



## **Pacific Postgraduate Research Symposium**

### ***Pacific Voices XVII*** ***Researching During Unprecedented Times***

**Thursday 1 October 2020**

### **GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS** **ABSTRACTS AND PROFILES**

#### **Important note:**

**For this year's Symposium, the Editorial Team has chosen a theme reflecting the extraordinary circumstances students have been working under since March 2020. "Researching During Unprecedented Times" gives students scope to include in their submissions the effects that the national lockdown has had on their research. This is not a compulsory requirement, but an invitation to those who wish to draw attention to difficulties imposed by such things as travel bans, equipment shortages, interview issues, or any other situation that has had an effect on normal research practice.**

The symposium publication will be in an A5 booklet format, comprising a short biographical statement and photograph of each author on one page and his/her abstract on the other. **Students not currently engaged in research may submit a biographical statement and photo to be included in the publication.**

**Deadline for Abstracts and Profiles:**  
**12 noon, WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST 2020**

**Please ask your Supervisor to check your abstract and biographical statement before sending it to us.**

Here is some information to help with writing your abstract and biographical statement.

1. Submissions **must** be made on the Pacific Voices Abstract Submission Form. Download and save this from <http://www.otago.ac.nz/pacific> under For Students/Postgraduate Students/Pacific Voices Postgraduate Symposium
2. Use 12pt font, Times New Roman, single-line spacing and left justification
3. Abstracts should **not exceed 250 words**
4. Biographical statements should **not exceed 55 words**
5. Title of abstract – this should summarise the main point of your project and **not exceed 15 words**
6. An abstract should be a self-contained description of your work. People reading your abstract should get a clear sense of:
  - What your research question is
  - How you are approaching the question, and
  - What you have found so far.
7. In other words, your abstract should be structured so that it first describes the *research question* or aim of your research, followed by a description of your *methodology*, your *results* (to date) and brief *conclusions* about what your results mean within the broader context of your research.
8. For many of you, perhaps your work is still evolving and, in some cases, you won't have clear results. It is fine to report what you have found *so far* and to offer tentative conclusions. Others of you may not yet have done any fieldwork and would therefore just want to talk about what you expect to find, given your initial research.
9. Footnotes – should you need to cite other studies in your abstract, **please observe the preferred style:**
  - a. Use a superscript in the text to cite an author or authors
    - Example 1 Tokelau<sup>1</sup> identifies globalisation as coinciding with intra-firm trade.
    - Example 2 Energetically, extracting electrons from water is thermodynamically unfavourable and the unknown mechanism that PSII uses to perform this task, using a tetra-manganese (Mn) cluster, has generated much interest.<sup>2</sup>
  - b. At the end of the abstract list all the references, using APA Style, in numerical order as footnotes. See below for examples.

---

<sup>1</sup> Tokelau, F. (2004). Managing global finance and tourism sustainability in Fiji: A case study of the Korotogo bypass road, Korotogo, Fiji Islands. In C. Matthewson & M. Taumoepeau (Eds), *Pacific Voices: Abstracts for the Pacific Postgraduate Symposium*, Pacific Islands Centre, University of Otago.

<sup>2</sup> Tommos, C & Babcock, G.T. (1998). Oxygen production in nature: A light-driven metalloradical enzyme process. *Accounts of Chemical Research*, 31, 18-25.

10. Keywords – supply three or four key words or phrases pertaining to your research. (If phrases are included, the *overall* word-count should *not exceed* eight words.)
11. Biographical Statement – you must also provide: a brief biography of yourself, of **no more than 55 words**. The required details for this are explained on the Abstract Submission Form and include:
  - the name of the academic department/unit to which you belong
  - your supervisor’s name
  - your **Otago email address** so that anyone interested in your research may contact you.
12. **Send your Submission Form (abstract and brief biography) as an email attachment to [pacific@otago.ac.nz](mailto:pacific@otago.ac.nz). The subject line should read PVXVII Abstract or PVXVII Profile [and your surname].<sup>3</sup>**

**Close off date for receipt of abstracts and profiles is  
12 noon on Wednesday 5 August, 2020.**

**For those of you intending to submit a profile only:** Please follow instructions for the Biographical Statement in Point 11, then complete the first page of the PV XVII Submission form and submit as per instructions in Point 12.

13. Students are strongly encouraged to join in the regular monthly meetings of the **Pacific Postgraduate Reference Group** at the Pacific Islands Centre to find out more about this programme. Watch your *Puletini* for details of meeting dates and the schedule of student presenters. All welcome.
14. During the process of completing your submission, you may have queries or want guidance specific to your own abstract. You are very welcome to email either of the addresses at the bottom of this page and an appropriate person will get in touch with you as quickly as possible.

### **Criteria for prioritised selection to present in the Pacific Voices Symposium**

1. Pacific postgraduate students recently completed (or in final year of) their research in any academic field
2. Pacific postgraduate students in any academic field doing a taught Masters/Dissertation or report as part of their postgrad degree
3. Non-Pacific postgraduate students undertaking research in any Pacific-related field.

The *Pacific Voices Postgraduate Symposium* is an established, recognised forum for presenting one’s research and projects. In any year, however, we may have more students than speaking slots available within a single day. **The above criteria are used to determine**

---

<sup>3</sup> You do not need to submit a photograph of yourself for the *Pacific Voices* publication. For standardisation and processing reasons, photos will be downloaded from the Evision..

**who gets a chance to speak. Please be sure to indicate on your Abstract Submission Form your availability (or not) to present at the Symposium so that we have an accurate picture of the available cohort.<sup>4</sup>**

Whether or not you present your work in the Symposium, if your Abstract or Profile has been accepted by the Editorial Team, it and your biographical statement *will* be included in the *Pacific Voices* publication.

Best wishes

The Pacific Voices XVII Editorial Team

Tofilau Nina Kirifi-Alai  
Project Director. Pacific Voices Symposium 2020

**Academic Editorial Team:**

Dr Patrick Vakaoti  
Dr Michelle Schaaf  
Dr Rose Richards  
Dr Losa Moata'ane  
Dr Mele Taumoepeau

**Contact addresses:**

Alison Finigan – Project Officer  
Irene Ellis – Administrator

[afinigan@gmail.com](mailto:afinigan@gmail.com)  
[pacific@otago.ac.nz](mailto:pacific@otago.ac.nz)

---

<sup>4</sup> Poster presentation is also available as a limited option (for up to three students). Please note, however, that assistance with production costs is not provided.