<table>
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<tr>
<th>Presentation Title</th>
<th>Abstract</th>
<th>Author(s) and Affiliations</th>
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| 4,500+ years of Pacific indigenous knowledge systems: Decolonizing dominant research ideas and practice of ‘100’ years to include indigenous Pacific research methodologies in universities and other spaces (#1 – KEYNOTE ADDRESS) | In the Pacific, decolonizing research methodologies to include indigenous and other local research methodologies enables diversity in paradigms, methodologies, methods, ethics, epistemologies and ideologies of knowledge. Such decolonizing process calls for interdisciplinary inclusiveness in all areas of study – humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, theology, business and economics and health. What must be included as well are indigenous knowledge, epistemologies and axiology, for the purposes of improving dialogue (both articulated verbally and in silences), and collaborations that will generate improved understanding, informed priorities and future change for Pacific peoples. Facilitating capacity training of indigenous researchers, encouraging partnerships and strategic alliances, re-examining avenues of research dissemination, publication and reciprocal benefits for researcher and researched parties need to be on the agenda for change. Fijian Vanua Research Framework is discussed as an approach that tries to do some of the mentioned elements of decolonizing indigenous Pacific research. | Assoc Prof Unaisi Nabobo-Baba  
Associate Professor, Educational Foundations, Research and Human Studies, University of Guam  
nabobo_u@uguamlive.uog.edu | Assoc Prof Unaisi Nabobo-Baba is indigenous Fijian and her career as a teacher, teacher educator, researcher and scholar spans some 28 years in various institutions in Fiji and in the wider Pacific region. She is currently Associate Professor in Education and Chair of the University of Guam’s Institutional Research Review Board (IRB). Unaisi has done reviews for a number of journals and is currently the editor for *Micronesian Educator*. She is author of over 100 journal articles, book chapters, books, and other professional development materials, articles, reports, curriculum and program evaluation reports, papers and peer reviewed conference presentations. This includes the *Fijian Vanua Research Framework* (2008) published out of the University of Auckland, NZ. Her areas of research and publication include: teaching and learning in Pacific/specific contexts; Teacher education in the Pacific Islands; Indigenous education and development; Small island, rural and remote education; Educational aid and global change agendas; Indigenous knowledge and epistemology; and decolonizing research and education. |
### Pacific research ethics

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<th>#2</th>
<th>What is meant by &quot;Pacific Research Ethics&quot;? When research is conducted in Pacific Island countries, are there uniquely distinct ethical issues or considerations which hold true for the Pacific Island countries only? The paper argues that &quot;Pacific Research Ethics&quot; is when research in the pacific island countries uses internationally accepted research ethics and principles which are subject to local contextual considerations and interpretations. The Papua New Guinea National HIV &amp; AIDS Research Guidelines &amp; principles for ethical conduct is used as a case study to show how the ethical issues are considered and interpreted within the context of conducting research in PNG. The conclusion is that the consideration and interpretation of research ethics within the local context is necessary because of the need to respect and protect the dignity and rights, customs and cultural heritage of individuals, groups and communities in the pacific island countries.</th>
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### Researching succession to paramount titles: ‘Āiga Sā Mālietoā clan of Samoa and some methodological issues

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<th>The appointment of successors to paramount – Tama‘āiga - family titles in Samoa is a slow and painful process. The task of choosing a successor ideally rests with the family though increasingly, the Land and Titles Court must make the final settlement. The difficulties of choosing a successor in contemporary society are illustrated in the travails of the ‘Āiga Sā Mālietoā, or extended Mālietoa family, which has struggled to find agreement on either a candidate or a process. Drawing on recent research experience on succession to a paramount title of Samoa, how does one conduct research in a small society where oral tradition in local language dominates, information scarce and almost everyone is connected in one way or another to the paramount title?</th>
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### Using different research techniques to understand women and youths’ daily activities in three rural sites in Papua New Guinea

| #4 | Women and youth in rural areas in Papua New Guinea are hoping for a better lifestyle and are always eager to learn any new program that is introduced to them. Most times their dreams fail because the introduced programs and ideas are either too costly or unsustainable. Why do these projects fail? Researchers often spend a few days or a week or two in a rural site to collect data and when that is done, they leave and analyse the data. The reports they write are very powerful because they are used by decision makers and developers in different fields to plan programs that they think are suitable for the people; but often these are not sustainable. This presentation will highlight different research methods used in 3 rural sites in PNG which attempted to help people understand values in life, their daily timetables and their lifestyle. These simple and basic research methods used by the research team enabled them to interpret and understand the worldview of youth, women and their families in these sites and work with the experts in PNG to plan activities and programs according to the participants’ timetables, desires and dreams. |

