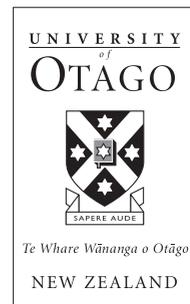




# Pacific Voices V

PACIFIC POSTGRADUATE SYMPOSIUM

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## FOREWORD

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.

It is very pleasing and satisfying, therefore, to see the rich variety of research presented in this year's *Pacific Voices*. To all whose work appears in this publication and who will be participating in this year's Pacific Postgraduate Symposium, I offer my sincere congratulations.

While it is very easy for the reader to enjoy the articles gathered together in such a convenient format as this publication, we should not forget the inevitable behind-the-scene stories that accompany each student's piece of work: stories of hard work, diligence, perseverance, long hours, endurance, frustration, motivation, satisfaction, passion and fun. Well done to you all. Your research is impressive and inspiring. The University is proud of you and the unique, substantial and enthusiastic contribution that you make to not only the research endeavours of this University but also to the wider society and your own communities.

Presenting at, and attending, symposia allows you to learn new things, meet other people, practise your presentation and powerpoint skills in a friendly environment, develop confidence, and inform others about your interesting research. Do not underestimate the immense value that participating in a symposium like the Pacific Postgraduate Symposium has for students and audience alike.

I would like to conclude by thanking, firstly, the editors of this particular publication, Drs Claire Matthewson and Mele Taumoepeau, for the many hours of dedicated work that they have again invested in this admirable publication. Secondly, and just as importantly, a big word of thanks must go to the Manager of the University's Pacific Islands Centre, Tofilau Nina Kirifi-Alai. *Pacific Voices* was Nina's vision back in 2004 and it is due to her infectious enthusiasm and encouragement that it has continued to resonate for so many moons.\*



**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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## TUALAGI AH-YEK

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A Methodist Church of Samoa scholar, Tualagi moved to Dunedin from Samoa with his wife Ila and their three children. He is studying for his Master of Theology degree and is an ordained Methodist minister.

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# AN EXEGETICAL, THEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL ANALYSIS OF THE SIGNIFICANCE FOR MINISTRY OF THE PARABLE “JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD” IN JOHN 10:1-18 AND 1 PETER 5:1-7

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## Tualagi Ah-Yek

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Investigation of the story of the Good Shepherd in John 10:1-18 shows that some assumptions common at the time of Jesus are turned upside down. Most noticeable of these is the connection of lowly shepherd status with Jesus as leader. Jesus, a respected leader at the time of his ministry, turns the conventional concept of leadership upside down when he uses the metaphor of the lowly status of shepherding for his ministry. A related discussion appears in 1 Peter 5:1-7, where the author uses the shepherd metaphor to exhort local church elders to perform their roles willingly, not to work just for what they will get from it, and to be an example to all.

This metaphor is used within the church as a model for ministry in the sense of leading, caring for, feeding and protecting church members as sheep were cared for by shepherds in Jesus' time. Ministers are encouraged to be good shepherds to their flock within their churches: to try to emulate Christ's ministry.

Just as the role of the shepherd was a metaphor for a caring, compassionate leader in Jesus' time, the good pig feeder (*fagapuaa*) fills the same role in Samoa. There being no sheep in Samoa, an equivalent metaphor to that used in John 10:1-18 is that ministers should consider themselves called to be good, be encouraged to think of themselves as good pig farmers (*fagapuaa*) within their churches. In this work, the Samoan concept of *Ole Fagapuaa Lelei* (a good pig feeder) is appropriated to explain the nature of the good shepherd in the story (John 10:1-18) for the Samoan ministry context.

---

**Key words:** church ministry, Good Shepherd, metaphor



## TAUTALA AIONO-FALETOLU

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Tautala is Samoan born, and raised in Dunedin. She has a background in Social Work gained from the University of Otago. Her career has seen employment travels to London, Arizona and four years' living and teaching English in Japan. Now a wife and mother of four, her focus is on gaining further education with a strong emphasis on the Pacific, social work and child protection.

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# ASSUMED VOICES OF SAMOA: THE EXPERIENCES OF SAMOANS WORKING WITH PALAGI SOCIAL WORKERS

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## Tautala Aiono-Faletolu

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How well do Palagi social workers “know” their Samoan clients? This research created a “space” for Samoan people to have a voice and speak as rightful residents of Aotearoa about their experiences when working with Palagi social workers. Samoan people are, unfortunately, “stakeholders” in the social service industry. We are, however, being misunderstood through lack of cultural competence within the area of social work practice.

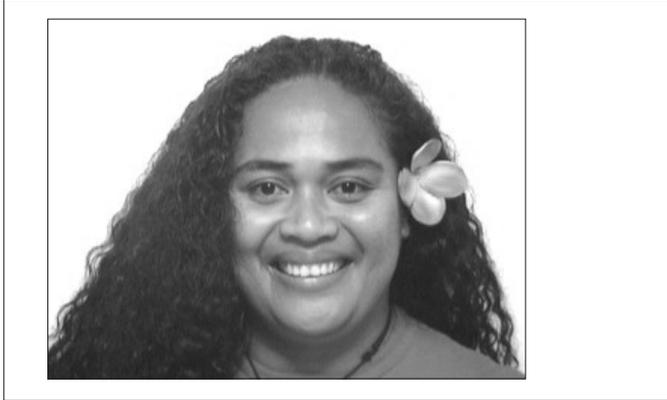
This research highlighted the gaps within social work practice towards Samoan people by using the information and stories told by six Samoan participants and the literature as told by Pacific authors. The multi-methodology approach<sup>1</sup> paved the way for me to create a methodology that combined mainstream academic research thought and Fa’asamoa.

Strong themes such as exclusivity, cultural competence, disempowerment, communication (non/verbal), sensitivity, power dynamics, and boundaries emerged from the interviews. Frameworks by: Afeaki,<sup>2</sup> Autagavaia,<sup>3</sup> Foliaki,<sup>4</sup> Kelly and Sewell,<sup>5</sup> Mafile’o,<sup>6</sup> Matai’a,<sup>7</sup> Mila-Schaaf,<sup>8</sup> Mulitalo-Lauta,<sup>9</sup> and many others were used to analyse the themes and further highlight the “gaps” that exist in the practice of social workers and Samoan people as told by the six participants.

Finally a model was developed called “The So’otaga Model” taking important Samoan cultural treasures including Tuiga (knowledge), Fue, To’oto’o ma le Ula Fala (skills), Tanoa (support and resources) and Foafoa (organisational alert), all of which came out of the central Samoan treasure – Fale Samoa (values and the Fa’asamoa). Under each heading were: learning tools, skills, language, responsibility and advice that social workers should adopt and become familiar with in order to ensure “good and safe” social work practice with Samoan families and communities.

