



UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO
PACIFIC ISLANDS CENTRE

Pacific Voices VII

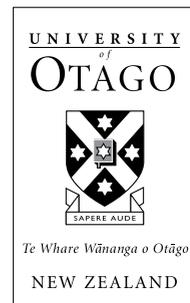
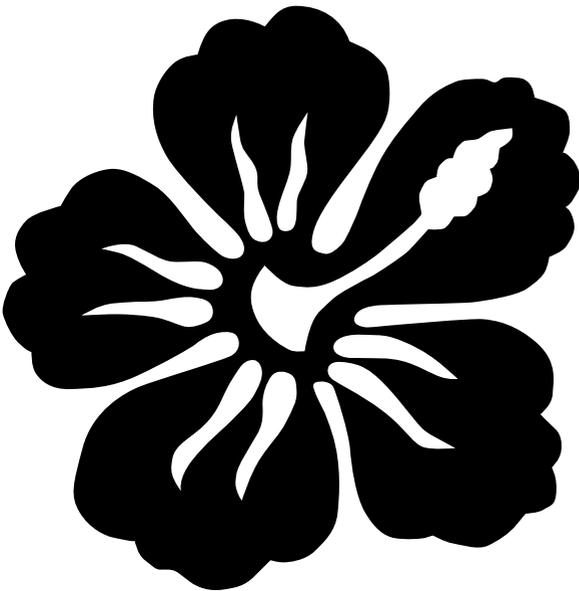
PACIFIC POSTGRADUATE SYMPOSIUM
1 OCTOBER 2010

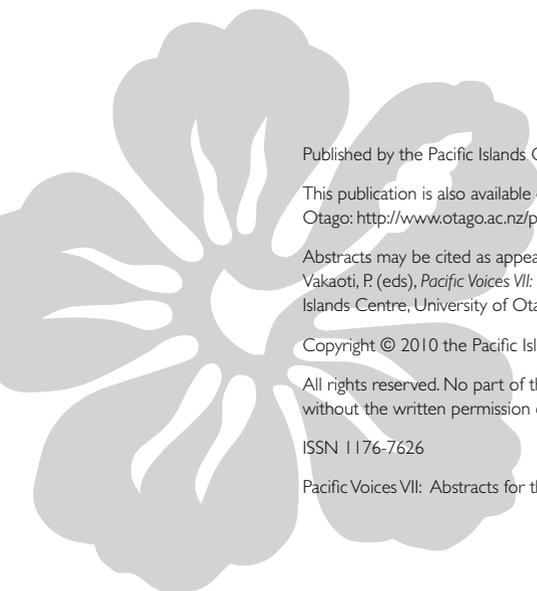


Pacific Voices VII

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Pacific Voices VII: Abstracts for the Pacific Postgraduate Symposium

FOREWORD

Welcome to *Pacific Voices VII*. It is indeed a great pleasure and an honour to have again been invited to write the Foreword to this publication.

Pacific Voices has been clearly cemented as a firm and solid institution in the history of graduate research or thesis study at the University of Otago. It has indeed become a “gift to be cherished” as anticipated by Tofilau Nina Kirifi-Alai* when *Pacific Voices* was initiated in 2004.

The University’s graduate research students are incredibly valuable to the institution. They push the boundaries of new knowledge, they bring new ideas, they are creative, energetic and enthusiastic, and they contribute hugely to Otago’s research efforts and culture. Without them, and their supervisors, this University would not be the same.

As well as being New Zealand’s top ranked university for research, Otago has the highest proportion of postgraduate research students of any university in the country. This means that these students are part of a vibrant and high quality research culture and community comprising people from all over New Zealand and the world. And of course the Pacific community plays a very special role in Otago’s research endeavours.

Well done to all whose work appears in the following pages and who will be presenting at the Pacific Postgraduate Symposium. Your research is impressive and inspiring. The University is proud of you and the unique, substantial and enthusiastic contribution that you make not only to the research endeavours of this University but also to the wider society and your own communities.

A very special thank you to Tofilau Nina Kirifi-Alai, Drs Mele Taumoepeau, Claire Matthewson, Greg Burnett and Patrick Vakaoti for the unfailing energy, enthusiasm and hard work that they have put into *Pacific Voices VII*.

Dr Charles Tustin

Director, Graduate Research Services



* Nina wrote in the first edition (2004) of *Pacific Voices*: “I am sure that the beautiful aria and tenor of ‘Pacific Voices’ will resonate for many moons to come, a poem in their own right: a gift to be cherished.”

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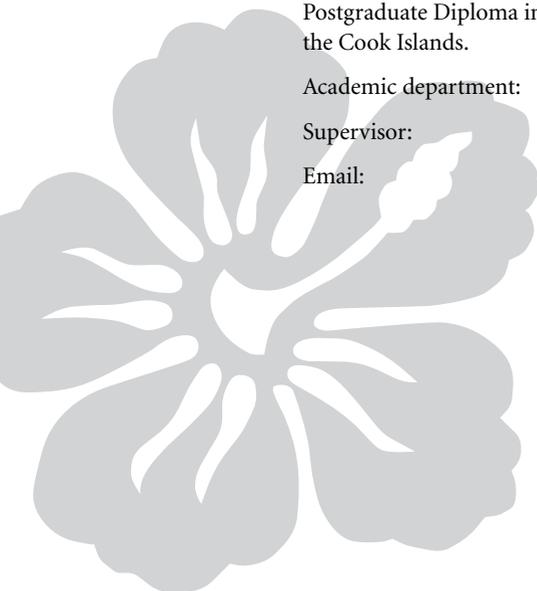
DANNY AREAI

Danny was born and raised in Mangaia, Cook Islands. In 1996, he began his tertiary education journey, completing his Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) from the Fiji School of Medicine in 2000. He returned to his home country where he worked as dentist mostly out in remote communities. In 2007, he had responsibility for training local Primary Oral Health Care practitioners to serve in remote communities, before undertaking postgraduate studies in 2008. In 2009, Danny graduated with a Master of Dental Surgery (MDS) in General Dental Practice from Otago. He is currently completing a Postgraduate Diploma in Community Dentistry before returning to the Cook Islands.

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SELF-REPORTED ORAL HEALTH, DENTAL SELF-CARE AND DENTAL SERVICE-USE AMONG NEW ZEALAND ADOLESCENTS

Danny Areai

The aim of this study was to determine if inequalities existed in adolescents' self-care, dental pain experiences, past restorative treatment and tooth loss by deprivation status and ethnicity and also to determine if inequities were detectable in adolescents' use of dental services by deprivation status and ethnicity.

This study analysed the cross-sectional Youth 07: National Survey of the Health and Wellbeing of New Zealand Secondary School Students. Approximately 10,000 secondary school students aged 13-17 years from 100 secondary schools across New Zealand were invited to participate in this study. Self-reported oral health care utilisation, past dental experiences, dental visit patterns and self-care practice data were obtained using six global oral health quality of life measures. New Zealand Deprivation Index 2006 was used to determine deprivation levels. All data analyses were performed using the Stata statistical software package.¹

Significant ethnic, deprivation level and general health differences were noted for all oral health issues measured. Māori and Pacific Island adolescents were less likely to visit the dentist for routine check ups, attend for treatment (utilise dental services) and brush their teeth. They were highly likely to experience dental pain, however, and were symptom driven oral health care users. A similar pattern was observed with increasing deprivation level and worsening general health status. After adjusting for sex, ethnicity, deprivation levels, location and general health status, these associations persisted.

In summary, Oral Health disparity is evident among adolescents with strong ethnic, deprivation level and general health status links.

Key words: adolescents, inequalities, oral health, New Zealand

¹ StataCorp LP, Texas, USA



MARGARET MAY BAEKALIA

Margaret is from Solomon Islands. After completing a Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology from the Fiji School of Medicine, Margaret worked as a medical technologist (1994 – 2000). Following her BSc in Biochemistry and Microbiology from Otago, she was medical laboratory manager/microbiologist for Medical Services (2005 – 2008). Margaret completed a PGDipSci in 2009 and is now working towards a Master of Science degree.

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ASSESSING VAGINAL SMEARS FROM SOLOMON ISLANDS FOR BACTERIAL VAGINOSIS BY NUGENT SCORE METHOD

Margaret May Baekalia

Bacterial vaginosis (BV) is a synergistic, polymicrobial syndrome due to complex alteration of the vaginal flora, characterised by reduction or loss of the normal dominant hydrogen-peroxide producing lactobacilli resulting in increased growth of vaginal anaerobes. BV accounts for 40-50% of asymptomatic vaginal discharge in childbearing age women with variation in prevalence rates of different ethnic populations being studied.¹ BV is associated with increased risk of acquiring other sexually transmitted infections (STI) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).² Women with BV during pregnancy have increased risks of several pathological conditions and complications.^{3,4}

BV is not routinely investigated in association with other common STI by medical laboratories in Solomon Islands. Also, inclusion of multiple antibiotics in the STI treatment protocol to treat vaginal discharges, irrespective of confirmed laboratory diagnosis, is a common practice by clinicians, which may lead to increased BV in women prescribed antibiotics.

