



University of Otago
Pacific Islands Centre

Pacific Voices XVII

Researching in unprecedented times

PACIFIC POSTGRADUATE SYMPOSIUM

1 OCTOBER 2020

POSTGRADUATE

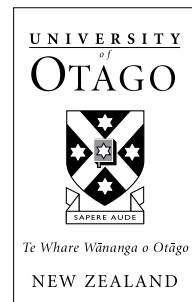
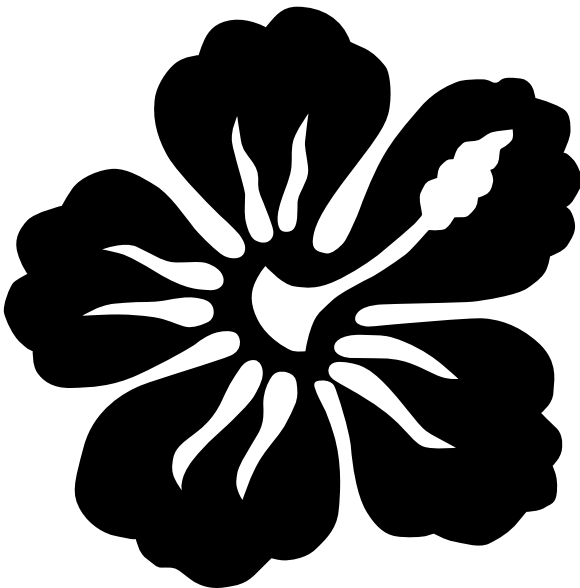


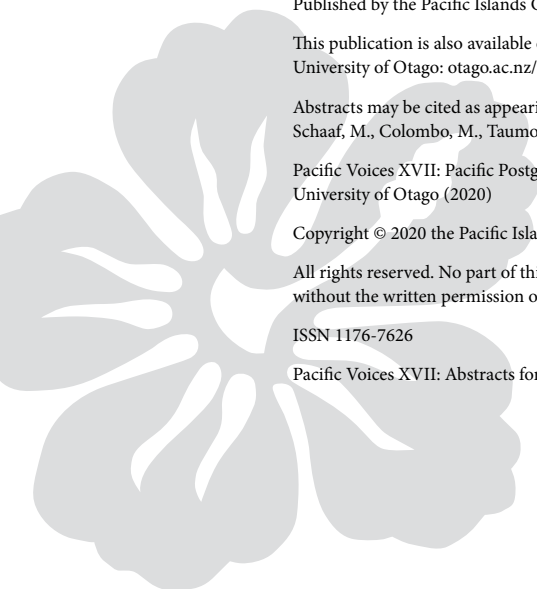
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Pacific Voices XVII: Abstracts for the Pacific Postgraduate Symposium

Foreword

Warm Pacific greetings to the *Pacific Voices XVII Postgraduate Symposium 2020*. This has been an extraordinary year for the whole world, and particularly for communities and diaspora of Aotearoa and Pacific nations. We have much to be proud of in our national responses to the global pandemic, where we have set shining examples by using research to inform our responses to this extraordinary crisis. At the University of Otago we are very proud that much of the relevant research our leaders have relied upon has come from our academic leaders and students.

This symposium showcases research by Pacific postgraduate students, who are our nations' future trusted experts and thought leaders. Our University of Otago Pacific postgraduates are exceptionally talented, like their academic leaders. Their postgraduate research experience will be pivotal in their career development, allowing them to follow paths in research-led service and leadership for communities and organisations in the Pacific and beyond.

So sincere congratulations must go to those students whose work features in these *Proceedings for the Pacific Voices XVII Postgraduate Symposium*. Their research is inspiring, interesting and importantly, it will make a difference!

I am sure that readers of *Pacific Voices XVII* will be impressed with the breadth, depth, quality and variety of the research that is described herein. The papers and presentations cover important topics in climate change, community building, public values, health, history and religion. Disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches are broad too, encompassing accountancy, medicine, history, geography, archaeology, sociology, sports science and biochemistry. We even have a presentation from a New Caledonian student doing her honours dissertation on late Bronze Age archaeology of the Aegean. The span of the conference is, thus, truly global – as has been so starkly demonstrated this year, our dedicated and trusted approaches to important questions have made the world aware that strong Pacific Voices can be relied upon.



Finally, on behalf of the University, I would like to thank all those responsible for *Pacific Voices XVII*, and in particular Tofilau Nina Kirifi-Alai and Alison Finigan. As we come through and rebuild from this extraordinary year of global challenges, we look forward to continuing to strengthen and develop Otago's involvement in the Pacific region.

Professor Richard Blaikie

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Enterprise)
BSc(Hons)(Otago), PhD(Camb), FRSNZ, MIEEE, MInstP, CPhys

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TEMA ALAILIMA-ETEUATI

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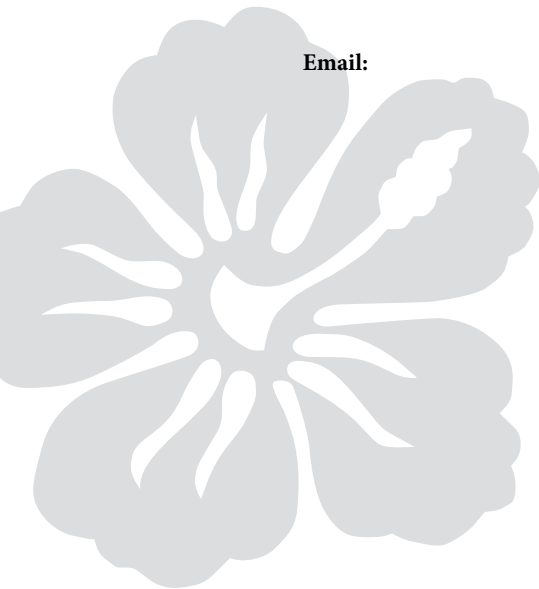
Tema was born in New Zealand but raised and educated in Samoa. He has a BA in English from the National University of Samoa and a BD Honours from Piula Theological College. He is a probationary minister with the Methodist Church in Samoa and is currently doing his PhD in Theology.

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HONOURING HISTORY: AN ETHNOHISTORICAL VIEW ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF METHODISM IN SAMOA

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Tema Alailima-Eteuati

.....

This research seeks to identify and document the Samoan natives who established Methodism in Samoa. According to Dyson this introduction by Samoan natives – unlike the arrival of Methodism in other islands through the activity of European missionaries – is a miracle¹.

This study is challenged by the limited literature available on the Samoan natives². To address this an ethnohistorical approach³ is adopted to examine the *faaSamoa* framework, encompassing cultural, social, political and historical perspectives before and during the arrival of Methodism. Some *faaSamoa* values – *va fetausia'i* (reciprocal caring), *alofa* (love), *faaloalo* (respect) resonate with one of the core values of John Wesley's Theology of Sanctification – 'Love of God and neighbour'⁴ will also be explored.

Fieldwork for the study was planned to be conducted in Samoa. It was to mainly draw on oral tradition and folklore i.e. storytelling and interviews. Site exploration and photography were identified as complementary data sources. The COVID-19 pandemic has put these plans on hold. This has revealed some challenging realities about higher degree studies particularly about indigenous scholars who leave the very societies that they study because of bureaucratic and other scholarly expectations. It is the hope that the pandemic will not compromise the initial intentions and desired route of the study.

.....

Keywords: Ethnohistory, *faaSamoa*, Theology of Sanctification, inculturation.

1 Dyson, M. (1875). *My Story of Samoan Methodism*, Fergusson and Moore Printers, Melbourne, 10.

2 Saiva'iaia, a native of Savai'i, postulated as the pioneer of Methodism in Samoa. Dyson, 12.

3 Axtell, J. (1979). Ethnohistory: An Historian's Viewpoint. *Ethnohistory*, 26, 1-13.

4 Lindström, H. (1980). *Wesley and Sanctification*, Francis Asbury Press, Grand Rapids, Michigan.



JOSHUA ALIIFAALOGO

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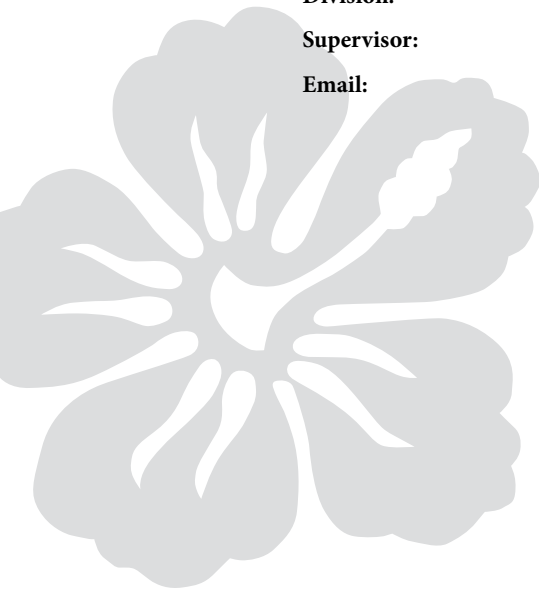
Joshua is of Samoan descent, born and raised in Mangere. He completed a BA in Geography and Pacific Island Studies at Otago and is currently in the second year of a Master of International Development and Planning. After completing two internships under the Tuputoa Organization (at Arup and Auckland Council) Joshua is looking forward to working for change in the planning and development sectors that will impact lower socio-economic and Pacific communities.