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**Key words:** social work, Fa’asamoa, cultural competence



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### FANAIFI AIONO-LE TAGALOA

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Fanaafi graduated with an LLB(Hons) and a BA(Hons) in History in 2001. She was admitted to the New Zealand Bar in 2002 and the Samoan Bar in 2003. She returned to New Zealand in September 2006 to complete her PhD in Law after three years' working in the Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration and the Attorney General's Office in Samoa.

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# A STUDY OF THE LAND AND TITLES COURT OF SAMOA

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## Fanaafi Aiono-Le Tagaloa

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The Land and Titles Court began as a Commission in 1903 and survived three different administrations – German, New Zealand and Independent Samoa. Despite such significant political changes, it has retained its general aim and objective of resolving disputes concerning Samoan customary lands and *matai* titles (names). The 1960 *Constitution* of Independent Samoa provided for the continuation of the Court. Its exclusive jurisdiction over customary lands and matai title matters continues through the *Land and Titles Act 1981 (Samoa)*.

The Court is a cross-cultural legal institution bridging European and Samoan cultures and the colonial and post-colonial eras. The Court exhibits many of the features of a European court but applies the “customs and laws of Samoa” and operates in the Samoan language. It exists as a specialised enclave within the wider Samoan legal system, which is based largely on European law.

This general study attempts comprehensively to cover various aspects of the Court – its history, practice and procedures, its decision making processes, its relations with other Samoan courts, the social, political and legislative context within which it has developed and operates, the problems it faces or areas of possible improvement and, finally, issues concerning its future.

The study has found that the life and workings of the Court over the past century can be captured in the overarching theme of “continuity and change” expressed in the push-and-pull between further themes of colonisation, decolonisation and commercialisation. The hope is that this work will be a first step towards understanding a legitimate, vital aspect of Samoa’s legal history and legal framework which has been and is still often overlooked.

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**Key words:** customary law, Land and Titles Court, Samoa



## DANNY AREA I

---

Danny is originally from the island of Mangaia, Cook Islands. He did most of his schooling there before moving to Rarotonga for Seventh Form. In 1996, he moved to Fiji where he studied for his Bachelor in Dental Surgery and graduated in 2000. Before embarking on his current study programme, Danny has spent most of his working life back home providing dental treatment on those islands without any dental personnel.

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# PROCERA ALLCERAM CROWNS: A THREE-YEAR EVALUATION OF CLINICAL PERFORMANCE

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**Danny Areai**

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The purpose of this study is to evaluate, after a three-year test period, the clinical performance of Procera AllCeramic crowns placed by final-year undergraduate students at the University of Otago School of Dentistry. Seventy-eight (78) Procera AllCeramic crowns were placed in 28 patients (5 male, 23 female) in 2005-2006.

The allceramic crowns will be evaluated clinically using the California Dental Association (CDA) Quality Assessment Guidelines for colour, anatomic form and marginal integrity. Radiographic and periodontal assessment will also be carried out to determine both periapical and periodontal changes to the supporting tissues surrounding the crowned teeth.

Although this study is in its preliminary stage, the eagerly awaited result is crucial in determining the long term clinical success and application of this particular material. For clinicians, this study will serve as a tool in enhancing their scope of practice and most importantly, in providing comprehensive patient care based on current knowledge and evidence.

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**Key words:** Procera AllCeram crowns, clinical performance



## RAJNI K CHAND

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Rajni is a recent PhD graduate from the Linguistics Programme and is a trained ESL teacher. She has a BA, Graduate Certificate in ESL, Postgraduate Certificate in Education and a Graduate Certificate in Tertiary Teaching from the University of the South Pacific (USP) and a MA (Applied Linguistics) from Griffith University. Rajni has taught at USP for a number of years and currently heads its division of English for Academic and Specific Purposes.

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# LEARNING BARRIERS OR LEARNING THE BARRIERS

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**Rajni K Chand**

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In the field of distance learning, learning barriers are described as the hurdles learners have to cross in order to become successful learners. According to Galusha,<sup>1</sup> learners, teachers and institutions all face a number of barriers.

Adult distance learners who may have previously been trained as face-to-face learners begin their studies with less confidence and are sceptical of the new style of learning and new technology. Young learners begin distance learning with less independence and motivation than their older counterparts. Teachers who are used to a teacher-led presentation style of teaching find it difficult to teach by distance.<sup>2</sup> Their technological limitations and inability to pace and respond to distance learners' queries add to their inability.

Institutions offering distance courses also face problems. These include lack of equipment and support, scheduling issues, resource availability, costs and technical and instructional concerns.<sup>3</sup> However, distance learners, especially in the South Pacific region face additional barriers. These learning barriers are those that all involved in distance learning settings need to recognise.

This paper proposes that, in distance learning, barriers include the lack of instruction by course teachers and lack of contact with study skills teachers. The barrier of lack of training and practice also needs to be understood in order to help distance learners succeed in their learning. Since the learners are unable to cross these barriers, they are unable to learn, train and practise strategies and use them in other courses. Thus learning about these barriers is as important as knowing that barriers exist in distance learning.

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**Key words:** distance learning, barriers, South Pacific

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## MARSA DODSON

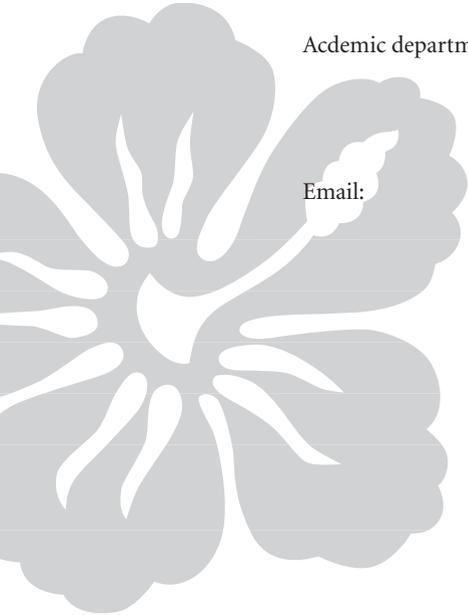
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Marsa comes to the University of Otago with an extensive history of volunteer service. One of her parents was a “tamaiti ‘angai” in the United States. Marsa’s educational background includes a Bachelor’s degree in Law and Justice and a Master’s degree in Social Work. Before moving to Mangaia in the Cook Islands in 2003, she was an adoption social worker for Washington State.

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## ROCKING THE VAKA: MANGAIAN TAMARIKI 'ANGAI

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### Marsa Dodson

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Polynesian customary adoption is widely practised in the Cook Islands. The people of Mangaia refer to their tradition and the children involved in the custom as “tamariki ‘angai” or “feeding children”. The aim of this research is to explore, describe and explain this custom, to identify the incentives and dilemmas for the practitioners and the wider community, and to look for ways in which the people can decrease the problems in this valuable tradition.