A retrospective assessment of one hundred and four (104) Gram stained vaginal smears received from two medical laboratories in Solomon Islands was carried out to investigate the prevalence of BV based on the Nugent score method. The findings that 65.4% of the slides showed BV, 22.1% intermediate microflora and 12.5%, normal microflora, indicated a high prevalence of BV being undiagnosed by the laboratories.

Therefore, introduction of the Nugent score method into the laboratory protocol is highly recommended to diagnose and elucidate the presence of BV, which will enable clinicians in Solomon Islands to optimise treatment.

Key words: bacterial vaginosis (BV), Nugent score, sexually transmitted infections (STI)

- ¹ Wang, J. (2000). Bacterial vaginosis. Prim care update. *Ob. Gyns.* 7: 181-185.
- ² Martin H L, Richardson B A, Nyange P M, Lavreys L, Hillier S L, Chohan B, Mandaliya K, Ndinya-Achola J O, Bwayo J, Kreiss J, (1999). Vaginal lactobacilli, microbial flora, and risk of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 and sexually transmitted disease acquisition. *J. Infect. Dis;* 180:1863–8.
- ³ Tolosa J E, Chaithongwongwatthana S, Daly S, Maw W W, Gaita´n H, Lumbiganon P. (2006). The International Infections in Pregnancy (IIP) study: variations in the prevalence of bacterial vaginosis and distribution of morphotypes in vaginal smears among pregnant women. *Am J Obstet Gynecol;* 195:1198-204.
- ⁴ Romero R, Espinoza J, Goncalves L F, Kusanovic J P, Friel L A, Nien J K. (2006). Inflammation in preterm and term labour and delivery. *Semin Neonat Med;* 11: 317-326.



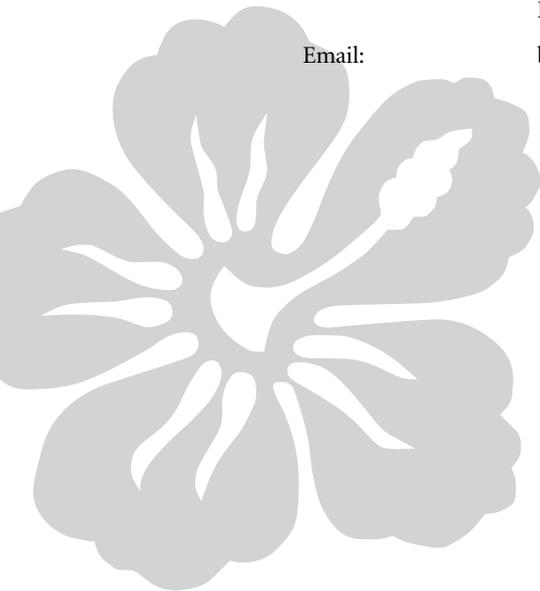
ROCHELLE BAILEY

Rochelle received her Master of Arts degree in Anthropology with Distinction in 2009 from the University of Canterbury, where she was involved with the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies. She is currently a PhD candidate in Anthropology at Otago, investigating the social effects of the Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme.

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UNFREE LABOUR? NI-VANUATU WORKERS IN NEW ZEALAND'S RECOGNISED SEASONAL EMPLOYER (RSE) SCHEME

Rochelle Bailey

In 2007 New Zealand introduced the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Scheme. The objectives of this policy were twofold: to fill labour gaps in the horticulture and viticulture industries and to promote economic development in Pacific Island states by prioritising workers from the region.

For this scheme to be successful for the New Zealand government, it needs to meet these policy objectives of supplying reliable labour to the industries and increasing economic development in the Pacific. For Pacific Island states, success depends on the continuity of the scheme and the remittances that workers will send home to aid economic development. For the industries, success comes from having a dependable and controllable labour force. Success for the workers in the scheme relies on them making as much money as possible during the season to meet their goals of financing family and community needs.

In order to achieve all of these various successes workers are made unfree. Unfreedom means that the workers have no freedom in the labour market and are restricted to working for the grower stipulated in the employment contract. Conditions of employment contracts, visa regulations and informal pressures to be 'good' men both at work and in free time – from the Vanuatu government, their home communities and industry participants – all work to limit the men's freedom. This is entrenched largely through threats of being sent home or blacklisted from the scheme.

This research was undertaken in Central Otago between 2007 and 2008 with 22 workers from Vanuatu.

Key words: unfree, labour, success, Ni-Vanuatu



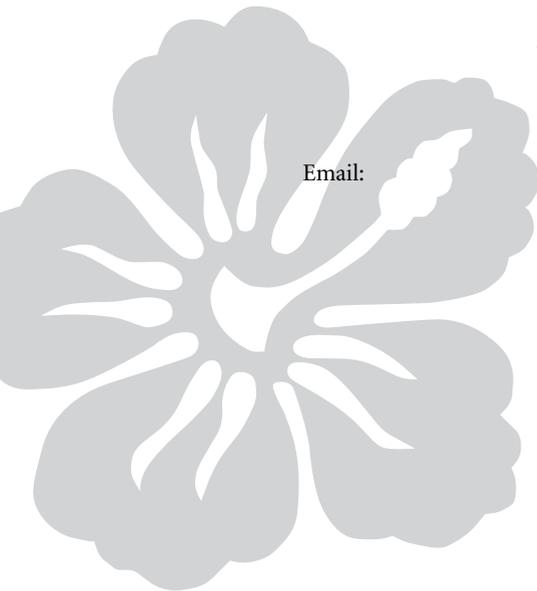
TUI NICOLA CLERY

Tui is a second-year PhD candidate in Pacific Studies. She holds a BA(Hons) in Social Anthropology and Study of Religions, from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London. Tui completed her MA in Pacific Studies at the University of the South Pacific, Suva.

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THE ART OF PEACE OF PEACE: TOWARDS AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PEACE AND PERFORMANCE IN FIJI

Tui Clery

Academic discussion of peace and conflict in Fiji focuses predominantly on legal, racial and political understandings. There is a need for more holistic, grounded and embodied understandings of how peace is lived, constructed, performed and negotiated in the everyday lives of people.

This research will use Talanoa and Tiko¹ to consider how artists and organisations are using the arts as a form of activism and pedagogy in contemporary Fiji. I will consider how creative approaches such as theatre, song, dance, creative writing, visual arts and poetry are being used to communicate messages, as research tools, and to build cultures of peace. My research explores how the arts, and particularly theatre, are being used as tools to support dialogue and social change – hoping to educate and engage people in ways that are meaningful to them, and helping to build peace within individuals, families, communities and the nation.

Performances can create ‘safe’ spaces, facilitating dialogue between people who are marginalised or who might not usually come together, to share experiences. Within playful performance spaces, hierarchies and boundaries are temporarily blurred, thus transforming space and time² and allowing people whose stories may have been silenced to be heard. The thesis responds to the need to find more creative ways to encourage dialogue *between* and *within* Fiji’s diverse communities.³

Performances by the NGO *Women’s Action for Change*, which has used participatory theatre processes to build peace in Fiji’s communities since 1996,⁴ will be presented as a case study within the research.

Key words: peace, performance, Fiji

¹ Nabobo-Baba, U (2006) *Knowing and Learning: An Indigenous Fijian Approach*. Institute of Pacific Studies, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji.

² Māhina, O (2004) ‘Art as tā-vā time-space transformation’ in: Baba, T, Māhina, O, Williams, N and Nabobo-Baba, U (Eds) (2004) *Researching Pacific and Indigenous Peoples: Issues and Perspectives*. Centre for Pacific Studies. The University of Auckland.

³ Madraiwiwi, Ratu Joni (2008) *A Personal Perspective: The Speeches of Joni Madraiwiwi*. IPS Publications, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji. Rakuita, T (2007) *Living by Bread Alone: Contemporary Challenges Associated with Identity and Belongingness in Fiji*. Research Commissioned by the Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy. ECREA, Suva, Fiji Islands. Hau’ofa, Epeli (2008) *We are the Ocean – Selected Works*. University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu.

⁴ Moore, P (2003) ‘rehabilitation for change in Fiji: a women’s initiative’ in: Dinnen, S with Jowlitt, A and Newton Cain, T (Eds) (2003) *a kind of mending: restorative justice in the pacific islands*. Pandanus Books. Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, The Australian National University.



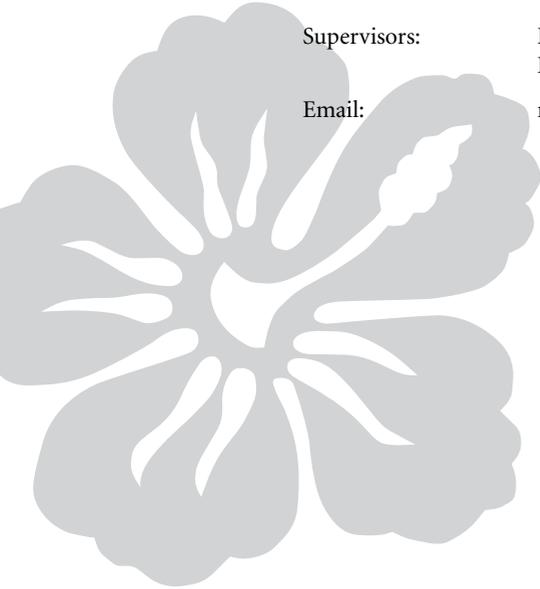
RADI LAITE DELAIBATI KI

Radi Laite is originally from Fiji. She has a BSc, majoring in Anatomy and Structural Biology, and a Diploma in Public Health. She has just recently completed a Master of Public Health with Credit at the University of Otago. She currently works at the University of Otago's Department of Preventive and Social Medicine as a research assistant. Her research interests lie in the area of Pacific reproductive health and maternal health.

