

The articles relate to and develop work Dr Neha undertook for her PhD - *Me Maumaharatanga Ngā Kōrero o Ngā Whānau, Family Recollections and Social Contributions to Māori Children's Learning* – in which she investigated how Maori emphases on rehearsing past events relates to Māori children's school readiness and autobiographical memory. Throughout her research Dr Neha integrates two independent systems (matauranga whānau and western psychological science) in ways that respect the tikanga and mana of participants, the university's ethical requirements, and the theory and practice of psychology. Her practice of whakawhānaungatanga, her respectful, caring engagement with the Māori community that she describes ([Neha & Reese, 2018](#)), is central to her integration of the two knowledge systems. The nominators spoke strongly about the support Dr Neha has given students and staff in the Victoria School of Psychology by providing training on safe, appropriate, and respectful ways to work alongside whānau. They further noted her willingness and ability to advise parents, teachers, and educators more generally, about the interplay between cultural practices of whānau and childrens' readiness for school.

Dr Neha has developed and is extending research collaborations with co-workers here and overseas that, along with the informed support she provides students and colleagues, are expected to impact on psychological research practices. In particular her emphasis on respecting the mana of the participants will help researchers and practitioners plan and undertake research consistent with our discipline's commitments to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the aspirations embodied in our code of ethics. Dr Neha continues to work with the 54 whānau recruited for her PhD and there are clear signs that these sustained relationships are providing a vital, long term perspective on: the children's development, whānau participation in their children's education, and the psychological health of whanau and tamariki.

In recognition of the excellence of these early career achievements in applied and professional psychology the New Zealand Psychological Society awards Dr Tia Neha the 2020 G V Goddard Early Career Award - Achievement and Excellence in Applied Psychology.