By interviewing 32 Mangaian Islanders, I have learned that parents have the right to shuffle “pawns” of progeny, blurring genealogies of their kin. Ideally, Mangaian adoption secures children to their extended family. However, these two parties are facing different directions and sometimes different agendas. Being a tamariki ‘angai

demotes the status of the firstborn when removed from the birth family. The custom invites land tension in families; the practice is intended to link a child to the land, but often it exiles children from their natal family and land security. Birth children of deceased “feeding parents” may refute land inheritance bequeathed to the tamariki ‘angai.

The practice compounds reciprocities to include the ‘angai family. It absorbs into the society children who are caught in the web of social disadvantage and community ridicule. The expectation is that tamariki ‘angai will provide care in the future for their aged feeding parents. Now the island elders find the generation they once nurtured in Mangaia is rocking the vaka by demanding the same secure future expected by non-tamariki ‘angai Mangaians. Significant social challenges need to be addressed to improve the outcome for Mangaia’s tamariki ‘angai and their communities.

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**Key words:** informal adoption, equity, Mangaia

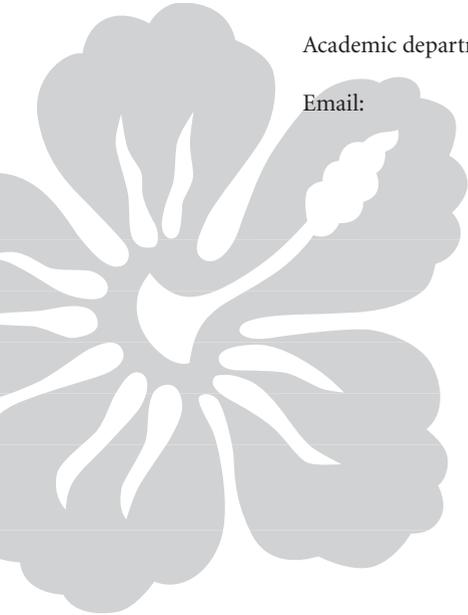


## ALESANA ETEUATI

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Alesana is an ordained minister of the Congregational Christian Church in Samoa (Ekalesia Faapotopotoga Kerisiano a Samoa: EFKS) and a lecturer at Malua Theological College. Alesana has a Master of Theology degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey. He is now in his third year of doctoral study in the Division of Humanities.

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## JESUS' ESCAPE TO EGYPT: A SOCIOLOGICAL READING

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**Alesana Eteuati**

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In the Gospel of Matthew 2:1-23, we find the episode of Jesus' escape to Egypt in response to the threat posed by Herod.

Many commentators have rightly pointed out the Moses' typology as the key ingredient for the interpretation of this event: that is, Jesus' escape to Egypt evokes the flight of Moses. The parallelism is seen in both Jesus and Moses being role models of Israelite leaders who were divinely chosen to save the Israelites from their miseries at particular points in their history.

As a counterpoint, this paper proposes to recount the episode from a sociological perspective. It takes into account a minor, probable reference to Jesus being labelled a mamzer in Matthew 1:18-25.

This paper proposes that previous commentators have overlooked the reference. Taking the mamzer issue as a strongly possible interpretive factor to re-read the story of the escape to Egypt, the paper will underscore an agenda of destigmatisation in Matthew's story.

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**Key words:** Jesus, flight, sociology



## MARIE INDER

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Marie Inder is New Zealand European on her father's side and Samoan on her mother's. She was raised in Central Otago in the South Island of New Zealand and has a BSc and a MSc (with Distinction) in Microbiology from the University of Otago. Marie is in her final year of a PhD in Microbiology and a recipient of the Health Research Council of New Zealand Pacific Career Development PhD Award for her work on viral proteins.

Marie was one of the original coordinators involved in establishing the Pacific Postgraduate Reference Group and the Pacific Islands Centre Academic Mentoring Programme. This will be her fifth year participating in the Pacific Voices Postgraduate Symposium.

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## VEGF-E INDUCES KERATINOCYTE PROLIFERATION AND MIGRATION VIA VEGFR-2

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**Marie Inder**, Nicky Dryden, Andrew Mercer, Stephen Fleming and Lyn Wise

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Vascular endothelial growth factors (VEGFs) are key regulators of angiogenesis and thus play a role in natural physiological processes such as embryogenesis and tissue regeneration, as well as pathological conditions such as cancer development, psoriasis and rheumatoid arthritis. The mammalian VEGF family member, VEGF-A, regulates blood vessel formation but has also recently been shown to regulate keratinocyte proliferation and migration, indicating its potential in epidermal regeneration. There has however been some controversy with regards to the role of the VEGF receptors (VEGFRs) in regulating keratinocyte activity.

Recently, members of the Parapoxviruses have been shown to encode VEGFs (referred to as VEGF-E) that specifically activate VEGFR-2. VEGF-E appears to be responsible for the extensive blood vessel formation and edema characteristic of parapoxviral lesions. Interestingly, these lesions are also characterized by epidermal thickening and rete ridge formation. This characteristic epidermal proliferation was lacking in lesions induced by a virus in which the VEGF-E gene had been deleted.

This study investigated whether VEGF-E is directly responsible for the epidermal regeneration seen during viral infection. *In vitro* work showed that VEGF-E, like VEGF-A, induced keratinocyte migration and proliferation and that both activities were mediated by VEGFR-2. To further support these findings, intradermal injection of purified VEGF-E or VEGF-A stimulated epidermal thickening.

These findings indicate that VEGF-E directly regulates the epidermal proliferation seen in viral infection via its interactions with VEGFR-2. VEGF-E therefore has significant therapeutic potential for non-healing wounds and diseases with a keratinocyte component, such as psoriasis and skin cancers.

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**Key words:** microbiology, virus, VEGFs



## TOKERAU JOSEPH

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Tokerau is a third-year PhD student in Theology. He was born in the Cook Islands but raised most of his life in Otara, South Auckland. He is married to Tangi and has five children. Tokerau is currently serving as a minister at First Church of Otago.

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# PRISM CHURCH: EXPLORING ETHNIC RELATIONS IN THE PRESTBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND (PCANZ)

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**Tokerau Joseph**

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This study explores ethnic relations within congregations of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand (PCANZ) with a particular focus on the parishioner-minister relationship. It seeks to understand how such relations may affect people's sense of belonging and participation within their congregation.

Although different ethnic groups and clergy are formally brought together in PCANZ by various means, it is suspected that they increasingly choose to organise themselves in ethnic-specific ways that they perceive to be more meaningful and appropriate.

