



Philosophy of Education Society of Australasia

CONFERENCE THEME

Shaking Up and Settling Down

Education, Agitation and Regeneration *Ka Rū, Ka Tau, Ka Ora*

We live in an unsettled, troubled world, with ongoing tensions, divisions and conflicts between different countries, cultures and groups across the globe. At times, it can appear difficult, if not impossible, to forge and maintain relationships built on the principles of mutual respect, thoughtful dialogue and the fair-minded sharing of resources. The realities many inhabit are characterised more by agitation than cooperation, and the prospects for lasting peace can seem rather grim.

The earth too can prove restless and unruly. In 2010 and 2011 Christchurch was shaken by a series of devastating earthquakes. More than 180 people lost their lives, and hundreds of buildings were damaged or destroyed. Yet, in the midst of great suffering and despair, Christchurch residents also demonstrated considerable resilience, with new forms of collaboration and commitment contributing to the rebuilding of homes, businesses and communities. A moment of profound sadness in the city's history has also become a symbol of hope and regeneration.

The dual possibilities evident in the Christchurch experience – **'shaking up'** and **'settling down'** – are also important features of philosophy of education. Philosophy of education can encourage us to ask difficult, searching questions of ourselves and others; it can render some of the key assumptions that underpin educational policy and practice problematic. At the same time, it can sometimes provide a calming influence, bringing clarity, sound reasoning, and a sense of perspective to bear in addressing complex ontological, ethical and political dilemmas.

Delegates at this conference are warmly invited to reflect on these ideas, in relation to their own contexts, and from a range of different theoretical points of view. As is always the case, philosophical papers on other themes of educational interest and significance will also be welcomed. The 2024 PESA Conference aims to stimulate debate, extend existing philosophical conversations in education, and explore possibilities for building better worlds in the future.