

PREFACE

The ninth conference on Labour, Employment and Work took place in November 2000, sixteen years after the first conference was held in May 1984. The purpose of these conferences remains the same: communication among New Zealand scholars on what continues to be this country's most pressing social and economic issue- our ability to provide adequate paid work for those seeking employment. Promoting research into questions of labour, employment and work and communicating these findings widely is one of the ways in which universities and the research community in general can make a contribution.

This series of national conferences offers a forum for the early airing of research ideas and findings so that researchers can obtain feedback from colleagues, policy makers and potential users of the information. The papers included here constitute work in progress. In several cases there will have been progress between presentation at the conference and the completion of the text as it appears in these proceedings. Authors have been asked to limit their contribution to 5000 words of text in order to focus attention on the most important issues. In several cases readers are referred to the authors' more extended reports published elsewhere.

The papers are grouped under twelve headings: overview, structural shifts in the labour market, dynamics, labour market geography, women in the labour force, community institutions, aging, employment outcomes for Maori and Pacific peoples, health and safety, managing employment, labour statistics and research priorities.

This is the sixth set of proceedings published from the nine conferences held to date. All have been hosted by Victoria University of Wellington. The first conference was held in May 1984.¹ The second conference was held in 1985, the third in 1987 and the fourth in October 1990. The fifth was held in November 1992 from which the first set of proceedings were produced.² The sixth conference was held in November 1994 where 57 authors produced 44 papers resulting in a volume of almost 390 pages.³ The seventh conference saw 51 authors produce 35 papers.⁴ The eighth conference led to 32 papers from 45 authors.⁵ This ninth conference also produced 32 papers from 45 authors. As in previous proceedings we include as our first paper an overview which points to the key ideas developed within each paper.

In order to encourage networking, the full list of participants has been included at the end of these proceedings together with their email addresses. This is in addition to details on authors given on the next page. We continue the practice begun in the 1996 proceedings of including photographs of the authors, a feature we hope will personalise the papers and foster the extension of this research community.

Although it is one of the purposes of the University to make its facilities and service staff available for such conferences university budget constraints meant this conference had to bear a much higher share of the real cost. At the same time we welcome the assistance we have been given by Victoria University of Wellington. In particular, we appreciate the willingness of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, to officially open the 2000 conference.

Philip Morrison (Institute of Geography)

Notes

1. See P.A. Brosnan and P.S. Morrison (eds) 1984 *Labour and Employment Research in New Zealand*. Bibliography and proceedings of a workshop held at Victoria University May 14-15, 1984. This volume was published jointly by the Geography Department and Industrial Relations Centre, Victoria University of Wellington, 183 pages. The bibliography was subsequently updated with financial support from subsequent conferences and appeared as Brosnan, P.A. 1991 *New Zealand Labour and Employment Research 1859-1990*. A bibliography of research and research materials. Published by the New Zealand Institute of Industrial Relations, Wellington.

2. See Morrison, P.S. (ed.) 1993 *Labour, Employment and Work in New Zealand*. Proceedings of the Fifth Conference, November 12 & 13th, 1992. Published by the Department of Geography, Victoria University of Wellington, 171 pages.

3. See Morrison, P.S. (ed.) 1995 *Labour, Employment and Work in New Zealand*. Proceedings of the Sixth Conference, November 24 & 25th, 1994. Published by the Department of Geography, Victoria University of Wellington, 390 pages.

4. See Morrison, P.S. (ed.) 1997 *Labour, Employment and Work in New Zealand*. Proceedings of the Seventh Conference, November 28 & 29th, 1996. Published by the Institute of Geography, Victoria University of Wellington, 292 pages.

5. See Morrison, P.S. (ed.) 1999 *Labour, Employment and Work in New Zealand*. Proceedings of the Eighth Conference, November 26 & 27th, 1998. Published by the Institute of Geography, Victoria University of Wellington, 291 pages.

Copies of proceedings of the seventh, eighth and ninth conferences are available from the Institute of Geography. Please see inside title page of this volume for purchase details.