The research methodology includes analysis of questionnaires for parishioners and ministers, as well as in-depth interviews and data collection from congregations across five regions of PCANZ.

So far, the findings show that the vast majority of congregations in the study sample were more ethnic-specific than diverse. The majority of parishioners and ministers in the study sample tended to be involved with congregations whose largest ethnic group had the same ethnicity as theirs. Relations between parishioner and minister indicated a slight preference for ethnic similarity rather than difference.

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**Key words:** ethnicity, parishioners, ministers, preferences



## AMITH KOLETH

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Amith began his career at the Fiji School of Medicine (FSM) in 2002 as a lecturer in Oral Surgery. Becoming more involved with research, he then worked as the Coordinator for the Pacific Health Research Council until early 2007. Amith holds a BDS degree from Gulbarga University in India, a GCertClinDent (Queensland) and a PGDipHealInf with distinction from Otago. Amith is currently a PhD Health Informatics candidate studying “e-Health Governance: a Pacific Peoples approach”.

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# WOMEN EMPOWERED BY E-HEALTH BUILD HEALTHY PACIFIC COMMUNITIES

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**Amith Koleth**

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Gender inequality in the use of computers is greater in societies with high gender inequalities. Previous studies have shown that women of Pacific Island countries similarly face gender inequalities in male dominated communities. It has also been shown that the gap between the ownership of computers and internet access is not so significant as the gap between the user and the non user.<sup>1</sup>

If mothers' education has a positive effect on families,<sup>2,3</sup> and information technology (IT) has been proven to empower people with information, then IT directed towards women's empowerment will improve community health outcomes.

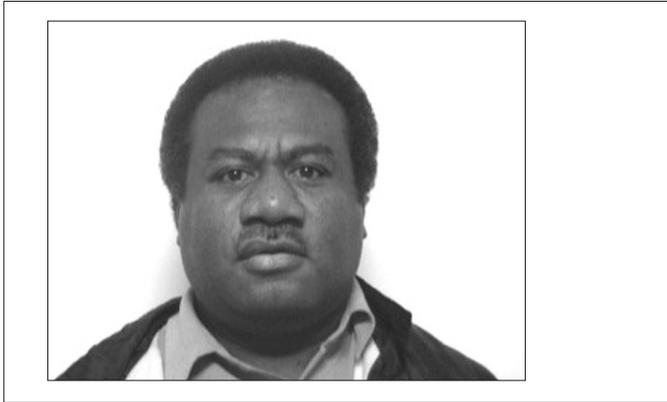
In recent times, there has been increased participation of women in institutions and organisations aimed at educating and empowering women. These groups have become a significant component in the development of communities in most developing worlds, because they have had a considerable impact in engendering confidence in women through education and reducing dependence on men for their day-to-day activities.<sup>4</sup> It would therefore be valuable to study how women's groups and organisations could encourage and support the use of e-health by women to make better informed choices for their families.

This paper proposes to discuss the objectives and methodology to research the question: How can women be encouraged to utilise e-health to build healthy Pacific communities?

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**Keywords:** e-health, women, Pacific

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## WILLIE LAHARI

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Willie is a Papua New Guinean. He is in his second year of PhD study and also currently a Tutor with the Department of Economics in the Division of Commerce. Prior to taking up his doctoral studies in 2007, Willie was employed as a statistician with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in Noumea and was engaged in the Solomon Islands.

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# SHOULD THE MELANESIAN COUNTRIES GET MARRIED? A MONETARY OR CURRENCY UNION AMONGST PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

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**Willie Lahari**

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Long running sluggish economic growth, unsustainable population growth, high levels of poverty, unemployment, poor governance, political instability (such as coups in Fiji and riots in Tonga) and unforeseen external events like devastating cyclones and climate change are major challenges confronting the Pacific as never before in her history. The trade agenda with Australia and New Zealand – (PICTA)<sup>1</sup> and (PACER)<sup>2</sup> – the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Preferential Trade Agreement (1993), and the recent Pacific Plan and the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union are promising initiatives aimed at bringing about increased trade and regional growth. Unfortunately, these initiatives are not enough to address the growing socio-economic challenges faced by the region today.

This study attempts to contribute to the current efforts towards greater regional integration and to rekindle the debate of prospects for a Pacific Islands monetary or currency union. While evaluating the potential for a Pacific Islands currency or monetary union, this work will also argue for the feasibility of a currency or monetary union for the Melanesian countries (Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu). Econometric techniques will be used to assess co-movement of macroeconomic variables, examine business cycle characteristics including the application of impulse response functions to investigate macroeconomic impact assessments and shocks amongst the Pacific Island Countries (PICs), including Australia and New Zealand, but focussing mainly on Melanesia.

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**Keywords:** currency and monetary union, Melanesian countries

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<sup>1</sup> *Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (2002)*

<sup>2</sup> *Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (2002)*



## MALIA LAMETA

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Malia Lameta is of Samoan and New Zealand European descent. Her undergraduate studies were in Politics and the influence of culture on democracy. She is currently completing a Master of Arts in Pacific Island Studies. Malia has lived in Dunedin for the past six years, and before that, with her family in Samoa. She now works for Te Tumu: School of Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies as a contract lecturer in the Pacific Island Studies programme.

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# “I AM THE APPLE OF MY BROTHER’S EYE”: AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE EVOLVING ROLE OF WOMEN WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO RELIGION IN THE SAMOAN ISLANDS

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**Malia Lameta**

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Much research has been done on the role and status of women within Samoan society. Very little research, however, has been done on women’s role not only over time but also on the role with particular reference and attention to religion: the colonisation of the spirit, so to speak.

Throughout Samoa’s colourful history, women have been ever-present as an influential factor of both stability and change. From the goddess and war hero, Nafanua, through Queen Salamasina, the first monarch of Samoa, and the women who led the ‘Women’s Mau’ in the early 1920s, to all those women today who have fought so hard to be recognised, women have played an ever-increasing role within Samoan society.

The aim of this research was to carry out an in-depth investigation of women’s roles within Samoa and to ascertain whether, due to religion, these roles have decreased or increased (as I believe they have). From women’s traditional (pre-Christian) roles to those of the modern Samoan woman, the extent of the roles carried by women has been measured both through literature analysis and in-depth interviews with women based in Samoa.

Findings of this research may be applicable and relevant to any society or community in which Samoans reside and are, therefore, extremely important to understanding the roles, relationships and expectations placed not only on the women, but also on their families and their churches.

