



INSTITUTE OF
CULTURE, DISCOURSE & COMMUNICATION
AN INSTITUTE OF AUT UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT

2013

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1 Introduction

The Institute of Culture, Discourse & Communication (ICDC) engages in research that is cross-disciplinary in nature and collaborative in process. Research focuses upon critical perspectives in communication, culture, identity, discourse, media, the internet, and language in society. Since 2011, ICDC has been integrated into the School of Language and Culture, allowing closer links with research staff in the school. As two of ICDC's major undertakings (The World Internet Project Survey and the New Zealand Discourse Conference) took place in 2013, it was a very full year for the Institute. ICDC staff also did particularly well in the 2012 PBRF assessment round, whose results were notified in 2013, making ICDC one of the highest-rated units in AUT.

ICDC's working objectives are:

- developing research capability in the School, Faculty and AUT, through mentoring, conferences, supervisions and research groups;
- collaborations with researchers within the School, Faculty, AUT and elsewhere in New Zealand and internationally, through joint projects and publication;
- publications, including staff research outputs and journal editorships;
- seeking external funding for ICDC projects;
- research support, leadership and teaching within the School of Language and Culture.

2 The ICDC Team

At the end of 2013 staff positions were:

- Professor Allan Bell, Director, Professor of Language and Communication (.8; plus .2 in School of Language & Culture)
- Dr Philippa Smith, Research Manager (.8; plus .2 in School of Language & Culture)
- Kristie Elphick, Research Administrator (.4)
- Rachelle Ferguson, Research Officer (.5 from September)
- Trish Brothers, Editorial Assistant (.3)

- Andy Gibson, WIPNZ Data Analyst and Report Writer, *Journal of Sociolinguistics* Editorial Associate, Research Officer (.2 January–September, full-time October–December)
- Alwin Aguirre, Graduate Assistant, PhD candidate
- Melissa Miller, WIPNZ Data Analyst (Contractor)

3 Staff Profiles

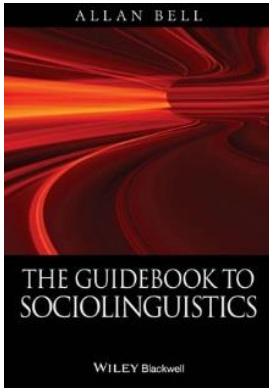


Professor Allan Bell, Director, Professor of Language and Communication

Allan edits the *Journal of Sociolinguistics* and is Director of the World Internet Project NZ. He sits on the editorial boards of six journals. He is also Head of Research in the School of Language & Culture, chairing the School’s Research Committee, facilitating research activities, mentoring staff, overseeing research strategy and representing the School at faculty boards and committees. Allan supervised to completion one MA thesis during 2013, the submission of one PhD thesis late in the year, and continued with four ongoing supervisions. Two students withdrew from PhD study during the year.

In 2013 Allan gave several plenaries and invited lectures. He was opening plenary speaker at the Fifth International Conference on Language in the Media, hosted at Queen Mary, University of London, and gave a plenary address and workshop at the NZ Discourse Conference. He also presented at NWAIV, the North American sociolinguistics conference, in Pittsburgh, and gave invited talks to the Department of English, University of Hong Kong, and to the Center for Applied Linguistics, Washington, D.C. He was presenter at the Wellington launch of the 2013 World Internet Project findings, and media spokesperson for the subsequent extensive coverage.

Allan has accepted a part-time appointment as Visiting Research Professor at the University of Hong Kong, one of the world’s top-ranking universities. He is to be resident there for six weeks a year from 2014 to 2017.



The Guidebook to Sociolinguistics

In 2013 Allan Bell celebrated the publication of his major international text *The Guidebook to Sociolinguistics*, published by Wiley-Blackwell. It received enthusiastic endorsements from distinguished colleagues and was officially launched in New Zealand at the Fourth NZ Discourse Conference. The 386-page text book which took several years to complete offers a comprehensive overview of sociolinguistics including multilingualism, language choice, style and variation and includes exercises for students with a focus on assisting them in developing their own research projects. The text targets students of all levels and introduces them to both the content of the field and to how to conduct sociolinguistic research. Numerous examples and exercises illustrate the discipline and its findings, and students are led through the steps to undertake their own research projects. The book includes examples and case studies from Allan's own research experience.