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MO LE LUMANA'I: AN EXPLORATION OF NEW ZEALAND PASIFIKA YOUTH VIEWS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Joshua Aliifaalogo and Claire Freeman

Climate change is a critical and a leading global environmental issue. The effect of climate change has caused damage to the nature we live in today and will most likely become worse in years to come. Countries across the globe are suffering due to the effects of climate change and post-development decision making; however these effects are exacerbated and worse for islands in the Pacific. Today many Pacific Islanders have migrated abroad to developed nations such as Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America but concerns about the effects of climate change on the Islands remain.

In spite of increased levels of migration from the Pacific into developed nations, climate change still affects the lives of these islanders. Previous years have also seen an increase in Pasifika advocacy amongst young Pasifika people mainly advocating for climate justice for islands in the Pacific. Pasifika youth are now leading the way for climate justice as well as similar issues that are creating challenges and difficulties for islands in the Pacific. Through interviews/*talanoa/**fa'afaletui* sessions with Pasifika youth climate change activists and youth across New Zealand, this research aims to explore and investigate views of New Zealand Pasifika youth on climate change as well as how their indigenous knowledge influences their climate change perspective. In doing this, recommendations will also be provided into how these views can be adapted into the Pacific context for climate change spaces in local and national contexts.

Keywords: Pasifika, climate change, youth, indigenous, New Zealand



**SAKIUSA CABE
BALEIVANUALALA**

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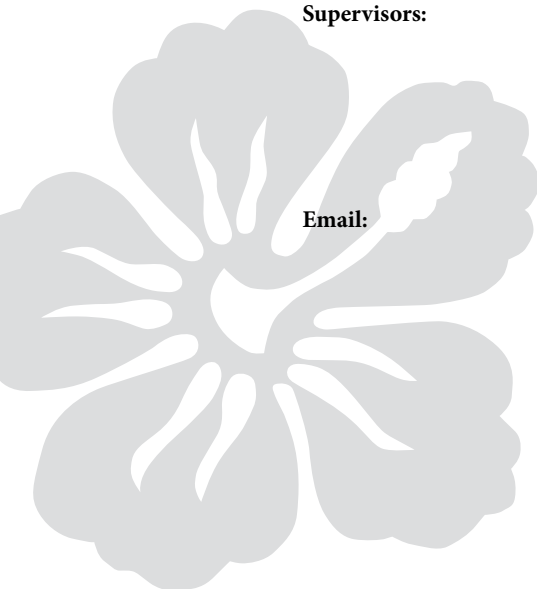
I am of Fijian descent and studying toward my PhD (Microbiology), focusing on antimicrobial resistance in Fiji. I acquired my Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science from the University of the South Pacific and Master of Infectious Diseases from the University of Western Australia. I have worked for several years in clinical and public health microbiology laboratories in Fiji and am currently on the staff of the Fiji National University.

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TROUBLE IN PARADISE – COULD IT HAPPEN ANYWHERE?

Sakiusa Cabe Baleivanualala

Gram negative (GN) pathogens, which confer resistance to last resort antibiotics like carbapenems, have emerged as a leading global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) threat. In Fiji, the only carbapenem antibiotic used is meropenem, which is restricted in use for only life-threatening infections. Since 2007, Fiji has recorded a 40-fold increase in meropenem usage.¹ While a study suggested that less than 1% of the 2175 *Klebsiella pneumoniae* in a Fiji hospital were resistant to meropenem, multiple outbreaks of individual meropenem resistance imply there may be underreporting.²

With limited resources, fragile health infrastructure, increased burden of infectious diseases, and increased non-judicial use of antibiotics, Fiji is vulnerable to the threat posed by AMR. Moreover, the current COVID-19 pandemic has potentially affected antimicrobial stewardship activities that drives AMR.³

There is currently very little information on the prevalence of GN pathogens carbapenem resistance and how they are being transmitted in Fiji. This study aims to address those issues. While this research is at its early stage, it is anticipated the outcomes will lay the platform for introducing mechanisms for the early detection, prevention, and control of the transmission of carbapenem resistant GN pathogens in Fiji.

Keywords: Antimicrobial resistance, antimicrobial stewardship, carbapenems, COVID-19, Fiji, gram negative pathogens

1 *Investigating Meropenem usage at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital from October 2013 to October 2014* (Issue October 2013).

2 Loftus, M., Stewardson, A., Naidu, R., Coghlan, B., Jenney, A., Kepas, J., Lavu, E., Munamua, A., Peel, T., Sahai, V., Tekoaua, R., Tudravu, L., Zinihite, J., Cheng, A., Rafai, E., & Peleg, A. (2020). Antimicrobial resistance in the Pacific Island countries and territories. *BMJ Global Health*, 5, 2418

3 Getahun, H., Smith, L., Trivedi, K., Paulin, S., & Balkhy, H. H. (2020). Tackling antimicrobial resistance in the COVID-19 pandemic. In *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* (Vol. 98, Issue 7). World Health Organization



NAMRATA CHAND

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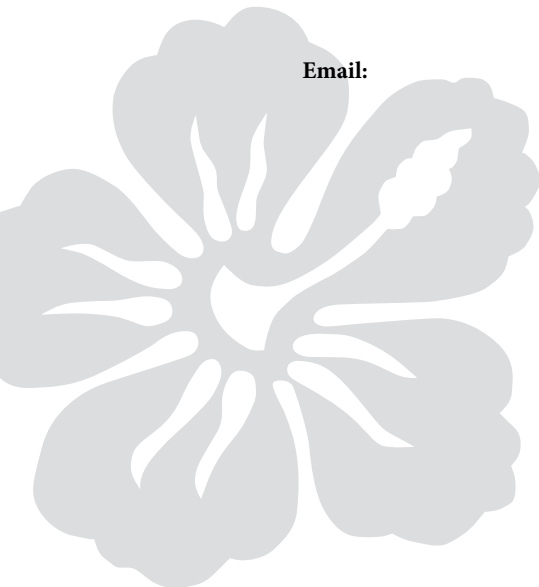
Namrata is from Fiji, and has the ocean in her heart. She commenced a PhD in Marine Science at the University of Otago in March this year. She holds a BAppSci in Aquaculture and Fisheries from the University of Otago (2014) and a Masters in Environmental Science from the University of South Pacific (2019).

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ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONING AND ROLE OF SOFT-SEDIMENT RED MACROALGAL COMMUNITIES IN OTAGO HARBOUR

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Namrata Chand
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Around the globe, coastal environments such as harbours are highly valuable due to the various ecosystem services they provide. The coastal areas of New Zealand host high macroalgal (seaweed) diversity. Unfortunately today many of these areas are threatened by various stressors, with a key one being eutrophication, or excessive land-based nutrient input.

Macroalgae provides various ecosystem services, such as sediment stabilisation, food, habitat for various organisms, carbon burial, and biofiltration of nutrients in water column. Nitrogen and inorganic carbon and light are key elements required by macroalgae for photosynthesis and growth. Greater understanding of the nitrogen, carbon and light physiologies of different macroalgae species will enable predictions of future scenarios in the face of a changing ocean.

Otago harbour is a known biodiversity hotspot for algal meadows. Despite being a crucial part of the marine ecosystem, there is limited knowledge on shallow soft sediment macroalgae, with its role being under-recognized. My PhD project is on the community habitat and ecophysiology of soft sediment red macroalgal communities in Otago Harbour, with a focus on the red endemic macroalgae *Adamsiella Chauvinii*. Specifically the research investigates nitrogen, light and inorganic carbon uptake by the endemic soft-sediment macroalgae *Adamsiella Chauvinii*.

This research provides new and valuable information on the nitrogen, carbon and photosynthetic physiology of the soft sediment macroalgal communities. The findings of this research will be highly relevant to how increasing stressors such as nutrient and sediment loading (decreased light) and ocean acidification (increased CO₂) will affect soft sediment macroalgal communities.

