



UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO
PACIFIC ISLANDS CENTRE

Pacific Voices XI

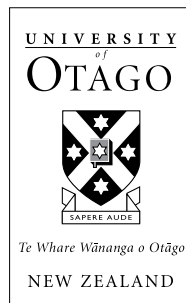
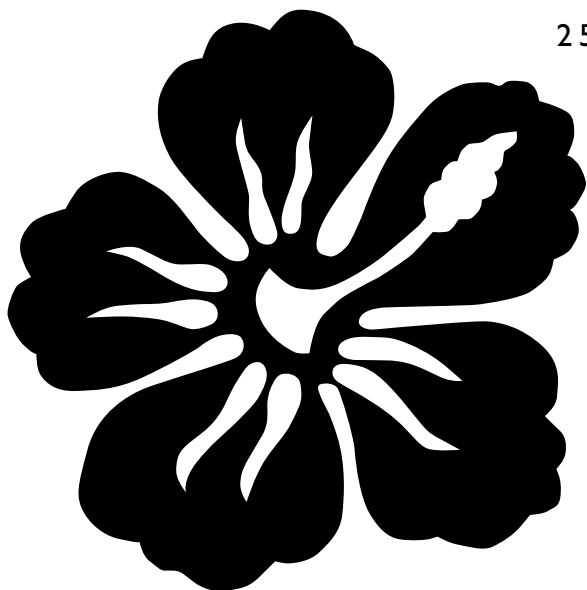
PACIFIC POSTGRADUATE SYMPOSIUM
25 SEPTEMBER 2014



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Pacific Voices XI: Abstracts for the Pacific Postgraduate Symposium

FOREWORD

A warm Pacific welcome to *Pacific Voices XI, 2014!* This annual event, which has been running for a decade, showcases research by Pacific postgraduate students. We have a very talented group of Pacific postgraduates at Otago, whose research will make a significant contribution to a range of fields, with widespread application to the Pacific region and beyond. Congratulations to those 23 students whose work features in these Proceedings for the Pacific Postgraduate Symposium. Their research is inspiring, impressive and importantly, it will make a difference!

The participants of *Pacific Voices XI, 2014* are all part of a vibrant graduate research community. These postgraduate students and their supervisors push the boundaries of knowledge, with new ideas, creativity and enthusiasm, and boost the University of Otago's research efforts and culture.

I am sure that readers of *Pacific Voices XI* will be impressed and intrigued with the quality and variety of research that is reported in this volume. In 2014 there are 12 presentations spanning a range of disciplines across the University. Geographically, the research being reported includes issues in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga, as well as issues related to Pacific Islanders in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Finally, on behalf of the University, I would like to thank all those responsible for *Pacific Voices XI*, and in particular Tofilau Nina Kirifi-Alai, and Drs Claire Matthewson, Mele Taumoepeau, and Nanai Iati Iati.

Professor Rachel Spronken-Smith
Dean, Graduate Research School



CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| Foreword: Professor Rachel Spronken-Smith | 3 |
| An appropriation of core Samoan values as a public theology response to domestic violence in Samoa Mercy Ah Siu-Maliko | 6 |
| Family planning use among iTaukei Fijian women in New Zealand and Fiji Radilaite Delaibatiki Cammock | 8 |
| Sustainable mental health services for Pacific people in Aotearoa New Zealand Nandika Currey, Sunny Collings, Tony Dowell | 10 |
| Tooth lengths in Fiji and the Solomon Islands: An in-vitro comparison of maxillary anterior teeth Grace Mamupio, Arpana Devi , Naivalu Tevita | 12 |
| Pacific parents' ways of nurturing prosocial development in children Manatu-'ofa Fia | 14 |
| New Zealanders with gout: Investigating anecdotal reports of tomatoes as a dietary gout trigger Tanya J Flynn , Murray Cadzow, Nicola Dalbeth, Peter B Jones, Lisa K Stamp, Ruth Topless, Tony R Merriman | 16 |
| Gout and hyperuricaemia in the Pacific: Evolutionary explanations for elevated serum urate among Pacific Islanders Anna Gosling | 18 |
| Mental state talk and social understanding of New Zealand toddlers: A Pacific Island context Ekta Gupta | 20 |
| Pooling collective knowledge: A collaborative approach to music data collection in Malaita, Solomon Islands Irene Karongo Hundleby | 22 |
| Ethnic flames of the burning bush: An exploration of ethnic relations in the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand Tokerau Joseph | 24 |
| An autoethnographic account of Pacific issues at the University of Otago: Reflections Tofilau Nina Kirifi-Alai | 26 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Use of sequential Bayesian models to develop a screening tool to inform targeted support services for Pacific students in their first year of Health Sciences study Jesse Kokaua | 28 |
| Exploring resilience to environmental changes triggered by global warming in Samoa Anita Latai | 30 |
| Measuring metabolic health in Pacific adolescents Jarrold Toluono Moors | 32 |
| Hula Phonology Fa'afofonga Patekalani | 34 |
| Mobility in prehistoric Tongatapu Christina Stantis | 36 |
| Mixed blessings: Oral histories of the war children born to US servicemen and indigenous Cook Islanders Marsa Dodson Stokman | 38 |
| Tuvaluan diaspora in Oceania: Identity and belongingness in the margins Fetaomi Tapu-Qiliho | 40 |
| Novel fungal endophyte discovery in tropical forage grasses Suliana Teasdale and Linda Johnson | 42 |
| Voices of parents: Pacific parents' views on the role of connectedness and teenagers' wellbeing Kimberly Tuitoga | 44 |
| The <i>Aoga a le Faifeau</i> (Pastor's School): Its place in the education system of Samoa today Faapōpō Tupolo-Tauaanae | 46 |
| Promethazine use in children under two Santoria Utufua | 48 |
| Renegotiating stereotypes: Representations of the Pacific woman in Selina Tusitala Marsh's and Tusiata Avia's poetry Bradley Watson | 50 |
| <i>Faafetai tele lava</i> Tofilau Nina Kirifi-Alai | 52 |
| APPENDIX Introduction to <i>Pacific Voices X</i> Professor Harlene Hayne Vice-Chancellor | 53 |



MERCY AH SIU-MALIKO

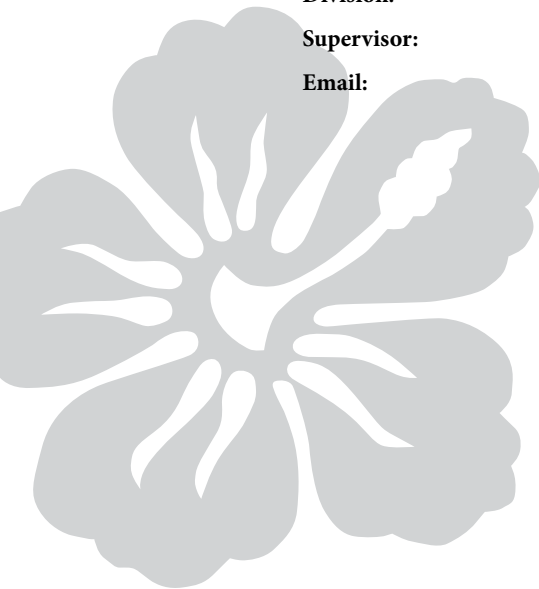
Mercy is a final-year PhD student. She has a BA and BTheol from the University of Auckland and an MTheol from the Pacific Theological College, Suva, Fiji. Mercy is a former lecturer at the National University of Samoa and Coordinator of Weavers Programme of the South Pacific Association of Theological Schools in Suva, Fiji.

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AN APPROPRIATION OF CORE SAMOAN VALUES AS A PUBLIC THEOLOGY RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN SAMOA

Mercy Ah Siu-Maliko

This article presents a Samoan public theology based on Samoan cultural and Christian values. It highlights the significance of applying the core values of *alofa* (love), *fā'aaloalo* (respect), *soalaupule* (consensual dialogue), *amiotonu* (justice), and *tautua* (selfless service) in addressing public issues. The article illustrates how these core values could be utilised in conversations around the issue of domestic violence.

Part one presents a brief introduction of public theology; second, the Samoan context and its various features are introduced; third, the problem of domestic violence is contextualised with reference to Samoa; and finally, the Samoan core values of love, justice, respect, consensual dialogue and selfless service are applied to the issue of domestic violence in Samoan society, and the responsibility of the church and the Samoan public as agents of public theology in Samoa is underscored.

Keywords: public theology, Samoan core values, domestic violence



RADILAITE DELAIBATI KI CAMMOCK

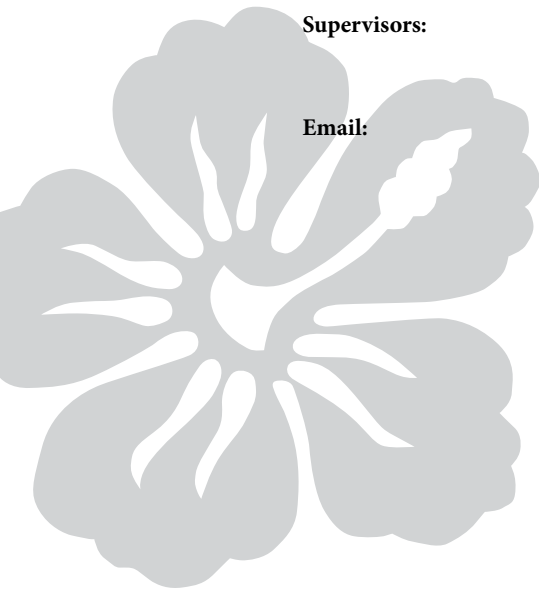
Radilaite is from Fiji. She has a BSc, Diploma and Master's in Public Health. She is a recipient of a Health Research Council PhD career development award and is currently working towards a PhD in Public Health. Her research interests lie in reproductive and maternal health. Radilaite is also a mother to a two-year-old toddler.

