# Attitudes towards Māori culture and multiculturalism in the NZ General Social Survey

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# 'Separate spheres' of Māori and migrants in policy

Māori development
Biculturalism

Diversity
Multiculturalism

Integration
Extraction
Migrants = resource

Cultural retention
Prevention
Māori = cost (gaps)

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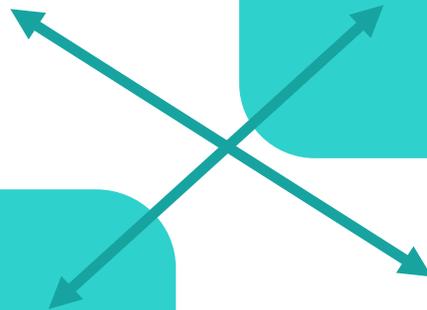
# 'Separate spheres' a wider issue for settler states

- Bauder (2011) – argues that Aboriginal and immigration narratives in Canada are located in different discursive and policy fields and that it's time to "close the prevailing immigration-Aboriginal ··· gap"

- Stephenson (2003) and Curthoys (2000) – describe and critique the partitioning of 'the Indigene' and 'the immigrant' in dominant Australian ideologies and policies

- Common theme: Separation conducive maintenance of Anglo/White dominance

# Māori seen as anti-immigration, anti-multiculturalism

## Maori more important?

SIMON DAY · 15:36, May 25 2014

Maori dislike Asian immigrants more than any other group of New Zealanders, a new poll shows.

Asians are blamed for taking jobs from Maori, driving Maori to Australia, lacking understanding of the Treaty of Waitangi and competing for cultural funding.
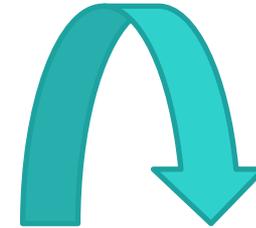
Asia New Zealand Foundation 2013 survey: Māori (44 percent) were more likely than average (27 percent) to say that **New Zealanders felt less warm towards people from Asia** compared with 12 months earlier (Māori n=<100)

- **Popular 'Māori vs Asians' narratives**
- Competition for economic resources and jobs
- Competition for political positioning
- Anxieties over demographic 'swamping'

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# Studies on integroup relations in Aotearoa

- Leong & Ward (2011): Māori less positive attitudes than Europeans towards Chinese migrants; perceived higher threat, but ethnic differences insignificant in regression models. N=105 Māori; 213 Europeans.

- Sibley and Liu (2004): European NZrs support the symbolic aspects of biculturalism but do not support resource-based biculturalism.

- Sibley et al. (2008) identified coherent ideology of 'historical negation' among European New Zealanders.

- Leong & Ward (2003) 44% Māori agreed that Chinese migrants displacing NZrs jobs c.f 17% non-M; Māori more likely to see Chinese immigration as threatening NZ culture (61% cf 24%). Results unpublished.

- Low trust, perception of discrimination and relative deprivation less favourable attitudes towards immigration

- Hierarchy of immigrants – generally more favorable towards white migrants from Australia

# Preliminary analysis

Focus questions in NZ GSS 2016:

- How important is diversity and multiculturalism in defining New Zealand?

- How important is Māori culture in defining New Zealand?

- How are these attitudes related, if at all?

- What factors are associated with more inclusive imaginings of Aotearoa?

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# Factors that may matter

Demographic:

- Age
- Gender
- Ethnicity

Socio-cultural:

- Trust (7 item scale)
- Sense of belonging to NZ
- Support for te reo Māori( 4 item scale)

# Ethnic differences in importance of MC/ED

Percentage who believe multiculturalism and ethnic diversity is very important for defining NZ (7-10)

