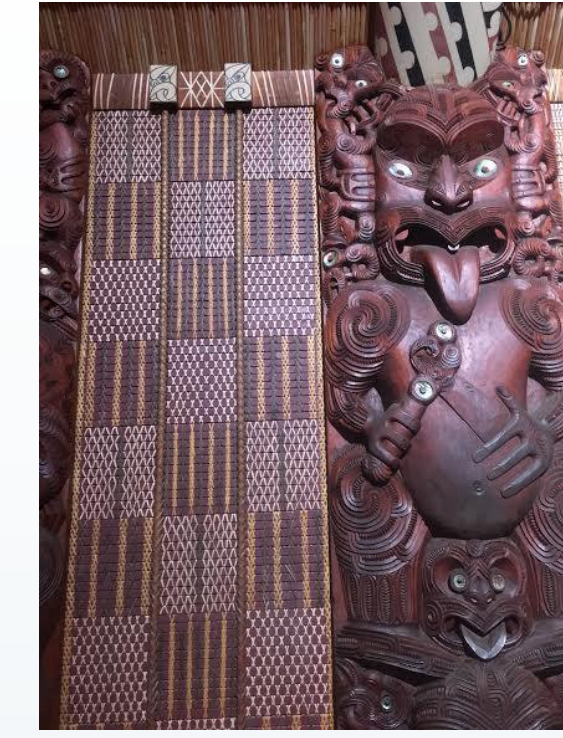




Global Special Studies: Maori Experience in New Zealand

Annie Pappenhagen MSW Candidate, M. Ed Candidate
University of Michigan School of Social Work



I travelled to Auckland, New Zealand during August 2016 to learn about the current and past issues that the indigenous people there face.

Auckland is the most populated city in New Zealand's North Island with around 1.5 million people.

The Maori Peoples make up the largest indigenous group in New Zealand and are decedents of the Polynesian people.

Around 25% of NZ's Maori population live in Auckland with about 140,000 Maori people (NZ 2006 Census).

Choice

My past experience on Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservation in SD working with the Lakota people and my current field placement at American Indian Health and Family Services in Detroit, MI inspired my curiosity into what New Zealand has done (as a very progressive country) to help repair the damage of Historical Trauma—and to find insight into if there is anything we can do in the United States.

Project Information

I primarily met with the graduate students and faculty members of the Maori studies department at Auckland University (AUT). I attended the AUT welcome day for Indigenous students as well as a Marae (ceremony). For a day I travelled south to Rotorua and went to a thermal Maori village, where the community still lives and cooks the way they did pre-colonization.

I travelled north to Paia where the "Treaty of the Waitangi" was signed between the English and the Maori. At the treaty grounds I talked to people about the tribunal process that has been set up to help honor the treaty today.

While working with the language revitalisation centre I learned about the presence of Maori Schools where English isn't taught until the children are 9, which helps develop Maori Language fluency.

Agency/Community Partner

Thank you to Professor Tania Ka'ai, the Maori and Indigenous development faculty and graduate students, the Te Ipukarea The National Maori Language Institute & Te Whare o Rongomaurikura the International Centre for Language Revitalisation for taking the time to work with me.

Outcomes

I was surprised by how far New Zealand has come in repairing the historical trauma of the Maori People. I went in with a deficit-based question, was continuously met with strength based responses, Although there is still work to be done, there are systems in place (tribunal process, Maori Schools, repatriation of land, formal apologies etc.) that are working to continue to repair the damage that was done through colonization ,

