An aerial photograph of a forest with a teal overlay. The forest is dense and green, with a prominent orange path or road winding through it. The teal overlay is a semi-transparent rectangle that covers the central part of the image, containing the title and authors' names.

Identifying the Barriers to Building Back Better: A Case Study of Christchurch (Ōtautahi), New Zealand

Steve Matthewman, Hugh Byrd, Cassie Kenney & Shinya Uekusa

< سياسات السلطة ما بعد كارثة أوتاتاهي

بقلم ستيف ماثيو مان (Steve Matthewman)، جامعة أوكلاند ورئيس جمعية علم الاجتماع في أوتيروا نيوزيلندا



Broad focus: how to build sustainability into the city of Christchurch following the 2010-11 earthquakes

Narrow focus: the place of renewable energy in this process

Research methods:

- Key-informant interviews
- Informal meetings
- Participant observation
- Document analysis
- Official Information Act requests

The Research Context



Between September 2010 and December 2011, NZ's second largest city (pop. 380,000) was hit by four major earthquakes and thousands of aftershocks.

185 people lost their lives, over 7000 were injured. 15,000 families lost their homes and 8,000 families were permanently displaced.

Half of Christchurch's urban roads had to be rebuilt, 30% of the sewerage system was damaged and 32 million litres of water were lost when a major crack opened up in the floor of the city's largest reservoir.

The Earthquake Commission received over 470,000 insurance claims. JP Morgan, Chase & Co ranked the CES as the third most costly earthquake event in history behind the 2011 Japanese subduction earthquake/tsunami and the 1994 Californian earthquakes.

The repair and rebuilding of Canterbury continues and is expected to top \$40 billion.

Build Back Better?
Opportunity through Tragedy?



Terrorism

‘The survivors, and the families of the 49 victims, are the most important people in New Zealand right now. They will gather at funerals. They will attend memorials. They will experience the long, constant fact of something which Christchurch, more than anywhere in New Zealand, has got a fix on: absence. The earthquakes made it the city of the missing. The mosque shootings have taken away another 49 people who were simply going about their business.’

Steve Braunias (2019) ‘A day after Christchurch Terror Attack NZ at Half-mast - Grief, Rage, Anguish at Moron’, *The New Zealand Herald*, 16 March.

Flowers decorating traffic cones on Linwood Avenue in support of the victims of the attack close to the Linwood Mosque shooting area.
Photo / Getty Images

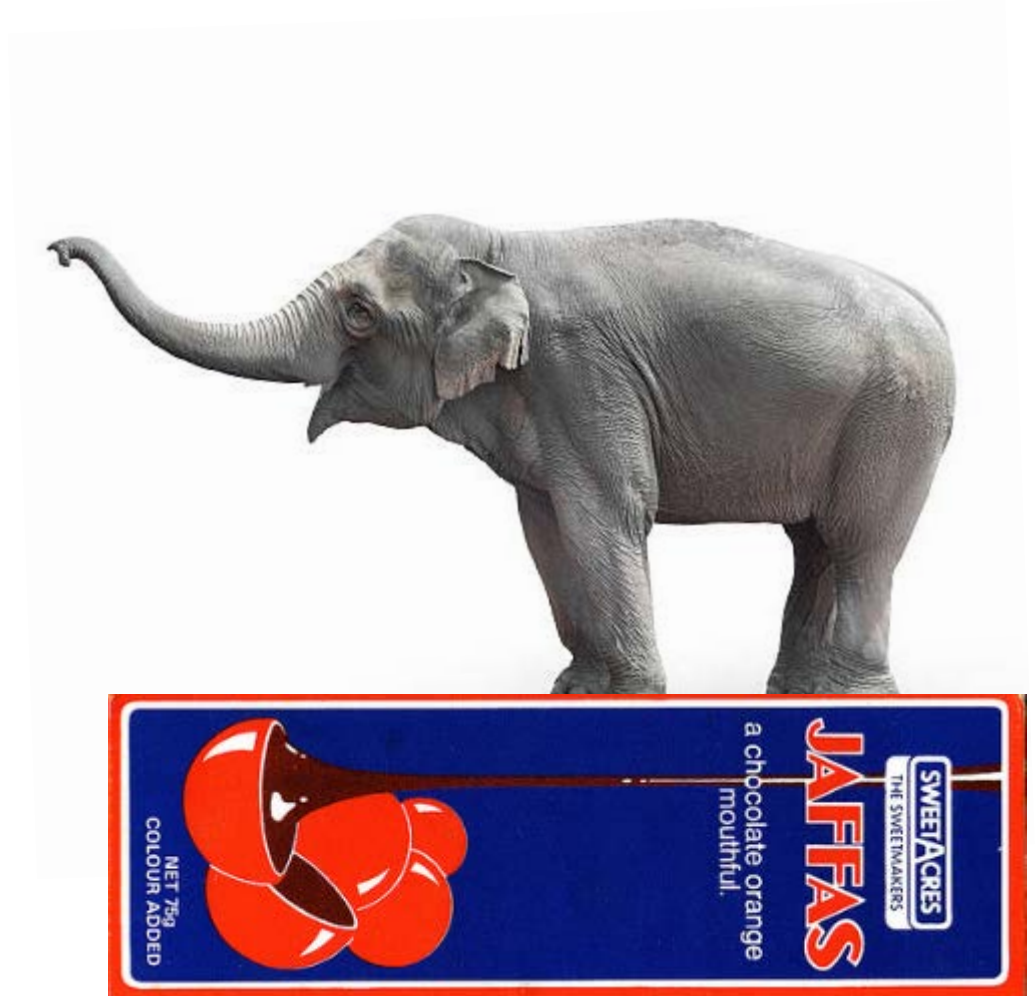




Christchurch from the Streets - Season 1 - Episode 1

Auckland - Population Growth & Infrastructural Stress:

- Added the population of Hamilton (NZ's 4th biggest city) in the last 4 years
- Anticipating 3.5 – 5 more Hamiltons in the next 2 decades (Levy cited in Ryan, 2018)
- Worst homelessness in the OECD (YaleGlobal, 2017)
- 45,000 housing shortfall (Cooke, 2017)
- 4th least affordable housing in the world (*Demographia*, 2017)
- Biggest gap between rich & poor since WW2 (Parahi & Shepherd, 2018)
- Planning for transport, sewerage & storm water lag behind housing development (Ryan, 2018)
- Diluted sewage drains into the Waitemata Harbour from 41 separate points each time rainfall exceeds five mm (Orsman, 2017)
- In 2017 Auckland commuters making peak-hour motorway journeys lost an average of two working weeks to congestion (Satherley, 2018)

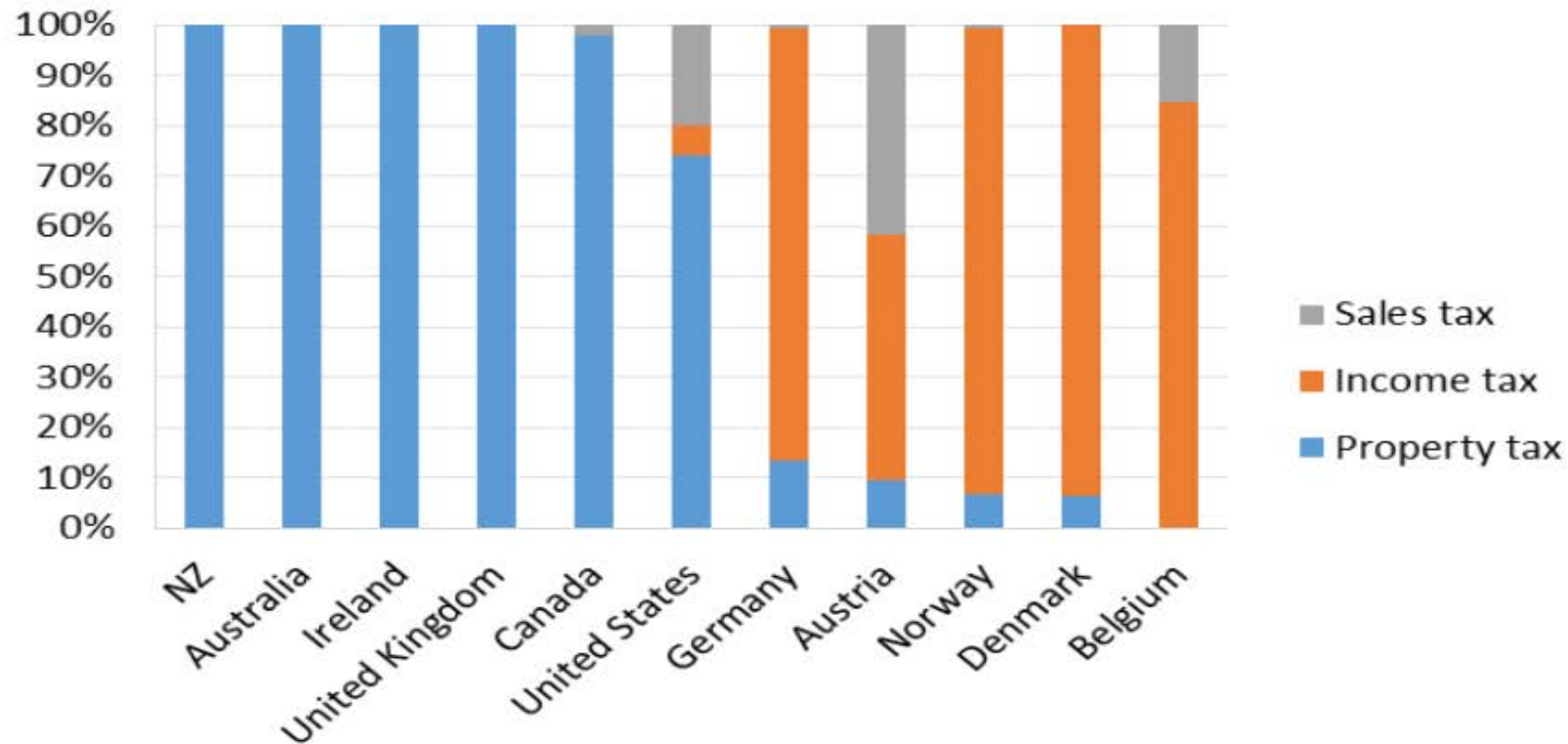


Local Government Funding Review

A discussion paper

February 2015

Figure 11: Per cent of local government tax raised by tax type, international comparison, 2010



Source: World Bank 2014, Statistics NZ

Contestations over Space: The Residential Red Zone

What should that space look like?