Dr Philippa Smith, Research Manager (since June 2012)

Philippa became ICDC's research manager in 2012 following the completion of her PhD which looked at discourses about New Zealand national identity in online discussions. Besides being an active researcher on a number of projects ranging from the World Internet Project to reality television in New Zealand, Philippa's responsibilities include the management of projects and funding applications, liaising with stakeholders and funders, and contributing to the day-to-day running of the Institute. Philippa gave a number of talks during the year at academic institutions, conferences and at the World Internet Project 2013 survey launch in Auckland. She was also the Chair of ICDC's fourth New Zealand Discourse Conference held at AUT. Her specialist areas of research interest are: communication, media, identity, and discourse analysis. Philippa is also a senior lecturer on the BA in English and New Media Studies programme within the School of Language and Culture.

Philippa Smith presented a paper at the 5th International Language in the Media Conference held at Queen Mary University of London titled: *Contesting Journalistic Practice in National Identity Representation*. While in the United Kingdom she was also hosted by the University of Swansea, Wales where she had been invited to deliver two interactive lectures to students about discourse analysis of media texts. Later in December, Philippa gave papers at the fourth New Zealand Discourse Conference on reality television in New Zealand and at the New Zealand Sociology Conference, in conjunction with Professor Charles Crothers, on the survey evidence on national identity in New Zealand.



Andy Gibson, WIPNZ Analyst, Editorial Associate

After a successful PBRF result, Andy was involved in several ICDC projects in 2013. He was closely involved in the design of the 2013 wave of the World Internet Project New Zealand (WIPNZ), and then acted as analyst and lead author on the WIPNZ report. He co-presented with Allan Bell at the Wellington launch of these results, and also interacted with media around the launch event, including a live-to-air interview on the NewstalkZB Drive show. Since the launch, Andy has responded to several requests for data from stakeholders and members of the public, as well as writing several methodological reports and meeting with Statistics NZ in Wellington about complementarity between WIPNZ and their Household use of ICT survey. In December, work on the longitudinal analysis of WIPNZ data was begun.

Andy continued in his role as Editorial Associate for the *Journal of Sociolinguistics* in 2013, liaising between the editorial team, publishers Wiley-Blackwell, authors and reviewers. He also carried out independent research on pronunciation in hip hop and popular music in New Zealand and the USA, on the basis of PBRF contestable funding.



Kristie Elphick, Research Administrator

Kristie has worked as Research Administrator in ICDC since 2008, supporting the Institute's research activities and PhD students. Kristie assists with key tasks such as expenditure management, recruitment processes, meeting organisation and minute taking. Kristie has been the coordinator of ICDC's conferences, including the NZ Discourse Conference, since 2009. In December 2013 Kristie accepted a permanent role as Research Coordinator in the Faculty of Culture and Society.



Trish Brothers, Copy Editor

Trish provided copy editing services to the *Journal of Sociolinguistics*, and the *Journal of Educational Leadership Policy and Practice*. Her proofing and copy editing skills are also available to researchers in the Institute and School.



Alwin Aguirre, Graduate Assistant, PhD Candidate

Alwin received a graduate assistantship in 2013, allowing him to contribute to the research environment of ICDC above and beyond his involvement as a doctoral student. He was actively involved as conference committee member for the 4th New Zealand Discourse Conference held in December. He also received a Doctoral Completion Award, allowing him to co-author with his supervisors' journal articles based on his research project.



Rachelle Ferguson, Research Officer

Rachelle has completed a Master of Adult Literacy and Numeracy Education and is now enrolled in an MPhil, working towards a PhD. She was brought on board ICDC in September 2013 to assist with the coordination of the Auckland WIP launch and with the organisation of the NZ Discourse Conference.

4 World Internet Project New Zealand

The World Internet Project New Zealand (WIPNZ) is ICDC's biggest project. Funded by the Government through the National Library and by InternetNZ, it provides important information about the social, cultural, political and economic influence of the Internet and related digital technologies. New Zealand's partnership in the World Internet Project International enables comparison with more than 30 other countries. The team includes several ICDC members and Professor Charles Crothers (School of Social Sciences). WIPNZ ran its first survey in 2007, and it has continued biennially since then with the most recent survey being conducted in 2013.

The WIP survey covers a range of topics answering key questions about the role the internet plays in our lives and what users are doing online, such as, what proportion of internet usage relates to seeking out information, entertainment, communicating with others, purchasing items, or other work or leisure-related activities. Survey questions also delve into the attitudes and activities of non-users of the internet.

