

★ President's Piece

What shapes your worldview? For CDANZ President, Val O'Reilly, the upcoming CDANZ Research and Leading Practice Symposium is a chance to share our worldviews and to see things from others' perspectives, which can be both challenging and emancipating.



What shapes a worldview are different lenses; perceptions which enrich our understanding and help us navigate the world and its complexities.

My own experience of submitting a research proposal required consideration and ultimately justification of a philosophical worldview. I learned that the types of beliefs researchers hold are shaped by a range of personal, professional, and scholarly influences. According to Creswell (2009) these beliefs reflect "a general orientation about the world" (p. 6).

This Spring Ezine offers a rich source of learning about how others see the world, from cultural lenses and from the career development lens.

To see things from another's perspective can be both challenging and emancipating. There can be frustration in attempting to get a point across to an unwilling listener, and difficulty appreciating a viewpoint very different from our own. Conversely there can be great satisfaction in learning something new through another's way of seeing the world.

An "aha" moment about different lenses happened for me some years ago in a postgraduate education research class. Our lecturer encouraged us to use an identity lens to introduce ourselves and, after my turn, lightheartedly described my mixed English, Irish and Māori heritage as "hybrid" - the first time I had encountered the term in relation to identity.

A fellow student shared her thoughts about growing up in Samoa and being part of a strong aiga (family) and village structure which included gendered protocols around duties and responsibilities. Her lens was imbued with a feeling of security and confidence in knowing where she fitted within the system she described.

As she spoke a few Māori classmates were nodding with empathy. However, others in the group found it challenging to appreciate her perspective through their lenses framed by individual autonomy within, and independence from, a family unit. Worldviews may not have shifted, yet we had an enlightening conversation about the different lenses we were using.

This year's Research and Leading Practice Symposium in Christchurch is set to be a fantastic platform for sharing different worldviews. The fresh look for the AGM promises to be popular with members. For those from out of town it will be a chance to see how the city is being re-shaped and re-envisaged since we were there for the 2013 Symposium and AGM.

I congratulate our National Development Manager Lauren Hughes for the "refresh" she has given the programme and for promoting the theme "Our Value, Our Voice". The World Tableau is an exciting new addition and the keynote speakers will bring a contemporary perspective to the proceedings. See you there!

Thank you to contributors for this Ezine and to Jean, our hard-working editor whose careful consideration of themes and topics has ensured valuable professional development, and a jolly good read each quarter.

Ka kite anō. Slán go fóill.



Val O'Reilly – CDANZ President, Professional Member, Life-Story Director

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Reference:

Creswell, J.W. (2009). *Research Design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage