

# Kaupapa Maori Evaluation Methodologies

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## What are kaupapa Maori methodologies?

This approach is an emerging field that provides a culturally appropriate methodology to research (and evaluation in this case) in the local context. The presumptions of this methodology are that research (evaluation) must:

- Take for granted the validity and legitimacy of Maori, including the importance of Maori language and culture;
- Be connected to Maori philosophy and principles;
- Recognise the unique journey of each individual, whanau, iwi and hapu, and;
- Be concerned with the struggle for Maori autonomy over Maori cultural wellbeing (Smith, 1999).

This is not a definitive statement about kaupapa Maori research or evaluation however, they are some of the key concepts that underpin the work that I do, and are generally amongst the common themes of practitioners using this approach.

## What are examples of specific practices for this approach?

- Predominant use of a kanohi ki te kanohi ( face to face) approach when establishing networks, interacting and engaging with individuals and organisations
- The use of powhiri, whakatau and mihimihi processes
- The use of karakia and appropriate protocols to conduct hui
- The use and promotion of te reo Maori;
- The use of koha to participants;
- The use of protective mechanisms regarding cultural and intellectual property of participants
- The use and significance of kai;
- The use and active practice of culturally appropriate processes wherever possible.

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NB: It should be noted that this is not an exhaustive list, however these are commonly used practices that I carry out.

## **Why and when should you use kaupapa Maori methodologies?**

I use the above approach as a predominant one, because it aligns with my own cultural ways of knowing and being. At a wider level, I also think it is an appropriate approach to use when dealing with Maori organisations and Maori whanau.

## **How do I go about using kaupapa Maori methodologies?**

This methodology is no different to any other, in that you need to know what you are doing before you use it. As such, if this is an approach that you have not used before, but believe would be appropriate to use for your projects/workplace – my suggestion would be to seek advice from people that use this approach regarding the appropriateness and applicability of the method to the project.

## **For more information:**

Smith, L.T. (1999) Decolonising Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples, London, Zed Books.