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Key words: Macroalgae, nutrient uptake, carbon acquisition, photosynthesis, ecosystem functioning, Otago Harbour, *Adamsiella chauvinii*
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SARGAM GOUNDAR

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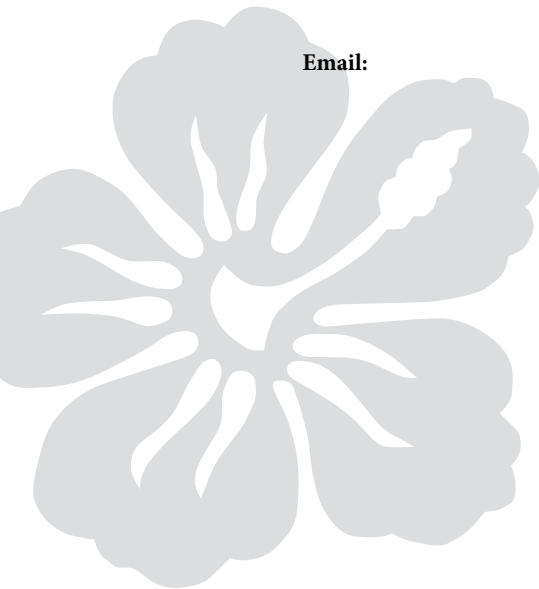
Sargam is from Fiji. She is currently undertaking her PhD in Geography, funded by a University of Otago Doctoral Scholarship. She holds a BA in Geography and Politics from the University of the South Pacific (USP 2015) and a Postgraduate Diploma from the University of Otago (2016). She has previously worked for USP, the United Nations and the Fijian Government.

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LOCAL PERCEPTIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED MIGRATION IMPACTS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A RECEIVING COUNTRY: THE CASE OF FIJI

Sargam Goundar

Despite being at the centre stage of academic and political interest, empirical knowledge on climate change-related migration is scarce. In the Pacific context, knowledge gaps remain in the understanding of the relationship between migration, climate change and development. First, while much research has been devoted to the motivations and perceptions of people from countries sending migrants, this study shifts attention to the perceptions of local people residing in countries that are receiving climate change-related migrants. Secondly, while literature examining migration from Pacific Island countries to those of the global North, such as Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia or USA, is well documented, intra-Pacific migration, such as between Kiribati and Fiji, is understudied.

In response to these research gaps, this study takes Fiji as a case study to investigate local perceptions of the relationship between climate change, migration and sustainable development of a receiving country. To capture local people's perceptions, which may differ due to underlying cognitive, socio-cultural and economic determinants, study sites will include variations in population targets based on geographical location and socio-economic characteristics of different localities in Fiji. These will include urban and rural areas, high- to middle-class areas, low-income residential areas and informal settlements. This study seeks to provide valuable and timely data capturing the impacts of climate change-related migration on the social and economic development of receiving communities in Fiji. The research findings will inform policy and decision-making at national, regional and international level, and grassroot development processes in Fiji, the Pacific communities at large and beyond.

Keywords: Climate change migration, local perceptions, receiving communities, Fiji



**LUPEOLETALALELEIAMAIMA
ISAIA**

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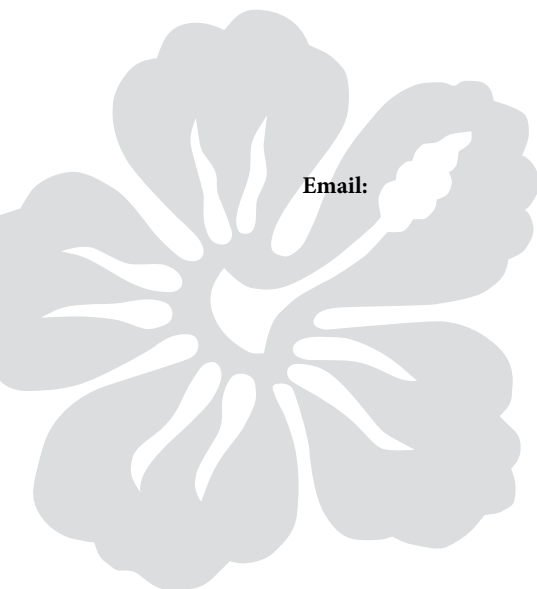
Lupe is a medical laboratory scientist from Samoa, with a Bachelor of Medical Science and Master of Science in Medicine (Infection and Immunity) from the University of Sydney. She is a recipient of the University of Otago Pacific Doctoral Scholarship, and her research is focused on antibiotic resistance in Samoans.

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REPORTING ERRORS IN BACTERIAL IDENTIFICATION AND ANTIBIOTIC SUSCEPTIBILITY RESULTS AT THE TUPUA TAMASESE MEA'OLE HOSPITAL

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Lupeoletalalelei Isaia, James Ussher, Philip C. Hill
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The accuracy of bacterial identification (ID) and antibiotic susceptibility test (AST) results are critical in advising optimal antimicrobial therapy for seriously ill patients. This is of increasing significance as hospitals are challenged with treating infections caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria. We investigated the accuracy of the results reported by the Tupua Tamasese Mea'ole Hospital (TTMH) laboratory in Samoa.

A total of 423 bacterial isolates were received from the TTMH Samoa. Bacterial ID were confirmed at Southern Community Laboratory in Dunedin Hospital using MALDI-ToF MS. AST was performed using disk diffusion and results were interpreted according to 2019 EUCAST guidelines.

Overall 23.2% (98/422) of all isolates were incorrectly identified by TTMH. The overall levels of agreement between the two laboratories for genus- and species-level identifications were 77.0% (325/422) and 61.8% (261/422) respectively for all isolates tested. 15/85 (17.6%) *K. pneumoniae* and 20/91 (30.0%) *E.coli* were incorrectly identified.

Among AST results, 88.6% (1086/1226) were correctly reported, which is below the acceptable categorical agreement percentage. The overall 'very major' errors, 'major' errors and 'minor' errors rates were 1.9%, 3.4% and 5.7% respectively. Overall, 94.9% (188/198) of isolates which met the criteria for Extended Spectrum β -Lactamase (ESBL) screen were positive. Of these, 84.5% (159/188) were correctly identified by the TTMH lab, while those not identified were not tested due to shortage of antibiotic discs (n=28).

Despite some excellent results, this study identified that errors occurred either in analytical and/or post-analytical phases at the TTMH laboratory. Ongoing improvements in staff capacity and equipment are needed to ensure diagnostic accuracy.

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Keywords: Antimicrobial resistance, critical pathogens, extended-Spectrum- β -Lactamase (ESBL), reporting errors



KIM ANDREAS KESSLER

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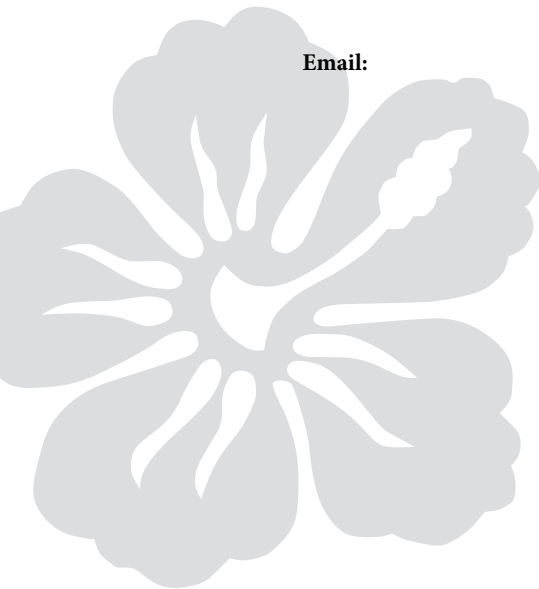
Kim is currently undertaking his PhD in Geography, funded by the University of Otago Doctoral Scholarship. He holds a BA in Anthropology and Social Sciences from the University of Bern, Switzerland, and an MA in Geography from the University of the South Pacific. He previously worked at USP in Fiji and at the Swiss Foreign Ministry.

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COMMUNITY-BASED DEVELOPMENT IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CHANGE: INSIGHTS FROM FIJI OUTER ISLANDS

Kim Andreas Kessler

Pacific leaders have declared climate change as the biggest threat to their region. For instance, the Government of Fiji has identified 830 communities which are at risk due to climate change. Community-based climate change adaptation (CBA) is regarded as an approach which can effectively and sustainably help people cope with the adverse impacts of climate change. At the same time, it is increasingly recognised that climate change adaptation cannot be considered in isolation from other sustainable development efforts. Thus, at the local level, no clear line of distinction can be drawn between CBA initiatives and other types of community-based development initiatives. In the context of peripheral outer islands in the Pacific, little has so far been understood about what makes and what breaks CBA and related local development initiatives. In response to this research gap, the aim of this study is to conduct a holistic investigation of the factors which drive and hinder CBA initiatives on Pacific outer islands. The study objectives are to understand community-internal factors, community-external factors, and how these factors are interrelated. Focusing on outer islands in Fiji, field-based qualitative research will be conducted with a range of local people of diverse backgrounds in different outer island communities. Research findings can hopefully provide recommendations for climate change adaptation and development policies and practices from the local level up to the national level in Fiji. These findings and recommendations could be useful for other outer islands in the Pacific and beyond.

