Advancing Gender Research in the Pacific
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Acronyms
DFAT Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
ERA Excellence in Research for Australia
LGBTQI Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (or Questioning) and Intersex
NGO Non-Government Organisations
1 Overview

The Pacific Gender Research workshop was convened to present the Pacific Gender Research Scoping study to a range of interested stakeholders from universities, civil societies, regional, international and donor organisations involved in supporting, conducting and using Pacific gender research for social change, public engagement, and knowledge enhancement. A full participants list is attached as Annex 1. The workshop was supported by the University of the South Pacific, UN Women, the Fiji Women’s Rights Movement, Pacific Community, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Government of Australia.

2 The workshop consisted of presentations and working sessions (Annex 2- Symposium Program; Annex 3- Workshop Program) and proposed concrete actions to take the agreed findings and recommendations of the Scoping Study forward. The endorsed outcomes statement is attached as Annex 4.

3 The University of the South Pacific Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Rajesh Chandra welcomed participants to the University and to the workshop. The Australian High Commissioner, Her Excellency Margaret Twomey officially opened the three-day workshop highlighting the great importance placed by the Australian Government on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. She stated that Australia is concentrating on areas with persistent challenges to gender equality, including women’s voices in decision-making, leadership and peace-building; women’s economic empowerment; and ending violence against women and girls.

4 The High Commissioner highlighted some of the findings of the scoping study that reflected a steady increase in Pacific gender research with challenges still evident in the following areas:

- strengthening the capacity of Pacific Islanders and Pacific institutions to prioritise and undertake gender research;
- consistency of research quality review and assurance processes
- accessibility of completed research;
- gender expertise and resources to support gender research.

5 The High Commissioner called for more robust research in critical areas of concern and for government commitments to address these concerns. She noted that building gender research capacity in the Pacific is critical.

2 Pacific gender research scoping study – review and reflection

6 Presenting the findings of the scoping study, lead researcher, Associate Professor Yvonne Underhill-Sem highlighted the study conclusions, the methodology and the strategic, technical and substantive findings in the eight key areas of Health, Education, Women’s Empowerment, Environment and Climate Change, Violence Against Women, Gender Mainstreaming, Human Rights and Women’s Leadership and Participation.

7 The study concluded that in the Pacific region gender research is mostly commissioned by regional and international agencies and that there were still many research gaps. Accessing research is difficult with Pacific researchers often needing support in this area. Governments in the region display lukewarm interest in gender research with the quality of research open to interpretation. The study identified the importance of dedicated research training at university level. Climate change and environment was the area with the smallest number of citations.
The study conducted a systematic search of data-based and digital libraries using three key phrases – Pacific Island and gender research; gender research in Pacific Islands; Pacific gender research from the period January 1994 – December 2015 and resulted in 400+ citations. The research team carried out more in depth searches in some of the areas and conducted organisational scans to try and access PDF versions of research documents but access was limited due to intellectual property concerns.

Underhill-Sem acknowledged the limitations of the key words used and explained that the researchers did not explore new research tools such as research gate, academia.com, and LinkedIn due to the limitations of time. The findings of the study are therefore indicative and not comprehensive and there is still a need to develop areas that need further research.

An online survey was used to identify how research was accessed by users and whether this was being done through the use of internet search engines or as passive recipients. One hundred and sixty (160) survey questionnaires were administered with 61 responses received and 43 completing the questionnaire. The study found that most people look for research using an internet search engine and there are lots of ways of accessing work virtually. However, overall there is limited access to digital research in the region.

The study found that research-informed policy making is a dynamic and imprecise process in the region and that research findings percolate into policy-making in many diverse and sophisticated ways.

In the substantive area of Education, the study noted the following as indicative research gaps:
- development of primary school curricula that challenges gender stereotype;
- girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects and women in history;
- transition to decent work and the different implications in rural and urban areas;
- incorporating comprehensive sexuality education in schools;
- gender sensitivity training in teacher training institutions;
- how to fund and enforce compulsory education at primary schools; and
- education for all workforce issues.

In the area of Health, gaps in the research are:
- improving maternal health in the context of other health conditions;
- gendered health behaviour and cultural implications of health;
- gendered health implications of emerging issues – sorcery, mental health;
- environmental poisoning; and
- disability from work related accidents.