- Plant Gang (rewilded) vs Mower Man (suburbia, garden city): Decolonization?

What should we do there?

- Enjoy native flora and fauna (Avon-Ōtākaro Network) vs elite rowing sports (East Lakes Trust): Are both types of activity essentially bourgeois?



BBB & Contestations over Time: What Should ChCh Become?

First new city of the 21st Century or last version of a 20th Century city?

Quintessential English colonial settlement or post-colonial place?

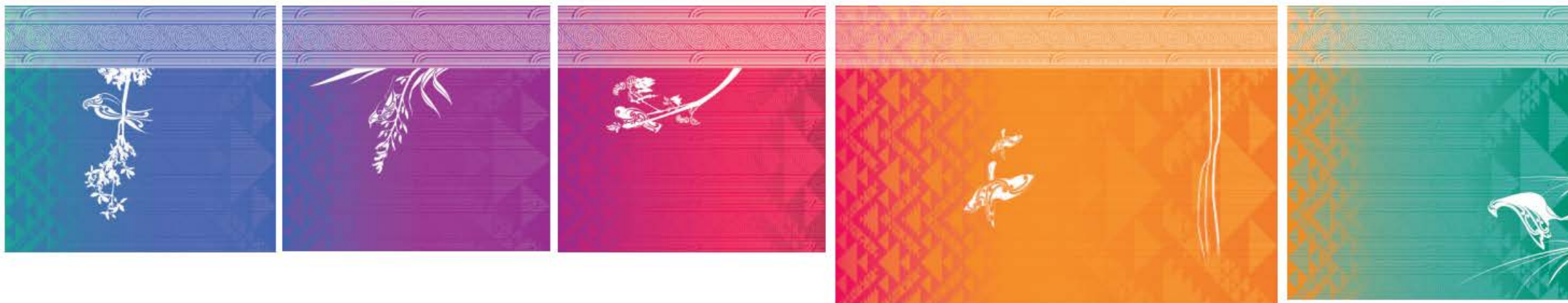
South Island megacity or big Ashburton?

Biophillic city or different Detroit?

Gateway city or destination?

Universal anywhere?





Indigeneity & Disaster

Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua

I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on my past

Minna Hsu (2016): ‘the focus on recovering from a “natural” disaster can obscure the slower-paced disasters of displacement, dispossession and marginalization’. ‘Lost, Found and Troubled in Translation’, *AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples*, 12(10): 71.

Te Oti Jardine (2018): ‘My tūpuna, my ancestors, we were the first ones to be red zoned. When the settlers came we had to move, and now they came and they built in the place where, our old people said why are they building here?’ ‘Ōtautahi Revealed: Part 1’, *Indigenous Urbanism*, 9 November.

Building Back Better?

- We can't agree on what constitutes "better"
- Unintended consequences: doing good might be doing bad
- Many want to build back the same (ChristChurch Cathedral)
- Rebuild mandates (e.g. PPPs) and insurance payments reinforced this ("like for like" replacements)
- Capital flight/lack of capital
- That other city problem: Auckland
- Governance structures: "confusopoly" & the "tragedy of the anti-commons", alphabet agencies
- CBD already in decline (BBB = Baptist churches, brothels & band practice rooms)
- New environmental challenges: sinking city, rising sea, drinking water contamination



Monument to the Present by Tom Dale, 2018

BBB: Preliminary Findings: Which City Visions are Winning?

National government vs local government agendas

Hard vs soft infrastructure

Big anchor vs small community projects

Suburbs vs central city

West vs East

Old vs young

Cars vs cycles





Post-quakes Positives: Red Zoning

Part of it is to do with, for me, the red zoning experience. It's the first time in their lives many people realized that land wasn't just real estate, that there were emotional bonds to the land, and if you're forced off it, it's that sense of what tūrangawaewae means. So, it's that place to stand, how important the land and the river were to people's lives. So, there's that sense, but also the sense that it's not just real estate, that land ownership is just a fiction, and that kaitiakitanga is what's important - you're looking after the land for future generations. So, a lot of those concepts which were core to tangata whenua kaupapa are becoming more evident in the community, and more of a sense of how important the river is to spiritual life as well, I think. All those kinds of concepts are beginning to take effect.

Interview with Evan Smith, Chair, Avon-Ōtākaro Network, 27 February 2018



QUESTIONS...



MAKE IT COUNT

the Future is just around the Corner...

- THE CANTERBURY MUSEUM
- THE ARTS CENTRE
- EARTHQUAKE MEMORIAL
- THE PAST
- THE FUTURE

ROAD CLOSED AHEAD

CATHEDRAL SQ

WALK THIS WAY!

CNU172