### Percentage of respondents who believe Multiculturalism is very important

Bar chart values:
- Māori: 79.0%
- Pacific: 89.8%
- Asian: 89.0%
- European: 67.8%
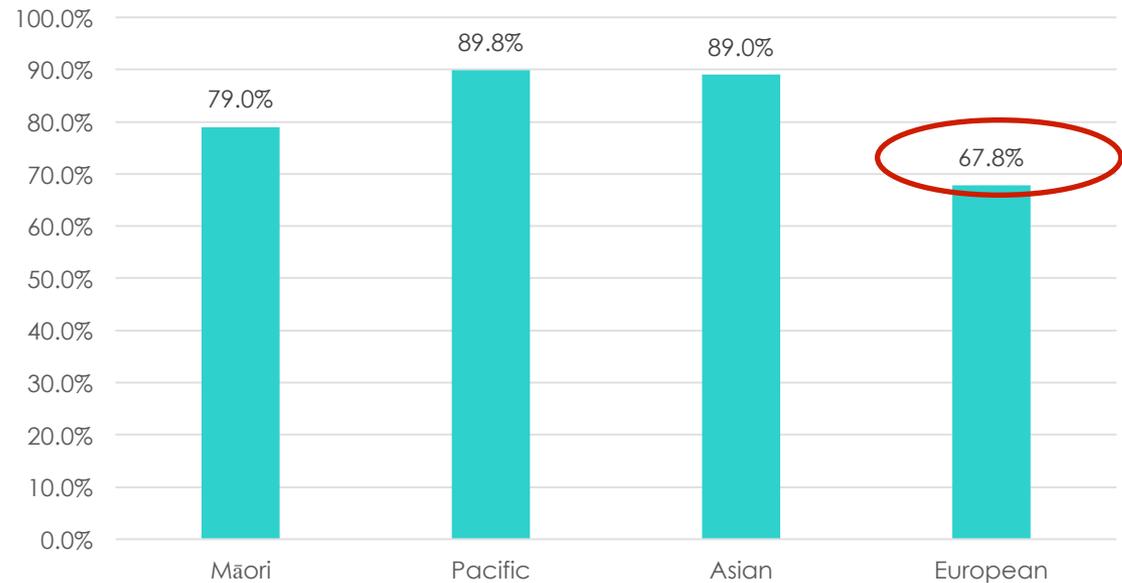
Wald (Pearson):
Unadjusted chi2(12) = 580.05
Adjusted F(12, 86) = 42.86 P < 0.001

# Ethnic differences in importance of Māori culture

Percentage who believe Māori culture and cultural practices are very important for defining NZ (7-10)

Percentage of respondents who believe Māori cultural is very important
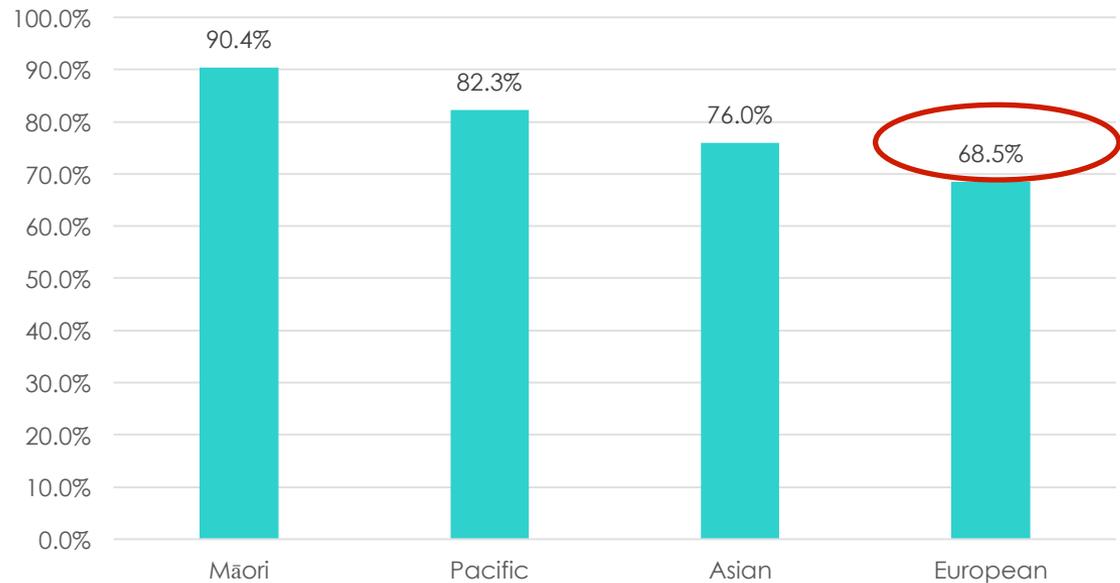


Wald (Pearson):
Unadjusted chi2(12) = 579.48
Adjusted F(12, 86) = 42.81 P < 0.001

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# Ethnic differences in trust

On a scale of zero to ten, in general how much do you trust most people in NZ?