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ASSESSING THE ADEQUACY OF EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC CARE AND FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES IN FIJI'S CENTRAL DIVISION

Radi Laite Delaibatiki

Emergency obstetric care (EmOC) and family planning (fp) have been identified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other international health agencies as key areas where high quality services have the potential to reduce maternal mortality.¹ In Fiji, while maternal mortality reduced between 1995 and 2007, the level has increased in the last three years.²

This study aimed to assess the adequacy of EmOC/fp services in Fiji's Central Division. In doing so, it adopted a WHO/UNFPA³ questionnaire to gather information from participants in nine health facilities about EmOC/fp services provided. In addition, semi-structured interviews were held with key informants to identify other services and barriers to service delivery.

The study found that the emergency obstetric care services in Fiji's Central Division did not meet all of the relevant international standards. Factors affecting access were reported to be distance costs and a lack of human resources, supplies and medication. For family planning, factors affecting availability, access and quality were reported to be cost, social/cultural and religious factors, lack of supplies, medication, equipment and personnel, and a lack of awareness. These barriers need to be addressed to reduce maternal mortality and improve maternal health in Fiji's Central Division.

Key words: maternal health, emergency obstetric care, family planning

¹ WHO, Mother-Baby Package: Implementing safe motherhood in countries. 1996.

² Fong James. (2003) *A Review of Maternal Mortality Surveillance in Fiji*. Fiji School of Medicine. p. 1-14.

³ World Health Organisation/United Nations Population Fund



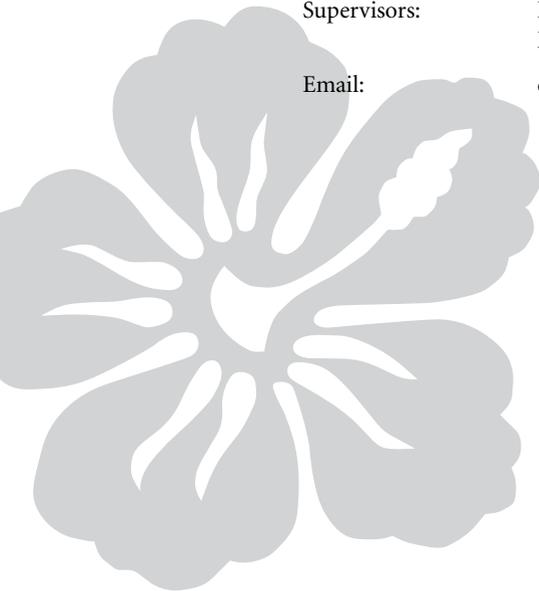
MARSA DODSON

Marsa received a BA in Law and Justice in 1992, a Master's degree in Social Work in 2001 and a PhD in 2010 in the field of Anthropology, Social Work and Māori Studies. Now Marsa is pursuing her second PhD at the University of Otago, this time with the Department of History. Her research explores the social influence of World War II through the oral histories of the adult children of Cook Islands women and US servicemen

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MIXED BLESSINGS: THE LIFE STORIES OF WAR CHILDREN BORN TO US SERVICEMEN AND COOK ISLANDS WOMEN

Marsa Dodson

WWII effected much change with the arrival of two million servicemen to island nations of the Pacific. The United States military built and maintained airbases on Aitutaki and Penrhyn in the Cook Islands as part of a support network for the Allied troops in the Pacific. As part of the 'war effort' in New Zealand, young women left the Cook Islands and were employed in munitions and other factories. Within these settings developed more than 50 liaisons that produced children.

In an attempt to explore the history and dynamics of these relationships, the thesis asks the following questions: What were the long-term effects of the temporary military men on the small island populations? What happened to the progeny born to these young parents who were in stable relationships but unable to marry because of US military policy at that time, which forbade formalised unions with the islanders?

Presently I have interviewed 16 of the adult children and one mother. I am learning what the lives of the children were like over time and how being fathered by American servicemen influenced them and the nature of their interaction with extended families and friends. Additional themes were shared including the gender dimensions of this existence; the ideals and the inconsistencies in experiences and how having mixed parentage influences identity in a culture where lineage is closely tied to identity and birth entitlements. This research illustrates the social influence of war with contemporary voices that reveal mixed blessings.

Key words: World War II, US servicemen, Cook Islands women and children



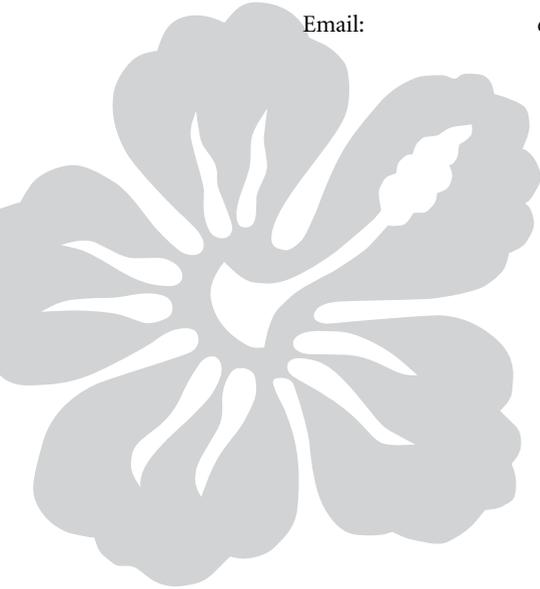
ESMAY ETEUATI

Esmay is of Samoan descent. She was born in Wellington but was raised in Dunedin. She has a Diploma in Primary Teaching and a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Otago. She has lived and worked in Samoa for 13 years, having returned to Otago in 2009 to undertake further studies.

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“E TE SAU MA OU FA’ANUSILA NA... YOU BRING WITH YOU YOUR NEW ZEALAND WAYS”: ROOTS MIGRATION AND ITS IMPACT ON SAMOAN IDENTITY AFFIRMATIONS

Esmay Eteuati

Much has been written on migration in terms of the experiences of first generation Samoan migrants to Aotearoa.¹ However, little information is available about second generation migrants who return to live in their parents’ homeland – Samoa. This research will reflect on the different identities and journeys of first and second generation migrants.

Qualitative interviews form the basis of my narrative research methodology. I will record oral histories of my family and reflect on my own *her-story*.² I will reflect upon my family’s stories in relation to the general literature on Pacific Islanders’ experiences of migration to Aotearoa and the impacts on their sense of identity.

The narrative at the core of this research is my own story of returning to Samoa to trace my roots. This research contributes a personal second generation perspective on the experiences of roots migration back to Samoa, in terms of affirming and re-affirming my identity as a Samoan after 26 years of living in Aotearoa. This research considers how the narratives about my identity constructed by friends and relatives on my return to Samoa affected my identity.

Key words: migration, reverse migration, identity, Samoa

¹ Aotearoa; Māori word for New Zealand

² *her-story*: a personal female narrative account



ALLAMANDA FAAPEA FAATOESE

Allamanda is a PhD candidate at the University of Otago, Christchurch. A New Zealand born Samoan, she graduated with her BSc degree in Biochemistry at Otago. She had seven years' working-experience in microbiology laboratories in Dunedin and Wellington before embarking on postgraduate studies with the Cardioendocrine Research Group. The research described in the abstract was funded by the Health Research Council and the National Heart Foundation of New Zealand.

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¹ Ajwani et al. 2003. *Decades of disparity: Ethnic mortality trends in New Zealand 1980-1999*. Wellington: Ministry of Health and University of Otago.

² Ministry of Health. 2008. *A Portrait of Health. Key Results of the 2006/07 New Zealand Health Survey*. Wellington: Ministry of Health.

³ Robson B, Harris R. (eds). 2007. *Hauora: Māori Standards of Health IV. A Study of the Years 2000-2005*. Wellington: Te Ropu Rangahau Hauora a Eru Pomare.

A COMPARISON OF METABOLIC RISK PROFILES AMONG RURAL AND URBAN MĀORI IN NEW ZEALAND

Allamanda Faatoese, Suzanne Pitama, Matea Gillies, Tania Huria, Paul Robertson, Rob Doughty, Gillian Whalley, Mark Richards, Richard Troughton, Elisabeth Wells, Ian Sheerin, Vicky A Cameron

In New Zealand cardiovascular disease (CVD) mortality and morbidity rates, particularly Type 2 diabetes (T2DM), are highest among Māori.^{1,2,3} To understand this, the Hauora Manawa/Community Heart Study was designed to document levels of CVD and risk factors within two diverse Māori groups and an age- and gender-matched urban non-Māori cohort. This abstract focuses on data from the Māori communities.

Participants who self-identified with Māori ethnicity, aged 20 – 64 years, were randomly selected from the New Zealand electoral roll from a rural Māori and an urban Māori community. All received comprehensive cardiovascular risk screening tests. Previous diagnoses at screening were verified by primary health care practitioners.

