This image features a copy of Haitian anthropologist and politician, Antenor Firmin's, book *The equality of the Human Races: Positivist Anthropology.* This groundbreaking book from 1885 argues that race theory is both scientifically inaccurate and politically motivated, "nothing more than the notion of man's exploitation by man".

For the past two years I have introduced this book to anthropology students at the University of Waikato. Each year the students appreciate the arguments, evidence and poetic phrasing in the text. Divorced by language, history and politics, the book continues to teach us.

Despite its originality and brilliance *The equality of the human races* was not published into English until the year 2000, more than 100 years after it was published. It is still relatively unknown.

In this it reminds me of an even older text, this one thousands of years old, from the wisdom literature of Ecclesiastes:

"I also saw under the sun this example of wisdom that greatly impressed me: There was once a small city with only a few people in it. And a powerful king came against it, surrounded it and built huge siege works against it. Now there lived in that city a man poor but wise, and he saved the city by his wisdom. But nobody remembered that poor man. So I said, "Wisdom is better than strength." But the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are no longer heeded."

The loudest voices I hear online, in politics and in the University are frequently filled with hatred, selfishness and shortsightedness. But examples of hidden wisdom provide me with hope. How many more excellent book are out there untranslated, or rarely citied? How many stories of wisdom sit with the poor? Hope helps me to keep listening.