

# Community and Voluntary Sector Research Forum

---

23 June, 2015

## **DIARISE!**

The next forum will be 22 September, 2015.



## **DOWNLOAD!**

Information from past and future Community and Voluntary Sector Research Forums can be accessed from <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/cvsr-forums>



---

## **PROGRAMME**

- When?** Tuesday, 23rd June, 2015, 3pm-5pm.  
(Refreshments provided from 2.45pm)
- Where?** Victoria's Railway West Wing Room 501  
*(Victoria University's door on the left hand side of the Station; take the first lift to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, or take one of the other lifts to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor and walk up a flight of stairs.)*
- Speakers:** (see over the page for abstracts )
- **Manjula Shivanandan "Open Government and the Community and Voluntary Sector"**
  - **Robert Miller "A Volunteer Research Register, as Essential Infrastructure for Research on Schizophrenia and Related Disorders"**
  - **Ruth Weatherall and Deborah Jones "NGOs and Ethics"**

**RSVP BY 19TH JUNE TO: [Lyne.Todd@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Lyne.Todd@vuw.ac.nz)**

---

## Manjula Shivanandan: "Open Government and the Community and Voluntary Sector"

**Abstract:** The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is a forum of countries working to make their governments more open, accountable and responsive to citizens. Countries are required to develop an Action Plan every two years that sets out commitments which address a minimum of two of the following five "grand challenges" identified by the OGP:

1. Improving public services;
2. Increasing public integrity;
3. More effectively managing public resources;
4. Creating safer communities and
5. Increasing corporate accountability.

New Zealand joined the forum in 2014. To meet our OGP

commitments we have published an Action Plan which focuses on a number of initiatives including the Kia Tūtahi Relationship Accord. Manjula will discuss this plan.

*Bio: Manjula Shivanandan is an advisor in the Legal and Integrity Advice Group at the State Services Commission where she works on New Zealand's Open Government Partnership Action Plan.*

## Robert Miller: "A Volunteer Research Register, as Essential Infrastructure for Research on Schizophrenia and Related Disorders"

**Abstract:** The ill-defined disorders collected under the name schizophrenia have been poorly served by health research in New Zealand. The reasons for this are complex, and potential solutions multi-faceted. Essential infrastructure should include a system for recruiting volunteers for research in this area (e.g. those with personal experience of such disorders, their family members, and others as comparison groups). Setting up such a system is a complex undertaking. It involves finding ways through a maze of public misunderstanding, stigmatization and fear of these disorders, and tricky ethical and administrative issues, as well as the usual issues of funding. In the *New Zealand Schizophrenia Research*

*Group*, we are working towards this, slowly but gradually building up credibility amongst key stakeholders. In this presentation I will give an account of the background, our strategy, and the possible time-line for forthcoming developments.

*Bio: Educated in Britain, Robert started in neurophysiology, and, since 1977 in Otago has mainly worked on the theory of brain function and its relevance to major mental disorders. He has also worked alongside Schizophrenia Fellowship (now Supporting Families in Mental Illness) and for five years was a community representative with Royal Australia and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists.*

## Ruther Weatherall and Deborah Jones: "NGOs and Ethics"

**Abstract:** NGOs rarely enter the ethical spotlight. When they do they tend to be seen as either saint-like forces of good or as ethically deviant frauds. This project took an alternative approach by understanding NGOs as ethically complex entities, and we explored the key ethical challenges that NGOs face on a day-to-day basis. Ethical practices in NGOs are critical to the recruitment and retention of committed staff and volunteers, to the organisation's credibility as a social advocate, and to their image as a body to which the public will want to donate and government, and which philanthropy will be willing to fund. The results of this project draw on interviews with NGOs operating in the social service sector in New Zealand. The project focused on the uncovering ethical challenges that these organisations faced, and sought to paint a picture of the ethical environment in which they operated. Findings from this research shed light on the complex ethical challenges that are faced by NGOs. The challenges uncovered include preventing 'mission creep',

the effort to remain apolitical, the difficulty of critiquing the sector, and dilemmas around accepting funding.

*Bio: Deborah Jones is an Associate Professor in the School of Management at the Victoria Business School. Her interests include the ethics of organisations, diversity in the workplace, and creative work. She supervised this Summer Scholarship project which was carried out by Ruth Weatherall, a student at Victoria University who recently completed her Honours in Management. Her dissertation was entitled "Narrative as Negotiation: Examining the Dynamics of Narrative Identity of Paid Staff in Non-profits".*