Skills Utilized/Developed and Class Room Connections

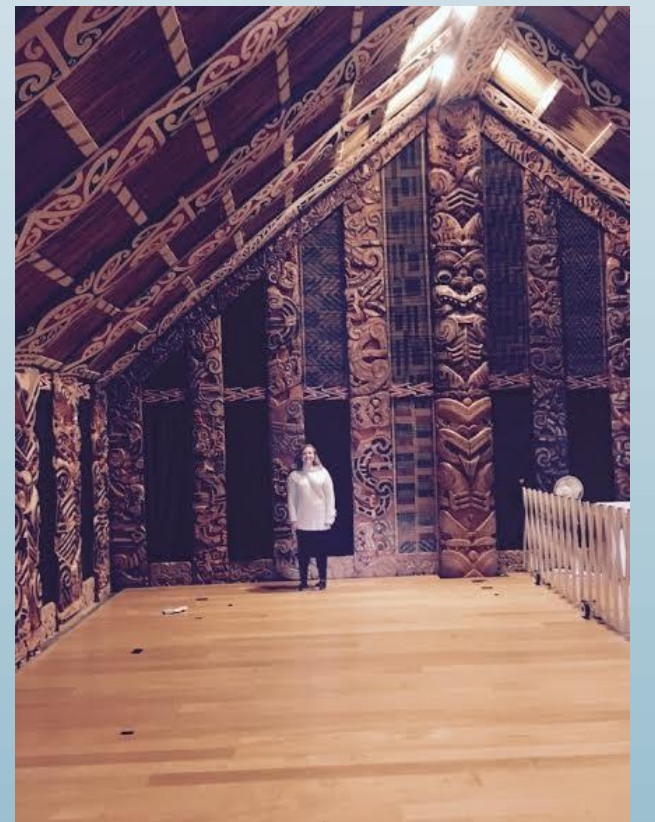
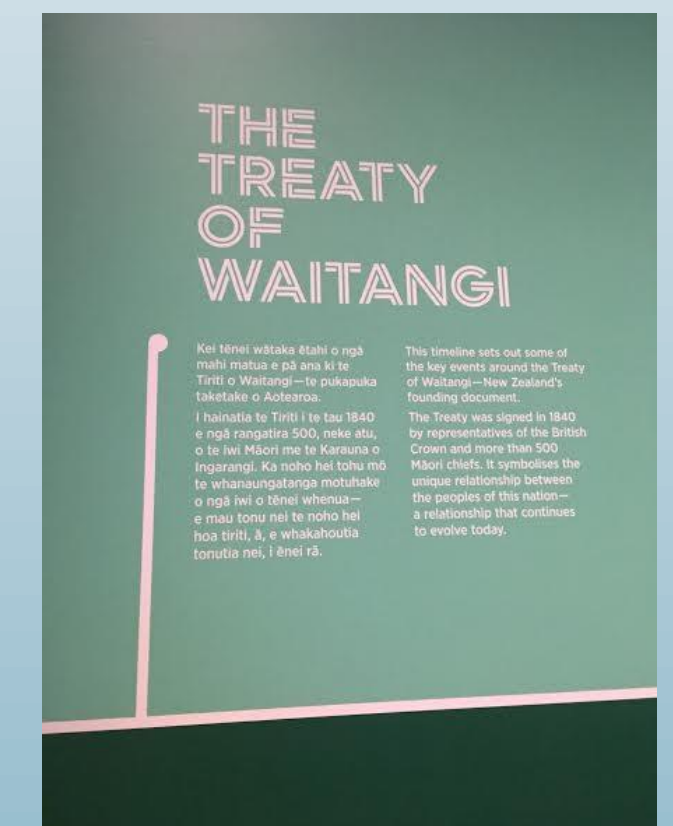
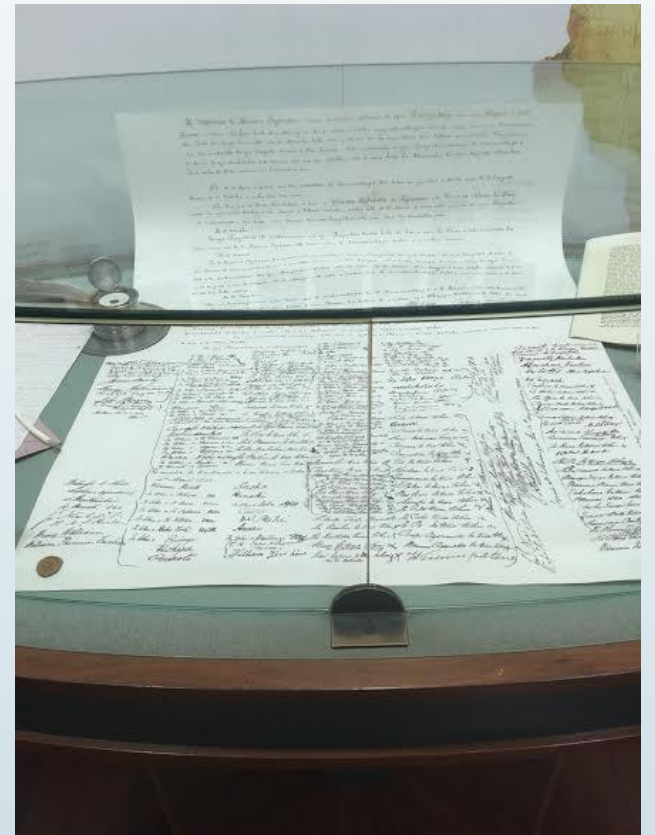
- Communicating across cultural and language barriers
- Cultural humility
- Learning about culturally responsive/ adaptive programs and policies

Lessons Learned

- I learned that it *is* possible to repair relationships with indigenous communities and saw some possible frameworks to do so.
- I learned about the tribunal processes, history and culture of the Maori people.
- I also learned about the history of New Zealand's relationship with the Maori Communities.

Career Connections

Learning about the tribunal process provided an example of a possible framework that can be used on the macro level to help repair the damage of Historical Trauma, and showed me the significance of acknowledging the importance of apologizing and recognizing the impact of assimilation and colonization on Indigenous communities.



Advice

- Go in with an open mind and be willing to learn things that might not answer the questions you had.
- Acknowledge that even our ideas for what projects we want to do in a global setting carry inherent biases and assumptions.

Acknowledgments

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•A special thank you to Dr. Sandra Momper for working with me throughout the year and with this project.

