

The U in Equity: Lived leadership lessons

As an educational leader in Aotearoa/New Zealand I have focused on the impact leadership, and the leadership decisions principals make, have on the educational outcomes of the indigenous students we teach. My PhD research explored the impact of colonisation on indigenous Māori students within the Aotearoa/New Zealand education system. As a practice-based researcher I exist in the world of praxis, bringing to life the theory and testing it in practice. My post Doctoral work explores the effect Kaupapa Māori principles of leadership, rather than Western-centric approaches, have on mitigating the disparities that exist and have existed for Māori learners for over 100 years. Over the past 5 years my challenge as the Principal of Haeata Community Campus has been to employ a te ao Māori /Māori worldview creating a framework underpinned by a commitment to mātauranga Māori/Māori knowledge and kaupapa Māori principles of leadership

This paper explores the powerful world of praxis where educational leaders discover use theory to discover new knowledge and then boldly interrogate, test and applying that new theories to challenge our thinking around equity. This paper breaths life into theory.

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference. Frost (1915)