



55th Otago Foreign
Policy School



New Zealand foreign policy in a post-COVID era

PROGRAMME

Friday 2 July–Saturday 3 July

Introduction

The global pandemic as well as climate change impacts, migration patterns, and rising economic inequality pose significant challenges to the wellbeing of nations.

There is little doubt that the international rules-based system has been severely challenged in recent years and renewed great power competition has also re-emerged. In particular, the Pacific has become a contested strategic space, which impacts on New Zealand's domestic and foreign policy interests.

In this context, small and middle powers face distinct challenges. Unable to rely on the application of power, these states emphasise the importance of a good international reputation, strong diplomatic networks, and multilateral cooperation to establish some influence and overcome challenges that they cannot resolve alone.

As a relatively small state with far-flung international connections, New Zealand's independent foreign policy must somehow balance Realpolitik and its moral values in an effort to maximise the benefits of global cooperation and minimise the risks that global exposure can bring. The benefits of New Zealand's membership of the World Trade Organization (WTO) have been substantial, but Wellington has not escaped the international consequences of problems like the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) and COVID-19 economics.

In many ways, New Zealand and many other small and middle powers are facing a fork-in-the-road moment in international relations. The story of the post-Cold War era is one of growing interconnectedness which all states, including superpowers like the US and China, are confronted by a growing number of challenges that do not respect national borders. It is an environment which is creating new opportunities for smaller

states like New Zealand to play a greater role on the international stage. New Zealand has signaled its desire to take a leadership role (for example the Christchurch Call, indigenous foreign policy and the Ardern Government's more tempered approach to the China relationship) and this requires us to 'step up' with clearly articulated and innovative ideas.

This School will explore some of the challenges facing New Zealand foreign policy in the emerging post-Covid era by considering four interrelated themes:

- Values and interests
- Trade
- Climate policy
- Small/middle state leadership

Co-directors

Mr Peter Grace (Politics)
Professor Robert Patman (Politics)
Dr Dennis Wesselbaum (Economics)

Programme

DAY 1 FRIDAY 2 JULY

- 4:00pm** Registration
- 5:30pm** Opening of the School
- 5:45pm** Mihi whakatau
- 5:55pm** Dr Dennis Wesselbaum
Co-Director,
University of Otago
- 6:00pm** Mr Aaron Hawkins
Mayor, Dunedin City Council
- 6:10pm** Professor Paul Brunton
Pro-Vice-Chancellor,
Division of Health Sciences,
University of Otago
- 6:20pm** Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Minister of Local Government,
Associate Minister of Māori
Development
- 7:00pm** Cocktail function

DAY 2 SATURDAY 3 JULY

- 8:25am** Welcome (Directors)
- SESSION 1 Values and interests**
- 8:30am** Dr Daniel Twining
President, International Republican
Institute (via Zoom)
- The geopolitical context: America,
New Zealand and the Indo-Pacific region**
- Chair: Dr Dennis Wesselbaum**
University of Otago
- 9:15am** Dr Reuben Steff
University of Waikato
- New Zealand's independent foreign policy
at a time of Australian-China tensions**

Chair: Professor Robert Patman
University of Otago

10:00am Morning tea

SESSION 2 Climate policy

10:30am Professor Alice C. Hill
David M Rubenstein Senior Fellow for
Energy and the Environment, Council
on Foreign Relations (via Zoom)

Climate policy post-COVID

Chair: Dr Jacqueline Leckie
Victoria University of Wellington

11:15am Ms Lisa Tumahai
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae
Representative and Deputy
Chairperson Climate Change
Commission

**Climate policy in NZ – a Ngāi Tahu
perspective**

Chair: Mr Kevin O'Connell
Delegation of the European Union
to New Zealand

12:00pm Lunch

SESSION 3 Trade

1:00pm Professor Mireya Solís
Director of the Center for East Asia
Policy Studies, Philip Knight Chair
in Japan Studies, Senior Fellow
in the Foreign Policy Program at
Brookings Institute (via Zoom)

**The future of the rules-based trading
system in the post-COVID world**

Chair: Professor Paola Voci
University of Otago

1:45pm Mr Hone McGregor
Director of the Wakatū Incorporation,
Member Cabinet's Trade for All
Advisory Board, and Executive of the
Federation of Māori Authorities (FOMA) and
MFAT's Te Taumata

Toward a Te Tiriti-led trade policy approach

Chair: Professor Philip Nel
University of Otago

2:30pm Afternoon tea

SESSION 4 Small/Middle State Leadership

3:00pm Panel on Small/Middle State leadership

Professor Anne-Marie Brady
University of Canterbury

How should New Zealand use its enhanced
international profile to address challenges like
the rise of China in the Indo-Pacific region?

Ms Marion Crawshaw
Centre for Strategic Studies,
Victoria University of Wellington

How should New Zealand use its soft power in
the Pacific region to address the big global
issues?

Professor Robert Patman
Politics, University of Otago

Why New Zealand should help lead the call for
an International Rules-Based Order (IRBO)

Chair: Mr Geoffrey Miller
Democracy Project

3:55pm MFAT Representatives' Reflections

4:00pm Closing Remarks (Directors)

4:05pm End of School

CONTACT PERSON

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Sponsors

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