



# THE ASIA-PACIFIC CENTURY: TALKFEST

**Sunday 17 September, 11.30am-3pm**  
**Lopdell Theatre, 418 Titirangi Road, Titirangi**

Over the next twenty years, Aotearoa's Māori, Asian, and Pacific populations will grow to make up over 50% of the total population. *The Asia-Pacific Century* is an ongoing project that responds to this shift. It is dedicated to collectively working through the questions we face as our national identity continues to evolve.

*The Asia-Pacific Century: talkfest* is a series of talks that consider the relationship between our bicultural foundations and our diversifying society. Four speakers will share their research on the impact of increasing Māori, Asian and Pacific populations and the consequent possibilities for reconfiguring relationship dynamics.

Co-presented by Te Uru Waitakere Contemporary Gallery and the Capturing the Diversity Dividend of Aotearoa New Zealand (CaDDANZ) research team.

Supported by Asia New Zealand Foundation.

WAITAKERE CONTEMPORARY GALLERY

## PROGRAMME

11.15am Arrive for tea and coffee

11.30am Welcome address

11.45am **Julie Zhu**

12.15pm **Trudie Cain**

12.45pm break for refreshments

1.15pm **Tahu Kukutai**

2pm **Toeolesulusulu Damon Salesa**

2.30pm concluding remarks

## SPEAKER BIOS

Born in China, **Julie Zhu** moved to Aotearoa New Zealand at the age of four. She currently works as a freelancer in the arts, particularly in theatre and film, and is passionate about the power of storytelling to raise awareness, shift perspectives, and instigate real, tangible change.

A staunch advocate for Te Tiriti rights, Julie holds a Diploma of Language in te reo Māori and is a core member of Asians Supporting Tino Rangatiratanga. In particular she is interested in how we can uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi and heal relationships between tauiwi/migrants of colour and tāngata whenua.

Julie has been the co-convenor for the Greens of Colour group since its beginnings and would like to see the political arena more accessible to those who have traditionally felt marginalised from participating. In 2016, she ran in the local body elections for the first time and managed to gain almost 6000 votes. She is looking forward to building on that momentum in 2017.

**Dr Trudie Cain** is a sociologist at Massey University where she teaches courses on identity and belonging in Aotearoa New Zealand. After completing her PhD at Massey, she worked as Research Manager of two MBIE-funded programmes of research: the Integration of Immigrants Programme, and later, Nga Tangata Oho Mairangi. She also spent two years working as a Social Researcher at Auckland Council's Research and Evaluation Unit (RIMU) before returning to Massey University. Her research interests include gendered, sized and migrant identities; qualitative research methodologies and ethics; and the materiality of everyday lives.

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**Professor Tahu Kukutai** (Waikato, Ngāti Maniapoto, Te Aupōuri) specialises in Māori and Indigenous demographic research at the National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis. She has written extensively on issues of Māori population change, identity, and inequality and has worked on a wide range of demographic projects for hapū, iwi and Māori communities. She currently leads a major project on global practises of ethnic counting and classification, and is part of a research team, funded by the Swedish Research Council, that is investigating the impacts of colonisation on Indigenous population health in Sweden, Australia and New Zealand. Tahu is Vice President of the Population Association of New Zealand and is on the management directorate of the Aging Well National Science Challenge. She has degrees in history and demography from the University of Waikato and a PhD in sociology from Stanford University.

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**Toeolesulusulu Damon Salesa** is a prizewinning scholar who specialises in the study of colonialism, empire, government and race. With a particular interest in the Pacific Islands, he also works on education, economics and development in the Pacific region, as well as in New Zealand and Australia. After studying at the University of Auckland, he completed his studies at Oxford University. He is currently Associate Professor of Pacific Studies at the Centre for Pacific Studies, University of Auckland, where he is also head of Pacific Studies, Co-Head of Te Wananga o Waipapa and Director of Pacific Strategy and Engagement. Previously he was Associate Professor of History, American Culture, and Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.