



Trisia Angela Farrelly

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Kia ora koutou katoa, my name is Trisia Farrelly. I am a Senior Lecturer in environmental anthropology at Massey University, New Zealand. I am also the Co-Director of Massey University's Political Ecology Research Centre; Co-Founder and Trustee of the New Zealand Product Stewardship Council; and Co-Chair of the Aotearoa Plastic Pollution Alliance.

My husband and I worked at a Japanese College in New Zealand teaching English and Tourism in our first years of marriage, and our sixteen-year-old son is a self-professed 'Japanophile'. Despite all this, neither of us had ever had the opportunity to travel to Japan. I have traveled all over the world but I have never enjoyed travel more than I have during these two Sylff Leaders workshops. The Sylff staff combined the very best ingredients for a memorable cross-cultural experience: the best company; generous, funny, warm hosts; a remarkable country of rich history and culture; wonderful accommodation; and incredible food. The Sylff staff made us all feel so welcome and cared for. I am humbled at the thought that we had the opportunity to experience elements of Japanese culture and places that many Japanese people have not had the opportunity to experience. Sasayama and Beppu were wonderful places to stay and I have recommended them to others here in New Zealand. I have learned a lot about Japanese culture in a very short time and cannot wait to go back to learn more.

The beauty of these workshops was in the way they drew leaders together from entirely different cultures, ethnicities, geographical locations, and fields of expertise. We were asked to respond to one of the most urgent challenges of our time: food production. The genius in the choice of topic was that, although no one was an expert in food production, everyone's work and life touched on it in some way. After all, human survival demands access to safe and sustainable food systems. None of the Sylff fellows were particularly familiar with the forecasting and backcasting methods we used either. Both of these points meant that there

were no dominant voices of expertise in the rooms. Every fellow's perspective was equally valid and valued.

However, this did not always mean there was harmony in the groups! Our leadership skills were regularly tested. Negotiations regarding the direction and prioritization of each working group proved particularly challenging when we worked late into the night. This was when fatigue compromised attention spans and patience thinned. I am pleased to report, however, that the tougher times only brought the fellows closer together and we cannot wait for another opportunity to work together again. Attending these workshops has provided me with the opportunity to spend quality time with some of the most intelligent, inspiring, passionate and warm-hearted people I know.

These workshops and all of the additional gifts of experience we have received through Sylff's generosity have further strengthened my resolve to build on my current work on multi-actor environmental governance. Working with other fellows has made me more passionate than ever about social and environmental justice.

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Arohanui

Dr Trisia Farrelly