



VICTORIA BUSINESS SCHOOL
Orauariki

Community and Voluntary Sector Research Forum

28 June 2016



Victoria Business School invites you to a Community and Voluntary Sector Research Forum.

A networking opportunity to share and report on current research, supported by Hui E! Community Aotearoa.

CSVSR Forum Programme: Tuesday 28 June, 2016

- **Alex Hannant:** “Social enterprise in Aotearoa - where are we now and where are we going?”
- **Sendirella George:** “Democratising accounting and accountability: Exploring social movement counter-accounting practices and engagement strategies”
- **Garth Nowland-Foreman :** “Outcomes, accountability and NGOs: Holy grail, black hole or wholly possible?”

The Community and Voluntary Sector Research forums run from 3.00-5.00pm, with tea and coffee available from 2.45pm, and the general public are most welcome to attend. Abstracts and speaker backgrounds are listed below.

- **When:** Tuesday, 28 June 2016 from 3 pm-5 pm. Refreshments provided from 2.45 pm.
- **Where:** Railway Building West Wing, Level 1, RWW 129. Victoria University’s Door is on the left hand side of the Station; take the lift to the 1st floor, or walk up the flight of stairs to the right of the lifts.
- **RSVP:** email your attendance to lynn.barlow@vuw.ac.nz by Friday 24 June.

Note: Information about our Community and Voluntary Sector Research Forums, including PPTs from previous presentations, can be accessed from www.victoria.ac.nz/cvsr-forums.

About the CSVSR speakers and presentations

Alex Hannant: “Social enterprise in Aotearoa - where are we now and where are we going?”

Abstract: Social enterprise has been present in Aotearoa New Zealand for a long time but has recently gained greater profile and momentum. This domestic shift reflects a global trend as communities, policy makers, and businesses all around the world seek new ways to tackle persistent challenges and new models to create social and economic value. This session will give an overview of how social enterprise is evolving in the New Zealand context, speculate about how it will develop in the future, and consider the implications for civil society, government, and the private sector.

Bio: Alex Hannant is Chief Executive at the Ākina Foundation, an independent charity focused on the support and development of social enterprise, that provides a range of services from early-stage capability building through to investment readiness and capital raising. Ākina works with corporate and philanthropic partners, and plays a leading role in the development of New Zealand’s social enterprise and investment sector. Previously based in the UK, Alex was Director of Programmes at LEAD - a global network focused on leadership and sustainable development, and also Head of Partnerships at the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) - a global initiative providing technical advice and services on climate change and development to decision makers in developing countries. In his current role at Ākina, Alex aims to contribute to a sustainable, prosperous, and inclusive New Zealand.

Sendirella George: “Democratising accounting and accountability: Exploring social movement counter-accounting practices and engagement strategies”

Abstract: Sendirella will present a summary of her PhD research and findings. Her PhD explores social movements and their practices of “counter-accounting”, and their broader strategic engagement choices in their attempts to hold corporations accountable. While corporations have attempted to appropriate an image of social and environmental accountability through their practice of social and environmental accounting (SEA), critics argue that these practices are dominated by the “business case”, and thus significantly delimit what is accounted for, how it is accounted for, and on whose terms. Current voluntarist corporate approaches to SEA are claimed to be highly selective and largely designed to cast corporations in a favourable light, rather than seriously address social and environmental responsibility and performance. Against this backdrop of growing criticisms of corporate-based SEA, many researchers and civil society participants have called for a focus on the role of stakeholders, specifically social movements, in using forms of reporting and information tools and practices to promote their causes; counter-corporate rhetoric and discourse(s); and ultimately act as catalysts for corporate social change and intervention, i.e., their use of “counter-accounting”. Sendirella’s PhD explores such social movement based-accountability practices and examines their role and significance in promoting corporate accountability and change

Bio: Sendirella George is a Lecturer of Accounting at Victoria University of Wellington’s School of Accounting and Commercial Law and has recently submitted her PhD for examination. Her work is interdisciplinary covering disciplines such as sociology and political science, and her research is focused around the development of new “dialogic” forms of accounting that allow stakeholders to co-develop accounting(s) that take into account their own sociopolitical values and accountability demands.

Garth Nowland-Foreman: “Outcomes, accountability and NGOs: Holy grail, black hole or wholly possible?”

Abstract: Although now coming to the fore in New Zealand in a new way, public policy has put increasing emphasis on ‘outcomes’, ‘impacts’ and ‘results’ for around a quarter century. And who could object to paying attention to, reporting on, and even being funded on the basis of the results we achieve? Resistance to do so can be interpreted as belligerence or not wanting to be accountable. Are community and voluntary organisations just worried that they might not be performing as well as their own rhetoric presumes? The reality is much more complex. This paper suggests there are both practical and conceptual problems relying on an outcomes approach, including counter-productive incentives, and perverse threats to an organisation’s own learning and on-going improvement. However, this doesn’t mean an interest in outcomes needs to be abandoned, and to just have faith and hope in charities. Garth suggests we can instead seize the ‘outcomes’ agenda, with a realistic appreciation of both what is possible and its limits.

Bio: Garth Nowland-Foreman is a partner of LEAD Centre for Not for Profit Leadership (www.lead.org.nz). As well as operating a capacity building business for non-profits, he has lectured for 18 years in the Unitec Graduate Programme in Not for Profit Management, and has written widely, especially on issues of non-profits and accountability, contracting. As a co-chair of Tangata Whenua, Community & Voluntary Sector Research Centre (www.communityresearch.org.nz), deputy chair of Australia & New Zealand Third Sector Research (www.anztsr.org.au), and closely involved in advising Statistics NZ on counting non-profits, he is deeply committed to promoting ‘our sector knowing better’



VICTORIA BUSINESS SCHOOL
Orauariki

Put the next CSV
Forum in your diary
27 September 2016

Hui E!
Community Aotearoa