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Dr Wilfred Kaleva spent more than 25 years as an academic at the University of Papua New Guinea and the University of Goroka. He was responsible for setting up the Glen Lean Ethno-mathematics center at UOG which has extensive collection of indigenous counting systems in PNG and the south pacific. He was the Founding Director for the post graduate Centre at UOG before leaving in 2008 to join the Research coordination unit (RCU) at the National AIDS Council Secretariat. He was responsible for setting the NACS HIV Research ethics and grants approval processes in PNG. In the last year two years, he served as the HIV Research adviser and consultant to the NACS Research Coordination Unit.

Dr Morgan Tuimaleali’ifano  
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Dr Morgan Tuimaleali’ifano is Samoan by birth with Tongan and European ancestry. His BA and MA degrees in History and Anthropology are from USP and his PhD in Pacific History was done and supervised at ANU. Both post-graduate degrees resulted in books. His teaching and research interests are indigenous and introduced governance systems with special emphasis on the loss of autonomy in the 19th century and the possibility of losing it yet again. He began working at USP in 1977. He is Associate Professor in History and is the current Head of School of Social Sciences which offers six academic programs; History, Psychology, Sociology, Social Work, Gender Studies and Pacific Policing.

Dr Lalen Simeon  
Director of Research Postgraduate Studies, Pacific Adventist University  
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Dr Lalen Simeon worked as a lecturer in the School of Business at PAU for 16 years before taking up her current role. She has been involved in a number of research projects focusing on women and youth in agriculture, business and HIV/AIDS. Her research interest is in educational technology, youth and women in rural and urban areas in Papua New Guinea.
Applying feminism to research in the Pacific: The risks, challenges and benefits (#5)

In this paper we examine the relevance and place of feminist research in Pacific contexts. Broadly speaking, women in the Pacific have not tended to identify with the label ‘feminist’ including because it has been seen as an imported term and set of ideas associated with the women’s movement in western countries. Despite this, many women in PNG are involved in the women’s movement and the promotion of gender equity, through church groups and other community, government and non-government organisations. At the same time, global discourses about human rights and gender equity are pervasive. With this context in mind, Almah discusses the approach used in field research carried out under the INA/World Bank’s rapid ‘Qualitative Assessment on Gender Differences in Making Economic Choices in PNG’; a study informing the WDR 2012 (Gender and Equality) and also one that informed the national dialogue on country gender assessment in 2012. The methods used to get first-hand voices of women-girl participants in each community site are highlighted. Challenges of implementing a tried-and-developed-elsewhere World Bank Methodology for the WDR (which required views from adult (age 25-60) females, males and youth (age 18-24) males and youth females, two key informants questionnaires, one case study) are discussed. I not only led and coordinated but also had to train the male and female facilitators and note-takers on what we were expected to cover and produce at the end of each field visit to satisfy the WRD requirements. To follow, Ceridwen will speak from her perspective as a non-Pacific researcher, outlining some of the risks, challenges and benefits of applying a ‘feminist’ framework to research in PNG.

A historian’s odyssey: Conducting historical research in PNG (#6)

Every so often, Australian postgraduate researchers ask me about my experiences of conducting historical research in PNG. Is it safe? How do I move around? Where should I stay while there? Who should I speak to? Who should I work with? Why don’t things work out as planned? These questions suggest something of the uncertainties many Australian and other researchers have about researching in PNG. By comparison to many historians, I have had some involvement with historical research in this country and so sometimes find myself undeservedly, in my opinion – assigned the position of ‘experienced practitioner’. While denying my right to such a role, I would still like to offer a few thoughts based on this experience of undertaking (historical) research in a Pacific context, in particular in Papua New Guinea. My own experience – my ‘odyssey’ – is far from over, though, and I hope that my participation in this important symposium will give me additional insights into conducting research in PNG, as well as allowing me to share some of my own stories with other participants.

