

The Classics in Maori Literature

Humanities Research Centre Seminar

Tuesday 26 April 2016, 4.15 – 5.30pm
HRC Conference Room, A.D Hope Building #14, ANU

Speaker

Dr Simon Perris, Victoria University of Wellington

Despite a large body of scholarship on post-colonial responses to classical antiquity, little attention has been paid to New Zealand Maori writers' interaction with the classics. In this paper, therefore, I examine a selection of examples with a view to indicating the range of Maori writers' interactions with the classics, contextualizing them within New Zealand letters, and offering 'some preliminary hypotheses.

Dr Simon Perris is a senior lecturer in ancient languages, myth, and literature at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. His research concentrates on two areas: Greek tragedy, especially Euripides, and the reception of classical literature in contemporary literature. Simon is also interested in Greek and Latin language and the application of linguistics to the study of ancient literature.



Marian Maguire, 'Ko wai koe? (who are you?)' lithograph, 2003, 510 x 700mm

Simon's first book, a study of English translations and adaptations of Euripides' tragedy *Bakkhai*, will be published by Bloomsbury in 2016. His next book project is to be a major study of classics and classical reception in Māori literature. Together with Diana Burton and Jeff Tatum, he is editing a volume of essays on classics and classical reception in New Zealand. (forthcoming) *The Gentle, Jealous God: Reading Euripides' Bacchae in English* (Bloomsbury, 2016)

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