The fourth WIPNZ survey was conducted between July and September 2013, and included a sample of over 2000 New Zealanders who were asked about their usage of and attitudes to the internet. For the first time, part of this year's survey was conducted online. Preliminary testing for new methodology was assisted by a contestable grant of \$15,000 from the Faculty of Culture and Society. In October and November, Andy Gibson, Melissa Miller (statistician) and Charles Crothers conducted an in-depth analysis of the results. From the results the team prepared a major report, which was

released on 21 November, 2013. Among many detailed findings, the survey found that while younger people are prioritising the internet as a source of entertainment, older New Zealanders are more likely to regard it primarily as a source of information. The survey also verified that smartphones, iPads, gaming consoles and other wireless devices are a part of everyday life for a large proportion of New Zealanders. The complete details of the report are available on the WIPNZ web page, at wipnz.ac.nz.

This year, the International Director of the World Internet Project, Professor Jeffrey Cole, was in New Zealand and able to attend both the Wellington and Auckland launches which raised the profile of WIPNZ even further. Dr Cole (Center for the Digital Future, University of Southern California Annenberg School) commented in his Wellington launch speech, “New Zealand is widely recognised as a nation of ‘early-adopters’, so to have had AUT University as a partner of the World Internet Project since 2007 has added a new dimension to the international body of data. New Zealand provides us with a data set that tells a unique story of internet use. I am looking forward to seeing this latest set of data compared internationally.”

The WIPNZ launches attracted a gathering of key stakeholders, funding representatives and experts from New Zealand’s digital sector. Events like these, along with the increasing weight of the longitudinal survey results, solidify and extend the strong foundation that the World Internet Project has established over the past 6 years. The 2013 World Internet Project research received coverage from a wide range of media. Most notably, WIPNZ was covered by: Radio NZ (Nine-to-Noon interview with Dr Jeffrey Cole), More FM, Radio Live (interviews with Dr Allan Bell and Dr Jeffrey Cole), Newstalk ZB (interview with Andy Gibson), *NZ Herald*, *Waikato Times*, *Otago Daily Times*, *Weekend Herald* and numerous provincial newspapers.

5 Research Activities

Fourth New Zealand Discourse Conference

Building on the success of the previous New Zealand Discourse Conferences ICDC hosted the Fourth Biennial New Zealand Discourse Conference, 2–4 December 2013. The event was held at AUT University, and attracted delegates from a wide range of countries, including Australia, Canada, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Norway, Philippines, Singapore, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Considerable national and international interest in the conference was evident with nearly 300 abstracts received in response to the call for papers, from which only 80 could be accepted. While this made a difficult job for the five-member conference committee, it resulted in an extremely high standard of presentations.

The three plenary speakers were Professor Cindy Gallois Emeritus Professor, Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, The University of Queensland, Professor Adam Jaworski Professor of Language and Communication, The University of Hong Kong, and Professor Allan Bell of AUT.

In his keynote address entitled 'The work of interpretation and changing discourses of news', Allan Bell examined the generation, reception and interaction of online news texts through the lens of Paul Ricoeur's Interpretive Arc. Cindy Gallois spoke about 'Identity, discourse and accommodation' within the increasingly complex and complicated arena of health communication. Adam Jaworski investigated the dynamics of interactions mediated by the 'semiotic landscape' of tourist spaces in his talk 'Tourism discourse: Between sociability and spectacle'. All three plenary speakers also led hands-on workshops based on the content of their initial talks.

The programme comprised three concurrent streamed presentation sessions including topics such as identity, children, bodies and books, gender and sexuality, multimodality, humour, abuse, social media and blogging. As there were a large number of doctoral students attending this year, an informal social event was arranged for them to get together, socialise and offer each other support. Many of the students found this to be a wonderful highlight and the conference committee has decided to build this in to future conferences.

Overall feedback received from delegates on the conference organisation and content was very *positive*. Planning is underway for the Fifth New Zealand Discourse Conference which will take place in December 2015 at AUT's city campus.

Visiting Speakers

Dr Louisa Willoughby, Monash University, Melbourne

ICDC and the School of Language and Culture hosted Dr Louisa Willoughby from Monash University in Melbourne on 12 April. Her talk held at AUT was titled: "Where policy meets practice: Language planning in a superdiverse Australian high school" and explored how one Australian high school managed conflicting language policy and planning demands around the teaching and use of languages other than English in a context where over 95% of students spoke a language other than English at home. Academics from both AUT and the University of Auckland attended the event.