Keywords: Community-based development, climate change adaptation, peripheral outer islands, Fiji



LATUIVAI KIOA LATU

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Latuivai Kioa Latu is from Samoa and graduated from Piula Theological College with a Diploma in Theology (2013) and Bachelor of Divinity (2015). In 2016, he was awarded a scholarship co-funded by the Methodist Church of England (through SALT) and the Methodist Church in Samoa (MCS) to pursue further studies at the University of Otago, where he was awarded a Master of Theology with Distinction in December 2017. In 2019 he received a University of Otago scholarship to continue his studies at PhD level (with assistance of the MCS). Latu is a contextual biblical theologian, and is an ordained minister of the MCS.

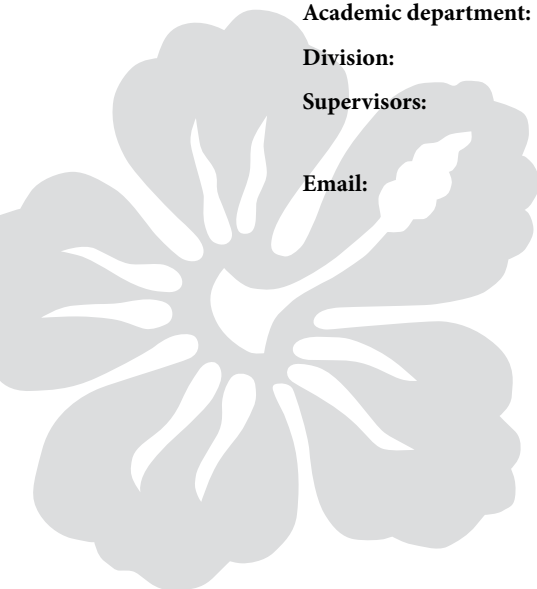
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ISAMAELI O LE SULI TAMAFAI: A SAMOAN RE-READING OF
GENESIS 16:2b

Latuivai Kioa Latu

This paper explores how Ishmael's adoption (*suli-tamafai*) in Gen. 16:2 and his disinheritance in Gen. 21:10 might be interpreted in the light of two significant social contexts. The first context highlights attitudes to inheritance found in other passages in Genesis and also those evidenced by ancient near eastern practices such as the Code of Hammurabi. The second context relates the story to Samoan custom and practice on inheritance, as seen in recent claims in the Land and Titles Court of Samoa made by consanguineal and non-consanguineal claimants.

In Gen 16:1-2a, Sarai blames YHWH for her barrenness. This leads Sarai to demand Abram to 'go into' her slave-girl (Hagar/Ākara). She 'took Hagar' and 'gave her' to Abram as his 'wife' (16:2b-3). Verse 16:2b reads: 'Go into my slave-girl ... I shall obtain children by her'. This speaks of Sarai's intention to adopt children born of Abram and Hagar. Subsequently in Genesis 21:10, Sarai suggested two things to Abram; to cast out Hagar and Ishmael, and that Hagar's son (Ishmael/*Isāmāeli*) was not to be heir with her son (Isaac/*Isāako*).

This passage has often been used to discuss those whom God favors, or the chosen/elect. In such interpretation, divine favouritism necessitates exclusion of the non-chosen/non-elect and commands disinheritance. However, this discussion has rarely been considered in the legal sense supporting Ishmael's inheritance through adoption.

Ishmael's right to inheritance through adoption also comes to the fore in a Samoan reading. In Samoan custom and practice, inheritance (*fāasinomaga*) depends on who is the rightful *suli* (heir) according to blood/birth (*suli-moni*), or service (*suli-tautua*), or adoption (*suli-tamafai*). On all these three grounds, *Isāmāeli* would have been entitled to two-thirds of all Abram's properties. However, this paper focusses primarily on adoption.

Drawing on these, and particularly the cultural insights about inheritance claims in Samoan society through *suli-tamafai*, a re-reading of *Isāmāeli*'s disinheritance and its biblical significance becomes possible.

Keywords: *Isāmāeli*, Hagar, *suli-tamafai*, *fāasinomaga*, election, customary land



KERESOMA LEAUPEPE

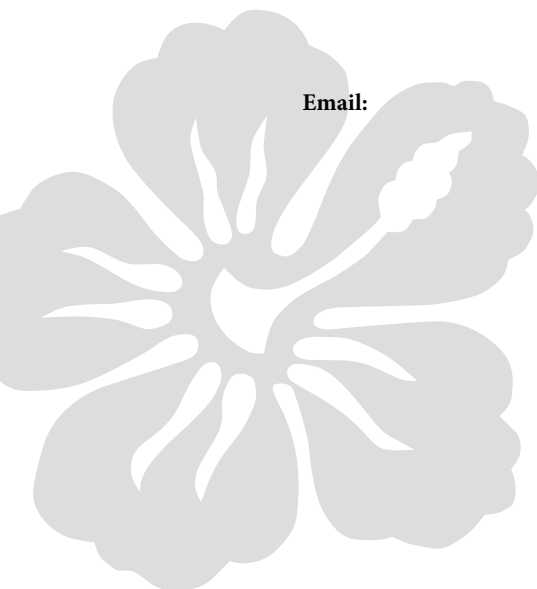
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Keresoma is from Samoa. He is currently in the second year of his PhD studies in Genetics, funded by a University of Otago PhD scholarship.

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FEASIBILITY STUDY: CURCUMIN; A CLINICAL TRIAL FOR GOUT IN SAMOA

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Keresoma Leaupepe

.....

Gout is an inflammatory arthritis caused by the build-up of monosodium urate crystals in the joints due to hyperuricaemia, generally beginning in the first metatarsophalangeal joint, resulting in painful, red and swollen joints. The prevalence of gout is increasing worldwide with a high prevalence in Polynesian populations¹. In NZ, gout occurs in 3.2% of Europeans, 6.1% of Māori and 7.6% of Pacific people¹.

Curcumin is a constituent of turmeric. It has a wide array of biological properties, including antiarthritic, anti-inflammatory, and antimicrobial². Many clinical trials have shown efficacy of curcumin in various diseases. Favourable effects have been reported in individuals with pro-inflammatory diseases including cancer, gout, rheumatoid arthritis, renal conditions etc³. The diverse effects of curcumin are due to its ability to control many transcription factors and signalling molecules⁴.

In this study, the aim is to investigate the efficacy of curcumin in the reduction of serum urate and gout flares relative to placebo in Samoan gout patients.

A double-blinded, placebo-controlled, randomised clinical trial in 3-months is proposed, involving a total of 278 patients, with 139 in each arm.

Before starting the full project, a number of feasibility issues require consideration. These issues include acceptability/willingness of patients to participate, proportion of gout patients already using turmeric products, acceptability of patients to donate their body tissues (blood, urine), recruitment processes, estimate of the urate-lowering effects, and testing blinding with study products and people involved.

The feasibility study addresses these issues prior to commencement of the randomised controlled trial. The feasibility study requires 25 eligible participants (after exclusion) with gout per arm.

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Keywords: gout, clinical trial, serum urate, turmeric, curcumin, gout flare

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LYDIE LEURQUIN

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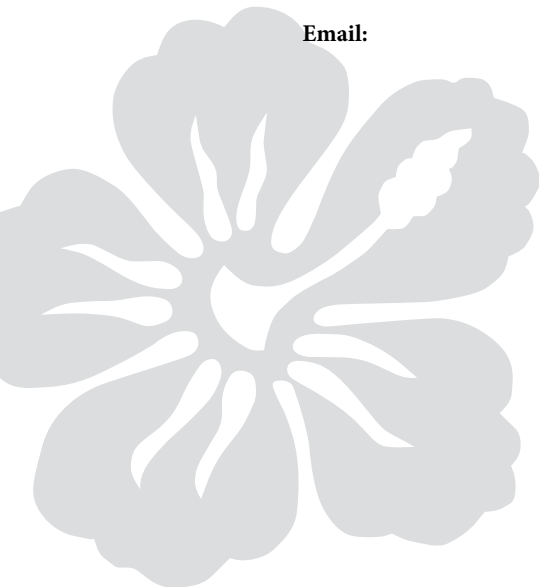
Lydie Leurquin is of New Caledonian descent and grew up in Dunedin. She has completed her undergraduate degree with a Bachelor of Arts (Classics and Anthropology). She is a recipient of the Māori and Pacific Bridging Scholarship, and her Honours dissertation for 2020 focuses on the cultures of the Late Bronze Age.

Academic department: Classical Studies, Archaeology

Division: Humanities

Supervisors: Dr Daniel Osland
Professor Richard Walter

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THE BURIED TRUTH: LATE BRONZE AGE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE AEGEAN

Lydie Leurquin

This research adopts the theoretical framework utilised by many anthropologists and historians known as the *Core-Periphery* model, with a special focus on the Late Bronze Age world of the Aegean. The Minoans (from Crete) and Mycenaeans (from Greece) were the largest political and cultural groups of the Late Bronze Age, and their extent throughout the neighbouring islands is vast, though the relationships are often blurred or obscured. Understanding the cultural and political changes that were happening during this period (1700 BC-1000 BC) is a vital addition to the prehistory of this region. Cemetery sites from the Greek mainland and surrounding islands have been documented since the 1800s, though it is the more recent publications (1960s onwards), which allow a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the material culture that was being buried with the dead.