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FAMILY PLANNING USE AMONG ITAUKEI FIJIAN WOMEN IN NEW ZEALAND AND FIJI

Radilaite Delaibatiki Cammock

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends family planning as an integral service needed to improve the health of mothers and reduce maternal deaths.¹ However, family planning uptake amongst Pacific women in New Zealand is low.² In the Pacific, improvements in family planning utilisation are restricted by the lack of research into unmet need. This study focused on iTaukei Fijian women in New Zealand and Fiji comparing influences on their family planning behaviour.

A cross sectional survey of Fijian women aged 18 years and over, in both countries, was undertaken to gather information about unmet need for family planning and to identify access barriers to family planning services. Overall, 352 women completed a survey questionnaire, 212 from Fiji and 140 from New Zealand. There was no difference in unmet need between New Zealand and Fiji. Both countries showed at least 20% unmet need for family planning (NZ=27.2%, Fiji=24.2%). Access barriers such as lack of female providers, distance to health facilities and discussing seeking medical advice with husbands or partners were found to be statistically different between countries. Health services that address such barriers may improve uptake of family planning in both countries and reduce level of unmet need for family planning.

Keywords: family planning, contraception, Fijian women, Pacific women

1 WHO, *Maternal Mortality in 2000*; estimates developed by WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA.

2 Paterson, J., Cowley, E. T., Percival, T., & Williams, M. (2004). Pregnancy planning by mothers of Pacific infants recently delivered at Middlemore Hospital. *The New Zealand Medical Journal*, 117(1188). URL: nzma.org.nz/journal/117-1188/744/.



NANDIKA CURREY

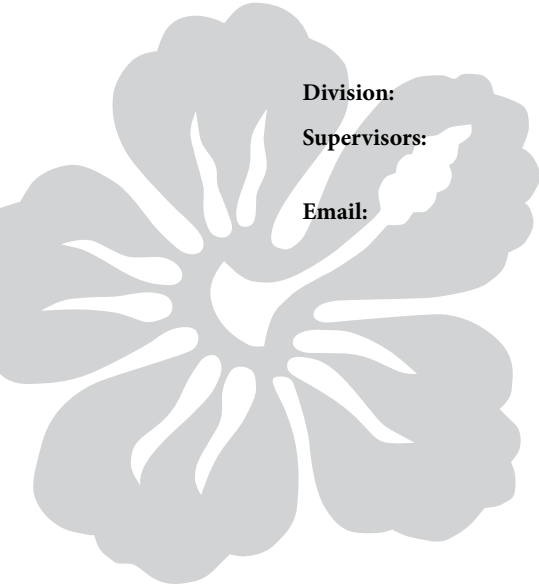
Nandika is from Fiji. She is a PhD candidate at the University of Otago, Wellington. Nandika holds a Bachelor of Science (Psychology) from Otago and a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health (with Distinction) from Massey University. In 2011 she was awarded a Doctoral Fellowship from the Ministry of Health. Nandika is Associate Dean Pacific at the Wellington campus.

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SUSTAINABLE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR PACIFIC PEOPLE IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Nandika Currey, Sunny Collings, Tony Dowell

Mental health services in New Zealand have undergone considerable structural and cultural changes since their inception. These changes have been driven by new research findings, revised policies, funding availability, and advocacy and lobbying efforts of communities. For Pacific populations living in New Zealand, these changes have occurred fairly rapidly, resulting in the establishment of Pacific-specific services, and the introduction of new practices and initiatives in mainstream mental health services.

During this period of rapid growth and development, the organisational sustainability of the services has been largely overlooked, which has contributed to further structural reform and, in some cases, the loss of services. This study sought to:

- 1) examine the organisational sustainability of mental health services caring for Pacific populations and
- 2) develop an appropriate sustainability assessment tool for this context.

A Pacific methodological framework was developed, which was then used to interview 31 participants with knowledge of and experience in Pacific mental health services, as the first stage of data collection. The findings from this cohort will be incorporated into the second phase of interviews, which will be analysed alongside relevant policy documents to help develop a tool that could be used to assess the sustainability of mental health services for Pacific people.

Keywords: sustainable, mental health services, Pacific



ARPANA ARTHI DEVI

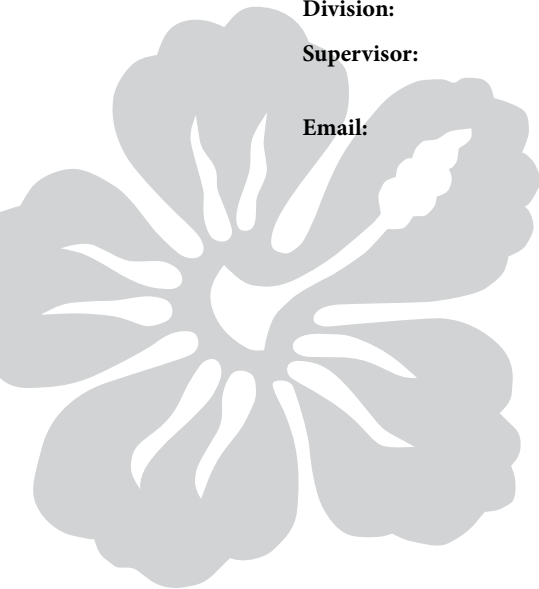
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TOOTH LENGTHS IN FIJI AND THE SOLOMON ISLANDS: AN IN-VITRO COMPARISON OF MAXILLARY ANTERIOR TEETH

Grace Mamupio, **Arpana Devi**, Tevita Naivalu

There has been a body of opinion that believed *iTaukei* (native settlers of Fiji) have longer teeth than Fijians of Indian origin and other Pacific Islanders (including Solomon Islanders). This has been known to most dental practitioners in Fiji, doing root canal treatments.

The aim of this study was to determine tooth lengths of extracted teeth from *iTaukei*, Fijians of Indian Origin, and Solomon Islanders.

A pilot study was conducted with a random sample of 90 extracted maxillary anterior teeth:^{1,2,3} 30 extracted teeth from each ethnic group, *iTaukei*, Indians of Fijian Origin, and Solomon Islanders. In each group 15 teeth were from females and 15 from males.

The teeth were measured with a non-digital vernier caliper and the measurements were statistically tested using Statistics Package for Social Sciences (Descriptive Analysis-Frequencies, Mean, Pearson's Correlation and *t*-test).

The mean root length showed that *iTaukei* had the longest root length of 25.2mm, with Solomon Islanders at 23.9mm and Fijians of Indian Origin at 22.5mm. Males at 25.1mm have longer root length than females at 22.678mm. *ITaukei* and Solomon Islanders have longer root length than Fijians of Indian Origin ($p < 0.005$) and only the root length has a strong association with the tooth length ($r = 0.800$, $p \text{ value} = 0.00$).

Keywords: tooth length, Solomon Islanders, *iTaukei*, Fijians of Indian Origin

1 Vane, E. (2007). *Oral Health Survey of School Children*. Sydney.

2 National Oral Health Survey Report 2004, Ministry of Health, Fiji.

3 Aghareed, M. G. (2009). An in vitro comparison of root canal length measurements in primary teeth. *Al-Rafidain Dent J*, 9, 77-82.



MANATU-'OFA FIA

Manatu was born in a little island belonging to Tonga, called Niuafo'ou. She grew up in the main island, Tongatapu, where she attended primary school. Her family then moved to New Zealand to further their educational studies. She is in her Honours year, studying Psychology, and hopes one day to contribute what she has learnt to our Pacific communities.

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PACIFIC MOTHERS' WAYS OF NURTURING PROSOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDREN

Manatu-‘ofa Fia

Research consistently demonstrates that parenting characteristics have a significant impact on the socioemotional development of children. Empirical evidence from both cross-sectional and longitudinal studies suggests that parental responsiveness and sensitivity are positively correlated with the child's empathic and prosocial development.¹ Prosociality can be explained as positive responses to another person's needs and welfare.² This topic however, has not been researched within a Pacific context. Research also suggests that parental language has a significant impact on children's prosocial development. Parents' explanatory and emotive language has been shown to influence children's prosocial skills in Western samples.³ Studies on Pacific and Asian cultures on the other hand indicate that parents' conversations with their children differ, and this should be taken into account.^{4,5} To address these open questions, the current study uses the Deater-Deckard PARCHISY global rating scale to assess mother-child interactions during a reading task and a play task. In particular, I will look at whether the mother's responsiveness and sensitivity are related to the child's observed and reported prosocial behaviours at two time points: 33 and 39 months. In addition, I have developed a new coding scheme, specific to a Pacific sample, to test for correlations between parental language and children's prosocial behaviours. It is not established whether prosocial and antisocial behaviours lie on the same continuum, however we should always focus on promoting the good – just as much as we do on preventing the bad.