Results showed that rural Māori had higher levels of cardiovascular risk factors, particularly BMI, current smoking, previously diagnosed T2DM, hypertension and dyslipidaemia. Similar levels of previously diagnosed CVD and physical activity were reported for both communities.

Insulin resistance (IR) was estimated using several methods. Rural Māori had significantly higher proportions of those with Metabolic Syndrome, while urban Māori had higher IR using the HOMA-IR algorithm. No differences were observed in levels of Impaired Fasting Glucose (glucose 6.1 – 6.9 mmol/L) and IR by the MacAuley formula. Levels of HBA1c ($6.3 \pm 0.08\%$ vs $5.4 \pm 0.05\%$, $p < 0.001$) and fasting insulin ($72.2 \pm 4.1 \mu\text{U/mL}$ vs $52.6 \pm 3.5 \mu\text{U/mL}$, $p < 0.001$) remained significantly higher in rural Maori after adjusting for age, BMI, smoking, previously diagnosed T2DM and antihyperglycaemic treatment.

This study highlights that rural Māori carry a greater metabolic burden than urban Māori. There is a need for increased opportunistic screening and management of these cardiovascular morbidities to reduce the health burden for this indigenous population.

Key words: Māori, cardiovascular disease, metabolic burden



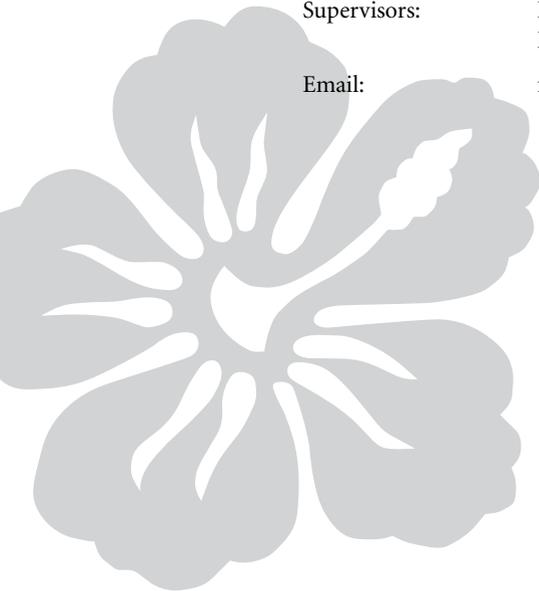
FRED GIBSON

Fred joined the Masters programme in March 2010, after completing his Honours degree in Economics at the University of Otago in 2009 (for which he was awarded the University of Otago Pacific Peoples' Final Year Achievement Prize – Commerce). He is undertaking a Master of Commerce degree by thesis and is currently looking into the asymmetric response of the price level in Fiji to monetary policy shocks.

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THE ASYMMETRIC RESPONSE OF THE PRICE LEVEL TO MONETARY SHOCKS IN FIJI

Fred Gibson

Monetary policy within a country can often be viewed as a currency union that encompasses the different regions within that particular country. Consequently, these regions may respond asymmetrically to monetary shocks and policies that the central bank imposes on the entire economy.

This study uses the *narrative* methodology to ascertain potential monetary shocks that affected the Fijian economy between 2004 and 2009. Under the narrative methodology, a monetary shock is said to have occurred if the expected interest rate, differs from what is actually set at the central bank board meetings.¹ The resulting monetary shocks will then be applied to the individual price series of the various commodities in the Northern, Eastern and Central regions of Fiji to gauge if the responses of prices across these regions are indeed asymmetric.

It is intended that the findings of this study could potentially be used by the Reserve Bank of Fiji (RBF) to address the potential asymmetries that monetary policy imposes in Fiji.

Key words: monetary policy shocks, inflation, Fiji

¹ The interest rate is the primary monetary policy instrument in Fiji and was known as the Policy indicator rate during the period of this study and is what the RBF uses to control the economy; it is similar to the OCR in New Zealand and Australia.



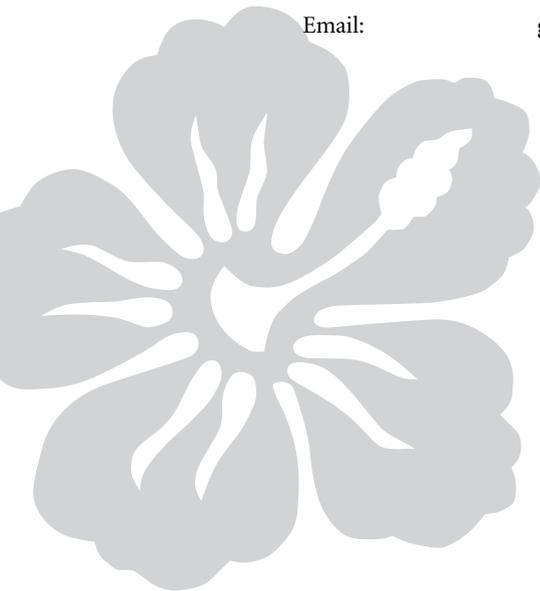
SETH GORRIE

Seth is of Samoan descent. He was born and educated in Christchurch. He was drawn to Dunedin as an inaugural recipient of the University of Otago Māori and Pacific Island Entrance Scholarship in 2006. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography from the University of Otago and is currently working towards a MSc in Geography.

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RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN THE PACIFIC: UNTANGLING THE SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL PARAMETERS OF SUCCESS

Seth Gorrie

My proposed research intends to evaluate critically the “overwhelming complexity”¹ of renewable energy development in Pacific Island Countries (PICs). Attempts at initial renewable energy systems in PICs were made in the 1980s; however, these have largely failed to develop into successful alternative forms of energy generation. Activities over the past decade continue to be problematic and long-term success remains elusive today. I assert that the evaluation of renewable energy systems is critically important and suggest that there is need to analyse such systems in order to untangle the scientific and cultural parameters that determine whether they can be defined as a success.

The aim of this research is to investigate how successfully a biomass gasification system can be redefined by attending to both scientific and cultural dimensions. As a result the research will adopt a mixed-method approach to data collection and analysis. The study will be conducted alongside Samoa’s Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), which is responsible for implementing the proposed biomass gasification systems. At this preliminary stage the specific study location is yet to be confirmed. The presentation will conclude by drawing on failed renewable energy developments to explain the importance of this research in addressing current energy debates in PICs.

Key words: renewable energy, development, Pacific, success

¹ Woods J, Hemstock S, Burnyeat W. (2006). Bioenergy systems at the community level in the South Pacific: Impacts and Monitoring. *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change*, 11: 469-500.



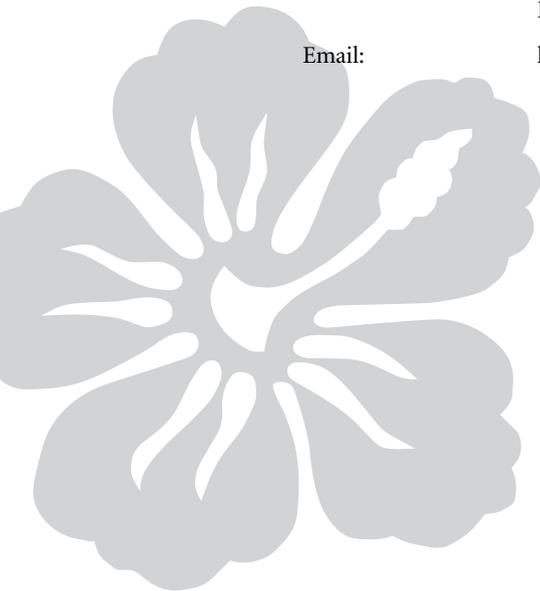
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HALAU EDUCATION: A REVIEW OF HULA, HAKA AND SIVA EDUCATION STRATEGIES IN HAWAII AND NEW ZEALAND

Mara Kawehiwehi Hosoda

The primary objective of this research is to place the pedagogies and practices of Hālau Hula O Maiki, as expressed by a number of *hālau* students, in the context of Hawaiian education. The research begins by reviewing the pre-contact, colonial and indigenous education movements in Hawai'i mainstream public schools. It then places *hālau*, *hula* schools, and Hālau Hula O Maiki in particular within the Hawaiian education context.

Generally *hālau* are characterised as emerging from the Hawaiian Renaissance period. While *hālau* gained popular public recognition during the Hawaiian Renaissance, they nevertheless always were valued and cherished by the Hawaiian people as a source of education and way of knowing from earliest times.

This research places the author's experience in Hālau Hula O Maiki in relation to other students' experiences in *hula*, *kapa haka*, and *siva*. It utilises the Hawaiian epistemological themes of spirituality, relationships, nature of senses, utility and discipline¹ to organise, compare, and analyse the anti-colonial pedagogies and practices of Hālau Hula O Maiki relative to others. *Hula* always was and continues to be a traditional and contemporary form of education that teaches the student more than mere physical dance movement.

Key words: epistemology, hula, pedagogy, Hawaii

¹ Meyer, Manulani Aluli. (2003) *Ho'oulu Our Time of Becoming: Hawaiian Epistemology and Early Writings*. Honolulu, Hawai'i: 'Ai Pōhaku Press Native Books.