Faafetai

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**Key words:** women’s roles, culture, religion, Samoa

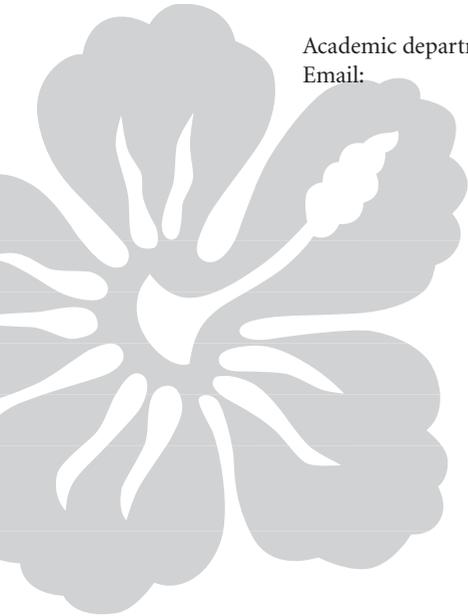


## ANITA LATAI

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Anita was born and educated initially in Samoa. She holds Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education degrees from Central Queensland University. Anita has been a lecturer in the Faculty of Arts at the National University of Samoa (NUS) for six years and is in the final year of a Master of Arts degree in Geography. Anita is supported by a University of Otago Division of Humanities-NUS Scholarship.

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# ANALYSING SAMOA'S COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (CIMS)

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**Anita Latai**

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The Samoan way of viewing the coastal land and water as intimately connected is captured by the Samoan phrase *E atoa lio le masina*, which equates life to the roundness of the moon.<sup>1</sup> The notion of the *va tapuia*, or mutual respect, continues to govern Samoan behaviour,<sup>2</sup> including the use of land and sea since European contact.

A recent notion of achieving sustainability through Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) is similar to these two significant yet inseparable aspects of the Fa'asamoa. ICM has become a recurrent theme in global conventions<sup>3</sup> to which Samoa is a party, and is evident in action plans and policy guidelines adopted by regional inter-governmental organisations and non-governmental organisations.<sup>4</sup>

Given their congruence, the incorporation of traditional Samoan approaches to management of the coastal environment into current planning and management strategies should be straightforward. In practice, however, the sectoral nature of a government system mainly inherited from the New Zealand colonial administration, with its top-down planning and decision making processes, is causing an ebbing away of the Fa'asamoa in the national administrative framework.

This paper examines the relevance, effectiveness and acceptability to local communities of the national strategy (CIMS) and district plans (CIM Plans) for managing the coastal zone in Samoa. It will ask if the combination of the CIM Strategy and district plans conforms to internationally recognised norms for the management of a coastal zone and whether this is understood and accepted by Samoans.

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**Key words:** Samoa, sustainability, coastal land

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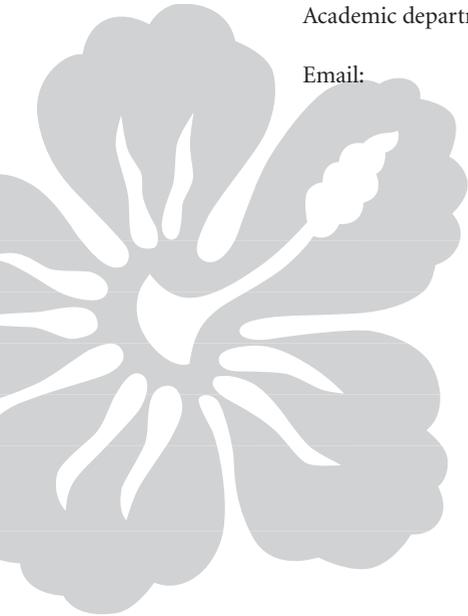


## TALAI MAPUSUA

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Talai Mapusua was born in Samoa and moved to New Zealand at a very young age. She has spent all her life in New Zealand, attending schools in Wellington and Auckland. Talai completed a Bachelor of Arts degree (major in education, minor in tourism) in 2007 and is now working towards a Master of Indigenous Studies degree.

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## THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SAMOA

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### Talai Mapusua

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This research focuses on *tina* (mothers) and *tama'ita'i* (young women) of the Methodist Church of Samoa with special attention on the *faletua* (minister's wife). It will focus on the kind of work that is carried out by these women and what the purpose of their commitment to the church means for them as individuals and for them as a group.

This group is the *Au Uso Fealofani* (Women's Fellowship), which is headed by the wife of the president of the Methodist Church of Samoa. It is expected that she play a vital role in how the *Au Uso Fealofani* operates each year (thereby making her a key figure in this research). It is the experiences of all the women, however, that will answer many key questions in the research. These questions seek to explore how women experience the transition to becoming a *faletua* where they also become a key figure in the lives of other women including those whom they look after while serving in the ministry.

The women of the Methodist Church of Samoa not only have a spiritual purpose in the church; they also have a very strong culture which women have followed for many years and continue to do so.

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**Key words:** faletua, Methodist Church, women, Samoa



## PRABAL R MISHRA

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Prabal is a MBChB student who at present is undertaking a year of research (BMedSc[Hons]) within the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study (often referred to as the Dunedin Longitudinal Study). He proudly originates from Nadi, Fiji, and holds a Pacific Island Student Study Grant. Prabal is an academic mentor and tutor for the Pacific Islands Centre, and a former student leader as the Pacific Islands Representative for OUSA in 2007. He currently chairs the OUSA Student General Meetings.

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# CANNABIS: A LONGITUDINAL BIRTH COHORT STUDY

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**Prabal R Mishra** and Richie Poulton

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A great deal of research has been done on the negative health consequences of alcohol and tobacco (mis)use. In contrast, far less is known about the impact of cannabis on health, and this despite its being the most commonly used illicit drug in many countries.

The data that do exist show that the acute effects of cannabis use include impaired attention, memory and psychomotor performance, as well as increased anxiety, panic and appetite. The cumulative effects of chronic (long term) use include increased risk for: psychosis, especially among a group of the population that are genetically susceptible; a cannabis dependence syndrome; periodontal disease, and impaired respiratory function.

Little is known, however, about the effects of cannabis use on cardiovascular functioning. This research set out to examine whether previous cannabis use was related to subsequent cardio-respiratory fitness and BMI (body mass index) in the Dunedin longitudinal birth cohort study.<sup>1</sup>

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**Key words:** cannabis, Dunedin Longitudinal Study, cardio-respiratory fitness

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<sup>1</sup> Participants were members of the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study (DMH-DS) birth cohort. The study members were 1037 individuals (91% of eligible births; 52% male) born in Dunedin, New Zealand, between April, 1972 and March, 1973 who participated in the first assessment at age 3 years. Follow up assessments (including a diverse array of psychological, medical and sociological tests) have been done at ages 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, 21, 26 and at age 32 years when 972 (96%) of 1015 living Study members were assessed.