Applying feminism to research in the Pacific: The risks, challenges and benefits

Almah Tararia
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Dr Ceridwen Spark
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A historian’s odyssey: Conducting historical research in PNG

Dr Jonathan Ritchie
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Dr Jonathan Ritchie is a historian of PNG, with a particular interest in how individual Papua New Guineans have engaged with the forming of their nation. He is an experienced oral history interviewer, and the author of one of the few biographies of eminent Papua New Guineans, Ebia Olewale: A Life of Service.

Almah Tararia has worked as field researcher in a number of election-related and gender projects. In 2011-12, Almah was the lead investigator in the ‘Gender and Economic choices in PNG’ a joint INA and World Bank study that informed the WDR on Gender and Equality (WDR) 2012. She was a team leader for the Domestic Observation of General Elections in PNG for the 2012 elections. Her interests include the way money is distributed during elections and the effect that has on gender relations in PNG.

Dr Ceridwen Spark has researched and written about gender in PNG. At present, she is involved in the Pawa Meri project, a collaboration with the University of Goroka that involves making six films about leading PNG women. She has a particular interest in emerging femininities in the Pacific.

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Dr Jonathan Ritchie is a historian of PNG, with a particular interest in how individual Papua New Guineans have engaged with the forming of their nation. He is an experienced oral history interviewer, and the author of one of the few biographies of eminent Papua New Guineans, Ebia Olewale: A Life of Service.
### Respect, human connectedness and love: Examining the foundations of research capacity strengthening in the Pacific (#7)

Research capacity building in international settings is often described as ‘experts’ from more resourced countries training people in/from less resourced countries. ‘Capacity building’ therefore holds implicit power imbalances based on ‘expert’ knowledge. Here we reflect on a process of mutual health research capacity strengthening between colleagues from Australia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands that have used participatory research frameworks. These are underpinned by decolonising methodologies that explicitly challenge historical power imbalances. We assert successful research capacity strengthening in the Pacific goes beyond research skills transfer or mutual academic benefit to deeper notions of respect, human connectedness and love.

**Ms Michelle Redman-MacLaren**
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**Ms Rachael Tommbe**
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**Dr David MacLaren** *(author in absentia)*
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Michelle Redman-MacLaren is an Australian social worker with Irish/Scottish ancestry who has worked in rural, remote and international settings for over 20 years. Michelle is passionate about working in the Pacific, especially with women. Michelle is involved with research capacity strengthening across a number of projects in PNG and Solomon Islands and is currently undertaking her PhD on women and HIV in PNG.

Rachael Tommbe is an Egan woman from Papua New Guinea. Rachael has worked as a nurse educator for the last 16 years and a health researcher at PAU since 2009. In addition to her teaching roles at the University, Rachael is the Fieldwork Coordinator of the ‘Acceptability of Male Circumcision for HIV Prevention in PNG’ study and the Co-Investigator for the ‘SDA Response to HIV in PNG’ study.

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### An indigenous approach to communication for social change (#8)

Change oriented communication strategies in PNG are often faced with the diversity of language, culture and beliefs that communities have inherited over generations. Addressing sensitive issues such as HIV/AIDS or sexual health through media has changed in the past ten years. There are opportunities for doing awareness that works from the bottom up. An indigenous perspective provides that space for careful, deliberate and extended communication that allows communities to participate in the creation of messages and saturate the information through existing communicative ecologies that we may not always be aware of. With the advent of technology, shifts in telecommunications policy and supply and gradual increase in economic participation, the pathways for indigenising development using media tools are opening up. This presentation explores the implementation of a communications project using an indigenous Melanesian research approach. Mongona Mul Ulg Kit Murum (Broken Home) is a youth production on HIV/AIDS set in Ruti village in the Dei District of Western Highlands Province. The presentation also includes a short audiovisual presentation of the project field-work.