Where zero is not at all, and ten is completely, how much do you trust: - the police/education system/media/courts/parliament/ health system?

### Percentage of respondents with very high trust



Bar chart values:
- Māori: 43.4%
- Pacific: 54.6%
- Asian: 80.1%
- European: 58.2%
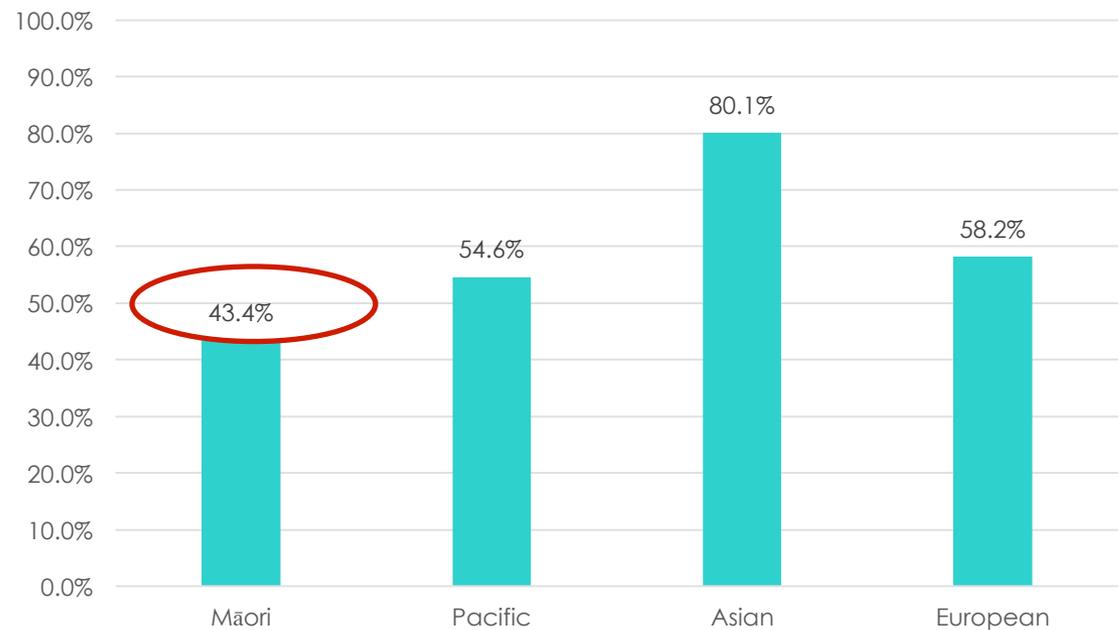
Wald (Pearson):
Unadjusted $chi2(12)$ = 322.02
Adjusted $F(12, 86)$ = 23.79 $P < 0.001$

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# Ethnic differences in sense of belonging to NZ

On the scale of zero to ten, how would you describe your sense of belonging to New Zealand as a whole?