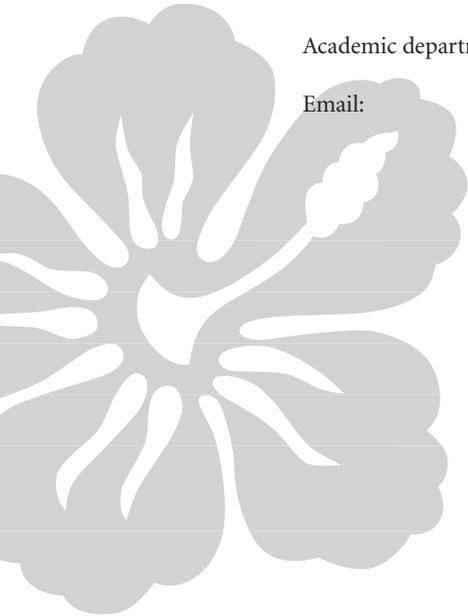


## PRIYA PRASAD

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Priya is of Fijian-Indian origin. She is concurrently studying towards MBChB and PhD degrees. Priya's PhD looks at prostate cancer and specifically at how proteins of the prostate cell's "skeleton" help enforce the actions of a tumour-suppressing agent. It is hoped that the information gained in the study will provide knowledge fundamental to the development of novel drugs to treat prostate cancer.

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## TRANSGELIN: DISCOVERING ITS ROLE IN PROSTATE CANCER PROGRESSION

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**Priya Prasad, Jo-Ann Stanton, Stephen Assinder**

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Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men and second leading cause of cancer deaths in men in the Western world. Early detection represents the best prognosis for men with prostate cancer. Current tests for early detection of prostate cancer and subsequent treatment options are limited. The development of definitive diagnostic and prognostic tools and improved therapies is necessary.

The actin-cytoskeleton regulates various cellular functions. Changes in the actin-cytoskeleton together with associated changes in the expression of actin-binding proteins is well recognised in cancer. Analysis of gene expression data has indicated that the cytoskeletal protein, transgelin, is repressed in early stages of prostate cancer.

This study aims to investigate whether transgelin is down-regulated in prostate cancer and to elucidate the relevance of transgelin in prostate cancer progression. Previously we have shown transgelin localisation in human prostatic epithelial cells and non-malignant hyperplastic glands. We have thus far demonstrated reduced gene expression using real-time RT-PCR and western blot analysis in some prostate cancer cell lines. Analysis of prostate cancer tissues also showed reduced levels of transgelin expression. In an immortalised prostate cell line suppression of transgelin increases cell proliferation.

It is possible that future screens could utilise transgelin as a potential marker of early stage prostate cancer, and be a possible target of novel treatment strategies. We will further characterise the role of transgelin in prostate cancer.

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**Key words:** prostate cancer, transgelin, actin-cytoskeleton



## HOBERT SASA

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Hobert was born in Samoa and has been a lecturer in Computer Studies at the National University of Samoa (NUS) for seven years. He is currently undertaking a Postgraduate Diploma in Information Science and is supported by a University of Otago Scholarship, under the Memorandum of Understanding between NUS and the University.

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# EXAMINING THE CURRENT STATUS OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) MANAGEMENT IN RESPONSE TO COMPUTER CRIMES AND SECURITY INCIDENTS WITHIN ORGANISATIONS IN SAMOA

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**Hobert Sasa**

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In today's world most businesses, large or small, depend on computers to provide vital functions consistently and without interruption. The loss of computer function could mean the difference between continued operation and shutdown. Reliability and continuity therefore become the critical aspects of any computer system(s) currently in use.<sup>1</sup> In order for an organisation to impose reliability and continuity, one of the key aspects that needs to be enforced and must not to be overlooked is "security."<sup>2</sup>

Although various sophisticated technical solutions are available to ensure the integrity and availability of electronic information, these are not sufficient to achieve a secure information system in an organisation. "The organisational as well as behavioural issues of security endeavour need to be explicitly planned for by management."<sup>3</sup>

People are a key component to raising the security status of an organisation, but they need to be supported by clear and practical policy and procedures. It is the human aspect of security that is the weakest link in an integrated security approach to information systems.<sup>4</sup> Via a survey, this research will examine the current status of IT management in response to computer crimes and security incidents within Samoan organisations. The survey will collect organisational information from a wide range of organisational sizes and types, including government, in order to build a snapshot of the general state of computer security in Samoa. In addition, the study is an effort to raise the level of security awareness, as well as help determining the scope of computer crime within organisations.

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**Key words:** network and information systems security,  
computer crimes

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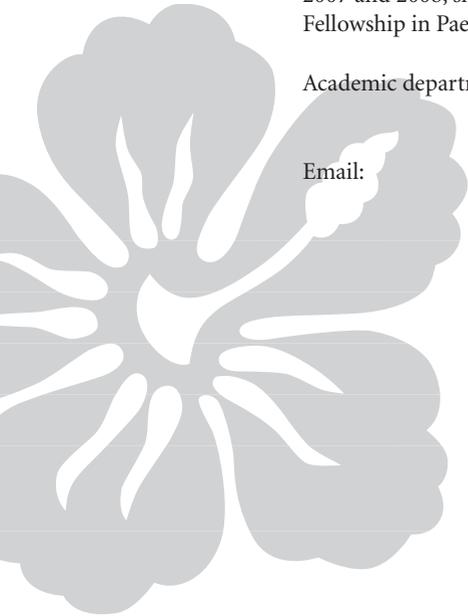


## CATHERINE SHERWIN

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Catherine emigrated from Suva, Fiji, in 1988 to Australia, where she undertook a Bachelor of Nursing degree. Moving later to New Zealand she completed a BSc(Hons) in Toxicology at Lincoln University. At the end of 2007 at the University of Otago, Catherine submitted her PhD in the area of Paediatric Pharmacology. In both 2007 and 2008, she was awarded the Freemasons Postgraduate Fellowship in Paediatrics and Child Health.

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## WITHDRAWING MEDICINES USED TO TREAT INFECTIONS IN NEONATES MAY INCREASE THE RISK OF TREATMENT FAILURE.

Catherine M T Sherwin,<sup>1,2</sup> Sofia Svahn,<sup>3</sup> Antje J Van Der Linden,<sup>4</sup> Natalie J Medlicott,<sup>2</sup> Roland Broadbent,<sup>1</sup> David M Reith<sup>1</sup>

The study assessed incidences of treatment failures (TF) associated with treatment of late onset neonatal sepsis using netilmicin and amikacin following the withdrawal of netilmicin from New Zealand in 2003. A retrospective audit investigated neonates treated with netilmicin from February 1999 to July 2003 and amikacin from October 2003 to January 2007 at Dunedin Hospital. For neonates with culture positive sepsis, TF was defined as a repeated infection caused by the same bacteria within five days; or a treatment switch to vancomycin due to no apparent clinical improvement. The rates of TF were compared using a Chi square test in Stata®.

