

# MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

& The School of Language, Social and Political Sciences

Media & Communications Interdisciplinary Collaboration  
Series Presents:

## Professor Zita Joyce

From Whenua Hou to the edge of the solar  
system: speculations in science communication for  
Kākāpō and space probes

WEDNESDAY 6 OCTOBER 1-2 PM **LOCKE 313**  
(note new venue)



Podcasts and social media offer spaces for scientists to connect with the public in direct and engaging ways. This seminar considers two very different forms and contexts of science communication as a beginning point of some new research. The RNZ podcast *The Kākāpō Files* (2019-20) followed the summer breeding season on Whenua Hou, off Stewart Island, and Te Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island. At different extreme of place, the Twitter accounts of objects like the Perseverance Mars Rover and Voyager 2, are first person documents of location and activity from Mars to the limits of the solar system. While these are separate research projects, this discussion will consider the affordances of these media, the ways they work to build a sense of intimacy, authenticity and trust to engage and educate their publics, and questions they raise about human / inhuman and animal communication. Both Kākāpō and space objects are also entangled in radio networks that extend human connections within and beyond the planet.

Media & Communication (COMS) Research Seminars are always open  
to absolutely everyone. We look forward to seeing you!