



**TASA** The Australian  
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**TITLE: Identity and belonging of the New Zealand second generation:  
Negotiating the position of the 'other' across transnational spaces**

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Australia and New Zealand have historically enjoyed a close bilateral relationship, which has in part been shaped by the 'open' *Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement* between the two nations. Drawing on in-depth interviews, we examined the lived experiences of young adults born in Australia of New Zealand descent (second generation) as they negotiated their identities and sense of belonging within this transnational context. Findings indicate that the subject position of the 'New Zealand second generation' is consistently figured as the 'almost similar other' to the 'host' Australia. The operation of logics of equivalence and difference between Australia and New Zealand, articulated through myths related to historical and cultural similarities and racial and class-based differences, serve to structure the participants' subject position. This positioning serves to reinforce the nation building agenda of Australia as a neoliberal, multicultural society, where the New Zealand second generation is constructed as a constitutive outside to the Australian identity. Participants' experiences of belonging highlighted the shifting role of national identifications through participation in transnational social fields. Negotiating dislocatory moments of othering, participants engaged in an alternative space not directly linked to national identifications. They asserted their political subjectivity by occupying highly localised subject positions, established through relational engagements with everyday spaces in Australia and New Zealand.