

Report on UNIKE Summer School in Waiheke, 2-5 February 2015

This part of the report summarizes the training aspects of the UNIKE summer school. The summer school took place on Waiheke island off the coast of Auckland, New Zealand, between 2 and 5 February, and was followed by the international conference “Universities in the Knowledge Economy: Perspectives from the Asia-Pacific and Europe”, which was held at the University of Auckland between 10 and 13 February 2015.

The main objective of the summer school was to provide a space for UNIKE fellows, partners and associate PhD students to present, discuss, and jointly edit their writing, in interaction with the scholars and students from New Zealand as the host country. In combination with the conference held during the following week at the University of Auckland, the event was an opportunity for fellows to showcase their own research as well as learn more about and strengthen links with the research communities in the Asia-Pacific. It also provided an excellent grounding for the development of research networks across different regions, and plans for joint projects in the future.

The main part of the summer school consisted of a **writing workshop**, which included 45 minutes dedicated to each fellow’s work. Fellows were asked to circulate in advance a sample of their writing (thesis chapter, literature review, article) to partners and other fellows; each paper was assigned two ‘reviewers’ (one fellow and one senior academic), while all the participants were asked to read each other’s papers. During the workshop, the fellows received feedback from their ‘reviewers’, as well as questions and suggestions from other participants. The workshop was evaluated very positively by all the participants, who said that they benefited immensely from the comments, both from the reviewers and the wider audience.

The summer school also included a session on **editing**, whose objective was to provide fellows with an open space in which to practice reading each other’s work critically, suggesting improvements, and providing a basis for the establishment of collective writing endeavours in the future. The session began with Professor Sue Wright introducing her experience related to collective editing. After this, PhD fellows formed writing groups, and discussed and developed plans for working on joint publications in the future. The groups have adopted schedules for communicating and working together.

Furthermore, the summer school featured a **‘methods clinic’**, in which fellows were able to get hands-on training and advice on using specific methods in their work. There were two parallel sessions – one on discourse analysis, and one on the analysis of interviews. The session on discourse analysis was jointly facilitated by Professor Mark Amsler from the University of Auckland and one of UNIKE partners, Professor Antonio Magalhaes from the University of Porto. Some of the UNIKE partners as well as senior academics from New Zealand joined the discussion, which revolved around comparative advantages of different approaches to discourse analysis, and the issues raised by the demands of research in international policy and institutional environments (e.g. the question of language). The

interview analysis session was facilitated by Dr Kirsten Locke from the University of Auckland, who presented different approaches to analysing data generated through interviews. UNIKE partners and NZ academics were also present in the session, contributing examples and illustration from their own research practices. The fellows said that methods workshops were very useful, and provided them with an open space to test their ideas and discuss them with other fellows, UNIKE partners, and academics from New Zealand.

Besides the writing and editing workshops and the methods clinic, the summer school included dedicated time slots for fellows to meet and discuss with their mentors and other UNIKE partners as well as NZ academics, and also specific times for fellows and postdocs' private meetings. The wonderful settings of the Waiheke Island resort provided an inspiring backdrop for the summer school activities, and greatly facilitated the joint work and discussions between all participants.