

**CV Kirsten Smiler, PhD** – Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand.

Dr Kirsten Smiler is an indigenous (Māori) academic from Aotearoa/New Zealand. Dr Smiler's paternal heritage binds her to several iwi (tribes) *Te Whānau a Kai, Te Aitanga-a-Māhaki, Rongowhakaata, Te Whakatōhea*, situated on the East Coast of the North Island of Aotearoa/New Zealand. Dr Smiler is a CODA, was an inaugural member of the New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) Board, and is the Māori advisor to New Zealand's Universal Newborn Hearing and Early Intervention Programme (UNHSEIP).

Dr Smiler's research sits at the intersection of populations and disciplines. In her Masters research Dr Smiler examined perceptions of identity for Māori-Deaf users of NZSL and her Doctoral research examined the experiences of whānau (Māori families) raising deaf children and how we might improve responsiveness to this population. Awarded the Health Research Council's Erihapeti Rehu-Murchie Postdoctoral Fellowship in 2013 Dr Smiler explored the potential implications of 'international best practice' as outlined in the early intervention sector, in relation to Māori.

In her role of Senior Research Fellow for the Health Services Research Centre at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand (2005-2018) Dr Smiler has undertaken research in response to health inequities facing Māori in a colonial society. Dr Smiler now lectures in Māori health for the School of Health, Victoria University of Wellington, leading teaching on Health and Wellbeing in Aotearoa/New Zealand, Hauora Māori (Māori health and wellbeing) as well as research which examines Māori experiences of integrated and fragmented healthcare.