Keywords: Pacific, socioemotional development, prosocial behaviours, parent-child interactions

- 1 Moreno, A. J., Klute, M. M., & Robinson, J. L. (2008). Relational and individual resources as predictors of empathy in early childhood. *Social Development, 17*, 613 – 637.
- 2 Radke-Yarrow, M. & Zahn-Waxler, C. (1986). The role of familial factors in the development of prosocial behaviour: Research findings and questions. In D. Olweus, J. Block, & M. Radke-Yarrow (Eds.), *Development of antisocial and prosocial behaviour: Research theories, and issues* (pp.207–233). New York: Academic Press.
- 3 Brownell, C. A., Svetlova, M., Anderson, R., Nichols, S. R., & Drummond, J. (2013). Socialization of Early Prosocial Behavior: Parents' Talk About Emotions is Associated With Sharing and Helping in Toddlers. *Infancy, 18*, 91-119.
- 4 Mavoa, H. M., Park, J., Tuponuia, P., & Pryce, C. R. (2008). Tongan and European children's interactions at home in urban New Zealand. *Ethos, 31*, 545-576.
- 5 Fivush, R., & Wang, Q. (2005). Emotion Talk in Mother-Child Conversations of the Shared Past: The Effects of Culture, Gender, and Event Valence. *Journal of Cognition and Development, 6*, 489-506.



TANYA FLYNN

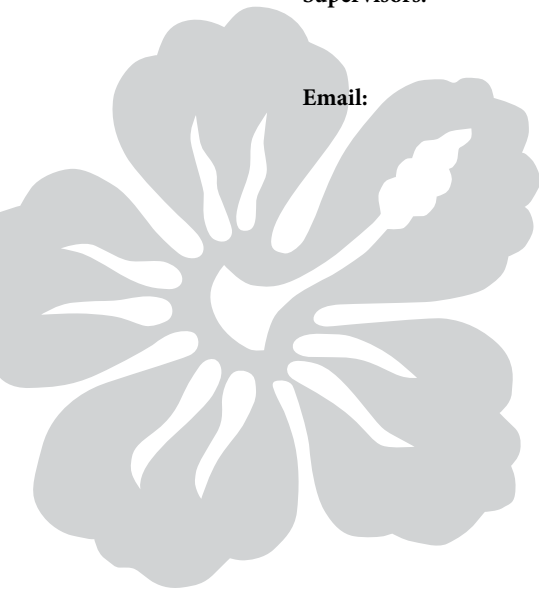
Tanya is a New Zealand born and raised doctoral student. She completed a BSc(Hons) in Genetics and a BA in Anthropology before being awarded a University of Otago Doctoral Scholarship to fund her PhD studies. Tanya's research focuses on integrating scientific and medical understandings of gout with those of gout patients.

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NEW ZEALANDERS WITH GOUT: INVESTIGATING ANECDOTAL REPORTS OF TOMATOES AS A DIETARY GOUT TRIGGER

Tanya J Flynn, Murray Cadzow, Nicola Dalbeth, Peter B Jones, Lisa K Stamp, Ruth Topless, Tony R Merriman

Gout is characterised by painful flares of inflammation in response to urate crystals in the joints. It is common in New Zealand with a high prevalence in the Pacific Island (8%) and Māori (6%) populations. Gout flares can be triggered by foods that raise serum urate. Tomatoes are an anecdotal trigger of gout flares.

This study aimed to measure the frequency of tomatoes as self-reported gout triggers in New Zealanders with gout, and to use public datasets to test whether tomato intake associates with serum urate.

2051 New Zealand gout patients were asked about gout triggers. 12,720 European individuals from three public datasets (ARIC=7517, CHS=2151 and FHS=3052) were used to test for association between serum urate and tomato intake.

Seventy-one percent (71%) of New Zealand gout patients reported at least one dietary trigger. Tomatoes were mentioned by 20% of participants, making this the 4th most common dietary trigger. Māori and Pacific Island individuals reported any trigger more often than European individuals (75% and 87% vs 57%) and were 1.85-fold more likely to mention tomatoes specifically (28% and 21% vs 14%). Analysis of the European datasets showed an association between tomato intake and serum urate (all: $\beta=0.66\mu\text{molL}^{-1}$, $p=0.01$; men: $\beta=0.84\mu\text{molL}^{-1}$, $p=0.04$; women: $\beta=0.59\mu\text{molL}^{-1}$, $p=0.04$).

Tomatoes are a common self-reported trigger of gout flares, especially in New Zealand Māori and Pacific Island individuals. Consumption of tomatoes positively associates with raised serum urate levels, suggesting that the avoidance of tomatoes by people with gout may have a biological basis.

Keywords: gout, triggers, tomato intake, serum urate



ANNA GOSLING

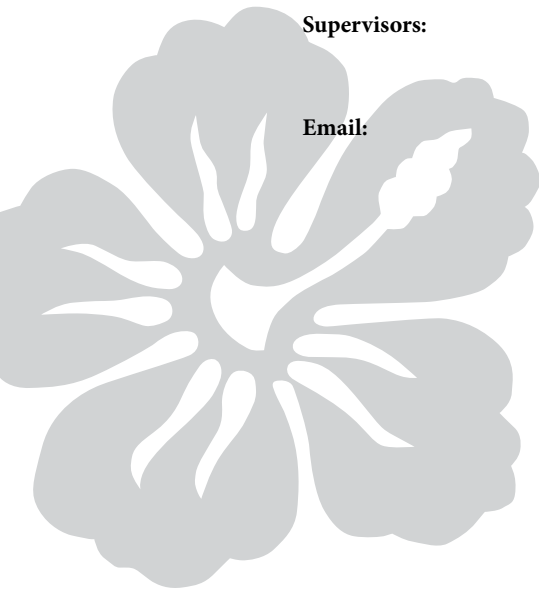
Anna is a PhD candidate studying biological anthropology with a focus on genetic diversity in the Pacific and its implications for contemporary health. She has BBiomedSci, BA(Hons) and MSc degrees, all from the University of Otago. Her current study is being supported by a University of Otago Doctoral Scholarship.

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GOUT AND HYPERURICAEMIA IN THE PACIFIC: EVOLUTIONARY EXPLANATIONS FOR ELEVATED SERUM URATE AMONG PACIFIC ISLANDERS

Anna Gosling

Gout is a burden for many Pacific Island populations. It often presents in the big toe, causing debilitating pain and can result in the degradation of bony tissue as a result of massive inflammation. High concentrations of urate in the blood have been found to predispose to gout, which is significant because Pacific Islanders have been found to have inherently elevated serum urate levels compared to ancestrally unrelated populations. While there has been an emphasis on environmental contributions to disease, in particular the adoption of a westernised lifestyle and changes away from traditional ways of life, there is also substantial evidence indicating a genetic contribution.

Gout is not a new condition among Pacific peoples. Lesions indicative of gout have been observed in koiwi recovered from archaeological sites from throughout the Pacific, including Vanuatu, Micronesia, and New Zealand, dating back to the very earliest inhabitants of the region.

The innately high serum urate levels and the existence of gout prior to the adoption of westernised diets are significant when considered together. The archaeological gout cases can be considered to be a proxy for high serum urate, which suggests that the hyperuricaemia common throughout the Pacific in contemporary times, like gout, are not a recent phenomenon. Given that urate has multiple biological functions, including being involved in innate immune responses to pathogens, it may be that elevated levels gave prehistoric Pacific Islanders some kind of survival advantage at some point in the past.

Keywords: gout, genetics, archaeology, epidemiology



EKTA GUPTA

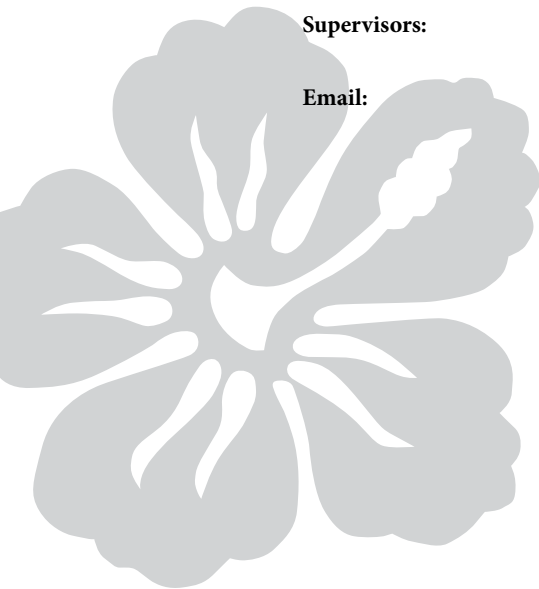
Ekta is Indian by descent and has lived in Auckland since she was eleven. She has recently submitted her Master's thesis in Psychology at the University of Otago. She holds a conjoint Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Marketing from the University of Auckland. Between her undergraduate and postgraduate studies, she worked at Air New Zealand for three years.