The material culture that has survived best is that of pottery and clay figurines, bronze weaponry, as well as jewellery and everyday items such as mirrors and combs. These prestigious and everyday items represent the culture of origin through processes such as artistic representation and manufacturing, as well as shape and size of the items. Many show influences from the *Core* cultures (Minoan and Mycenaean) being integrated into the *Periphery* cultures (outer islands), and it is this analysis which can provide a deeper understanding of the role of the cultures, as well as the implications of a cultural and trade network throughout the Aegean.

Keywords: Late Bronze Age, Minoan culture, Mycenaean culture, archaeology



ALBANY LUCAS

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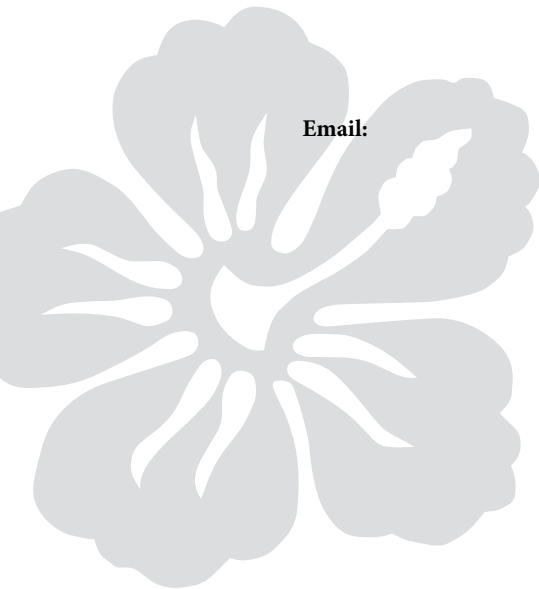
Albany is of Kiribati and Dutch descent and is currently a PhD student funded by the Health Research Council of New Zealand and based at the Centre for Pacific Health. Albany is an interdisciplinary and mixed-methods researcher and a Pacific cultural tutor for the Dunedin School of Medicine.

Academic department: Centre for Pacific Health, Department of Medicine

Division: Health Sciences

Supervisors: Associate Professor Rose Richards
Professor Rachael Taylor, Department of Medicine
Justine Camp (Te Koronga)

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SLEEP, HEALTH, COMMUNICATION AND WELLBEING FOR PACIFIC CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Albany Lucas

Aspirations among Pacific families in Aotearoa include thriving cultures and resilient and healthy people. Sleep holds many benefits for health, including memory, language, executive function, and healthy weight for infants and young children,^{1,2} and effective interventions need to align with rich Pacific histories of tradition and context for sleep and wellbeing.

A narrative literature review was conducted to explore sleep patterns and practices among Pacific peoples in the region and diaspora. Relevant literature was coded against components of Fuimaono Karl Puluotu-Endemann's Fonofale Model of Health³ using NVivo 12 Plus. Across the Pacific region, cultural beliefs and practices heavily influenced the location and timing of children's sleep, and whom they slept close to. Children's sleep was often negotiated within the wider contexts of their families and communities. Sleeping close kept children and others safe and intertwined with spiritual beliefs about protecting children from harm.

Recent observational studies suggest that Pacific children in New Zealand sleep later than Māori and European children, resulting in a shorter sleep duration overall.⁴ However, traditional sleep practices are being reclaimed and reframed by caregivers and service providers across various Pacific communities in Aotearoa.⁵ These case studies suggest that reclaiming traditional practices has potential to enhance Pacific children's sense of identity, promote Pacific cultural values, as well as encourage sleep.

Keywords: Sleep, health, wellbeing, Pacific peoples

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JEKOPE RAMALA MAIONO

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JekoPe is Fijian and holds a Bachelor of Commerce in Management, a Master of Sustainable Business and a Postgraduate Certificate in Health Science (Occupation Health and Safety) all from the University of Otago. He is currently studying for his PhD in Indigenous Development at Otago, supported by a Pacific Island scholarship.

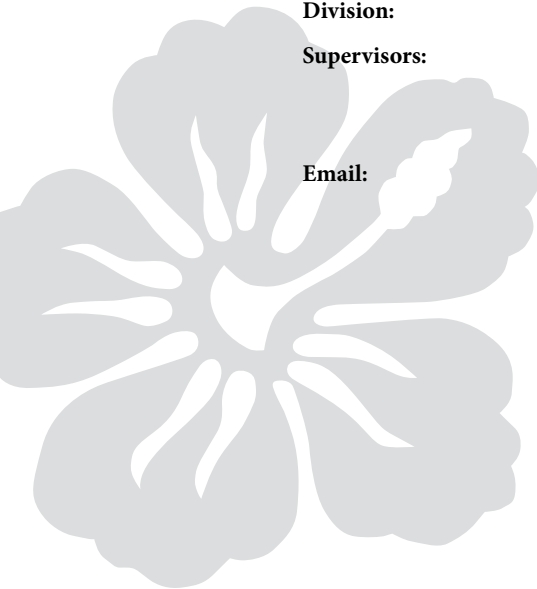
JekoPe worked as the Hazardous Substance Coordinator at Tuapeka Gold Print Limited from 2018 – 2020.

Academic department: Te Tumu – School of Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies

Division: Humanities

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Dr Michael Fusi Ligaliga
Dr Telesia Kalavite

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FIFTY YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE – INDIGENOUS PERCEPTIONS ON SUSTAINABLE LAND DEVELOPMENT IN FIJI

Jekope Ramala Maiono

Land ownership is a very sensitive issue amongst the iTaukei (indigenous Fijian). The land is limited and therefore is a very valuable resource that needs to be managed by an efficient system with a clear legal framework on how it is to be owned, shared, transferred and used (TLTB, 2020).

The key aspect of this research is to investigate all the different types of land management frameworks in Fiji (for example ALTA) and how they are understood by the iTaukei. Over the years, landowners have voiced their concerns about various government policies regarding the selling and leasing of the land to overseas investors without being consulted on their perspective of a sustainable method of land development.

This research will endeavour to investigate some of these sustainable methods of land development – or what is called Indigenous Knowledge System (IKS2) (Thaman, 2006) – with the aim of identifying why the iTaukei are not fully engaged in the development of current government policy of economic land development in Fiji.

Keywords: Sustainable land development, iTaukei, land used, ALTA, indigenous knowledge



REUPENA MAULOLO

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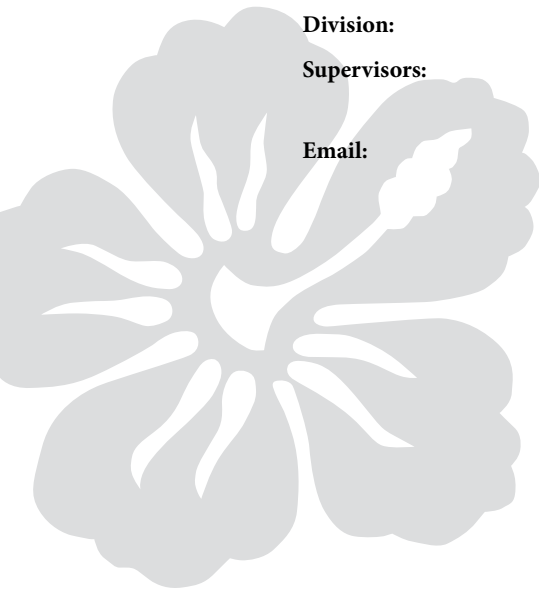
Reupena Maulolo is from Samoa and is currently enrolled in a PhD programme in Theology. He graduated from the University of Auckland with a Bachelor of Education degree in 2002. In 2011, he was awarded a Bachelor of Divinity from Malua Theological College (Samoa) and in 2013 a Master of Theology with Distinction degree from the Pacific Theological College (Fiji). He is a recipient of an Otago Pacific Islands Student Scholarship for Doctoral studies. Reupena is an ordained Minister of the Congregational Christian Church Samoa, and is a Pastoral and Practical theologian.

Academic department: Theology and Religion

Division: Humanities

Supervisors: Rev. Dr Kevin Ward
Professor Murray Rae

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TOE TIMATA LE UPEGA: A PASTORAL PRAXIS TO
NURTURE THE WORSHIP LIFE OF YOUTHS IN SAMOA
AND NEW ZEALAND

Reupena Maulolo, Kevin Ward and Murray Rae

This research focuses on the use of a Samoan proverbial saying ‘*Toe timata le ūpega*’ as a hermeneutic approach to re-examining the relevance of ‘expository preaching’ to the faith and spiritual life of Samoan youth. In the midst of COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing economic lockdown, young people experienced uncertainties in their future. Abnormality became the norm as young people tried to cope with the unexpected nature of the pandemic. For many of us, our ministers and church community provided the solace and support needed in these extraordinary times.