**Joys Eggins**
Lecturer, Centre for Social & Creative Media (CSCM), University of Goroka
[joyseggins@gmail.com](mailto:joyseggins@gmail.com)

Joys Eggins has a media and communications background, in both research and production of media content. Her work has since included an indigenous (Melanesian) research approach to communication. Her focus is now at harnessing an indigenous research approach in communication for social change. Her work includes the Komuniti Tok Piksa project, Pawa Meri (PNG specific) and collaborative Pacific wide communications research through the Solomon Islands Media Assistance Scheme Study and Pacific Media Assistance Scheme Baseline Study. Joys has a BA (Communication) from Divine Word University, an MA from the University of Goroka and is looking forward to a PhD study in the near future. [www.cscm-uog.org](http://www.cscm-uog.org)

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### Unia, yu lusim pastor wok ah? A concept paper on research and church/ministry in PNG (#9)

Prepare to expect the unexpected when doing research in the PNG context. A participant questions the researcher (me): *Unia, so yu lusim pasta wok ah? [Did you (Unia) leave the ministry to do research work?]*. The question illustrates the tension in the ideas of “calling” versus “profession” and “faith” versus “reason”; these tensions generate challenges in church/ministry in PNG. However, it is imperative for the church to foster research that is contextually relevant because of the complex change in the South Pacific Islands. My answer to the participant’s question is: *Mi no lusim wok pasta, mi wokim resets pasta wok [I did not leave my calling as a pastor; I am actually doing pastoring work through research]*. This presentation explores an emerging model for research as part of church/ministry in PNG.

**Mr Unia Kaise Api**
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Unia Kaise Api was a church planter for two years with the Upper Sepik River People and a Local Church Pastor for two years. He has assisted PAU with research on Youth Resilience in PNG (2008-2009) and Successful Models of Youth Leadership in PNG (2009). Currently he is a researcher with the PAU/JCU research team on SDAs’ Response to HIV and AIDs in PNG. He is employed at PAU as an Associate Researcher and is a doctoral candidate with Fuller Theological Seminary, USA.
The visual arts have played a prominent role in Papua New Guinea’s cultural history. They have served social functions of establishing and expressing community relations and collective decision-making processes. Papua New Guinea art in the West however has been interpreted differently, often ignoring its social function and removing objects from their context. Similarly it could be argued that research in PNG, impacted by the introduction of an Anglo-European educational model during the time of colonization, has at times lacked engagement in artistic forms of knowing and learning.

The University of Goroka has made a commitment over the past few years in strengthening research capacity through engagement in media and arts. This presentation discusses research projects such as Yumi Piksa and Komuniti Tok Piksa which engaged both undergraduate and postgraduate students in developing local approaches to research focusing on elements such as relationships, reciprocity, community engagement and collaboration.

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<th>Localising social research approaches through the arts (#10)</th>
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<th>Reframing indigenous knowledge documentation (#11)</th>
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<td>What kinds of methods are used in indigenous communities to practice and transfer their knowledge systems? We should look at identifying some of these methodologies. We need to identify indigenous methods of fishing, hunting, gardening, healing, storytelling, and feasting. What kinds of methods were observed in trade and exchange, in conversation, and in environmental management? We need to identify ways in which our children and our people can remember their past, identify with their cultures and return home. We need to tell out histories in a different way. Many of our people live in their villages, tribal communities, and are living outside in urban centres. How can we identify new indigenous research methodologies that will help us to promote indigenous ideas, skills, knowledge, and approaches? How can we combine new scientific research and discovery with our people’s knowledge? These are questions we need to ask as we come to understand the importance of research and new discoveries play in our lives. Questions such as these and others have to be asked in order for us to reframe our research methods and paradigm. I will centre my discussions on the publication Reframing Indigenous Knowledge: Cultural Knowledge and Practices in Papua New Guinea that I edited after a conference on the same subject at the University of Papua New Guinea several years ago.</td>
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| Dr Steven Winduo’s research interests include indigenous knowledge systems, traditional medicinal plants of Papua New Guinea, Papua New Guinea and South Pacific Literature, and creative writing. Steven writes poetry, short stories, and fiction. He has a PhD from University of Minnesota and a MA from University of Canterbury, NZ. He was the founding Director of Melanesian and Pacific Studies (MAPS) at the University of Papua New Guinea. He was a Research fellow at the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies, University of Canterbury, a Visiting Professor of English at the University of Minnesota, a Research Fellow at the East West Centre Pacific Islands Development Program and the Arthur Lynn Andrews Chair in Pacific and Asian Studies, in the Center for Pacific Islands Studies, University of Hawaii. Now he is also serving as the Acting Director, Academic Audit Unit, UPNG, apart from teaching duties. Books include: A Rower’s Song (poetry); The Unpainted Mask; Transitions and Transformations: Literature, Politics, and Culture in Papua New Guinea; Reframing Indigenous Knowledge: Cultural Knowledge and Practice in Papua New Guinea (editor). www.stevenswindow.blogspot.com |