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MENTAL STATE TALK AND SOCIAL UNDERSTANDING IN NEW ZEALAND TODDLERS: A PACIFIC ISLAND CONTEXT

Ekta Gupta

This study assessed the relation between maternal mental state talk over time and the development of social understanding in young Pacific Island children growing up in New Zealand (NZ). At all three time points (15, 20, and 26 months), 45 mother and child pairs engaged in a free play task and maternal talk was coded for mental state and non-mental state content. Mothers reported on children's language ability using the MacArthur Communicative Development Inventory – MacArthur-Bates Short Form Vocabulary Checklist and a Mental State Language Form. Children's social understanding was measured using two emotion understanding tasks (emotion recognition and emotion situation), two perspective-taking tasks (move object and occluded object), and a deception task (penny-hiding). Mothers' strength of ethnic identity was measured using an abridged version of the General Ethnicity Questionnaire. Results indicated that mothers' and children's mental state language increased over time. Mothers who identified more strongly as Pacific Island tended to use less mental state language than mothers who identified more strongly as Pākehā or NZ European, and had children with lower scores in social understanding tasks. In particular, mothers' use of emotion state language and self-and-other directed desire talk at 20 months was uniquely predictive of children's social understanding at 26 months. Also, children with two or more siblings had significantly better social understanding at 26 months. Overall findings show that the primary caregiver's ethnic identity, her use of specific mental state language, and the presence of older siblings play a crucial role in young children's development of social understanding.

Keywords: mental state talk, social understanding, Pasifika, Pākehā



IRENE KARONGO HUNDLEBY

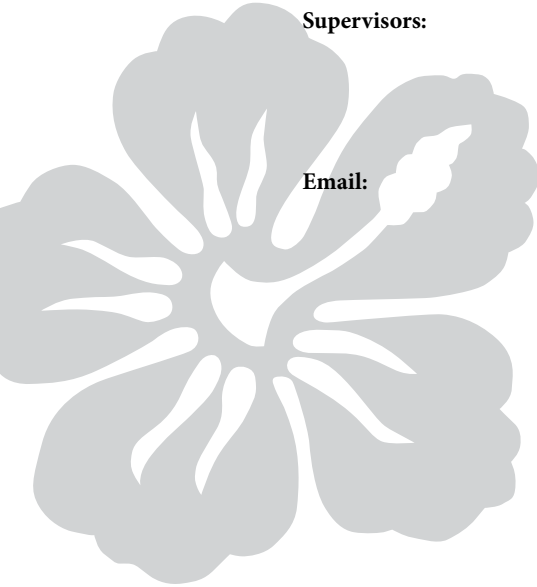
Irene is a New Zealand-Solomon Island music honours graduate. She has recently begun PhD study focused on women's music in Lau Lagoon, Solomon Islands. In 2013 Irene was a recipient of the Victor Galway Medal, Charles Begg Prize in Music and Pacific Island Bridging Scholarship, and in 2010 was awarded the Jennie MacAndrew Prize.

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POOLING COLLECTIVE KNOWLEDGE – A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO MUSIC DATA COLLECTION IN MALAITA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

Irene Karongo Hundleby

Irene is collaborating with North Malaitan communities and specifically adapting research methods to align with collective ways of learning and exchanging culture. As the focus of her research is women's music in Lau Lagoon, this research presents an opportunity for North Malaitan women to share details of their music and culture(s) using methods and spaces that are appropriate, safe and comfortable for honest discussions and sharing to take place.

Throwing ideas into the mix is a method commonly used in Malaita to gather and convey ideas, share information and music, and ways of being and knowing. North Malaitan communities are reliant on co-operation and a sharing ethos. Information is gathered via group discussions, activities and informal sharing scenarios, and collective knowledge is pooled to portray a holistic picture of context and data. This method of constructing knowledge – as a community – requires an acceptance of a variety of truths rather than one individual perspective. 'Being, knowing and doing together' is also an intrinsic part of North Malaitan music and performance. Village celebrations and ceremonies commonly involve the entire village community and include large group and multi-group music performances.

This paper examines the benefits and difficulties of being 'in the mix' from both a bi-cultural and an academic perspective. Being of North-Malaitan descent, Irene feels compelled to ensure that her research accurately portrays the thinking of North Malaitans, and that research methodologies protect, respect and reflect indigenous ways of knowing, being and sharing knowledge.

Keywords: indigenous epistemology, sharing collective knowledge, insider field-work, Malaita



TOKERAU JOSEPH

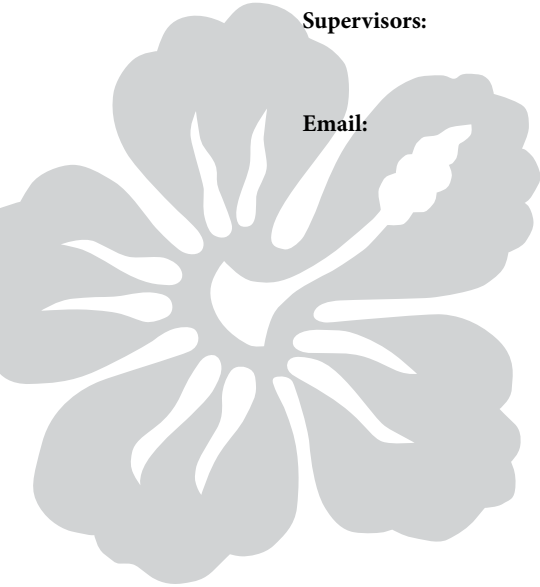
Tokerau is of Cook Islands and European descent. He completed a BTheol(Hons)(First Class) in 1998 and an MTheol with Distinction in 2005, both at the University of Otago. While working in ministry at First Church of Otago, Tokerau undertook doctoral studies and recently graduated with a PhD in Theology. He is married to Tangi with children and grandchildren.

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ETHNIC FLAMES OF THE BURNING BUSH: AN EXPLORATION OF ETHNIC RELATIONS IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Tokerau Joseph

This presentation is based on my doctoral thesis as a work in practical theology examining the tension between the stated policies of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand (PCANZ) – ones that encourage its members to live out a diverse life together – and the homogeneous reality of its individual congregations. It observes the extent to which the ethnic composition of congregations is influenced by people’s tendencies to affirm their own ethnic/cultural identity rather than a theological understanding of the church and of their Christian identity. It explores the challenges within the relationship between parishioners and ministers to reveal how their ethnic/cultural aspirations characterise the communities to which they belong.

To understand the context and experiences of those in PCANZ congregations, I adopted a qualitative methodological approach that incorporates a combination of strategies. It required analysing details from congregations about ethnic representation of members, ministers, attendees at worship services and leadership groups, as well as of surveys and interviews of adult parishioners and ministers. My findings reveal that people’s own ethnic assumptions and preferences are more influential than any theological aspirations they may hold for themselves and the church, resulting in the ethnic-specific nature of their communities.

The unconsumed burning bush, the emblem of PCANZ, is a sign of the mystery of God that speaks of hope to God’s people. My thesis title, ‘Ethnic Flames of the Burning Bush’, conveys the complexities and richness of ethnic relations in PCANZ that do not seek to consume but rather to enhance its hopeful witness of unity in diversity.

Keywords: ethnic relations, homogeneity, diversity, ecclesiology



NINA KIRIFI-ALAI

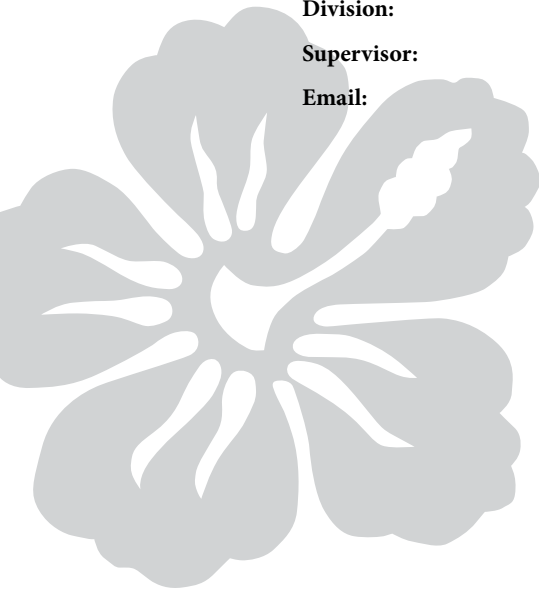
Tofilau Nina is a high chief from the village of Iva, in the big island of Savaii in Samoa. She is an Arts and Law graduate from the University of Auckland and currently engaged in a Master's of Indigenous Studies. Nina has held the role of Manager of the University of Otago Pacific Islands Centre for the last 12 years and is passionate about all things Pacific.

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AN AUTOETHNOGRAPHIC ACCOUNT OF PACIFIC ISSUES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO: REFLECTIONS

Tofilau Nina Kirifi-Alai

Pacific Island peoples migrated significantly to New Zealand in the late 1950's and have become residents and citizens of New Zealand (NZ). Their participation in society, however, and especially in the education system, is still lagging behind that of the general population. Under the guidance of Tertiary Education Commission (TEC), tertiary institutions have since implemented Pacific initiatives to help ensure the success of their Pacific students.