Dr David Britain, University of Bern, Switzerland

Dr Britain visited AUT for a week in May as part of his visit to New Zealand as Distinguished Visiting Fellow of the Linguistic Society of New Zealand. He gave lectures at AUT (4 June) and the University of Auckland (30 May). His field is dialects of English, especially contact between dialects and the interaction between language and geographical space.

AUT Internal Research Grants

As a result of AUT's success in the 2012 PBRF assessment, ICDC was able to compete for project support within the Faculty and secured a significant level of funding in 2013. These included projects involving extended WIPNZ research.

WIPNZ Projects

Totalling approx. \$ 47,000

The Internet in New Zealand, 2013

Statistician Mel Miller conducted most of the technical end of the analysis, and Andy Gibson analysed the results and was lead author on the major 2013 report.

Longitudinal study of the Internet in New Zealand, 2007–2013

Mel Miller and Andy Gibson conducted a longitudinal analysis of the WIPNZ data across the four waves of the survey.

Communicating the findings, 2013

These funds enabled the WIPNZ team to achieve highly successful launch events with widespread media coverage. By hiring a dedicated administrator/event co-ordinator for the events, the launch invitation lists were much more targeted and strategic than in previous years.

World Internet Project NZ: The disability divide in New Zealand

Philippa Smith was joined by associated researchers Allan Bell, Andy Gibson, Charles Crothers on this project aiming to provide a knowledge base about research into the access and use of ICTs and of the internet by people with disabilities.

World Internet Project NZ: Focus group study

Charles Crothers supplemented the quantitative data collection of the WIPNZ main project by capturing more subjective experiences and also delineating vocabularies and approaches used in discussing the internet which can then be used in guiding the construction of future questionnaires.

Other Projects

Totalling approx. \$14,000

Contesting journalistic practice in national identity representation in NZ

This funding enabled Philippa to reach her objective of writing up her first post-doctoral output for submission to an international journal.

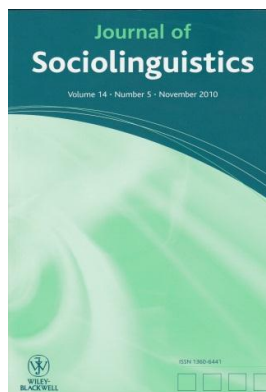
Non-prevocalic /r/ in hip hop: A comparison of New Zealand and the USA.

This project was completed by Andy Gibson.

Alwin Aguirre wrote up the following papers based on his doctoral thesis: *Crossing the gain line: Migrant discourses of national belonging in sports and social media* (with Allan Bell as co-author) and *Imperfect strangers: Picturing place, family, and migrant identity in social media* (with Sharyn Graham Davies as co-author).

6 Journal Editorship

Journal editorship and production are major undertakings within the Institute.



The *Journal of Sociolinguistics*

The *Journal of Sociolinguistics*, published by Wiley-Blackwell, is one of two leading journals internationally in its field. It is edited and produced from ICDC, with Allan Bell as Editor, Andy Gibson as Editorial Associate, and Trish Brothers as Copy Editor. In 2013, the journal received nearly 150 submissions, and published 23 articles in five issues, amounting to some 720 pages. In September, the journal published a special issue on the Sociolinguistics of writing, co-edited by Theresa Lillis (The Open University, UK) and Carolyn McKinney (University of Cape Town, South Africa).

7 Supervisions

Thesis students are a major part of the life of the Institute. The following were thesis students in ICDC during 2013, all primary supervisions by Allan Bell except where noted.

Thi Hang Nguyen (PhD)

Vietnamese university EFL teachers' code-switching in classroom instruction

Hang submitted her thesis in November 2013, and is due to complete examination by mid-2014. She studied the ways in which Vietnamese teachers of English as a foreign language switch between English and Vietnamese in the course of their classroom teaching. Using observations, recordings and interviews, she found teacher code-switching to be very common both in content instruction and in their management of the classroom. One of their main motivations for switching to Vietnamese was their assessment that the students' level of English did not enable them to understand some English instructions. However, Hang considers that in many cases code-switching has become a teacher habit, and she recommends that teachers should code-switch into Vietnamese much less often than they do.

