



2021

AWARDS FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

2021

AWARD FOR AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

SOCIETY AND CULTURE

PROFESSOR KATERINA TEAIWA

The Australian National University

Professor Katerina Teaiwa is a visionary teacher, mentor and leader, who has made an outstanding contribution to Pacific studies in Australia and globally. She contributes magnanimously to many aspects of Pacific affairs, climate change, the arts, and environmental justice, in and beyond the classroom.

Katerina gives students opportunities to connect with Pacific Studies partners and networks to experience critical, engaged and Indigenous Pacific centred teaching and learning. She insists on cross cultural collaborations to foster students' leadership capabilities, ensuring a creative, unique and meaningful experience. Students are encouraged to embark on a metaphorical voyaging canoe to gain a sense of the Pacific's vast and diverse social and cultural dimensions where no one gets left behind.

Through holistic methods, Katerina inspires students to explore Pacific histories, regionalism, politics, arts, media and environments to understand how each facet contributes to Pacific and Australian identities, pasts and futures. Katerina convened the innovative Pacific Islands field school 2010-2019 and the ANU Asia Pacific Week 2020 and 2021. Using diverse, and engaging approaches, activities and platforms, Katerina inspires both teachers and students to appreciate the knowledges, depths and strengths of Pacific peoples and islands representing some of the most resilient and vulnerable areas of the world. Katerina's commitment to teaching and engaging with the Pacific can be described as one of Australia's national prides.