This research will reflect on the Pacific issues as they have arisen and been dealt with at the University of Otago. It will build upon my reflections as Inaugural Manager of the University's Pacific Islands Centre and be supported by the documented emergence of Pacific issues and initiatives on campus over the last decade.

The research takes the autoethnographic approach because the University in its wisdom in 2001 established its Pacific Students Support Centre – the first-ever within a NZ University. The Centre in turn became the impetus that helped lead and implement support for Pacific students, including engagement with Pacific communities, to create pathways for the success of Pacific students entering university study. Pacific students come from families and communities armed with their cultural upbringing, values and beliefs. How has the University received them and their cultural upbringing, values and beliefs? How can the University deal with Pacific issues in order for Pacific students to succeed? Census 2001 forecast that by 2050 half of NZ's population will be Polynesian (with Melanesian and Micronesian numbers lifting the Pacific ratio even higher). "Pacific Issues" therefore are "New Zealand issues" and resolving them is vital to NZ's success as a society. These questions underlie this project. The final report will provide recommendations for the future.

Keywords: tertiary education, Pacific issues, indigenous, Otago



JESSE KOKAUA

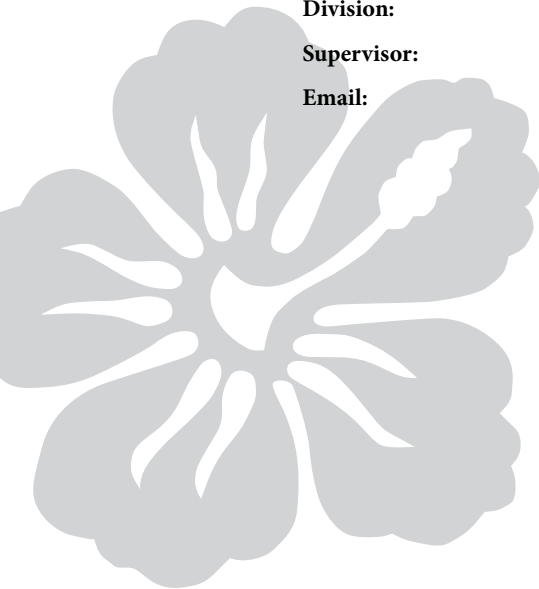
Jesse is a Cook Islander living in Dunedin. He recently submitted his PhD thesis, which involved an application of Bayesian statistical models to analyse prevalence of mental disorder and service-use patterns among Cook Islanders in New Zealand. He currently works for the Pacific Islands Research and Student Support Unit.

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USE OF SEQUENTIAL BAYESIAN MODELS TO DEVELOP A SCREENING TOOL TO INFORM TARGETED SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PACIFIC STUDENTS IN THEIR FIRST YEAR OF HEALTH SCIENCES STUDY

Jesse Kokaua

The aim of this talk is to present an application of Bayesian methods used to report a summary assessment for Pacific students ongoing progress in their first year of Health Sciences at the University of Otago.

The Pacific Orientation Programme at Otago (POPO) is a student support programme for Pacific students in Health Sciences First Year (HSFY) at the University of Otago. A substantial component of this programme occurs in the first semester.

International literature has shown that students' pre-entry attributes are one of the major contributors to success in their first year of university study. A prequel to this study has described the development of a pre-enrolment instrument that predicts the performance of prospective first-year students prior to their arrival at the University. The purpose of the instrument was to inform the development of tailored interventions aligned with students' needs. The instrument also provided an early proxy for student engagement and a benchmark for evaluating ongoing interventions.

An extension to that instrument is a dynamic modelled predictor of student success in HSFY. The usefulness of the latter instrument is as an ongoing summary indicator of students' progress of academic engagement and success in their first semester. The tool predicts the same outcome at a number of points during the first semester and makes use of systematic collected data as soon as they become available. The priority is to provide the timeliest indicator possible of student progress prior to final examinations.

Keywords: Pacific, first-year, engagement, success, Bayesian predictive models



ANITA LATAI

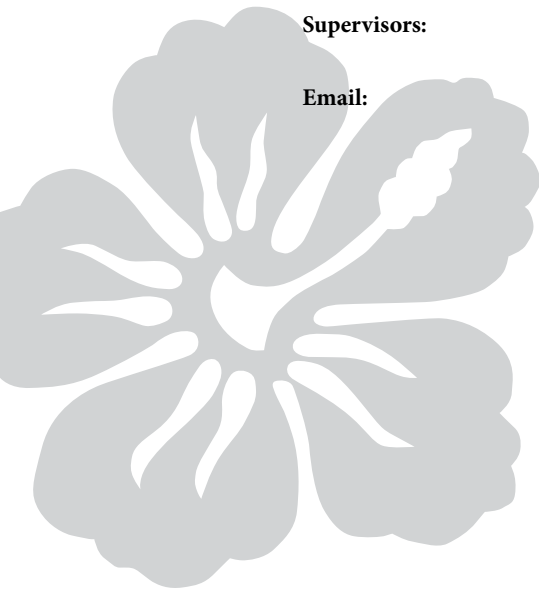
Anita was born and educated in Samoa. She holds BA and BEd degrees from Central Queensland University, and a PGDipArts and MA in Geography supported by a University of Otago Division of Humanities/National University of Samoa scholarship. Anita is now studying towards a PhD on a University of Otago Doctoral Scholarship. She has been a lecturer in Samoa for 12 years.

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EXPLORING RESILIENCE TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES TRIGGERED BY GLOBAL WARMING IN SAMOA

Anita Latai

The global warming literature suggests that all parts of the world, but especially the island states of the tropical Indian and Pacific Oceans, will be affected by sea-level rise and extreme weather events triggered by global warming. Human mobility, social networks, flexible knowledge, skills and livelihood diversification have enabled traditional communities to cope with major environmental events in the past, and this research asks if those strategies will allow island communities to withstand the effects of future global warming. This research takes a bottom-up approach to investigate the extent to which Samoans are prepared for the challenges of changing climates, increased storminess and sea level rise in the next five decades, with particular emphasis on traditional and recently acquired ways to mitigate the effects of global warming.

Through field-based inquiry, the proposed study will evaluate the capacity of Samoan individuals, extended families and communities to cope with environmental change, with particular reference to traditionally based and more recently developed strategies for enhancing individual and communal resilience. My field inquiries are designed to show if resilience in the Samoan context is acquired through the experience of life in a challenging environment, or by transfer of knowledge and skills from experienced persons to the young and inexperienced or a combination of the two. In Samoa, how does this process of developing resilience develop? Do Samoans believe that they have the capacity to survive global warming and do they think about this as individuals, members of an extended family, residents of a village, or Samoan nationals? It is hoped that the research will establish if there is a need for external assistance to enhance resilience in Samoa, to pinpoint areas where such assistance is especially needed, and to suggest appropriate ways to proceed.

Keywords: resilience, communities, environmental catastrophe, tropical Pacific



JARROD TOLUONO MOORS

Jarrod is of Samoan descent – New Zealand-born and raised in Samoa. He holds a Bachelor of Science and a Postgraduate Diploma in Science, both in Anatomy, from the University of Otago. Jarrod was a recipient of the Full Circle Theme: Genetics of Māori and Pacific Health, summer scholarship. Jarrod is in the final stage of a Master of Science degree in Biochemistry.

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MEASURING METABOLIC HEALTH IN PACIFIC ADOLESCENTS

Jarrold Toluono Moors, Finau Taungapeau, Eric Nabalagi, Albert Laurence, Mele Taumoepeau, Tony Merriman

Adults of Pacific descent residing in New Zealand have more than double the prevalence of diabetes, obesity, gout and the metabolic syndrome (MS), as opposed to the general population.^{1,2} Genetic and environmental factors play a crucial role in the development of these diseases. This research was designed to document the current metabolic health status of young Pacific people, and to evaluate the influence of risk factors.

Participants (males = 33; females = 47) who self-identified with Pacific ethnicity, aged 15-20 years, were selected from the Pacific community. All subjects provided blood and urine to determine lipids and biochemical traits (e.g. uric acid, cholesterol, triglycerides etc.). Demographic, lifestyle factors, personal and family medical history data were collated and analyzed.

The results showed no significant difference for body mass index (BMI) between males and females. However, the mean BMI (28kg/m²) situates the cohort in a classification category of overweight (BMI > 25 kg/m²). Consistent with the global tendency of elevating levels of gout, there were significantly higher levels of serum uric acid in males (0.36 mmol/L) than females (0.31 mmol/L). The male cohort was on average close to being hyperuricaemic – a risk factor for gout. Multiple variables were measured, results of which were well within normal ranges; cholesterol (3.76mmol/L), triglycerides (0.91 mmol/L), creatinine (74.78 mmol/L), HDL (1.19 mmol/L) and LDL (2.15 mmol/L). For systolic and diastolic pressures, a significant difference was observed between males (116/59 mmHg) and females (109/63 mmHg).

The high BMI and uric acid levels are indicative of metabolic processes leading to other adult metabolic conditions such as diabetes, heart and kidney diseases. Upon completion of this study when 200 participants are recruited, we will be able to document the underlying causes of ill metabolic health and tailor interventions that may lead to improvement in the health of our young Pacific burgeoning people.