Sarah Lee (Graduated MA, First Class)

Spanish language maintenance and shift among the Chilean community in Auckland

Sarah submitted her thesis in early 2013 and graduated MA with First Class Honours. Her thesis deals with the community's attitude to their maintenance of or shift from the Spanish language, the importance of the language to their cultural identity, and what activities are contributing to

maintaining the language. Observation and interviews showed high community valuing of the language, but an awareness of the challenge of transmitting it to the next generations. The international cultural status of Spanish helps motivate maintenance. The thesis is intended to contribute to the Auckland Chilean community's assessment of the language and to provide recommendations that will aid maintenance.

Alwin Aguirre (PhD)

Negotiating the Filipino in cyberspace: New media and identity construction of Filipinos in New Zealand

Alwin began his doctoral studies in 2010. His thesis focuses on the intersection of migration, identity work, and social media. Specifically, he seeks to understand how Filipinos in New Zealand negotiate the question of identity as they talk about their daily lives and experiences as diasporic subjects in online platforms of self-expression. The study is informed by the theorisations of liminality, textuality, and identity. Methodologically, it is guided by online ethnography and multimodal discourse analysis. Alwin is in the final stages of writing and will submit his thesis in 2014. The project has ranged across areas he never imagined in the beginning -- from the action-packed world of rugby to impassioned confrontations with love, betrayal, and guilt.

John de Jong (PhD)

Aspects of intertextuality in Zephaniah

John's PhD research examines Zephaniah, a small prophetic book in the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible. Drawing on insights from the theory of intertextuality John is exploring how prior texts are used in the formation of the text of Zephaniah. His first supervisor is Dr Tim Meadowcroft of Laidlaw College, whose postgraduate division is affiliated to AUT.

Salainaoloa Wilson (PhD)

The use and valuing of the Samoan language in Samoan families in New Zealand today

Salainaoloa's research is concerned with the deterioration of the Samoan language in the home. It focuses firstly on language behaviours and the role of the family in language maintenance, and secondly on the youth as the future speakers of the Samoan language in New Zealand. Her study will seek to identify strategies that will help to maintain the Samoan language in New Zealand today. During 2013 Sala completed her literature review and project design and received ethics approval, and she will begin her fieldwork in early 2014. Her primary supervisor is Professor Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop.

Kevin Sherman

The wretched refuse of your teeming (virtual) shore: Second Life as homeland to the socially isolated

Kevin is now located in the US. His work deals with the nature of identity in the virtual world Second Life. In 2013 he put in a pre-final draft of his thesis, with the principal finding that Second Life is particularly significant for participants who are socially isolated in the 'real' world. Full submission of the thesis is scheduled for 2014.

8 External Research Income

ICDC's external research income in 2013 totaled some \$160,000.

Private sector funding came from First Rate Ltd, who provided \$6,800 in 2013 as ICDC website sponsors.

For WIPNZ, the Institute received \$40,000 from InternetNZ to enable it to prepare and seek additional support for the 2013 World Internet Project NZ survey. The National Library in the Department of Internal Affairs has contributed \$90,000 of Government funding in 2013. Buzz Channel contributed \$10,000 in kind for services.

The *Journal of Sociolinguistics* receives external funding from Wiley-Blackwell Publishers, covering Trish Brothers' and Andy Gibson's work for the Journal, amounting to over \$20,000 in 2013.

9 Research Outputs 2013

Publications

Bell, A. (2013a). Interpreting the Bible on language: Babel and Ricoeur's Interpretive Arc. In J. Green & T. Meadowcroft (Eds.), *Ears that hear: Explorations in theological interpretation of the Bible* (pp. 70–93). Sheffield, UK: Sheffield Phoenix.

Bell, A. (2013b). *The guidebook to sociolinguistics*. Oxford, UK & Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

Gibson, A., Miller, M., Smith, P., Bell, A., & Crothers, C. (2013). *The internet in New Zealand 2013*. Auckland, New Zealand: Institute of Culture, Discourse & Communication, AUT University.

Smith, P. (2013a). Book review of *Jewish lives in New Zealand: A history* (Eds. L. Bell & D. Morrow). *New Zealand Sociology*, Online edition 28(1).

Smith, P. (2013b). Heroic endeavours: Flying high in New Zealand reality television. In N. Lorenzo-Dus & P. Blitvich (Eds.), *Real talk: Reality television and discourse analysis in action* (pp. 140–165). New York: Palgrave, Macmillan.

Smith, P. (2013c). New Zealand – in search of a new national identity. In J. Abict, J. Silloway Smith & J. Vargo (Eds.), *Flint & steel: On belonging and national identity* (Vol. 1, pp. 32–39). Auckland, New Zealand: Maxim Institute.

