

School of Surveying Te Kura Kairūri

Lunchtime Seminar Series

Focus on the Pacific: Traditional governance in the Solomon Islands. From qualitative research to evidence based programming

Francesca Marzatico, Ph.D.



A research study on traditional governance in the Solomon Islands (SI) is being undertaken to inform discussions on the content of the draft Traditional Governance Bill 2018. It is funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and is conducted with the support and coordination of the Solomon Island's Ministry of Traditional Governance, Peace and Ecclesiastical Affairs (MTGPEA).

The research explores traditional governance systems, structures and practices that exist within SI societies. Particular attention is given to land, natural resource management, customary rules for representation and for administration of the community, dispute resolution mechanisms and to the role of women, youth and churches in traditional governance systems.

Although the research study was initially conceived with the sole purpose of informing discussions on the content of the draft Traditional Governance Bill 2018, it has become an important source of information and has been used to support evidence-based programming and it is producing a catalytic effect, attracting more funding.

After providing a brief introduction on the debate around the draft Traditional Governance Bill 2018 and the reason for commissioning the research, the seminar will discuss the importance of the study for the future of traditional governance in the SI, the choice of the research methodology and the challenges encountered in the implementation of the research study (exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic).

The study's methodology is based on an indigenous research methodology which uses *tok stori* to allow participants to share their knowledge.

The research seminar will explain in details the catalytic effect of the study and discuss reasons as of why the study has become such an important source of information.

Photo: "Solomon Islands Grunge Flag" by Free Grunge Textures - www.freestock.ca is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Monday 13th September 2021 (1pm – 2pm)

Join remotely: ID: 923 5005 2261, P/W: 796821