'Geography with wine' seminar, I'd like to put forward two lines of argument for discussion.

First, I argue that discipline has intellectual value in terms of providing a foundation for reflexive scientific practice. We can also consider what the social value of discipline might be, in terms of organizing our relationships and collaborations with others, and providing platforms for 'situated' disciplinarity as well as a more carefully positioned interdisciplinarity.

Second, what does the changing nature of geographical institutions mean for the future of the discipline? Drawing on Ruth Fincher's IAG/NZGS conference keynote "Making the case for Geography [in institutional settings]", I will elaborate on what I see as opportunities for articulating the value of Geography within and beyond the academy.