



STOUT RESEARCH CENTRE
for New Zealand Studies



CALL FOR PAPERS

New Zealand Oral History Conference
Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies and the
National Oral History Association of New Zealand (NOHANZ)
Te Kete Kōrero-a-Waha o Te Motu

Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington
18 – 20 November 2022

Te Reo a Ngā Taputapu
Memory, Oral History and Material Culture

From taonga tūturu to inherited family possessions material culture plays a fundamental role in symbolizing our expressions of identity and transmitting memory across generations. The term material culture here is taken to include any objects made or modified by a human, from the smallest item of jewellery to large monuments or buildings, and the ways in which these objects are understood and/or given symbolic or other meanings in oral histories. In this conference we hope to explore two major themes. The first concerns the different roles that objects play in the oral histories of iwi, hapu, whānau, or national, family or individual oral history narratives; and the second focuses upon oral histories and material culture in the context of institutions, such as galleries, libraries, archives, and museums (sometimes referred to as the GLAM sector).

We therefore invite papers that describe and discuss the significance and meaning of objects expressed through oral histories recorded in a wide range of cultural or social contexts. Secondly, we hope the conference will also explore the ways in which oral histories are used in museum or gallery exhibitions constructed around material objects. For example, papers might address any of the following questions or topics:

- What roles do inherited family objects play in contemporary life narratives/identities?
- How are photographic records of the past interpreted in oral histories?
- Can inherited objects generate counterfactual family histories?
- Are there gender differences in terms of objects and remembering the past?
- Do culturally significant objects have agency, in terms of collective cultural practices?
- Can the symbolic meaning of an object change over time?
- The relationship between oral history and objects in galleries, libraries, archives and museums.
- What can oral histories about objects contribute to the new history curriculum?
- The conference will also include presentations, not necessarily connected to the conference theme, on recent oral history projects.

To submit a proposal

Please send a title, 250-word (maximum) abstract, and a brief (two sentence) biography, as a **Word** document, plus an indication of the focus of your paper within the broad themes of the conference, to:

To: Stout-centre@vuw.ac.nz

By: **Monday 1st August 2022**

You will be notified by mid-August whether your paper has been accepted. Please note: presenters must register for the conference, and your abstract will be used for the conference programme.

Grants

Grants will be available to support attendance at the conference. Information and application processes will be available online by the end of May. Please keep an eye on our conference websites:

- <https://www.oralhistory.org.nz/index.php/conferences-pastpresent/>
- or
- <https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/stout-centre/about/events/new-zealand-oral-history-conference>

Accommodation

Information about accommodation options will also be posted online in due course.

Keynote speakers

Keynote speakers will be announced at a later date.

Workshops

There will be workshops on Friday 18 November – venue and topics to be confirmed.

For further information please contact either:

Liz Ward: e.m.ward@massey.ac.nz or Anna Green: anna.green@vuw.ac.nz

We must add the caveat that we may have to cancel or postpone the conference at relatively short notice if the Covid virus takes an unexpected turn. We strongly recommend that you book refundable or transferable flights.

**Alexander
Turnbull Library**
National Library of New Zealand
Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa

