**Title:**

Risks to Māori Data Sovereignty from replacing the Census.

**Body:**

Discarding the traditional Census in favour of administrative datasets risks Māori Data Sovereignty by weakening Māori authority on how their data is collected and used. In the lecture Chris emphasizes that Māori Data Sovereignty rejects data colonialism while promoting a tikanga-based, relational approach to data and digital technologies. Rather than guarantee the safety of Māori data or reflecting Māori identity, administrative datasets introduced in the new census are instead designed with administrative purposes and benefits in mind.

The potential impact of this change is extremely significant. For instance, Māori representation within state systems would rapidly decrease, and the ability to resource whānau, hapū, and iwi appropriately would follow suit. Through this the Māori people’s public voice would be slowly diminished out in favour of state efficiency.

To mitigate the issue, Stats NZ should ensure that Māori are actively involved with designing the new Census Model. This would embed Māori Data Governance in how their data is collected, utilized, and aligned with tikanga based values. Doing such will uphold Māori Data Sovereignty while maintaining relationships and improving trust with Stats NZ.

**Word Count:**

194