A survey undertaken during a youth convention of the Congregational Christian Church Samoa’s 50th year anniversary in 2012 revealed that 93 percent of young people find the style of worship—and preaching in particular—boring and has minimal or no positive impact on their psychological and social life. Often, Ministers preach to the older members of a congregation; they focus on ‘expository preaching’ and do not often consider whether this style is attractive to younger congregation members. If we want our churches to continue and prosper, it is important to engage young people in the congregation.

In this presentation, I will explore the challenges associated with young people’s reaction to ‘expository preaching’ both in New Zealand and Samoa. In addition, I will consider the cultural, social and religious realities to consider when trying to answer the following questions: Why do young people think expository preaching is boring? In what ways can ministers adapt their preaching style to better fit this context? What is the most effective style of preaching for the spiritual development of youth? The goal of this research is to present a metaphorical approach to help ministers in the contemporary world re-evaluate their preaching style to cater for contemporary young people.

Keywords: Contemporary, expository preaching, hermeneutic, postmodern, psychological, worship, *toe timata le ūpega*



JAYE MOORS

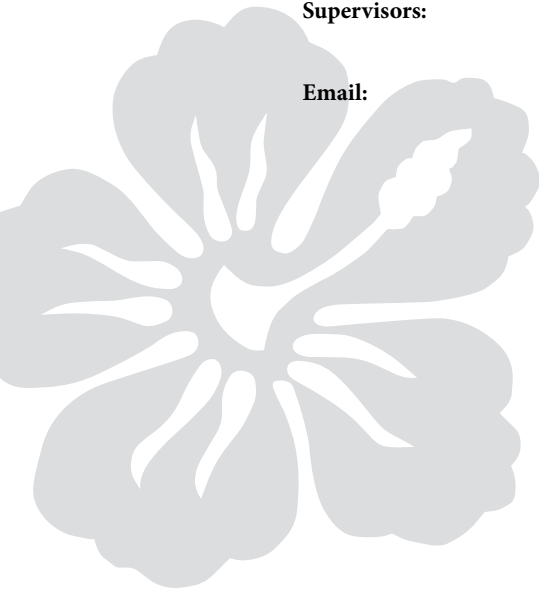
Jaye is in her final year of her PhD in Biochemistry that examines 1) the metabolic health of Pacific teenagers in NZ, and 2) the genetics of metabolic disease in people of Polynesian ancestry in Aotearoa, New Zealand. She grew up in Samoa and has since completed a BSc and PgDip in Anatomy, and a Masters in Biochemistry with Distinction at the University of Otago. She is also a recipient of the HRC PhD scholarship.

Academic department: Biochemistry

Division: Health Sciences, Sciences

Supervisors: Professor Tony Merriman
Dr Mele Taumoepeau (Psychology)

Email: jaye.moors@otago.ac.nz



NOVEL CETP VARIANT ASSOCIATES WITH INCREASED HDL AND LOW LDL IN POLYNESIAN POPULATIONS

J. Moors¹, M. Leask¹, N. Dalbeth², L. Stamp³, J.H. Hindmarsh⁴, T. Merriman¹

¹Department of Biochemistry, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, ²Department of Medicine, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand, ³Department of Medicine, University of Otago, Christchurch, New Zealand, ⁴Ngati Porou Hauoura, Te Puia Springs, New Zealand.

Cholesterylester transfer protein (CETP), a hydrophobic glycoprotein, plays an important role in lipoprotein metabolism by mediating the transfer of cholesterol esters from high-density-lipoproteins towards very low-density-lipoproteins in exchange for triglycerides. Common variants within CETP are associated with high HDL-cholesterol (HDL-C) levels in most ancestral groups with no studies having examined its effects in people of Polynesian descent. Thus, this study is the first to investigate the effects of CETP on HDL-C among people of Polynesian descent.

~2500 people of Polynesian ancestry were genotyped for Polynesian-specific missense CETP variant *16_57004947* by Taqman[®]. The data were subset into Eastern [EP] (n = 1954), Western [WP] (n = 933) and Mixed Polynesian [MP] (n = 135) and island nation (Cook Island Māori, NZ Māori, Tongan, Samoan) sample sets. Analyses were carried out in R-Studio (v. 1.1.456) and adjusted for potential confounders.

The minor allele (T) frequency was 3%. Findings showed significant association of the T-allele with increased HDL-C ($\beta = 0.25 \text{ mmolL}^{-1}$, $P = 3.11 \times 10^{-23}$) Polynesian-wide. Likewise, a significant increase in HDL-C, attributed to one copy of the minor allele-T, was evident in WP ($\beta = 0.19 \text{ mmolL}^{-1}$, $P = 4.34 \times 10^{-6}$), EP ($\beta = 0.32 \text{ mmolL}^{-1}$, $P = 2.16 \times 10^{-18}$), and MP ($\beta = 0.26 \text{ mmolL}^{-1}$, $P = 0.01$). A decrease in LDL-C was evident only in EP ($\beta = -0.22 \text{ mmolL}^{-1}$, $P = 0.03$). Analyses by island nation showed significant increases in HDL-C in Cook Islands ($\beta = 0.40 \text{ mmolL}^{-1}$, $P = 1.30 \times 10^{-4}$), NZ Māori ($\beta = 0.31 \text{ mmolL}^{-1}$, $P = 1.05 \times 10^{-14}$), Tongans ($\beta = 0.26 \text{ mmolL}^{-1}$, $P = 0.001$), and Samoans ($\beta = 0.20 \text{ mmolL}^{-1}$, $P = 0.001$). A decrease in LDL-C was seen only in NZ Māori ($\beta = -0.26 \text{ mmolL}^{-1}$, $P = 0.02$).

Our findings show that CETP associates with increased HDL-C, and decreased LDL-C. This discovery suggests that CETP influences lipid and lipoprotein particle metabolism in Polynesian populations in a manner consistent with lower CETP activity. Further genetic and functional analyses are required to illuminate and illustrate the true underlying influence of CETP in people of Polynesian descent.

Keywords: Pacific, genetic, epidemiology, lipoprotein metabolism, hydrophobic glycoprotein, Māori and Pacific metabolic health



TROY RUHE

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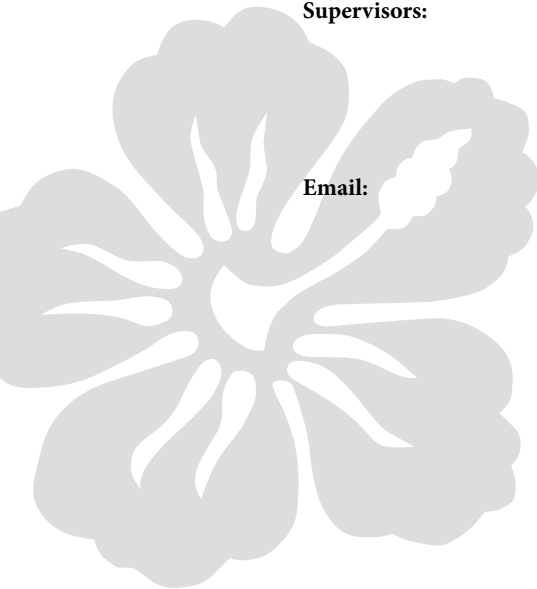
Troy Ruhe is a PhD student, who received a New Zealand Health Research Council Pacific PhD Scholarship in 2018. He is of Cook Islands and New Zealand Māori descent. His area of interest is in providing culturally specific and sensitive physical activity interventions to improve health in Pacific Islands communities throughout the Pacific region.

Academic department: School of Physical Education: Sport and Exercise Sciences

Division: Sciences

Supervisors: Associate Professor Lynnette M Jones
Faumuina Associate Professor Fa'afetai Sopoaga, Division of Health Sciences
Professor Debra Waters, Departments of Medicine and Physiotherapy.

Email: troy.ruhe@postgrad.otago.ac.nz



THE 'NIU MOVEMENT' – USING COOK ISLANDS DANCE AND METHODS OF FOOD PREPARATION AS EXERCISE IN PACIFIC COMMUNITIES

Troy Ruhe

The purpose of this study is to document the process, efficacy and acceptability of an exercise programme, the 'Niu Movement,' for use in Pacific Islands communities. It is the first formal investigation of the use of Cook Islands dance (aerobic component) and coconut cream preparation (resistance component).

This began as a pilot study conducted in Dunedin, New Zealand. It was an observational pre-post quantitative design. Twenty-eight Pacific Islands participants (19 women, 9 men; 32 ± 15 years of age) completed the eight-week protocol and post-intervention testing. Participants underwent basic anthropometric assessment (height, weight, waist and hip circumference and blood pressure); physical capacity (six-minute walk test (6MWT) and short physical performance battery (SPPB)); and a questionnaire of programme acceptability.