Keywords: Pacific adolescents, metabolic health, gout, hyperuricaemia, metabolic syndrome.

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FA'AFONGGA PATEKALANI

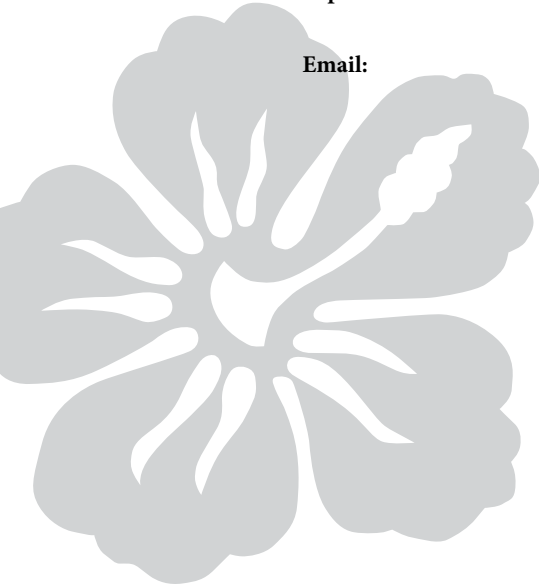
Fa'afongga is from Papua New Guinea. She obtained a BA(Hons) from UPNG and an MA from the University of York in the UK under a Commonwealth Scholarship. After teaching in universities for many years, she enrolled in a PhD at the University of Otago under an NZAID scholarship in 2012.

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HULA PHONOLOGY

Fa'afongga Patekalani

This paper describes the segmental phonology of Hula, a dialect of Hula-Aroma, an Austronesian (AN) language classified within the PNGCPAP group – Central Papuan (CPAP) is a member of the Pacific-wide Oceanic subgroup. A classical phonemic analysis is used for investigating Hula phonemes and their allophones. The paper provides discussion on: phoneme inventories based on contrasts using minimal sets, individual phonemes and their phonetic realisations, distinctive features, vowel sequences, syllables, suprasegmental features, major morphophonemic processes, loan words and their phonological status and Hula orthography.

Findings include:

- a. a 21-phoneme sound system (11 consonants and 10 vowels including five long vowels);
- b. vowel length is phonemic;
- c. theoretically, consonants are restricted to word-initial and intervocalic positions, and phonotactic rules disallow consonant clusters; however, phonetically there are exceptions;
- d. like most AN Oceanic languages, a (C)V structure means lexical roots and stems have final vowels;
- e. the presence of an array of vowel sequences shows increased tendency for words and clauses to comprise entirely vowels;
- f. stress is assigned to the penultimate syllables, and reassigned to long vowels and heavy syllables as an exception.

Finally, vowel counts indicate higher frequencies for /a/ and /a:/ vowel phonemes. These may possibly be constraints of restricted distributions of two certain consonant phonemes /kw/ and /w/, and/or a function of the number of vowels – explanations that are being further studied.

Keywords: Austronesian phonemes, phonemic, stress, PNGCPAP



CHRISTINA STANTIS

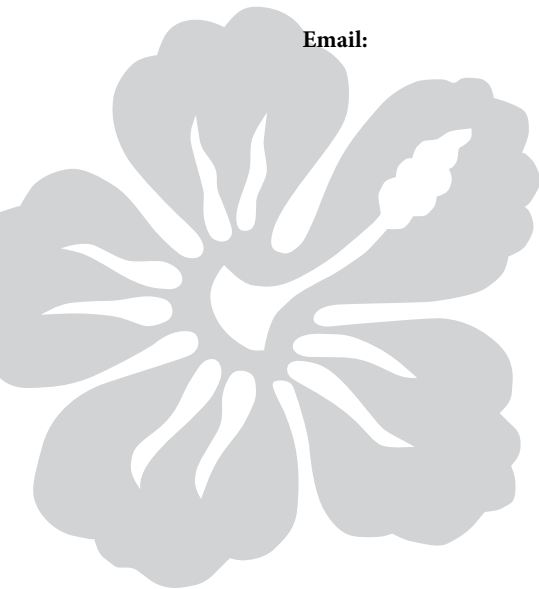
Christina is an international PhD candidate from the United States. She received her BA in Anthropology from Auburn University (USA) and her MSc in Paleopathology from Durham University (UK). She is a recipient of a University of Otago Doctoral Scholarship.

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MOBILITY IN PREHISTORIC TONGATAPU

Christina Stantis

During the Chieftom Period (750-150 BP), the Tongan maritime empire held a unique position in the Pacific, exerting far-reaching hegemonic influence over islands as far as 2500 km away¹ and demanding tribute in the form of prestige items (fine mats, feathers, sandalwood, barkcloth, canoes, and pottery). The centre of the empire, Tongatapu (*Sacred South*) was the home of the Tu`i Tonga (*Lord of Tonga*) and held religious and political importance. Understanding the movement of prestigious goods has yielded insight into the interactions between Tongatapu and other islands,² but this does not directly examine the movement of people.

Isotopic analysis (^{87/86}Sr) of tooth enamel from human remains interred in burial mounds dated 500-200 BP can yield insight into where these individuals spent their childhood. With one exception, all individuals (n=41) displayed ^{87/86}Sr values consistent with spending their childhood on Tongatapu. This suggests that the hegemonic control over interisland travel by the Tongan maritime chieftom, along with the political and spiritual importance of the island of Tongatapu, may have prevented long-term access to the island by non-Tongans. The “outlier,” an adult female, is consistent with the ethnohistoric literature, which records spousal exchange between Tongans and the nearby archipelagoes of Samoa and Fiji.

Keywords: bioanthropology, archaeology, state societies, Polynesia

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MARSA DODSON STOKMAN

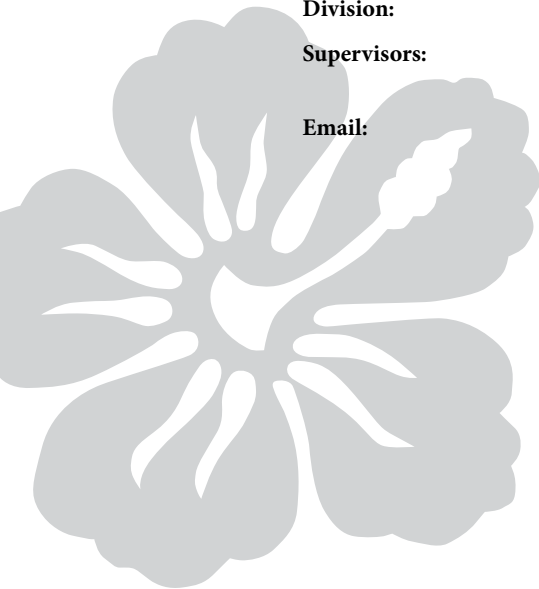
Marsa is an international doctoral student from the United States. She graduated in Law and Justice from Central Washington University and earned a Master of Social Work from the University of Washington. Marsa's first PhD from the University of Otago (Department of Social and Community Work) in 2010 was for her study of Mangaiā's practice of informal adoption.

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MIXED BLESSINGS: ORAL HISTORIES OF THE WAR CHILDREN BORN TO US SERVICEMEN AND INDIGENOUS COOK ISLANDERS

Marsa Dodson Stokman

World War Two brought over two million servicemen to the Pacific. Two of the Cook Islands, Penrhyn and Aitutaki, served as bases at the time along an Air-Ferry route that linked the United States with Australia. In the Cooks several thousand American men maintained readiness in case the Imperial Japanese encroached eastward. In the course of the friendly occupation by the US that lasted during the war years, relationships developed between military personnel and their hosts. Many of these relationships lasted until the troops were deployed elsewhere. Some of the liaisons gave rise to a generation of over sixty war babies, although during the war legal marriage between mixed-race couples was prohibited by the American authorities. Following the war, civilian transportation back to the Cook Islands was next to impossible for the Stateside veteran fathers.

My research was to learn what happened to these part-American Cook Islander children. I wanted to discover what their lives were like growing up without their biological fathers in a culture that values family relationships. How did having an absent father from the States influence the identities of the war children? Did attempts at post-war reunification materialise for the fragmented families? Did any of the war progeny find their fathers or did any of the fathers find their children? In my thesis, I highlight the voices from oral interviews with over half of the Cook Islander-American war 'children' and the families of three more who died before I commenced my research.

Keywords: identity, mixed-race, illegitimate, stigma



FETAOMI BRENDA TAPU-QILIHO

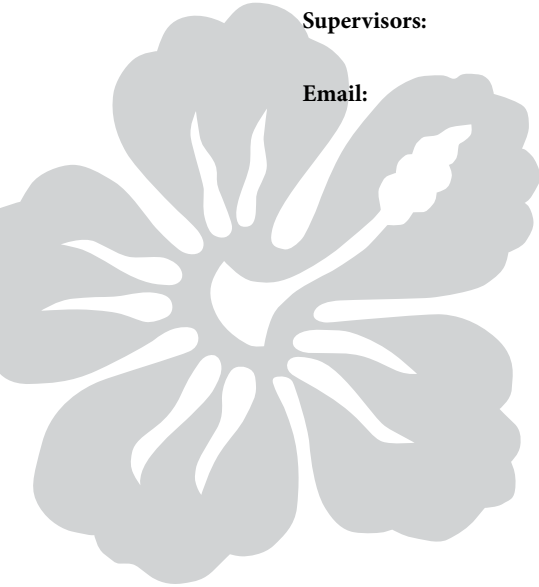
Taomi is Samoan and currently lives in Lautoka, Fiji. She has a BA in Sociology and Anthropology and an MA(Hons) in Pacific Studies from the University of Auckland. She is a second-year PhD candidate on a three-year scholarship awarded by the Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia.