In the area of Climate Change and the Environment research gaps are:
- gender analysis at all stages of disaster preparedness and response;
- gender analysis of trauma counselling and post-traumatic stress;
- livelihood and resource development – extractive industry, agriculture;
- ownership of land and marine resources; and
- impacts of sudden and slow onset of climatic events.

In the area of Economic Empowerment, there are research gaps in:
- access to marine and terrestrial resources;
- shifts in economic sectors;
- economic development in tourism and infrastructure;
- gender wage gaps; and
• extreme economic inequality.

16 In the area of Leadership and Decision making, research gaps are:
• technology and social media in leadership development;
• women’s participation in leadership at all levels of government in the public services, private sector, on Boards, and in civil society;
• the role of political parties as gatekeepers for women candidates;
• electoral systems and quota debates;
• women politicians and ‘role-model’ effects; and
• ranking Pacific women politicians within their parties and/or the impact of this on decision-making in parliaments.

17 In the area of gender mainstreaming research gaps are:
• the effectiveness of multi-sectoral co-ordination in gender mainstreaming;
• the value of short courses in gender mainstreaming for shifting policy development and changing individual mindsets;
• strategies and tools to address implicit and explicit gender bias in agencies;
• changing organisational behaviours and cultures in Pacific governments that are detrimental to women; and
• developing gender stereotypes that do not only cast women as primary care givers.

18 In the area of Violence Against Women, research gaps remain in:
• identifying the extent and impact of gender-based violence in particular sectors, e.g. marginalised groups;
• ensuring greater protection and enhanced services for victims of violence;
• developing more robust legal mechanisms to address and prevent violence;
• promoting more effective ways of making the public aware of zero tolerance for violence; and
• the inter-relatedness of economic, social, and psychological contexts for violence.

19 In the area of Human Rights, there are research gaps in
• the paradoxes and contradictions that come with the normative practice of human rights;
• substantive equality to redress disadvantage, counter stigma, prejudice, humiliation and violence;
• maintaining rights-based practices as social and institutional structures change; and
• facilitating participation, both in the form of political participation and social inclusion.

20 Setting the context for the three-day workshop, Underhill-Sem emphasised the intention of the discussions is to allow stakeholders to provide feedback on the study and to also identify new ways of framing the evidence.

21 Following the presentation of the research findings, selected representatives from partner organisations were given an opportunity to provide brief reflections on the study. The following summarises the feedback provided by each of the organisations:

**National University of Samoa**

22 The representative from the National University of Samoa emphasised the need for capacity building and mentoring for emerging Pacific researchers to enable them to become established and recognised as credible researchers. The presenter stated that in the Pacific the old and the
young work together, with this reflected in villages and communities. This approach needs to be reflected in the work on gender research in the region. Each country had its own specific context and this needs to be considered when strengthening the capacity of emerging researchers as the approach that works in Samoa may not work in Papua New Guinea and Fiji and vice versa.

Divine Word University, Papua New Guinea

The representative from Divine Word University endorsed the idea of a Pacific gender research clearing house presented by the lead researcher and looked forward to further discussion on this. The presenter highlighted the importance of ethics in research stating that this is done well in universities but not by other organisations who often did not follow ethical guidelines potentially causing harm to people who were giving sensitive information to researchers. Identified research on the impact of mobile technology on society as a gap in the study, particularly in the Papua New Guinea context where access to the internet has increased access to pornography and impacted on gender relations and how women are viewed. Noted limited reference to men in the scoping study and emphasised the importance of engaging with men in addressing gender inequality.

Pacific Adventist University, Papua New Guinea

The representative from the Pacific Adventist University recommended that as a next step to the scoping study another search be done specifically for research on the eight key areas by country and in participatory action research. Other areas that could be researched include, Law and Human rights in the health agenda; gender based violence in polygamous relationships; in the area of environment, waste management, environmental stewardships; and economic empowerment and employment. The presenter recommended that follow up include a new research section on enablers and barriers, and on research advocacy to identify the gap between research and practice. It was noted that gender research is complex and needs to be further defined with a common understanding of what it is between scholars, researchers, activists and practitioners. Given the complex context of the Pacific, the research needed to explore multiple methods and be creative and innovative.