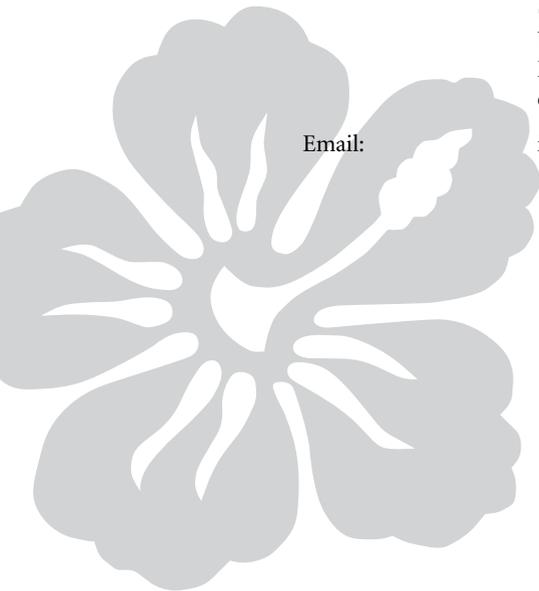
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IS PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS A RISK FACTOR FOR SUBSEQUENT TOBACCO,ALCOHOL,AND CANNABIS CONSUMPTION?

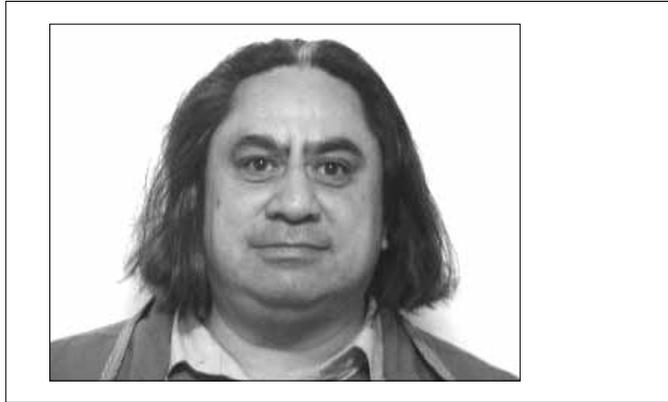
Ella Iosua

In both developed and developing countries, involvement in paid employment by school-aged children is a common and often recommended activity.¹ Consequently, there has been considerable interest in assessing the potential long-term effects associated with such participation. The literature is conflicting, however. Many researchers assert that adolescent employment increases the risk of deviant behaviours,^{2,3,4} whereas other studies fail to demonstrate any evidence for such associations,^{5,6} or find that paid employment corresponds to a reduction in these behaviours.⁷ These issues exemplify the need for further investigation into the effects of school-aged employment, in particular in a New Zealand context.

During the past 20 years there have been extensive advances in the development of statistical methods for the analysis of longitudinal data. Despite this, many researchers still prefer conventional methods, regardless of the inherent model constraints and inferential limitations.⁸ My research will investigate the appropriateness of several modern statistical modelling approaches for longitudinal data, and use selected approaches to analyse data from the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study (DMHDS) to determine whether part-time employment of children and adolescents is associated with the subsequent use of tobacco, alcohol, and cannabis in adulthood.

Key words: statistical analysis of longitudinal data, adolescent employment

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- ⁶ Sabia, J. (2009). School-year employment and academic performance of young adolescents. *Economics of Education Review*, 28(2):268–276.
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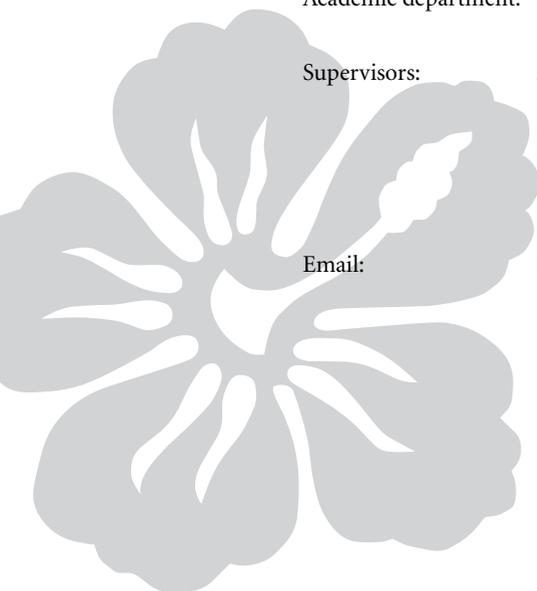
JESSE KOKAUA

Jesse Kokaua lives in Dunedin with his wife and four children. He works as a statistician for the Ministry of Health in the area of Population Health. He was part of the research team for the New Zealand Mental Health Survey (NZMHS), which estimated the prevalence of mental disorder in New Zealand. His PhD uses the NZMHS and the national mental health service database to look at the mental health service use by Cook Islanders and other Pacific peoples living in New Zealand.

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USE OF A HIERARCHICAL BAYES MODEL FOR COMPLEX SURVEYS TO ESTIMATE PREVALENCE OF MENTAL DISORDERS AMONG FOUR ETHNIC GROUPS IN THE RAU HINENGARO: THE NEW ZEALAND MENTAL HEALTH SURVEY

Jesse Kokaua, Elisabeth Wells, Patrick Graham

The objective of this research is to see if precision for estimates of prevalence of mental disorder among Pacific people in the New Zealand Mental Health Survey (NZMHS) can be increased using a hierarchical Bayesian model. The NZMHS is a nationally representative face-to-face household survey, carried out in 2003 – 2004, with a response rate of 73.3%. It surveyed 12,992 New Zealand adults aged 16 and over. It has a complex stratified multilevel sample design that involved over-sampling Māori and Pacific people. In addition, Part 1 of the questionnaire was delivered to all respondents while Part 2 was given to a subsample.

Multiple logistic regression models were used to produce estimates weighted to account for different probabilities of selection and the complex survey design. A hierarchical Bayes model was run in WinBugs and compared to estimates calculated using Taylor Series estimation in SUDAAN. Twelve-month prevalences for mental disorder were calculated for four ethnic groups: Cook Island, Other Pacific, Non Pacific New Zealand Māori and Others. A similar pattern across the four ethnic groups was obtained from both the Hierarchical Bayes model (HB) and SUDAAN.

For most disorder groups the SUDAAN and Hierarchical Bayes models fall within each other's 95% predictive distribution with estimates that are within 1-2% absolute difference. The HB estimates for Anxiety disorder, however, appear to be systematically 1-3% higher than those produced by SUDAAN.

The Hierarchical Bayes models report tighter intervals for the 95% posterior intervals than the 95% confidence intervals calculated using SUDAAN. This is because of the variance reduction that arises from modeling the precision (inverse variances) of each ethnic group so that it can be drawn from a common prior distribution.

Key words: Cook Islanders, mental health, prevalence, logistic regression, Bayesian models



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Willie Lahari is a Papua New Guinean. He has recently submitted his PhD thesis in Economics entitled “The Feasibility for a Pacific Islands Currency Union.” Willie was previously employed as a Statistician with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in Noumea and was employed in the Solomon Islands prior to taking up doctoral studies in 2007.

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EVALUATING BUSINESS CYCLE SYNCHRONISATION – PROSPECTS FOR A PACIFIC ISLANDS CURRENCY UNION

Willie Lahari

This analysis intends to re-ignite the debate for the feasibility of a Pacific Islands currency union. Using newly constructed quarterly GDP series by Lahari, Haug and Garces-Ozanne,^{1,2} this research draws from the Optimal Currency Theory (OCA) framework regarding the nature of shocks, in evaluating the behaviour of business cycles among Pacific Island countries (PICs) – Fiji, PNG, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. A key precondition for a currency union is that business cycles must be synchronised because it is less costly to implement a common union-wide counter-cyclical monetary policy in a currency union when countries experience similar cycles. Three appropriate techniques – namely the Baxter-King³ filter, the Beveridge-Nelson⁴ decomposition following the state-space approach by Morley et al.,⁵ and the common features econometric test by Vahid and Engle⁶ – are used in decomposing the cycles and examining the extent of business cycle synchronisation.

Findings showed that it was not feasible for the PICs as a group to form a currency union. However, further investigation showed that the Melanesian sub-group was ready to enter into a currency union. More effort are needed – in the form of structural adjustment programmes, for instance – to realign and harmonise policies among Melanesian countries. The results for a Melanesian currency union reinforce more than three decades of efforts among the Melanesian countries to foster economic cooperation, trade and cultural relations even prior to the formation of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) in 1993. The recent setting up of the MSG Secretariat in 2008 to coordinate and administer the common policies of MSG countries only strengthens moves towards a formal Melanesian union.

