



## Staff Profile - Dr Michael MACKAY

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Dr Michael Mackay is a lecturer in Human Geography in the Department of Social, Science, Parks, Recreation, Tourism and Sport. He is currently the examiner of three social science papers: The Living City, Society and Environment, and Advanced Society and Environment. Michael holds a Bachelor Degree in International Studies with a major in Japanese Language, which he obtained from the International Pacific College in 1999. In 2004 he was awarded a Master of Applied Science (Rural Tourism Development) from Lincoln University and a PhD in Human Geography in 2011, also from Lincoln.

For the three years prior to working at Lincoln University, Michael was a member of AgResearch's Social Research Team. He worked in projects exploring the social impacts of rural land-use changes and (proposed) water regulations, and community engagement and participation in inclusive policy and planning processes (including designing, organising and facilitating community engagement activities). At AgResearch he also led various research projects for industry groups, such as DairyNZ. Examples include a DairyNZ project benchmarking the environmental attitudes of farmers operating in New Zealand's Best Practice Dairying Catchments. Another project focused on strengthening procedural legitimacy in the choice of stakeholder groups for deliberative public engagement.

Michael's primary research interests are in the processes and outcomes (and geographies) of rural and urban change. He is currently involved in a cluster of interrelated research projects seeking to interpret the social changes occurring

in rural localities and small towns in New Zealand, particularly in areas of high amenity or where

land-use changes have occurred. This work is contributing a social science perspective to conceptual debates on post-productivism, multifunctional rural space, amenity migration and the "global countryside". Michael is also working with Taylor Baines and Associates, contributing a social scientific perspective to the Canterbury Land Use and Water Quality Project – a collaborative project between Environment Canterbury, DairyNZ and other sector groups, who are undertaking a catchment-by-catchment nutrient limit-setting process, complementary to the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

When he's not at work, Michael plays guitar, rides a mountain bike, snowboards and collects LP's.