sites A Journal of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies

Call for Papers

Special Issue of Sites: Dimensions of Honourable Kāwanatanga

Guest Editors: Dr Clive Aspin and Dr Heather Came

Sites: A Journal of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies invite submissions for a special issue exploring the diverse dimensions, practices and possibilities of honourable kāwanatanga in Aotearoa New Zealand and across related Indigenous contexts.

Theme: Dimensions of Honourable Kāwanatanga

Honourable kāwanatanga is a framework that asks how the Crown might exercise authority in ways that are relational, ethical, and grounded in the intent and promises of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. It directs attention to responsibility, accountability, reciprocity, and justice—while recognising the continuing mana of iwi, hapū and whānau.

This special issue seeks contributions that examine, critique, expand or reimagine honourable kāwanatanga across political, organisational, cultural, environmental and community domains.

We welcome contributions that explore:

- Historical, political, philosophical analyses of kāwanatanga

- Sector-based examinations of Crown–tangata whenua relations (health, education, justice, welfare, environment, local government, etc.)

- Kaupapa Māori, Indigenous and Pacific perspectives on governance, sovereignty and relational authority

- Critical Tiriti analysis and other accountability frameworks that illuminate Crown conduct

- Iwi, hapū, whānau and community voices on Crown obligations and attempts at power-sharing

- Comparative Indigenous insights into honourable governance from the global south

- Creative, reflexive or arts-based interpretations of honourable kāwanatanga

- Practice cases, exemplars, tensions or innovations within Crown agencies

- Methodological reflections on researching with or within the Crown

Submission Types

- Research articles (6,000–8,000 words)

- Essays, reflections, vignettes or theoretical pieces (2,500–4,000 words)

- Creative or hybrid contributions (negotiated with editors)

- Book reviews.

Key Dates

- Abstracts due: 6th February 2026

- Full papers due: 1st June 2026

- Anticipated publication: Mid–2027

Submission Process

Please submit a 250–300 word abstract, plus a short author biography (100 words per author), to: joyaratima@gmail.com

Authors will be notified within six weeks of the abstract deadline.

All full papers will be subject to double-blind peer review following Sites editorial standards.

About the Special Issue

This special issue extends discussions emerging from current scholarship, practice, and community-based work on honourable kāwanatanga. We particularly welcome contributions that deepen theoretical understandings, explore practical applications, challenge dominant narratives about Crown authority, or imagine transformative futures grounded in Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the authorative Māori text). We welcome papers that consider the implications of Waitangi Tribunal Reports including the WAI 1040 and the current constitutional WAI 3300 hearings. We welcome further analysis of Matike Mai constitutional Report and how it might be achieved.

HONOURABLE KĀWANATANGA

MARSDEN FUND
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