Key words: currency union, business cycles, Pacific Island Countries



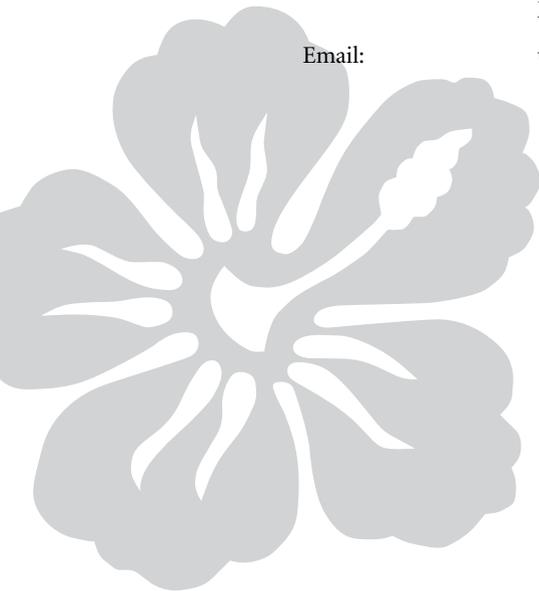
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PACIFIC PERSPECTIVES ON PROMOTING CHILDREN'S HEALTHY EATING

Tolotea S Lanumata

The 2002 Children's Nutrition Survey showed that Pacific children have the highest obesity rates in New Zealand. This research explores the barriers and supports faced by Pacific children of intermediate school age and their parents/caregivers in relation to healthy eating. It is anticipated that this will help identify interventions and policy options to improve nutrition in Pacific children and their families.

The Ministry of Health states that "wider societal, cultural and environmental influences as well as individual behaviours have an impact on what and how much people eat."¹ Research by Jamieson and Koopu on the association between ethnicity and child health in New Zealand shows that a significant numbers of Pacific and Māori children live in large households and come from poor families, factors likely to influence their level of food security and ability to consume a healthy diet.

I will present a summary of the literature in New Zealand and internationally on healthy eating and the barriers and supports faced by Pacific children. In addition, I will outline my research methodology which includes focus groups with intermediate school aged children and parents. In a second phase of the research, key informant interviews will be conducted with Pacific leaders to update them on the research findings and to identify policy options. A draft report will then be presented to Pacific leaders and key stakeholders at a fono to obtain feedback and confirm findings prior to drafting final recommendations. Improving population-level policies could help to manage cardiovascular risks for Pacific children, therefore reducing health inequalities.

Key words: Pacific children, healthy eating

¹ Ministry of Health (2003). *Healthy Eating-Healthy Action Oranga Kai-Oranga Pūmau: A strategic framework*. Wellington, Ministry of Health.



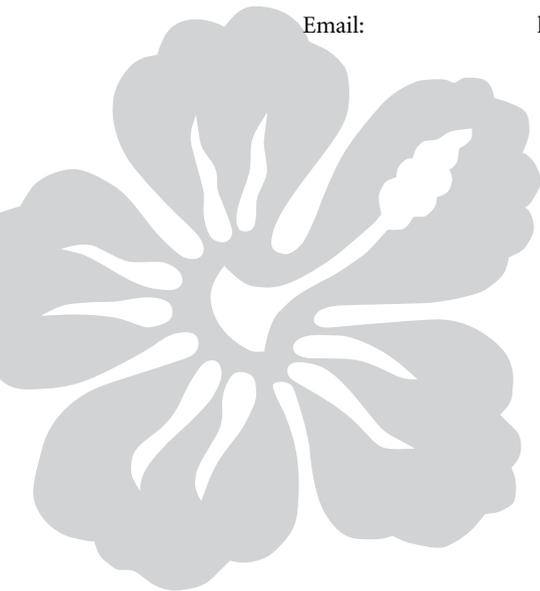
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SOLOMON ISLAND CHILDREN IN SOUTHERN SOUTH ISLAND SCHOOLS: AN EXPLORATION OF PARENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR CHILDREN'S SCHOOLING

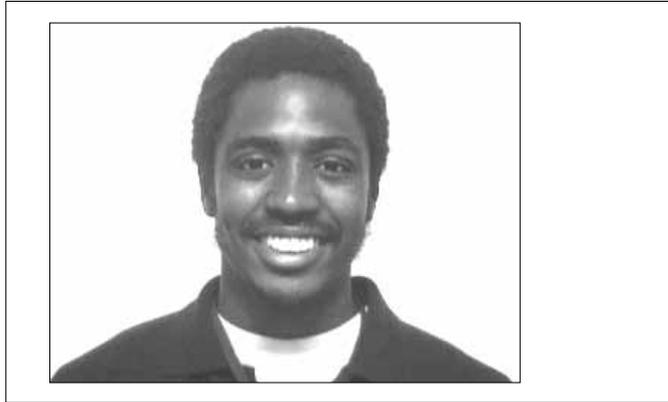
Jullian Fenny Lilo

There has been an increase in the number of Solomon Island families moving to New Zealand on both short-term study and work visas as well as to take up permanent residence. Between 1986 and 1996 Pacific Island people, including Solomon Islanders, in New Zealand have increased by 1.6 percent.¹ More recently, the increase has been greater due to political unrest in Solomon Islands. In terms of overall Pacific migration, however, numbers are small in comparison to other Pacific ethnicities, particularly Polynesian groups. Also, in terms of their South Island destination, Solomon Island families are represented in even smaller numbers still compared to Pacific families who take up residence in North Island metropolitan centres.

The experiences of Solomon Island children in southern New Zealand schools have not been investigated. Anecdotally the small Solomon Island population size would indicate a very unique schooling experience of adjustment and integration into southern New Zealand social life. The purpose of my research is to identify and explore the unique schooling experiences of Solomon Island children in three southern South island metropolitan centres – Christchurch, Dunedin and Invercargill. The experiences of those children who are both Solomon Islands born and recently arrived will be examined as well as the experiences of Solomon Island children who are New Zealand born and have been in the New Zealand schooling system all of their lives.

Key words: Solomon Islands, New Zealand, schooling

¹ Statistics New Zealand 2006 Region-Born Pasifika, Years in NZ Since Arrival at 2001, "table builder" data from 2001 census [accessed 23/2/07 <http://www.stats.govt.nz/default.htm>]



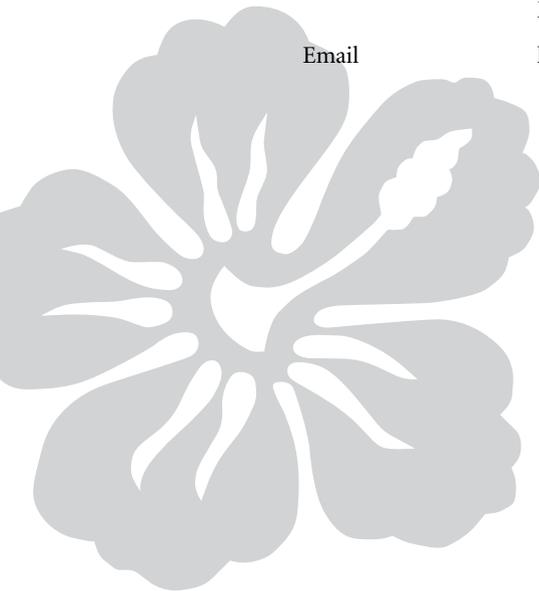
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CLIMATE CHANGE AND TOURISM COMPETITIVENESS IN SMALL ISLANDS: THE ROLE OF TRADE POLICY

Keron Niles

The Caribbean is the most tourism-dependent region in the world.¹ Throughout most of its islands, the tourism sector is the greatest contributor to employment and gross domestic product (GDP). Tourism also provides a healthy source of foreign exchange. Nonetheless, not only are these small island developing states (SIDS) overly reliant on income earned from this sector, but the region is also dependent upon travellers from a limited number of markets.

The following changes can therefore serve to enhance the region's tourism competitiveness in the face of the threat of climate change.

- ~ Enhanced use of climate-friendly goods and services along with increased energy efficiency can reduce costs to proprietors and help make the sector more attractive to environmentally-conscious travellers.
- ~ Trade policies should support the local manufacture of climate-friendly technologies by, *inter alia*, decreasing or removing tariffs on inputs necessary for production and shielding such goods from external competition.
- ~ Policies incentivising the acquisition, application and manufacture of climate-friendly goods are not (in and of themselves) likely to be effective if applied in a vacuum. Tourists and proprietors alike need to be informed of the importance of decreasing their carbon footprint.

This paper argues that increased use of climate-friendly goods, accompanied by public education to reform attitudes and behaviour, can reform energy usage in a way that strengthens tourism competitiveness in all SIDS, including those in the Pacific.

Key words: tourism, climate change, trade

¹ Anthony Clayton, "Climate Change and Tourism: The implications for the Caribbean." Available at www.emeraldinsight.com/1755-4217.htm. Accessed on 18 August 2009.



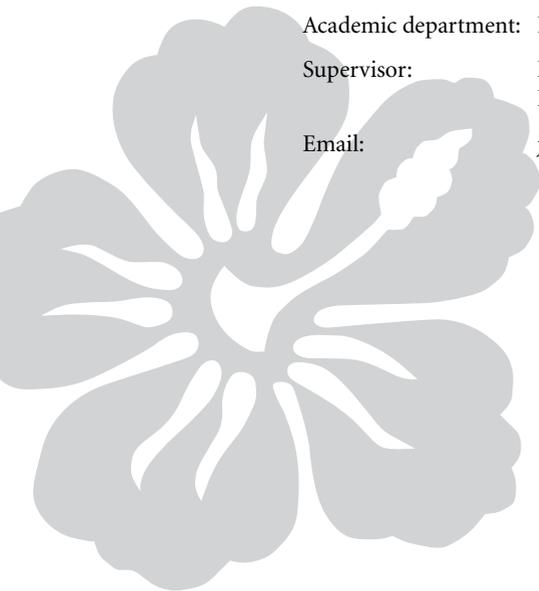
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Joseph was born and raised in Christchurch. He completed his Bachelor of Dentistry Surgery in 2004 and returned to Christchurch where he worked in both the public and private sectors for four years. Currently he is studying towards a doctorate in Clinical Dentistry (DClinDent) in Orthodontics. This is a full time, three-year course, comprising both clinical and research components. Joseph is looking to use this opportunity to relate his research to Pacific oral health. His Samoan ethnicity stems from his father's (Leatuavao) side, from a village called Falesela, Lefaga.