| Dr Verena Thomas has led projects such as Yumi Piksa or Komuniti Tok Piksa which focused on developing local approaches to research practice involving undergraduate and postgraduate students. Recent relevant publication: Thomas, V. (2013) Indigenising research through a/r/tography: A case study of a collaborative filmmaking project in Papua New Guinea. UNESCO Observatory Journal of Multi-disciplinary Research in the Arts. |

| Dr Michael Mel has researched and published on the role of the arts in higher education and in developing local approaches to learning. |

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### Community-engagement in scientific research: Success stories in Papua New Guinea and future engagements (#12)

A vast body of useful knowledge is held as specialised or general traditional knowledge in Pacific Island communities that can be harnessed in the process of scientific research. In this presentation two case studies are used to illustrate the integration of western scientific research within traditional knowledge and belief systems to train members of the local community, provide basic services, and at the same time advance science. The two communities include the Ohu village in the Amele district and Wanang village in the middle Ramu district of Madang Province. The lessons learnt from these case studies will be applied towards setting up future research collaborations with remote mountain communities within the Koiai District and an island community within the Bismarck Archipelago of Papua New Guinea.

### Epistemology of ethno-sciences from a Papua New Guinea perspective (#13)

The first human settlers on the island of New Guinea were hunters and gatherers, who begun foraging the forests for food. The years of “trial and error” perfected the current knowledge and understanding on food and medicine from the forests and marine environments by different tribal and ethnic communities, which forms an intrinsic part of their culture. As part of our ongoing research to relate and understand the species diversity, uses and distribution of mushrooms from different localities in Papua New Guinea, we have had the privilege of gaining insights into such local knowledge systems. There are indeed philosophical and anthropological/ethnological schools of thought that attempt to categorize such knowledge systems and to understand the thought and classificatory processes amongst indigenous communities. In this presentation, we will layout our findings from an epistemological context to highlight the uniquely embedded scientific validity to the traditional knowledge systems and attempt to relate that to the established schools of thought.

### New initiatives for Pacific research development: PNG Research, Science and Technology Council; PNG National Research Agenda; and the Pacific Island University Research Network (PIURN) (#14)

This presentation provides information and updates on three new initiatives for research development in the region: (1) The PNG Research, Science and Technology Council; (2) the PNG National Research Agenda; and (3) the Pacific Island University Research Network (PIURN)

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**Dr Darren Bito**
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**Dr Darren Bito** is Dean, School of Science and Technology and teaches Environmental Sciences at PAU. His research in the ecology of insect communities has recently extended to learning how to establish working relationships with village communities and identifying projects that can benefit science and the local communities involved. He has a PhD in insect ecology from Griffith University and previously worked at the Binaorang Research Centre, Madang, PNG, coordinating community based ecological research projects funded by international funding agencies in the USA, UK and Europe.

**Mr Stewart W Wossa**
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Village Chief, Kiovi Village, Mt Michael LLG, Lufa District, Eastern Highlands Province, PNG  
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Stewart Wossa teaches in the School of Science and Technology at the University of Goroka (UOG). He is currently pursuing a PhD at the Research School of Chemistry, Australian National University, under the mentorship of Professor Russell Barrow. While his work is concerned with new drug discoveries, he has also been a keen follower of knowledge theories to help his understanding on how traditional knowledge systems relate to modern sciences. Steward attained his BSc and MSc qualifications from the University of Papua New Guinea in the areas of natural products chemistry with Professor Topul Rali and has been teaching chemistry at UOG since 2006.

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