There were 169 treatment episodes with netilmicin in 97 neonates, with 66 episodes of confirmed sepsis from 47 (48.45%) neonates. There were 98 amikacin treatment episodes from 80 neonates, with 49 confirmed septic episodes from 33 individuals. In the netilmicin group, the most common causative organisms were Coagulase negative staphylococci and group-B streptococci. For the amikacin group, the most common causative organisms were Coagulase negative staphylococci, with no infections caused by group B streptococci. In the netilmicin group, TF was defined in 13 (20%) of the 66 episodes of confirmed sepsis and occurred in 11 neonates. In those treated with amikacin, 17 (35%) of the 49 episodes of confirmed sepsis met the TF criteria from 12 (15%) neonates. In those episodes with confirmed sepsis, the odds ratio (OR) (95% CI) for TF, amikacin compared with netilmicin, was 2.92 (1.21 to 7.04)  $p=0.02$ . The withdrawal of netilmicin from New Zealand may have adversely affected the care of the neonatal population.

**Key words:** neonatal sepsis, amikacin, netilmicin, treatment failure.

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3 University of Uppsala, Uppsala, Sweden.

4 Microbiology, Otago Diagnostic Laboratory, Dunedin Hospital.



## ANAMA SOLOFA

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Anama completed her BSc degree at the University of Otago, majoring in Zoology, before returning to Samoa to work at the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in 2001. She worked in the area of coastal fisheries management for five years before returning to New Zealand for further studies in 2006. Anama submitted her MSc thesis earlier this year.

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# ECOLOGY OF A TROPICAL SEA CUCUMBER SPECIES, *STICHOPUS HORRENS*, IN SAMOA

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## Anama Solofa

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Traditional sea cucumber fisheries in the Pacific can be traced back thousands of years. The development of commercial bêche-de-mer (BDM) fisheries from the 1970s saw additional fishing pressure being placed on these vulnerable resources, ultimately resulting in over-fishing of stocks in many countries. In Samoa, there is a substantial domestic market for viscera of the sea cucumber, *Stichopus horrens* (common name: Dragonfish; Samoan name: sea). It is considered a traditional food for Samoans and is eaten raw. Although it has been harvested heavily for the domestic market, this sea cucumber species is classified as a low value species for the international BDM market. In recent years, there has been concern over the rising cost of bottles of Dragonfish product in Samoa and the change in the proportion of viscera-to-seawater ratio in bottles.

Research was conducted over an eight-month period, April and December 2007, to investigate various aspects of the ecology of the sea cucumber, *Stichopus horrens*, in Samoa.<sup>1</sup> Over the period, factors such as population density, substrate preference and regenerative capability were investigated through field experiments to determine the effects of fishing pressure on this species. Data to establish a Maturity Index (MI) were also collected throughout much of the eight-month period.

There has not been extensive research conducted into the ecology of *Stichopus horrens* in the past. The current research project, although limited to the fishery in Samoa, has added to knowledge and understanding of the species. However, any information and knowledge that can be gained from the research will hopefully provide a basis upon which a management plan for the fishery in Samoa can be built.

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**Key words:** sea cucumber fisheries, *Stichopus horrens*, ecology, fishing pressure, Maturity Index

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<sup>1</sup> This research was implemented with the assistance of Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Division of Environment and Conservation of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Meteorology. Local fishers also provided vital information on local fishing practices and other anecdotal information.



## ABBY SUSZKO

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Abby was born and raised in Dunedin and is of Tongan descent. In 2005 she completed her LLB and BA(Hons) degrees at the University of Otago. Abby is currently enrolled as a PhD student and is also a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand.

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# THE FORESHORE AND SEABED DEBATE: CONTRASTING VISIONS OF EQUALITY AND RIGHTS – AN UPDATE

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**Abby Suszko**

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*EQUALITY... We are not sure what it is... but we are sure that whatever it is, we want it...*<sup>1</sup>

On 19 June 2003, the Court of Appeal delivered its judgment: *Ngati Apa v Attorney-General*.<sup>2</sup> Although not a revolutionary decision, the ruling launched the nation into a fierce debate. During the debate calls for “one law for all” were heard from all sides. Māori, especially Manawhenua, used this slogan to object to the removal of the Māori Land Court’s jurisdiction to determine the extent of their rights in the foreshore and seabed<sup>3</sup>, whereas many Pākehā used it to proclaim that all New Zealanders should have the same rights.

This produces the question: How is it that people on different sides of the debate could use the same argument for very different purposes? It is my contention that people are using different definitions of “equality”. This PhD therefore addresses the questions: How do New Zealanders view equality? On what rights claims are these arguments based?

This thesis is jurisprudential. The methodology utilises the debate as a case study to uncover New Zealanders’ views of equality and rights, analyses these views in light of established equality and rights theories, and determines whether they reconcile or conflict with the concept of separate Māori rights.

The major aim of this research is to produce dialogue and better understanding between those on opposite sides of the debate. Furthermore, it is likely that similar equality and rights issues will resurface in the future. Therefore, this research aims to construct a way forward, one that could be used to navigate these possible areas of conflict.

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**Key words:** equality, rights, foreshore and seabed

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<sup>1</sup> J. R. Lucas, “Against Equality” (1965) 1 (154) *Philosophy* 296, p. 296.

<sup>2</sup> [2003] 3 NZLR 643.

<sup>3</sup> See for example: *Treaty Tribes Coalition, (2004) One Rule of Law for All New Zealanders: A Submission by the Treaty Tribes Coalition on the Foreshore & Seabed Issue*, (Christchurch: Treaty Tribes Coalition).

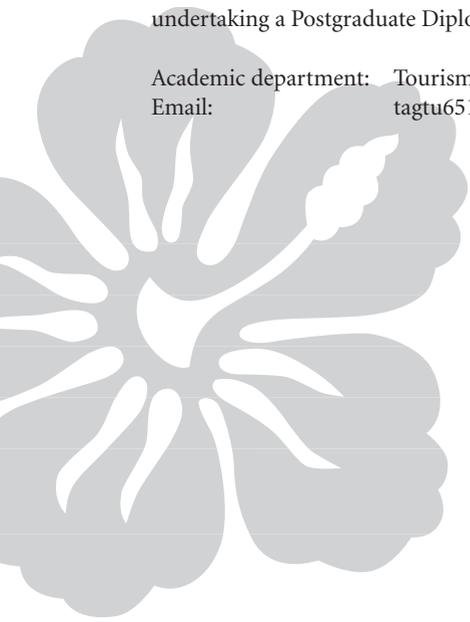


## TUPE TAGOMOA-ISARA

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Tupe Tagomoa-Isara is from Samoa and has been a lecturer at the National University of Samoa (NUS) Institute of Technology since 1998. She has a BA (double major in Tourism and Management and Public Administration) from the University of the South Pacific (USP) as well as Tourism Operation and Staff Training and Assessment certificates from the Melbourne TAFE. Tupe is currently undertaking a Postgraduate Diploma in Tourism.