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ASPECTS OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN NEW ZEALAND POLYNESIAN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

Joseph Falaniko Archie Petelo

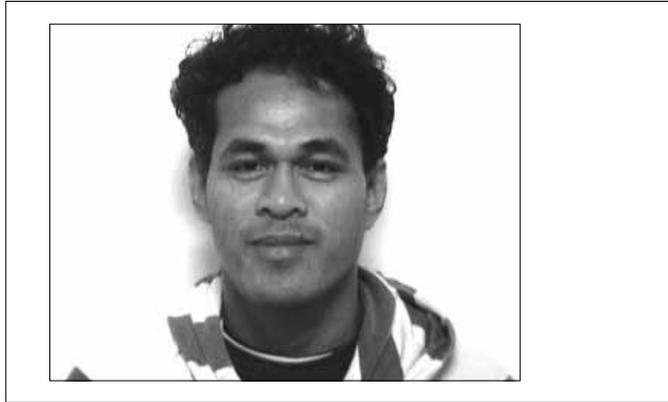
Growth and development standards for children are important in the fields of orthodontics, paediatric dentistry and forensic odontology. Assessment of the chronology of one's development requires normative reference standards so that a given physiological age (e.g., skeletal, dental etc) can be compared to chronological age. Research indicates that much variability exists between different ethnic groups.

This study aims to evaluate intrabony dental development and skeletal maturation in a sample of New Zealand children of Polynesian descent. The two principal questions that will be asked are: first, what is the relationship between chronological age and dental development age and, second, what is the relationship between chronological age and skeletal development in New Zealand Polynesian children and adolescents?

Knowledge of dental and skeletal age plays an important role in the planning of orthodontic treatment such as utilising growth of the patient. It has been suggested that New Zealand Pacific children mature earlier than New Zealand European children.¹ This research is also highly important for forensic science as the estimation of age at time of death is an important step in the identification of human remains. Dental ageing is commonly used to evaluate juvenile or adolescent victims during identification of a body that cannot be identified by other means. This research will provide important information on the dental and skeletal development of a sample of New Zealand Polynesian children and will be of benefit to both the New Zealand orthodontic and forensic professions.

Key words: dental age, forensic odontology, Polynesian

¹ Te Moananui, R., Kieser, J. A., Herbison, P., & Liversidge, H. M. (2008). Advanced dental maturation in New Zealand Māori and Pacific Island children. *American Journal of Human Biology*, 20(1), 43-50. doi: 10.1002/ajhb.20670



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¹ Greenberg, A. (2004). Navigating the Sea of Research on Videoconferencing-based distance Education: A Platform of Understanding research into the Technology's Effectiveness and Value. Wainhouse Research.

² Hills, A. L. (2005). Social Presence and Communication Quality in Video Conferencing. University of Otago,

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INTERACTION AND INTERACTIVITY IN EDUCATIONAL VIDEO CONFERENCING: PROTOTYPICAL IMPLEMENTATION AND EMPIRICAL EVALUATION OF A COMBINED COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION SYSTEM IN THE CONTEXT OF CLASSROOM TEACHING (EDUCATOR – COLLABORATOR)

Hobert Sasa

Video Conferencing Systems (VCS) are known as a set of interactive telecommunication technologies, which allow for real-time communication between two or more geographically separated nodes with both an audio and video stream. Many academic institutions avoid or try to avoid physical travel in favour of VCS technologies. With Video Conferencing, the real-time two-way visual and verbal interaction of the *traditional classroom* could be simulated by technology, creating a *virtual classroom* whose boundaries are limited only by the extent of the video conferencing network.¹ However, compared with real face-to-face conversation, research suggests that communication through conventional video conferencing tools is an artificial experience.²

VCS filter out and distort many of the often unconscious signals that are used in face-to-face situations. These signals include lip reading, body movement and expression, posture, gaze and eye contact. Such signals regulate, maintain and progress verbal and social *interactions* among participants. In addition, VCS generally support the communication aspects of the interactions only, neglecting the collaboration aspect. Collaboration in an educational context is determined by the teaching and learning material used in an interactive way. What is needed is an integration or convergence of the communication and collaboration aspects into one integrated system.³ The Educator-Collaborator approach addresses this goal.

This research will explore and evaluate the critical factors involved in or contributing to maximising and optimising interaction among participants (lecturer and students) using VCS. In doing so, the research will conduct a prototypical implementation and empirical evaluation of a combined collaboration and communication system in the context of classroom teaching and remote access. The degree of interaction among the participants will be explored and evaluated, as well as the degree of interactivity of the proposed system.

This study is both qualitative and quantitative in nature; interviews and questionnaires as well as participant observations and participatory (interactive) methods will be the primary data collection methods. Data will be inductively sorted, coded and analysed in order to identify key themes and meanings.

Key words: video conferencing, communication, collaboration, interaction, interactivity



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THE FORESHORE AND SEABED DEBATE: CONTRASTING VISIONS OF EQUALITY AND RIGHTS

Abby Suszko

I maintain that during the Foreshore and Seabed Debate people made different equality and rights claims, but used very similar terminology. This resulted in people talking past each other and greater misunderstanding. The primary objective of my thesis was to uncover these different equality and rights claims, and to highlight their theoretical underpinnings. I also examined whether they upheld the notion of separate Māori rights to the foreshore and seabed, and their sources.

My method was to uplift the equality and rights claims embedded in four key documents. Together these represented the broad spectrum of views on equality and rights exhibited during the Debate. Additional empirical evidence was then collected and analysed to highlight that these claims represented the majority of claims made.

My secondary objective was to disseminate my findings in order to contribute to discussion about the foundations and legitimacy of Māori rights, and about the contrasting views of equality in this country. I aim to contribute positively to the current Debate by promoting better understanding of the participants' respective positions, and enabling more constructive discussion and dialogue.

My final objective was to identify a shared conceptual foundation for a resolution of the Debate. I show that once the different theories of equality and rights used are identified, an area of shared ground emerges within which solutions can be found. This shared foundation could also be employed to find solutions in other areas of conflict over Māori rights, such as rights to water, riverbeds and national parks.

Key words: Foreshore and Seabed Debate, equality, rights



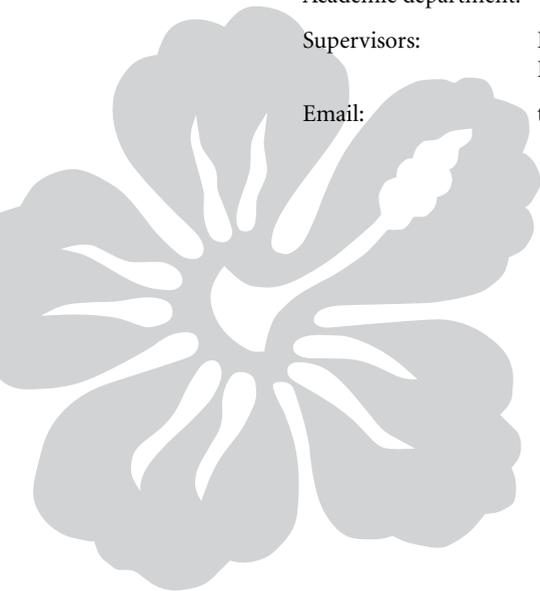
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TOURISM RECOVERY AFTER THE 2009 TSUNAMI IN SAMOA

Tupe Tagomoa-Isara

On 29 September 2010, the 8.3 magnitude earthquake off the southern coast of Samoa in the Pacific Ocean generated massive tsunami waves resulting in severe devastation for many villages and contamination of their coastal areas. The disaster greatly impacted on the tourism infrastructure, economy, environment and psychological state of residents in the affected areas. The aim of this thesis was to examine the recovery of tourism after the September 2009 tsunami with particular focus on its immediate impacts, the emergency responses, issues and challenges arising from the recovery process, and the strategies that tourism operators and relevant organisations are using to recover tourism development.

A qualitative approach was used to accomplish the objectives of the study. Four tourism businesses that were affected in the Safata district were selected for this research. Experiences and views of the affected tourism businesses were presented and analysed through media reports and document review, semi-structured interviews and site observations. Interviews were also carried out with key informants from tourism organisations involved in the tsunami response and recovery efforts.

Results show that there was no disaster plan for the Samoa tourism industry before the tsunami; however, there was an indication of willingness by the affected businesses to develop such a plan for future disasters. Results also show the rapid response of the local communities, government and overseas agencies. This research will help tourism businesses and relevant organisations set strategic actions or procedures towards developing a disaster plan to prepare for and mitigate future disasters.

Key words: tourism recovery, tsunami, Samoa



NĀLANI WILSON

Nālani links her genealogy to the Hawaiian archipelago and Colorado Rocky Mountains of North America. She is of Kanaka Māoli (Native Hawaiian) and European American ancestry and feels a deep affiliation to both of her homelands. Nālani is a mother to her daughter, Kalikookalani, and a surfer when time allows!

