



Speaker Bio's



Linda Tuhiwai Smith, (*Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Porou, Tuhourangi*), **CNZM**, is a Distinguished Professor at Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangī. Linda is the author of *Decolonizing Methodologies* (Zed Books, 1999, 2012, and 2021), a critical analysis of the role of Western scholarly research played in the process of colonization of indigenous cultures. This work is considered a major contribution to research methods that has had a significant impact across multiple disciplines. In 2021, Linda became the first Māori scholar to be elected into the [American Academy of Arts & Sciences](#). She was recently elected as an International member of the US National Academy of Sciences.



Stacey Whitiora (*Ngāti Mahuta ki te Hauāuru, Waikato*) holds the position of Group General Manager at Plant & Food Research. With a focus on Māori primary industries, Stacey's responsibilities include Māori partnerships, program development, engagement with Te Ao Māori and Te Taiao, and supporting the integration of Mātauranga Māori in research and business outputs. Previously, Stacey served in key roles within central government for 17 years, coordinating multi-iwi engagement in fisheries legislation and supporting Māori entities to access funding and expertise to support the development of their whenua & taiao. At Plant & Food Research, Stacey leads the organisation's Māori strategy direction, driving authentic partnerships and a shared vision for a Smart Green Future. Additionally, Stacey actively participates in various governance and advisory groups and holds a Chartered Membership with the New Zealand Institute of Directors.



Melanie Mark Shadbolt, (*Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, Ngāti Porou, Te Arawa, Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Tuwharetoa, Te Ātiawa*), was formerly the Deputy Secretary Tūmatakōkiri (Māori Rights & Interests) at the Ministry for the Environment. Melanie's expertise in biodiversity and driving environmental outcomes are underpinned by an indigenous world view. Melanie has over 10 years' leadership experience at board, CE and senior management level, and is passionate about using strong research and policy to empower communities and create a healthier environment for all New Zealanders, which was reflected in her 2021 NZ Women of Influence Public Policy Award. Melanie is currently the Tumu Whakarae Chief Executive at Te Tira Whakamātaki.



Lynell Tuffery Huria (*Ngāti Ruanui, Ngāruahine*), is a managing Partner at Kāhui Legal. Lynell was the first Māori Patent Attorney and is recognised as a leading expert on indigenous intellectual property rights, Māori intellectual property and trademark protection. Over the last 30 years, Lynell worked for a large intellectual property specialist firm, advising a wide variety of clients including whānau, hapū, and iwi, sole traders, companies, and multi-national corporations. Lynell continues to assist Māori communities to protect our cultural heritage.