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## SUSTAINABILITY OF ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN SAMOA

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### **Tupe Tagomoa-Isara**

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Ecotourism, as an alternative form of tourism, is regarded as a strategy to help address the environmental, social and economic problems that have resulted from mass tourism. This strategy is increasingly important especially for the small island states such as Samoa that have very limited resources.

The ultimate aim of the dissertation is to evaluate the sustainability of ecotourism development in Samoa as an independent small island state in the South Pacific region. For the purpose of this paper, the definition of ecotourism and the evaluation criteria (comprising environmental sensitivity, socio-cultural appropriateness and economic viability) are refined for and applied to the Samoan context.

This evaluation is mainly based on academic literature pertaining to the aspects of tourism planning, development and management in Samoa. Reflection on the author's participation during a three-day workshop on ecotourism development held in May 2008 in Apia will also become important as an insight into examples of the existing ecotourism businesses in the country.

It is envisaged that the development of ecotourism in Samoa satisfies the sustainability criteria. This is due to the general sense that the natural and cultural resources of Samoa are well protected and served by the Fa'asamoa (Samoan traditional way).

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**Key words:** sustainability, ecotourism, development, Samoa



## NĀLANI WILSON

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Nālani Wilson is a woman of Kanaka Maoli descent from the Hawaiian Islands. She is pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy degree.

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## Nālani Wilson

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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. 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 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 Meyer<sup>1</sup> and Linda Tuhiwai Smith.<sup>2</sup> 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. An analytical deconstruction of eighteenth century and post-colonial discourse and will help speak to the silencing of Pacific women by Western explorers, missionaries, anthropologists, and historians – a legacy that continues today.

The research to date highlights examples of legendary Kanaka Maoli women and draws upon five interviews conducted in June 2008 that focus on the diverse mo`okū auhau and experiences of selected women voyagers. The interviews are in the transcription stage but seem to reveal unexpected commonalities about the women's relationship with the canoe, Hōkūle`a, and their identity as Kanaka Maoli women voyagers.

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**Key words:** Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian), Hōkūle`a, voyaging and navigation.

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

2 Smith, L (1999). *Decolonising Methodologies*. Dunedin: University of Otago Press.

## FAAFETAI TELE LAVA

Off to school! It's hard to imagine that five years ago the idea of a postgraduate symposium to celebrate our students' work was born, to be nurtured along the way. It's humbling to think back to our small beginnings: a group (all six of us) who, on one cold night during our usual postgrad seminar in the confined old Centre, lay the foundation for this idea.

Today, I feel like a jealous but excited mother of an even more excited five-year old off to school for the first time. Do I pack the whole cupboard in his lunchbox in case he gets hungry? Will he or she be okay? Shall I pack a spare pair of socks in case she needs them, and will the teacher (as I would) make sure he is okay when he needs to go toilet? Thankfully, my natural motherly instincts in this case were not warranted.

I have been blessed with people to help nurture this annual event. You know who you are but I mention just two people who, I believe you will agree, have made our journey easier. Dr Claire Matthewson, Director of Summer School, who has given endlessly of her time and valuable advice to me, the Pacific community and especially to our students. O lau pule lea, Claire. To Dr Mele Taumoepeau, not only for her input but also for her own personal success which encourages me often to carry on. Same to our members who have completed and gone on, some to become Deans in our respective universities in the Islands or executive officers around the country.

At the end of the day, that is what drives us, for it is success that breeds success, and today we will plan for our tomorrows just as we did five years ago. When I first sat in listening to our science students' research, I found it very difficult to understand the scientific material but was very much proud of the scholarship, just like a mother who can see no fault in her own offspring. And today, we see no faults at all – just the beauty of your research endeavours. Faamalo fai o le faiva, Faafetai fa'aeaea.

*Mili mili*

*Pati a*

*Pati a*

*Ia pese laia*

*Sing*

*Sing louder*

*Oka ta'i manai*

*Oh what beauty*

*Sa o faalalelei, Malo tausala, Ua le 'ole lea*

Well done.

**Tofilau Nina Kirifi-Alai**

Manager – Pacific Islands Centre

**APPENDIX I**  
**Opening Address by Professor K G White,**  
**Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research)**  
**Pacific Voices Postgraduate Symposium IV**  
**5 October 2007**

Tena koutou  
Bula Vinaka  
Kia Orana  
Malo e lelei  
Talofa  
Warm Pacific Greetings to you all.

In opening this Pacific Voices symposium, I'd like to convey a message about the value of research. Research is what a university offers to the nation and the world – it is what a university gives away.

University teachers who are also active researchers are able to translate the world's knowledge into the university for the purpose of training excellent graduate students. As graduate students, you then go off into national and international communities, to further the future development of New Zealand and other nations in many different ways. You take the problem-solving and organisational skills developed during your graduate study into your communities and workplace. As Masters and PhD graduates, you take your own research out into the world for the benefit of others. Your own research findings, and those of the academic staff, contribute to the world's knowledge, and inform new developments in the economy, health, and education. Directly and indirectly, research findings benefit the children of the future.

In reading through your abstracts in Pacific Voices IV, I am very impressed by what you yourselves contribute. Your abstracts represent work of very high quality, and expert knowledge across a wide range of fields. And your work is often of direct future benefit to your own Pacific nations. To take a few examples, your work covers curriculum reform in Papua New Guinea schools, consumer practices of Pacific Island immigrants to New Zealand, fisheries management in Tonga, ecotourism in Fiji, currency uniformity across Pacific Island countries, and all in Samoa, the practices of the Land and Titles Court, changing roles of women, management of coastal environment, chemical characteristics of rainfall, along with many other important topics.

The other feature of this symposium that I find singularly impressive is the depth of your personal backgrounds. Again to take just a few examples, one of you is qualified to practice law in both New Zealand and Samoa and has worked in the Attorney General's office in Samoa before starting a PhD. Another of you has taught at the University of South Pacific for several years before starting a PhD in linguistics at Otago. One of you is the Head of the Science Department at the National University of Samoa, another is the Head of the Aquaculture section of the Fisheries Department in Tonga.

With such a wealth of experience, you have a lot to contribute following completion of your graduate research. The way that you take your research, and research skills, back into your various communities, will be considerably strengthened by your own personal histories.

This symposium promises to be a success, and I congratulate you on your achievements.

Tena koutou katoa



*Dr Mele Taumoepeau, Tofilau Nina Kirifi-Alai, Dr Claire Matthewson*