

**'THE TYRANNY OF
DISTANCE?
ACADEMIC AIR
TRAVEL BEYOND
EUROPE/AMERICA'**

DEBBIE HOPKINS, JAMES HIGHAM
AND CAROLINE ORCHISTON

REDUCING ACADEMIC FLYING
SYMPOSIUM 13 NOV 2019

Practising academic mobilities: Bodies, networks and institutional rhythms

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Academic mobility in the Anthropocene era: a comparative study of university policy at three New Zealand institutions

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MOBILITIES

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The work-sociology of academic aeromobility at remote institutions

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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

WILEY


Gender discourses in academic mobility

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ACMOB PROJECT 2014–2019



**The Education Act (1989) requires that
New Zealand universities accept a role as
"critic and conscience of society"**



Europe

24
hours

Southeast Asia

11
hours

12
hours

North America

12
hours

South America

New Zealand

Ardern says New Zealand on 'right side of history' as MPs pass zero-carbon bill

Centre-right opposition National party throws support behind the legislation that has been applauded around the globe



▲ 'On the right side of history': Jacinda Ardern hails New Zealand zero-carbon law – video

Jacinda Ardern's **landmark climate legislation** has passed in New Zealand parliament, with historic cross-party support, committing the nation to reduce its carbon emissions to zero by 2050 and meet its commitments under the Paris climate accords.

The climate change response (zero carbon) amendment bill passed on Thursday afternoon with the centre-right opposition National party throwing their support behind it late in the day, despite none of their proposed amendments being accepted. The bill passed 119 votes to one.



University of Otago Magazine,
October 2019

- **Hollow words** – a lack of meaningful commitment to sustainability
 - **Unspoken words** – assumed necessity to travel, and lack of virtual attendance resources and/or support
 - **Facilitating mobilities** – rewarding, supporting and encouraging travel.
- (Hopkins et al., 2016)





“THE FURTHER UP THE FOOD CHAIN YOU GET THE MORE YOU TRAVEL. ABSOLUTELY, ONE HUNDRED PERCENT” (SENIOR LECTURER, FEMALE, HEALTH SCIENCES).

“We know PhD students in Austria and they're going to three international conferences a year... even our professors here are less connected than a lot of the PhD students over there” (Associate Professor, Male, Commerce).






LIFE LONG (ACADEMIC) MOBILITIES



CONCLUSIONS

Discourses of academic mobilities – and solutions – are often centred on Europe and America. Often ‘solutions’ are impractical for more remote locations (e.g. shifting to train, virtual attendance [due to time differences]). NZ academic institutions are reinforcing and replicating hypermobile academic lives through recruitment, promotion and retention exercises. What does this mean for...

- Hosting conferences in NZ?
- NZ-based academics travelling internationally for conferences (including Australia – which is still a medium-haul flight)?
- Attracting academics to work in NZ?
- Students in NZ travelling for/ as part of their degrees?



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