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¹ Kame'ele'ihiwa, L. (1999). *Nā Wāhine Kapu-Divine Hawaiian Women*. Honolulu: 'Ai Pōhaku Press.3.

² Aluli Meyer, M. (1998). *Native Hawaiian Epistemology: Contemporary Narratives*. Graduate School of Education at Harvard University PhD Thesis.

³ Smith, L. (1999). *Decolonizing Methodologies*. Dunedin: University of Otago Press.

⁴ Silva, N. (2006). *Aloha Betrayed*. Durham: Duke University Press, 19.

NĀ WĀHINE HOLOWA`A – NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN VOYAGERS

Nālanī Wilson

As Hawaiian women, we are the intellectual as well as the physical descendents of our female ancestors, and in turn we will be ancestral inspiration for the generations to come

Lilikālā Kame`aleihiwa¹

The purpose of this research is to explore the experiences shared by contemporary Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) women voyagers and navigators from the double-hulled sailing canoe Hōkūle`a from 1975 to the present. The research will address the historical and contemporary gaps in scholarly texts and publications that have scarcely included women's perspectives and contributions as traditional and present-day voyagers and navigators. The work will focus on Kanaka Maoli women's voices and scholarly texts that, as the opening quotation suggests, prioritise mo`okū`auhau (genealogy) and the contemporary meanings of mo`okū`auhau for diverse Kanaka Maoli women.

The methodology draws on leading indigenous academics such as Manulani Aluli Meyer² and Linda Tuhiwai Smith.³ The foundation of the methodology is embedded in mo`okū`auhau (genealogy), a concept that is interwoven throughout the doctoral project and informs in-depth interviews with Kanaka Maoli women. The research highlights examples of legendary Kanaka Maoli women, including stories written by Samuel Kamakau in the 1840s which were translated by Noenoe Silva⁴ from newspapers printed in `Ōlelo Hawai`i (Hawaiian). These legendary stories and women are the direct ancestors of several contemporary women who are currently sailing, voyaging and navigating on long open ocean voyages aboard the canoe Hōkūle`a.

Five Kanaka Maoli women voyagers participated in in-depth interviews in 2008 that explored their mo`okū`auhau and experiences as women voyagers. The interviews revealed unexpected commonalities about the women's relationship with the canoe, Hōkūle`a, and their identity as Kanaka Maoli women voyagers. The themes that came forth from the primary research form the priorities of the research findings and discussion. The research is the first of its kind to focus on contemporary women from the canoe Hōkūle`a, and the stories that they share.

Key words: Kanaka Māoli (Native Hawaiian), Hōkūle`a, voyaging and navigation

FAAFETAI TELE LAVA

We have come to the end of another successful year for our Pacific Postgraduate Reference Group! This year again brought joy and pride as we see postgraduate students complete, graduate and return home. At the same time, we are welcoming new ones. It's a cycle of continuous excitement and suspended mourning, for we cannot mourn those who have returned home and started life changing careers. There is no time to mourn as we continue to provide support to the students from the Pacific who, fortunately for us, come into our Otago family. It fosters hope for an exciting future for our Pacific nations and Aotearoa as students come, complete and return to contribute to their communities. For example, this year we farewell Willi Lahari (PhD in Economics) from PNG and we applaud Ite Delaibatiki's (from Fiji) completion of her Master of Public Health. We continue to enjoy Hobert Sasa's presence from Samoa as he completes his Master of Information Science and Marsa Dodson's graduating with one PhD and starting another! These are just some of the inspirational individuals who continue to ensure that Pacific Voices survives, year after year. I am also very encouraged by the ripples this has created within other universities with their establishment of similar forums, as in the cases of the University of the South Pacific and Victoria, and this year our neighbour Canterbury is holding its own inaugural Pacific postgraduate symposium.

Our 2010 publication saw another step forward with the inclusion of Drs Patrick Vakaoti and Greg Burnett in our editorial team. I am indebted to our group of academics who on top of their own work have diligently contributed by chairing the monthly sessions and finally putting together this Pacific Voices VII publication. Faafetai Tele Lava, Claire, Mele, Patrick and Greg.

May I once again acknowledge our postgraduate students— Our Stars. A big Faafetai Tele Lava for your great zest for knowledge. That alone is truly inspiring stuff.

To our Guest Speaker this year Professor Vernon Squire, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International) and Chair of the University's Pacific Peoples Reference Group – thank you for your continued support and contribution to this year's Symposium. To our Chairs, David Richardson, Professor Don Robertson, Professor Keith Hunter and Dr Faafetai Sopoaga – Faafetai Tele Lava. To Dr Charles Tustin for your support and foreword – thank you.

Finally, thank you to my staff, Audrey Santana and Christine Anesone, who ensured everything was right for every Thursday seminar and ensuring again that we have a wonderful Symposium. When the work is completed, our duty is done – until next year.

Ua malie o

Ua malie malo

Thank you and have a good Pacific Voices VII Symposium.

Tofilau Nina Kirifi-Alai

Manager, Pacific Islands Centre

APPENDIX

**Opening Address by Professor Gareth Jones
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International)
Chair, Pacific Peoples Reference Group**

**Pacific Voices Postgraduate Symposium
2 October 2009**

Welcome to this Pacific Voices VI Symposium. In particular I would like to welcome the Pacific Island community leaders who are here with us as a part of their On-Campus-Experience program. I trust that you find this aspect of the programme just as stimulating as all the other aspects of the programme you have already experienced. I can assure you that you are in for an intellectual feast today. I would also like to mention that this is the first time the symposium has included students from the University of Canterbury, and you are especially welcome.

There is no doubt that Pacific Voices is now an integral part of the University calendar. And this is to be welcomed and applauded. This demonstrates that a symposium like this has an important part to play in the life of the University, demonstrating that research and research mentorship is central to what it means and all it aspires to be. Forums like this are crucial because they provide avenues where postgraduate students can showpiece their work, where they can gain experience at presenting, and where you can support and encourage one another. I have no hesitation in saying that a symposium like this is especially valuable because it provides you with a supportive cultural setting; you should use this to the full and take advantage of it. After all, it is never easy exposing oneself and one's ideas to others within an academic environment.

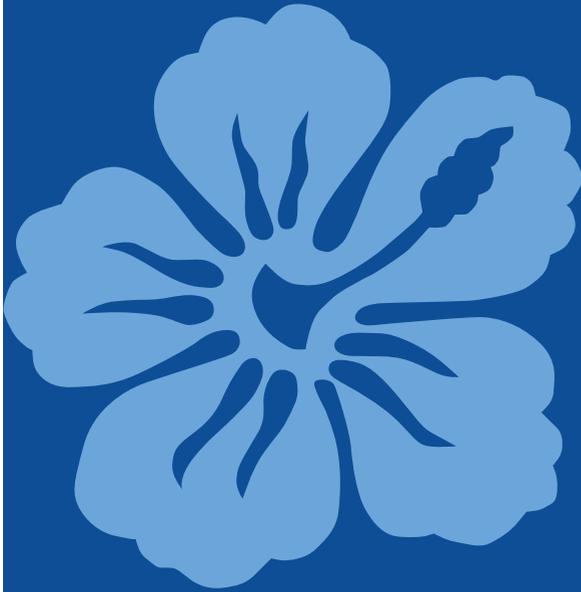
But you may say, why listen to others talking about their pet topics in areas far removed from my own area? I won't learn anything that will help me; I may not even be able to understand what they are saying because the terminology will be foreign to me. While there may be an element of truth in that, my response is that it is important that we learn to talk across our disciplinary boundaries, and that we learn to talk in language that can be understood by others. A university with broad interests and high standards provides the best environment one could possibly get for bringing out the best in each of us. We can always learn from others, and in the final analysis it is crucial that we can communicate with those far removed from our own disciplinary domains. After all, what is the point of doing good work, if it is impossible for anyone else to know what we have done?

And so we have to present our results to others. Publishing in reputable journals and books is an integral part of the research process; it is not an after thought or a nice add-on. Neither is it a peripheral activity to be indulged in by people when they have nothing better to do. What you are doing in this symposium is the first step in this process, and I am delighted that you are being given the opportunity to do this. Take such opportunities and revel in them. Use them to your advantage.

You really are a multidisciplinary lot! And that is all to the good. From law, policy development, economics and geography, to Pacific studies, social anthropology and social work, and tourism; from education to theology and oral history; from microbiology, genetics and information science to mental health and public health. And who could ignore dentistry?

What stands out is that you are high achievers, who are committed to excellence and results. You are exemplars for your communities, and I very much hope that your communities will benefit from having you in their midst. And so as you continue with your postgraduate studies, and as you bring them to completion, ensure that you feed the results and consequences of your studies back into your communities in whatever ways are most appropriate. No matter how academic postgraduate study sometimes is, it should also have practical ramifications that will enhance understanding within your communities, and that will benefit the communities. The Pacific perspectives you bring to your studies are important for all of us, no matter what our background. Never overlook the special contribution you have to make to academia and the University you represent, but also to this part of the world and hopefully further afield as well.

Have a good symposium



Pacific Voices VII
Pacific Postgraduate Symposium
1 October 2010
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