Presentations

- Aguirre, A. (2013, December 2–4). *How I got to know rugby: Mega-events, national belonging, and diasporic identity in social media*. Paper presented at the 4th New Zealand Discourse Conference, AUT University, Auckland, New Zealand.
- Bell, A. (2013, July 9). *Panel: The state of internet research in New Zealand*. Paper presented at NetHui Conference, Wellington, New Zealand.
- Bell, A. (2013). *Reading the news online: How the internet is changing news discourse and the way we interpret it*. Paper presented at the Center for Applied Linguistics, Washington, DC.
- Bell, A. (2013). *Reading the news online: How the internet is changing news discourse and the way we interpret it*. Paper presented at the University of Hong Kong.
- Bell, A. (2013, September 28–30). *The Interpretive Arc and the redefinition of journalism*. Paper presented at the 5th International Language in the Media Conference, London.
- Bell, A. (2013, October 17–20). *The Indexical Cycle and the differentiation of New Zealand and Australian Englishes*. Paper presented at NWA 42, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Bell, A. (2013, December 2–4). *The work of interpretation and changing discourses of news*. Paper presented at the 4th New Zealand Discourse Conference, AUT University, Auckland, New Zealand.
- Cole, J., Bell, A., & Gibson, A. (2013, November 21). *The internet in New Zealand 2013*. Paper presented at the launch of the WIPNZ survey results, Wellington, New Zealand.
- Crothers, C., & Smith, P. (2013, December 9–11). *New Zealand (national identity): The survey evidence*. Paper presented at Sociological Association of Aotearoa New Zealand Conference: Re-imagining Sociology, Re-imagining Society, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand.
- Marra, M., & Gibson, A. (2013, November 20–22). *Building equality: Using humour to negotiate hierarchy*. Paper presented at NZ Linguistics Society Conference, Christchurch, New Zealand.
- Smith, P. (2013, September 28–30). *Contesting journalistic practice in national identity representation*. Paper presented at the 5th Language in the Media Conference, Redefining journalism: Participation, practice, change, Queen Mary University, London.
- Smith, P. (2013, November 22). *The internet in New Zealand 2013*. Paper presented at the launch of the WIPNZ survey results, AUT University, Auckland, New Zealand.
- Smith, P. (2013, December 2–4). *From ordinary to extra-ordinary: New Zealanders on reality television*. Paper presented at the 4th New Zealand Discourse Conference, AUT University, Auckland, New Zealand.
- Smith, P., Crothers, C., & Miller, M. (2013, November 22). *The internet in New Zealand 2013*. Paper presented at the launch of the WIPNZ survey results, AUT University, Auckland, New Zealand.

10 Planning for 2014

Particular outcomes for ICDC in 2014 should include:

Publications and Presentations

- Preparation of media discourse book chapter co-authored by Philippa Smith and Allan Bell for a textbook *Introducing Language and Linguistics*, to be published by Cambridge University Press;
- Philippa Smith will present at the CADAAD (Critical Approaches to Discourse Analysis Across Disciplines) Conference in Budapest, Hungary in September, resulting in a post-doctoral publication.
- Allan Bell will have six weeks' residency as Visiting Research Professor at University of Hong Kong, April-June. He will then present papers at several conferences in Europe, including the Sociolinguistic Symposium in Finland, a Round Table meeting in Copenhagen, and the WIP annual Partners Meeting in Italy. These will result in a book chapter and a journal article. He is to present a plenary address to the NZ Language in Society Conference in November.

Supervisions

- Two theses from ICDC candidates should be submitted by mid-year.

World Internet Project NZ

- Since the 2013 results were released, the WIP team has been working on longitudinal analysis, making comparisons over the four surveys conducted since 2007. The preparatory work for this is now complete, and a report focusing on trends over time is being written and due to be released at the end of March 2014.
- Offshoot projects from the WIPNZ including research into longitudinal analysis of all surveys since 2007, closer investigation of disability digital divides, and production of papers.
- Briefing of WIPNZ results to stakeholders and other interested groups such as government departments.
- Advocacy to Government for continued funding for the WIPNZ survey in 2015.

External funding

- Renewal of the strategic partnership with InternetNZ, involving ongoing support of WIPNZ-related projects and participation in the annual NetHui Conference, is expected to be confirmed early in 2014.

New research

- Collaboration with other faculties in bids to the AUT 2014 Strategic Research Investment Fund.