Percentage of respondents with very high sense of belonging to NZ
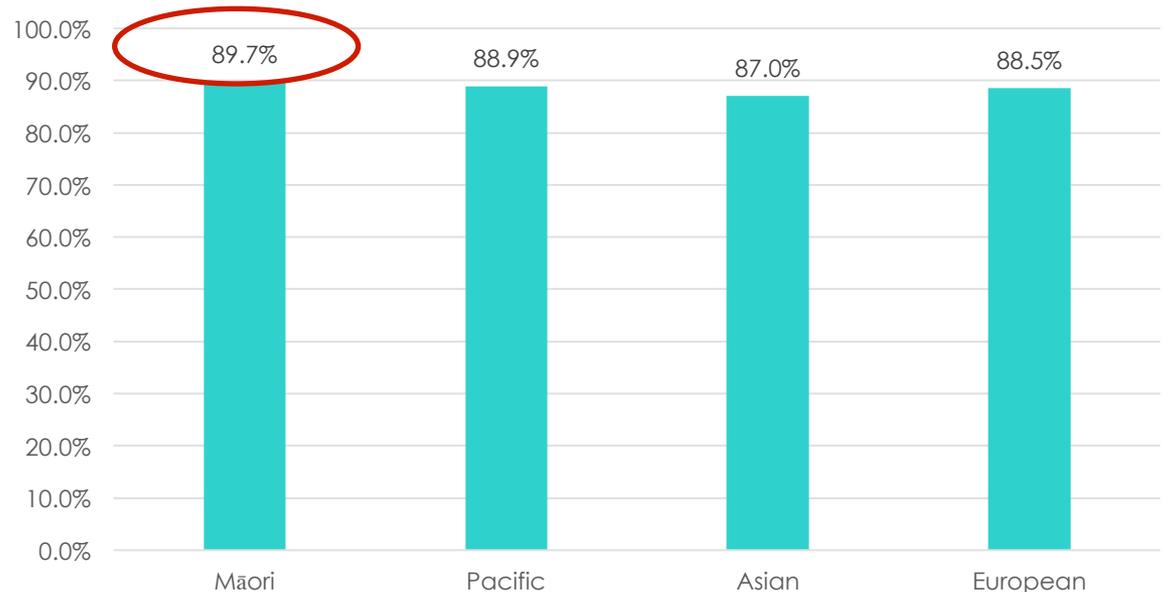


Wald (Pearson):
Unadjusted chi2(12) = 64.34
Adjusted F(12, 86) = 4.75, P < 0.001

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# Ethnic differences in support for te reo Māori

4-items, 5-points from strongly disagree to strongly agree

How much do you agree or disagree that:

• the government should encourage and support the use of Māori in everyday situations?

• Māori should be a core subject in primary schools.

• it would be good if all people living in New Zealand spoke Māori and English.

• Signage should be in both Māori and English.

### Percentage of participants strongly supportive of te reo Māori (4-5)

- Māori: 75.9%
- Pacific: 60.5%
- Asian: 48.0%
- European: 39.4%

Wald (Pearson):
Unadjusted chi2(12) = 722.17
Adjusted F(12, 86) = 53.36, P < 0.001

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# Factors associated with importance of multiculturalism & ED

| Variable | Association | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **Support for te reo Māori (1-5)** | **Very strong; positive** | As trust > so too does perceived import. of MC/ED |
| **Trust (0-10)** | **Strong; positive** | As trust > so too does perceived import. of MC/ED |
| **Sense of belonging to NZ (0-10)** | **Strong; positive** | As sense of belonging to NZ > so too does perceived import. of MC/ED |
| Ethnicity | Moderate | (c.f. Māori) European < import. of MC/ED; Pacific & Asian > import. of MC/ED |
| Gender | Weak | Female > import. of MC/ED |
| Age | Weak; u-shaped | (c.f. **18-24?**) 55+ years < import. of MC/ED |

OLS regression. $F_{(30, 68)} = 48.89$, $p < .001$, R-squared = .22

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# Factors associated with importance of Māori culture

| Variable | Association | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **Support for te reo Māori (1-5)** | **Very strong; positive** | As trust > so too does perceived import. of Māori |
| **Sense of belonging to NZ (0-10)** | **Strong; positive** | As sense of belonging to NZ > so too does perceived import. of Māori |
| **Trust (0-10)** | **Strong; positive** | As trust > so too does perceived import. of Māori |
| Ethnicity | Moderate | (c.f. Māori)  European and Asian < import. of Māori |
| Gender | Weak | Female > import. of Māori |
| Age | Weak; u-shaped | (c.f. **18-24?)** 55+ years < import. of Māori |

OLS regression. $F_{(30, 68)} = 96.20$, $p < .001$, R-squared = .35

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## Key points:

- In defining New Zealand, Māori and ethnic minorities place more importance than the European/Pākehā majority on their own and other cultures. Why?

- Age, gender and ethnicity predicted importance placed on Māori culture and multiculturalism, but trust, and sense of belonging to NZ were stronger, and attitudes to te reo was the strongest

- Potential: enhancing belonging and trust (i.e. community building) to increase importance placed on cultures

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