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TUVALUAN DIASPORA IN OCEANIA: IDENTITY AND BELONGINGNESS IN THE MARGINS

Fetaomi Tapu-Qiliho

The Diaspora has been written about extensively and Pacific Islanders have become the subjects of many such writings, but little is known of the Pacific Diaspora within the Pacific itself. This project on the diaspora 'within' allows for the investigation into how Tuvaluans of Kioa Island in Fiji and the Elise Fou community of Samoa practise, live and experience life. This study looks at the phenomena of ethnicity and identity within diaspora. Non-traditional, intra-Pacific migrations of our contemporary times are fertile areas for research. Multi-disciplined research has concentrated mainly on Pacific Islander experiences in the Pacific Rim countries to which we 'traditionally' migrate. Fiji and Samoa are home to myriad ethnic groups indicative of diaspora.

This project uses a phenomenological method of enquiry. Research was carried out this year in Funafuti, Tuvalu, and Kioa, Fiji and is being conducted currently in Elise Fou, Samoa. The interviewees in Funafuti, Tuvalu were members of the Diaspora who had returned to the motherland to live for various reasons. Their experiences are extremely valuable to the understanding of Return Migration, which is crucial to the Diasporic experience. Kioa and Elise Fou provide insight into life in the peripheries and indicate change and social transformation that have taken place in the Diaspora. Emerging results confirm that the Tuvaluan Diaspora within Oceania is a unique experience that must be examined.

Keywords: diaspora, identity, ethnicity, return migration



SULIANA TEASDALE

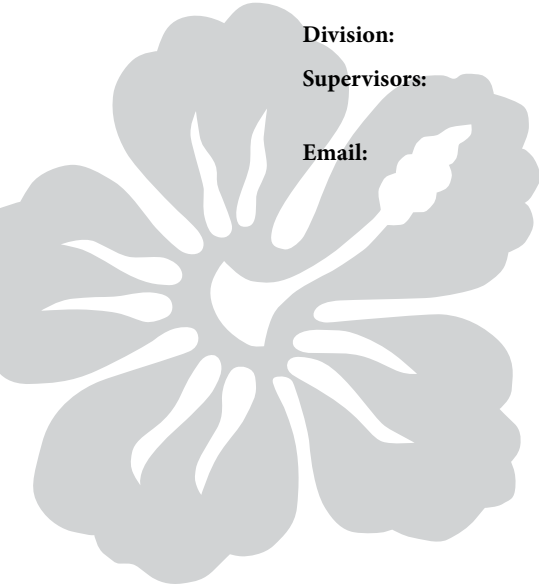
Suliana is of Tongan decent, and recently graduated with an MSc (with Distinction). While studying she was supported by a Pacific Island Master's Scholarship. Her thesis topic focused on investigating symbiotic fungi from NZ forest systems. After graduating, Suliana began work with AgResearch and is currently investigating the role of endophytes towards preventing drought stress in tropical grasses.

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Plant-Fungal Interactions, AgResearch
Limited (currently)

Division: Sciences

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NOVEL FUNGAL ENDOPHYTE DISCOVERY IN TROPICAL FORAGE GRASSES

Suliana Teasdale and Linda Johnson

An endophyte is described as an organism living within a plant, for at least part of its life, without causing apparent disease. Many economically important forage grasses host fungal endophytes which can enhance their growth, improve tolerance to abiotic stresses such as drought, as well as improve resistance to biotic stresses: for example, insect herbivory and fungal pathogens. There is limited understanding of the benefits and relationships that endophytic fungi form in association with tropical forage grasses, such as *Brachiaria* species. An in-depth understanding of the association, growth and development of fungal endophytes within *Brachiaria* grasses is largely unknown.

The aim of this project is to investigate and characterise the role of fungal endophytes towards improving the adaptation of *Brachiaria* grasses to drought tolerance. A variety of methods is being used and developed to characterise fungal endophytes of *Brachiaria* grasses. These include but are not limited to analysis of seed squashes, sheath peels, as well as fungal isolations, and DNA probing from plant and seed material. We have found that 'quick-screen' methods (e.g. seed-squashes and DNA probing) developed to determine endophyte presence are largely unreliable in *Brachiaria* grass. The most effective method used thus far is to isolate fungi directly from tiller material. At this stage we do not have a complete understanding of how the fungal isolates associate with these host grasses. Further morphological, molecular and chemical analyses are needed to identify and characterise the fungal isolates and to determine their potential use for enhancing the growth of *Brachiaria* grasses.

Keywords: fungal endophyte, *Brachiaria*, tropical forage, *Acremonium*



KIMBERLY TUITOGA

Kimberly is from Fiji. She has completed a BSc, majoring in Neuroscience, and a DipGrad Endorsed in Psychology from the University of Otago. It is of great interest to her to carry out this research project for her Master's degree, which focuses on factors that promote Pacific parents' and their children's mental wellbeing and health.

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Division: Sciences

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VOICES OF PARENTS: PACIFIC PARENTS' VIEWS ON THE ROLE OF CONNECTEDNESS AND TEENAGERS' WELLBEING

Kimberly Tuitoga

New Zealand (NZ) born Pacific people experience higher rates of mental disorder (25%) compared with the general NZ population (20.7%).¹ Thus, relevant research is needed to better understand the causes behind these alarming statistics.

Good-quality relationships are important for fostering wellbeing and mental health.² It has been shown that family influences wellbeing in Pacific cultures. It is through family that Pacific individuals can be nurtured physically, mentally, culturally, spiritually and can gain social support. The greater levels of connectedness to one's Pacific identity³ and cultural identity⁴ are also related to lower levels of depressive symptoms: that is, the more strongly a person perceives their cultural identity, the better their wellbeing and mental health.

It has also been shown that parent-child connectedness acts as a protective factor for health and wellbeing in European and American people but there is insufficient evidence for Pacific teenagers' wellbeing and mental health.⁵ To advance our knowledge, the aims of this study are to identify culturally specific factors that parents consider important for their teenagers' wellbeing and to create a questionnaire that looks at variations in Pacific parenting style and parent-teenager connectedness. The first phase of the study involves a focus group asking 10 parents about their opinions or beliefs towards parenting style. The final phase involves using themes that arose from the focus group session to create a questionnaire on parent-teenager connectedness, which we will distribute to 200 parents.

Keywords: mental health, wellbeing, family and connectedness

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- 2 Ryff, C. D., & Singer, B.H. (1998). The role of purpose in life and personal growth in positive human health. In P. T. P. Wong & P. S. Fry (Eds.), *The human quest for meaning: A handbook of psychological research and clinical applications* (pp. 213-235). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
- 3 Bush, A., Chapman, F., Drummond, M., & Fagaloa, T. (2009). Development of a child, adolescent and family mental health service for Pacific young people in Aotearoa/ New Zealand. *Pacific Health Dialog*, 15, (1).
- 4 Manuela, S., & Sibley, C. (2012). The Pacific Identity and Wellbeing Scale (PIWBS): A culturally appropriate Self-Report Measure for Pacific Peoples in New Zealand. *Social Indicators Research*, 1, 1-18.
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FAAPŌPŌ TUPOLO-TAUANAĒ

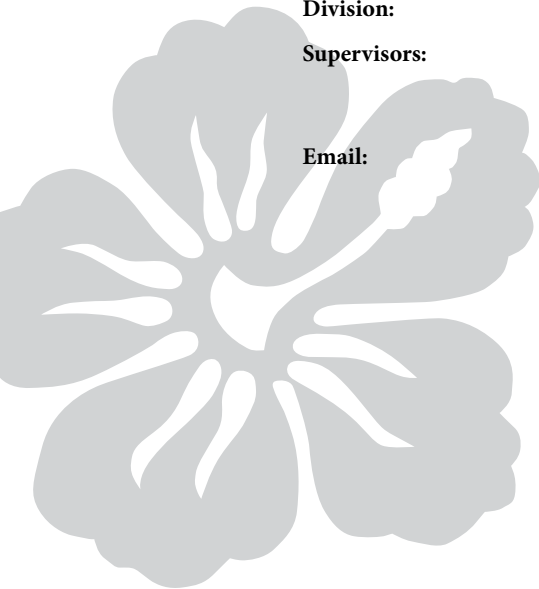
Faapōpō is Samoan, formerly educated in the Pastor's School. She recently completed a Master of Indigenous Studies at the University of Otago, sponsored through a Memorandum of Understanding between Otago and the National University of Samoa where she is currently a Language Lecturer within the Faculty of Education. She has taught for 20 years.

