

Some of the Elective Papers

Gender and Sexuality (289704) This paper will introduce new approaches to gender studies and sexuality studies as a theoretical, social, cultural, political and historical field of investigation; challenge current understandings of gender and sexuality by interrogating cultural identities, such as queer, heterosexual, homosexual, gay, straight, bisexual, transgendered; and examine cultural production and cultural theory in relation to other power systems, such as race, ethnicity and class.

Refugees and Displaced Persons (289706) This paper provides students with a critical understanding of the issues relating to refugees and displaced people. It examines the theories explaining the causes of refugee generation, international patterns and flows of refugees and practices of refugee resettlement.

Reading Paper (108006/11) This paper is designed to allow students to explore an area of interest in a social science discipline, relevant to their proposed course of study, but not covered in the taught papers. The content will depend on individual study paths. Students in Conflict Resolution would undertake research related to their individual interest in conflict resolution, for example the different models and theories of dispute resolution, friendship, indigenous models of conflict resolution, peace studies, refugees, or international relations.

Alternative to 120 point Thesis

MA Dissertation (108003) A supervised scholarly investigation or research project. The student will select an appropriate topic, formulate a research aim, conduct a planned research project and produce a dissertation.

Site Based Research Project (108005) This site based research project allows students to integrate their advanced theoretical knowledge and research capabilities and apply these within an organisational context. Students will work under the guidance of a site mentor (placement based) and a learning supervisor (AUT based) who will monitor the research project, ensuring it meets the needs of major stakeholders. The mentor and AUT supervisor will negotiate and fulfil a learning contract that specifies the substantive nature of the research project to be supervised during the placement.

ACADEMIC STAFF

Dr. Heather Devere, MA (Hons) *Auck.*, PhD *Auck.*, GradDipBusStuds (Dispute Resolution) *Massey*.

Dr. Gabriele Schäfer MA (Psych) *Auck.*, MA (Anth) *Freiburg*, PhD *Frieburg*, Cert Fmlythrp.

Dr. Jane Verbitsky MA (Hons) *Auck.*, PhD *Auck.*, GradDipBusStuds (Dispute Resolution) *Massey*, AAMINZ.

ADMISSION

If you have any of the following you would be considered for admission to **Master of Arts; Postgraduate Diploma, or Postgraduate Certificate in Conflict Resolution:**

- A bachelor's degree
- A graduate diploma
- A recognised profession qualification in a relevant discipline
- Evidence of relevant professional experience

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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MASTER OF ARTS IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION

2008/2009



Department of Social Sciences
Putaiāo-a-Iwi
Our world, its peoples, your understanding

MASTER OF ARTS IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION

WHAT IS CONFLICT RESOLUTION?

Conflict Resolution is an umbrella term for a whole range of methods and approaches for dealing with conflict: from negotiation to diplomacy, from mediation to arbitration, from facilitation to adjudication, from conciliation to conflict 'prevention', from conflict management to conflict transformation, from restorative justice to peace-keeping.

Conflict Resolution is applicable over the whole spectrum of societal relationships, usually referred to as the three levels of 'the personal, the local or the community, and the global'.

Conflict Resolution can be located in a number of different disciplines including psychology, ethics, international relations, sociology, communications, politics, business and the law.

WHY STUDY CONFLICT RESOLUTION?

Conflict Resolution is the basis for professional practice in numerous fields such as family and drug therapy, restorative justice, peace-making, peace-keeping and peace-building, and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) used in legal and business settings. The PAWSS activity codes¹ suggest that the four main categories of graduate careers activity are: research; activism and lobbying; public education; and development work, intervention and relief services.

Conflict Resolution can also provide useful practical skills in personal, professional or international settings. A number of reports from government and related agencies in recent years have made clear that Conflict Resolution is increasingly seen by the Executive branch of government as an efficient,

effective, economically attractive, "healing" and culturally responsive alternative to traditional court-based and legal models for settling disputes.

A qualification in Conflict Resolution can enhance your opportunities and provide you with capabilities for careers in both the public and private sectors, for example, in teaching and education, human resources, law, the health professions, local and central government

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Master of Arts (Conflict Resolution)
You must complete over 2 years full-time, or 5 years part-time (240 points)

Conflict Resolution: Theories, Models, Concepts and Processes (30 points)

Ethics and Social Justice (15 points)

Managing Human Relationships (30 points)

Social Research Design and Analysis (30 points)

AND 15 points from approved electives

AND Thesis (120 points) **OR**
Dissertation plus Site-based Research project (120 points)

STUDENTS MAY UNDERTAKE A POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ARTS OR A POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ARTS IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION BY COMPLETING 120 OR 60 POINTS OF COURSEWORK PAPERS RESPECTIVELY

PROGRAMME CONTENT

Core Papers

Conflict Resolution: Theories, Models, Concepts and Processes (289705) This paper will compare and evaluate theories and models of conflict management, resolution and transformation as well as critically analyse concepts such as peace, justice, truth, mercy, forgiveness, reparation and transformation. Different processes of dispute resolution will also be examined.

Managing Human Relationships (289703) This paper critically examines the complex construction of human relationships, including close relationships (e.g. family relationships, friendships) and more impersonal relationships (e.g. relationships in work environments, sports teams etc.) in different social contexts. It will provide a critical overview of different strategies and techniques that can be utilised in the successful management of human relations.

Ethics and Social Justice (288100) This paper will use an interdisciplinary approach to examine concepts of ethics and social justice. The paper will be informed by a variety of cultural perspectives and analyse appropriate decision-making processes for the creation of a just society.

Social Research Design and Analysis (289702)
(This paper is compulsory unless the student has other relevant research qualifications or experience)

This paper reviews the theoretical basis for designing the data-collection and data-analysis phases of social research projects, and provides basic skills in carrying out these tasks, including some practice in design and analysis with appropriate skill exercises and computer programs. The basics of the paper are set within consideration of the wider aspects of social science research methodology including such issues as cultural sensitivity, funding, and the political context of research. While the paper takes a generic social science-wide approach, there is also opportunity for more specific areas to be explored in more depth.

¹Available: <http://pawss.hampshire.edu/students/careers/index.html>