

Introduction

The motif of this issue of the journal is that of complicating and complexifying New Zealand studies. It has three broad themes.

The first and major theme emerges from the conference on “Dissent in World War One” held jointly by the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies and the Labour History Project in 2017. Joan Beaumont, a keynote speaker at that conference, compares and contrasts conscription policies in Australia and New Zealand, while Steven Loveridge and John Horrocks canvass and reinterpret lesser known aspects of New Zealand’s involvement in the Great War. Loveridge interrogates the concept of social commitment to the war, while Horrocks explores whether shell shock might be classified alongside other forms of dissent within the military. Finally, Ray Grover’s essay in the journal’s “Reflections” section presents an historically documented fictional representation of New Zealand’s only deserter to the enemy in the Great War, and goes on to explain the reasons for selecting this method of addressing the past.

The second theme covers disparate aspects of the political economy. Lisa Marriott investigates punitive regulatory governance of the poor in New Zealand (especially of those receiving state assistance), while Te Maire Tau and Matthew Rout rethink the concept of the Maori economy. These explorations of people-state interaction are complemented by Austin Gee and Alexander Trapeznik, who provide a case study of the complex ways in which pressure group politics operate.

The third theme concerns art history, with two articles adding new dimensions to the study of influential artists. Damian Skinner (the JD Stout Fellow for 2017) examines the melding of Dutch colonial and Maori influences on Theo Schoon’s career in the visual arts, while Pamela Gerrish Nunn argues that the subject of the marketplace is central to understanding in Frances Hodgkins’s evolution as an artist.

Finally, the seven books reviewed in this issue all have transnational dimensions, a reflection of ways in which scholarship in New Zealand (and therefore New Zealand Studies) increasingly emphasises the links between the local and the global, and the points in between.

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