ISPS is pleased to present Jason Haitana from New Zealand: Winner of the 2022 David B. Feinsilver Award!



Jason will be giving the presentation "Te reo orooro: an indigenous maori perspective on hearing voices" at the 22nd International Congress of the ISPS in Perugia this summer.

The Feinsilver Award is a full scholarship to fund attendance at the ISPS congress. The award is given the best research or clinical paper by a newcomer, who cannot otherwise afford to attend the congress. The fund was set up by David B. Feinsilver, former chair of ISPS, before he died after a long illness.

In Jason's own words:

E rere kau mai te awa nui nei Mai i te kāhui maunga ki Tangaroa Ko au te awa Ko te awa ko au.

The river flows
From the mountains to the sea
I am the river
The river is me.

That is in essence what I try and get back to in my healing, healing that I needed in order to give back in the work I do.

I have been working in mental health for fourteen years. My values are of respect and servanthood, of caring for my people who struggle against not only the weight of what they carry but a system that is broken.

I believe that we need to make peoples voices heard and to challenge those things that blind or prevent us from understanding and loving one another. That means the stigma and the discriminations we all have and learning how to overcome these. People matter regardless of where you come from and what you believe in. I believe that we all have knowledge that is sacred and fulfilling and belongs only to you. This then is my journey and my hope.