

Dean P. S. Mahuta

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Dean is a lecturer in Te Ara Poutama, Faculty of Māori Development, at the Auckland University of Technology, Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Dean is of Māori descent, the indigenous people of New Zealand, and hails from the Waikato tribe, which is part of the Tainui confederation located in the upper middle part of New Zealand's North Island.

In December, 2010 Dean graduated with his doctorate in Māori Development. His thesis examined the identity links between the Waikato people and their environment, specifically, the Waikato river that the tribe derives its name from.

For the last 10 years Dean's research has been in traditional Māori knowledge systems, language and history. His primary passion is digital animation, with particular interests in 3D animation.

Dean is currently doing research into the representation of Māori customs, language and lore in video games. Other areas of research include the need for indigenous peoples to begin occupying digital spaces, and taking ownership of their own 'digital identity'.

Dean is also a researcher in Te Ipukarea – The National Māori Language Institute, and has worked on several projects focussed on the revitalisation of the Māori language and how technology can help to achieve this goal.