

Te Herekieke Herewini
Head of Repatriation
Karanga Aotearoa Repatriation Programme
Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.



Te Herekieke began working at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa in October 2007 and is tasked with managing the repatriation of Māori and Moriori ancestral remains housed in international institutions around the world. Te Herekieke believes the work of Te Papa's repatriation programme is not completed until every Māori and Moriori ancestor returns home and is comforted once more by the communities of origin.

From 15 August 2022 to mid-November 2022 Te Herekieke Herewini will be undertaking the Sensitive Provenance Research Fellowship at the University of Göttingen, in Germany. Te Herekieke will focus on the provenance of Māori and Moriori ancestral remains, their collectors and traders, as well as seeking to better understand the meaning of repatriation of ancestral remains to German institutions, including how handover ceremonies can be appropriately arranged from both Māori and Moriori perspectives but also inclusive of those views from institutions within Germany.

On 30 June 2022, Te Herekieke submitted his PhD thesis for examination at the University of Victoria in Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand. The topic of the thesis is the trade and repatriation of Toi moko (tattooed mummified heads of Māori origin).

Te Herekieke Herewini's whakapapa (genealogy) directly connects him to the Māori tribal groups of Ngāti Apa, Ngārauru Kītahi, Ngāti Ruanui, Pakakohi, Te Āti Hau-a-Pāpārangi, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Whakaue, Whakatōhea, Ngāti Porou, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Ngāti

Raukawa, Te Āti Awa, Ngāti Mutunga and Ngāti Tama. Te Herekieke's European ancestry is of Swiss, Spanish, Prussian (German), British, and Ashkenazi Jewish heritage.