No adverse events of any kind were reported during the 8-week protocol: 14 (50%) participants attended over 80% of sessions provided. Within group mixed-model regression comparing baseline and post measures revealed significant reductions in systolic blood pressure (133 ± 10 to 128 ± 11 mmHg, $P < 0.05$), waist and hip circumference (98.7 ± 12.6 to 95.6 ± 11.7 , $P < 0.01$ and 107.8 ± 13.3 to 104.3 ± 13.7 cm, $P < 0.01$, respectively) and a significant increase in distance covered in 6MWT (528.6 ± 72.8 to 587.3 ± 83.8 metres, $P < 0.01$) were reported. High satisfaction was recorded for enjoyment and willingness to participate in the future (4.9 ± 0.3 and 4.7 ± 0.8 , out of a possible 5).

The findings of this pilot 'Niu Movement' protocol suggest that the programme is safe and acceptable within a group of pan-Pacific peoples (18-78 years) with varying movement capabilities in Dunedin, New Zealand. The results show promise for implementation of the programme within Pacific Islands communities throughout the region.

Keywords: Pacific Islands health, physical activity, community exercise



TAHERE T SIISIALAFIA

Tahere is from Samoa. She holds a BA in Psychology and Sociology from the University of the South Pacific and a Masters of Social Work from the University of the West Indies. She commenced her PhD in Sociology in 2019. Tahere works as a lecturer at the National University of Samoa and is Chairperson of Pacific Youth, a regional youth-led NGO that promotes and advocates for the interests of young people in the Pacific region.

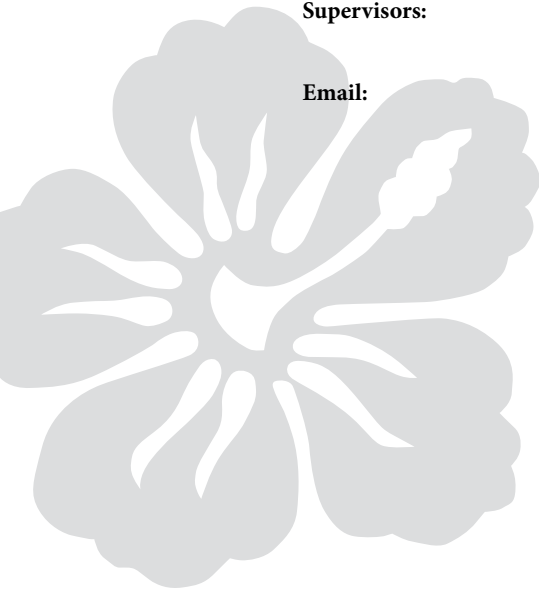
Academic department: Sociology

Division: Humanities

Supervisors: Dr Patrick Vakaoti

Dr Marcelle Dawson

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MY DIGITAL FOLAUGA: REFLECTIONS ON ENGAGING YOUTH IN QUALITATIVE RESEARCH VIA ONLINE METHODS

Tahere T Siisiiialafia

My research explores the nature and scope of youth advocacy and activism on issues like climate change, gender inequality and human rights in the Pacific. It addresses the dearth of information available about youth who engage in these activities. The study involves the use of online interviews with participants from fourteen Pacific Island countries. This research method was adopted to address the time, spatial and resource constraints associated with reaching youth participants across the Pacific. It included online participant recruitment through Google Forms and either written (via Google Docs) or audio/video recorded in-depth interviews.

This presentation focuses on the practicalities, experiences, and reflections of adopting this method. It discusses the advantages of establishing prior community engagement networks and more so (technologically) engaging with young people in a way that they are familiar with. The online method was developed prior to COVID-19 but has become very appropriate as researchers consider ways of engaging research participants in a post-COVID era.

Keywords: Advocacy, activism, social constructionism, digital Folauga



JANE TAAFAKI

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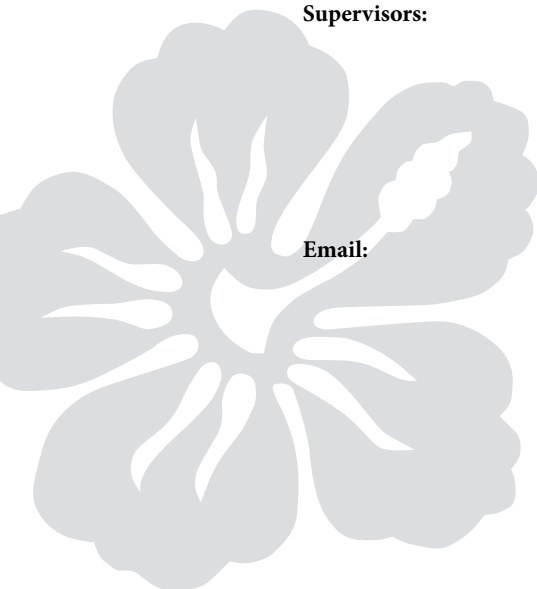
Jane is a public health PhD student and recipient of a Pacific Island PhD Scholarship. She is Tuvaluan-British and her PhD research is a Photovoice project focused on the lived experience of Tuvaluan migrants navigating the New Zealand healthcare system. In 2007 she graduated with a Masters' degree from the University of Hawaii-Manoa. Mother to three daughters, she lives in Oamaru.

Academic department: Department of Preventive and Social Medicine

Division: Health Sciences

Supervisors: Dr Judith Sligo, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine
Associate Professor Rosalina Richards, Director of Va'a o Tautai and Associate Dean (Pacific) DSM.
Professor Robin Gauld, Dean, School of Business.

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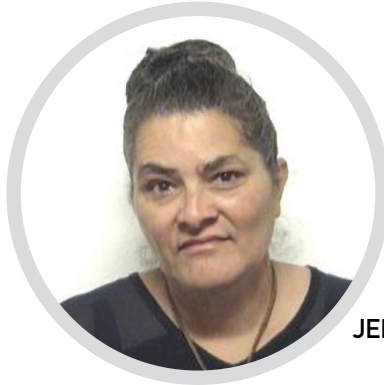
THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF TUVALUAN MIGRANTS NAVIGATING THE NEW ZEALAND HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Jane Taafaki

Migration from Tuvalu to New Zealand/Aotearoa is a part of a Pacific-wide phenomenon that has gained significant momentum since the early 1970s. New Zealand is now home to almost 5,000 Tuvaluans, including new migrants through to third generation New Zealand-born Tuvaluans. These new migrants face numerous challenges in learning new systems of education, social services, housing and especially health.

The health status of Tuvaluans in Southern New Zealand remains an unexplored area of public health research. This qualitative research project explores health and well-being among the Tuvaluan population in the mid-sized North Otago town of Oamaru with a contrasting study of those living in urban Dunedin. It is hoped that this study will contribute to the body of research of Tagata Pasifika health in New Zealand and will make a positive contribution to improved health outcomes, not only for Tuvaluans but, by extension, for other Pasifika peoples in the New Zealand diaspora.

Keywords: Pasifika health, health inequities, Tuvalu, rural New Zealand health



JENNI TUPU

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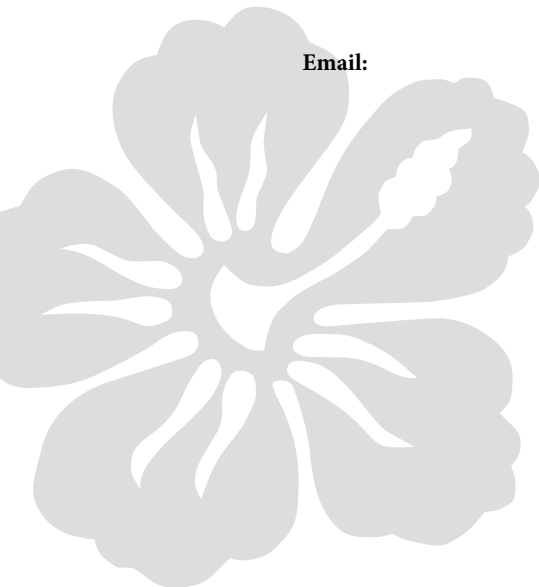
Jenni Tupu is of Māori and Samoan descent and is married to Jon from Niue. Jenni is a PhD candidate studying by distance with Te Tumu, School of Māori and Pacific Indigenous Studies. Her research considers the identity journeys of Māori and Pacific children adopted during the closed stranger adoption period in Aotearoa 1955-1985.

Academic department: Te Tumu –School of Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies

Division: Humanities

Supervisors: Professor Michael Reilly
Dr Kayrn Paringatai

Email: tupje150@otago.ac.nz



BEING ADOPTED: THE-LIFE LONG SEARCH FOR SELF

Jenni Tupu

Buried in the history of our country are the many secret stories of children of Māori and Pacific descent who were transracially adopted into families from other cultures and ethnicities. This topic is seldom discussed and the stories of adoptees who have been raised disconnected from their true identity are seldom heard.

Over 80,000 children were given up for adoption during the 'closed stranger' adoption period (1955-1985), and while some of these adoptions have brought much joy some have caused much heartache from the experience of adoption. The act of adoption affects all family members, not just the birth parents and adopting parents, but also all the wider family members of siblings, aunties, uncles, grandparents and of course the child.