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Division: Humanities

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THE AOGA A LE FAIFEAU (PASTOR'S SCHOOL): ITS PLACE IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM OF SAMOA TODAY

Faapōpō Tupolo-Tauaanae

This small project attempts to revive public interest in the contribution that the *Aoga a le Faifeau* (Pastor's School) makes to the schooling of Samoan children. There is very limited literature about the existence and role of this school in Samoa, although it was established in the 1830s at the same time as the earliest church in Samoa, the Lotu Taiti (Tahitian Church). In 1962 this was officially called the Congregational Christian Church in Samoa (CCCS).

The research is confined to the *Aoga a le Faifeau* operated by the CCCS. In 1961 the indigenous people took control of the Church from the London Missionaries Society, which subsequently impacted directly on the organisation and implementation of the *Aoga a le Faifeau*. Data were gathered from Samoans born and raised in Samoa who now live in Dunedin – some permanently and others for studies. This group was chosen as a microcosm to elicit their thoughts and views about the *Aoga a le Faifeau*. Hopefully this project will enable various themes and ideas to be identified and perhaps enable a greater study to take place at a later date.

The research concludes that the *Aoga a le Faifeau* did play a significant role in the schooling of Samoan children but that role has lost significance in the changing lifestyle and educational reforms of the recent past. More importantly, the *Aoga a le Faifeau* has stood the test of time and still exists. Some reforms are needed, however, for its role to become significant again.

Keywords: education, aoga a le faifeau, literacy, numeracy



SANTORIA UTUFUA

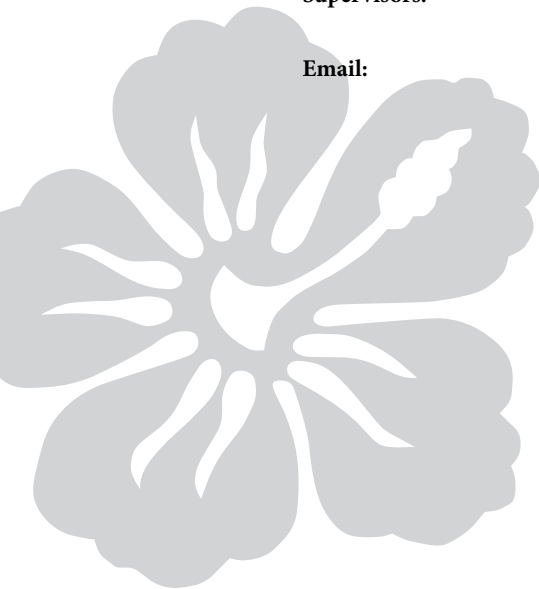
Santoria graduated from the University of Otago in 2009 with a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree. After working for five years as a hospital pharmacist in Samoa, Santoria returned to Otago as a NZAID scholarship student, where she is currently undertaking a Postgraduate Diploma in Pharmacy.

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Division: Health Sciences

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PROMETHAZINE USE IN CHILDREN UNDER TWO

Santoria Utufua

Failure to treat patients according to clinical guidelines is very common in developing countries and resource poor settings. In addition to this, the lack of available dosing and treatment guidelines for very young children often leads to the off-label use (use outside of conditions listed in the licensed product information) of medication in this age group.

The aim of this study was to identify and examine reports on the possible harms that result from administering promethazine in children younger than two years of age.

Information on promethazine use in children under two years was sought from: prescribing information; paediatric formularies; websites of regulatory agencies from six countries (United States, New Zealand, Australia, United Kingdom, Canada, and Singapore); databases and search engines.

According to official prescribing information, the use of promethazine is contraindicated in children under two. In contrast, paediatric formularies recommended doses for children less than two under the care of a specialist, or at the discretion of the prescriber. The literature search identified 47 reports of respiratory depression in infants up to two years, 19 of whom died.

Awareness of treatment guidelines and being constantly informed of updated prescribing information are crucial in avoiding treatment errors, especially when prescribing for infants and children. In order to determine how to address this issue, there is a need to understand the reasons for prescribing or recommending this product for this age group in Samoa.

Keywords: promethazine, children under two years old, respiratory depression



BRADLEY WATSON

Bradley is of Samoan and European descent and holds Master of Arts in English and Bachelor of Laws degrees, both of which he completed in 2013. Bradley's research interests include Pacific literature and poetry, Postcolonialism, identity politics, cross-cultural and cross-media texts, law and literature, and legal matters relating to indigenous communities.

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RENEGOTIATING STEREOTYPES: REPRESENTATIONS OF THE PACIFIC WOMAN IN SELINA TUSITALA MARSH'S AND TUSIATA AVIA'S POETRY

Bradley Watson

How do cultural stereotypes change? The thesis addresses this question by examining how repetition and reiteration of cultural stereotypes in Selina Tusitala Marsh's and Tusiata Avia's poetry enable cultural stereotypes of the Pacific woman's body to be reframed. Recognising developments in technology and art, the stereotypes of the Pacific have undergone many permutations. In order to shift these permutations, the thesis argues Marsh and Avia must respond by considering content, form, context, and media, as all these elements shape the production, iteration and transformation of identities. The thesis examines how each poet employs strategies of curatorship and performance in attempt to circumvent colonial, as well as Pacific, stereotypes. By adopting stereotypes into their poetry by engaging with the imagined intimacy of the Pacific, physical images, and multimedia, the poets begin to shift the assumedly fixed perceptions of the Pacific woman and her body.

The thesis demonstrates how such adoption of these cultural constructions inevitably risks the continued perpetuation of the stereotypes the poets are trying to break away from. This risk, however, is an unavoidable product of engaging with stereotypes. The thesis concludes that although Marsh and Avia sometimes repeat rather than reframe the cultural stereotypes of the Pacific woman and her body, their multifaceted approach through content, form, and media enables the necessary break away from constructions founded in the past. Furthermore, the thesis looks at the wider implications of the stereotype and considers whether the stereotype can be more than simply a pernicious concept.

Keywords: Pacific poetry, stereotypes, cultural identities, multimedia texts

FAAFETAI TELE LAVA

The Pacific Postgraduate Reference Group was established in late 2002 to support our research students via monthly seminars and meetings – to be a place where they could bring their frustrations and ideas, seek support from one another and offer support too. This concept led to the idea of an annual symposium and the birth of *Pacific Voices*. The first symposium was held in 2004.

The 11th Symposium, like those in previous years, has come together through the hard work of many people who gave their time, intellect and experience to ensure that our students' voices are heard. This group continues to grow and become a home to postgrad students going through the early stages of doing research and starting postgrad studies. There is more that needs to be done; Pacific students need to go on to higher degrees and this is one way of assisting them to get there. I am however encouraged by the growth of similar support being established within the departments and nationwide through the Talanoa programme.

I would like to pay tribute to our editorial team, Dr Claire Matthewson, Dr Mele Taumoepeau, and Dr Nanai Iati Iati. The editorial team, together with Dr Alumita Durutalo, provided leadership and guidance throughout the year as our monthly seminar chairs. I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support from the University management every year and especially through taking part in our Symposium, cheering our students on by chairing various parts of the programme. Thank you – to Professor Rachel Spronken-Smith, for once again writing the Foreword to the *Pacific Voices* publication; to Professor Richard Blaikie, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise), for providing this year's Opening Address; to Karyn Thomson, Director, Students Services, for her support and introducing our Opening speaker; and to our Symposium Chairs: Professor Brian Moloughney (Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Humanities), Professor Keith Hunter (Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Sciences), and Dr Charles Tustin (Head, Abbey College) – *Faafetai tele lava*.

Most of all, to the Stars – our students – Thank You.

Tofilau Nina Kirifi-Alai
Manager
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APPENDIX

Introduction to *Pacific Voices X*

September 2013

Professor Harlene Hayne

Vice-Chancellor

The role of New Zealand in the Pacific region is an important one. Earlier this year, almost 70 MPs and political leaders from across the Pacific participated in the inaugural Pacific Parliamentary and Political Leaders Forum held in Wellington. The goal of the forum was to promote stronger governance, cooperation and political cohesion amongst new and emerging political leaders from the Pacific region and to strengthen relations with NZ parliamentarians.

The Forum concluded with a Call for Action for governments in the Pacific region to do a number of things including:

1. Adopt strategies to meet the challenges arising from climate change.
2. Prioritise primary healthcare, health promotion and disease prevention.

I have singled out these two initiatives from the larger list because, in order to make progress in these areas, additional research is required. A number of our academic and research programmes are making important contributions to understanding climate change in this part of the world and to increasing the health of Pacific Peoples, both here in New Zealand and the other Pacific nations. In addition to these specific research initiatives, 12 different academic programmes at Otago have a strong Pacific focus and at least 18 of our research leaders have interests in some area of research related to the Pacific. Finally, this year, the focus of the 48th University of Otago Foreign Policy School was Pacific Geopolitics in the 21st Century. In short, across all our academic divisions, through our teaching and research, we are making important contributions to the Pacific.

As a nation, New Zealand is increasingly defining itself in terms of its location in the Pacific region. As a University, Otago warmly embraces all the opportunities that come with this evolving definition. Today, the students who will participate in the Pacific Voices Symposium will make their own valuable contribution to our collective aspirations. I wish you the best of luck for a stimulating and engaging symposium.

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