This work contributes to an emerging field of scholarship where more adoption stories are being heard, especially with the media coverage of children adopted by movie stars or the television coverage of reunions of adoptees to their birth families. Many adoptions were made to solve the social problem of illegitimacy and infertility and were perceived at the time to have contributed to the assimilation of Polynesian children into a western culture and society. The journey of this work seeks to find a blend of storytelling and narratives and the quest for healing from the perspective of Polynesian adoptees. This disconnection from indigeneity created loss of cultural identity and connection to land, culture, language and tribal connections which can have a lifelong impact on the adoptee and their descendants.

Keywords: Transracial adoption, indigeneity, whakapapa, Māori adoptees, Pacific adoptees



IKI MAFI UELE

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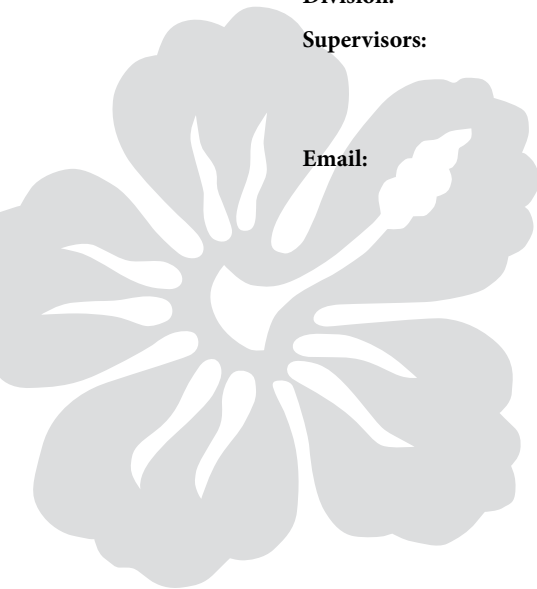
Iki is a Tongan and is currently pursuing a PhD in Accounting, funded by the University of Otago Pacific PhD Scholarship. He holds a BA degree with a double major in Accounting and Finance and Mathematics from the University of the South Pacific (2005) and a Masters degree in Accounting and Financial Management from La Trobe University (2016). Iki was a secondary school teacher and a tertiary lecturer in Tonga, Tokelau, Australia and Fiji before coming to study at the University of Otago.

Academic department: Accountancy and Finance

Division: Commerce

Supervisors: Dr Dinithi Ranasinghe
Dr Sriyalatha Kumarasinghe
Associate Professor Ros Whiting

Email: iki.uele@postgrad.otago.ac.nz



THE ROLE OF ACCOUNTING IN MEASURING PUBLIC VALUES OF THE KINGDOM OF TONGA.

Iki Mafi Uele

This research aims to understand the role of accounting in measuring public values¹ of transparency and accountability, and to ascertain if there is a gap between espoused public value and realised public value. Realised public value will help to create trust in the public space especially in the context of a developing country that is highly influenced by international public value institutions, such as donors and other associative organisations.

In this study, I try to analyse the Auditor's reports to understand the level of accountability and transparency in government ministries and public enterprises of Tonga. It is grounded in the theoretical framework of realised publicness². The Auditor's annual report of Tonga contains reports of all the government ministries, departments and government-owned public enterprises, and the data from these reports can be used to assess whether the government has realised or accomplished public values for a given period.

An analysis of the content of the report will clearly explain how accounting is used to gauge the level of accountability and transparency of government ministries and public enterprises of Tonga. The study contributes to the current literature in terms of using accounting to assess whether public values are realised or not realised.

Keywords: measuring public value, transparency, accountability, realised outcomes, publicness

1 Steccolini, I. (2019). Accounting and the post-new public management. *Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal*.

2 Moulton, S. (2009). Putting together the publicness puzzle: A framework for realized publicness. *Public administration review*, 69(5), 889-900.



YVONNE GOLPAK

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Yvonne Golpak is from Papua New Guinea and is currently a Year Three candidate in the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry programme, majoring in Paediatric Dentistry. Yvonne completed her Bachelors degree in Dental Surgery at the University of Papua New Guinea in 2012 and worked as a dentist for five years prior to admission at the University of Otago.

Academic department: Paediatric Dentistry, Department of Oral Sciences, Faculty of Dentistry

Division: Health Sciences

Supervisors: Alison Meldrum
Dorothy Boyd
Dr Manikandan Ekambaram,

Research topic: Children from rural areas and disadvantaged societies often have limited access to quality dental care and as a result live with dental caries disease which can result in pain and infection leading to hospitalisation. My research investigates the effectiveness of a topical fluoride called silver diamine fluoride (38%) in halting progress of dental caries in primary teeth of Papua New Guinean children.

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SANDHIYA GOUNDER

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Sandhiya is of Indo Fijian ethnicity and holds a Master of Arts in Governance and Public Policy. She has been employed as a lecturer in Social Science at the University of Fiji since 2009 and is currently on study leave at the University of Otago, studying for a PhD in Sociology.

Academic department: Sociology

Division: Humanities

Supervisors: Dr Patrick Vakaoti
Professor Janine Hayward
Department of Politics

Research topic: Fijian Government reforms and their implications for national unity

Email: sandhiya.gounder@postgrad.otago.ac.nz



AFREEN AFEEFA SAEED

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I was born in Fiji and moved to New Zealand at the age of 7. I hold a BSc (Microbiology and Genetics) and a Graduate Diploma endorsed in Plant Biotechnology. I am now completing my MSc in Plant Biotechnology, working on photosynthesis in cyanobacteria.

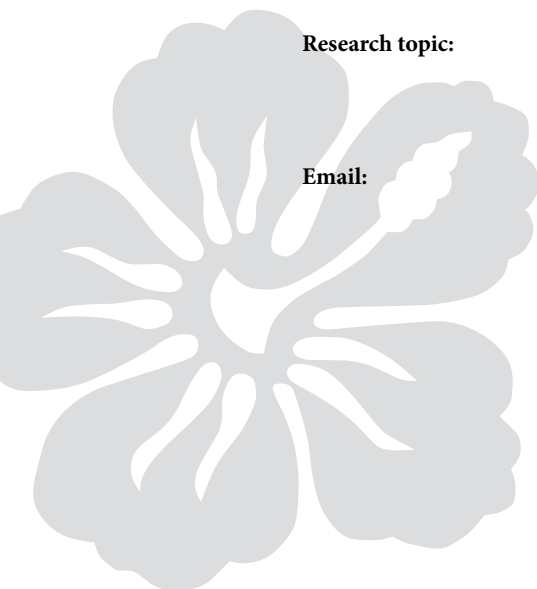
Academic department: Botany

Division: Sciences

Supervisors: Dr Tina Summerfield
Professor Julian Eaton-Rye
Department of Biochemistry

Research topic: Characterisation of conserved amino acid changes in expressed low oxygen D1 protein in model organism *Synechocystis* sp. PCC 6803

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FA'AFETAI TELE LAVA

“Researching during unprecedented times”

And what a year this has been! I know it's a cliché, but this year has truly been an unprecedented one. Living with uncertainty due to COVID-19 continues to put us on edge, doing the best we can at work and also at home. However, what has been most impressive through it all is the resilience of our students. The brave students continued to work hard at their research, just trying to keep some normality going.

Our zoom seminars have been wonderful, and our few times together in person were much more appreciated as we realised the value of life and opportunities during these difficult times. Our 'Pacific Postgrad Talanoa Covid-19 Panel Discussion' seminar, where we heard from our academic leaders and student Reps, was a great encouragement, reminding us of our cultural and spiritual values that have helped to sustain us during these difficult times. All in all, it has been a great year and there's so much to be thankful for.

This 17th Symposium is dedicated to all the wonderful members of the Pacific Postgraduate Reference Group who, through their hard work, have contributed to making this yet another successful Symposium.

I would like to acknowledge the invaluable, splendid support from our academic and professional staff who attended our monthly seminars and functions and provided guidance for our students. They were Dr Michelle Schaaf, Dr Rose Richards, Professor Rachael Spronken-Smith, Professor David Tombs, Dr Damian Scarf, Professor Phillip Hill, Professor Murray Rae, Dr Patrick Vakaoti, Dr Mele Taumoepeau, and Dr Losa Moata'ane. Importantly, I must acknowledge the daily support from our students' supervisors and departments, those who continue to support and guide them in their chosen areas of study. Thank you to all our other professional staff for their support and also Karyn Thompson, Director of Student and Academic Services, Katherine Milburn and Amanda Mills from the Hocken Collections for their dedication. A big Faafetai lava to our editorial team: Dr Rose Richards, Dr Patrick Vakaoti, Dr Michelle Schaaf, Dr Marea Colombo, Dr Losa Moata'ane and Alison Finigan.

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Finally, to our stars, our students, our leaders for tomorrow—continue to do well. We look forward to reading and hearing about the wonderful work you're all involved in.

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