University of Hawaii

The representative from the University of Hawaii highlighted the importance of Pacific Islanders advocating strongly for areas they would like researched. The presenter noted that one of the first Pacific gender research projects was carried out in 1999, when the Pacific Community conducted a research study on a violence against women in Samoa. Since then, many other research projects have been undertaken providing opportunities for Pacific Islanders to learn from international research experts conducting research in the region. Importance of the research process to be inclusive of Pacific island researchers and to ensure equal representation from Pacific island countries.

Massey University, New Zealand

The representative from Massey University noted the limitations of the study and agreed with the conclusions and recommendations. The presenter noted that while the focus was primarily on academic knowledge there is a need to recognise the voices of the community including men, and also the role of culture and the church as key aspects of Pacific life. Referring broadly to Pacific gender research, it was noted that there has been too much of a focus on deficit which often did not consider agency, with culturally embedded agency an area that she had explored in her research. She noted the need to be culturally specific and mindful that the term
‘Pacific islander’ is hegemonic and blankets the region with a need to look at each country individually. Noted that gender research seeks to build a bridge between academic knowledge and policy; this bridge needs to be clearly scoped and defined through a glossary of terms in order for clearer understanding. Quality Assurance needs to be clearly defined as there are boundaries between academia and the eight substantive areas. Important to explore new boundaries specific to Pacific cultures and in relation to where Pacific people are working. In terms of emerging researchers, need to hear from mentors, guides, supervisors. Gender research needs to acknowledge and recognise the different spaces occupied by women for example Fijian women living in Fiji and those who live overseas, i.e. New Zealand, Papua New Guinea etc.

University of the South Pacific, Fiji

27 The representative from the University of the South Pacific congratulated the team of researchers on a job well done and agreed with the need to strengthen gender research in the region. The presenter noted that the study would serve as a valuable resource for other people with the large volume of bibliography expected to help others who want to find out about readings available in the area and would contribute greatly to bridging the gap between research and policy in the Pacific and further afield.

La Trobe University, Australia

28 The representative from La Trobe University highlighted the importance of an understanding of ‘quality’ as something beyond mere publications and outputs, to include a discussion on quality research processes. Participatory research and long term action research partnerships are often overlooked in discussion of ‘methodological rigor’ despite the fact that they have the potential to provide researchers and academics with a chance to build a relationship with non-government organisations (NGOs) and civil society organisations. Research conducted by the Institute for Human Security and Social Change at La Trobe works with researchers, donors, NGOs working in development and uses participatory and action-oriented approaches. The presenter highlighted the need for gender research to focus on processes and not just outcomes.

Women in Fisheries Network, Fiji

29 The representative from the Fiji Women in Fisheries Network, linked research to policy based on her experience and personal shift in mindset from doing research for a university to doing research for an NGO. In her view, NGOs were more connected to the realities on the ground and were also required to be clear about how the work they were doing would influence policy. The link from research to policy was identified as a key element of gender research and one that all who are engaged in research needed to be thinking about. This shifts the focus from doing research for academic purposes to research that changes the lives of people in communities.

CARE International Vanuatu

30 The representative from CARE International in Vanuatu recognised the importance of quality assurance, access and partnerships as key issues for them as an organisation. While the organisation was involved in conducting a lot of research, the question of how robust the research is difficult to answer as the research is not published. Research was not only important to policy makers but also to NGOs who care about the work on gender. It was also important to recognise who drives the research agenda which is often driven by donors or academia. NGOs
would like to have more space to direct what that the research agenda is in partnership with academia.

**Pacific Community (formerly known Secretariat of the Pacific Community)**

31 The representative from the Pacific Community highlighted the investment made by the Pacific Community in resources for gender mainstreaming. Despite this investment, the policy gap still existed and the Pacific Community was doing its best to make the most of the resources available for this work. There were still a lot of areas that needed to be clearly defined in the work on gender and this was an ongoing process. In terms of country ownership, this was dependent on what the countries identified as priorities and gender was not recognised as a priority for many countries in the region.

**Pacific Island Forum Secretariat**

32 The representative from Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, stated that there was still a long way to go in the work on gender equality in the region. There was a need to make a connection between research and policy and to be more inclusive of NGOs. There were also questions around innovation and how partners are seeking funding in this area. From the Forum’s perspective, it was one thing to place an idea on the policy agenda and another to get that policy implemented and this is an issue faced by a lot of regional policies.

**Fiji National University**

33 The representative from Fiji National University spoke on the quality of data and data sources and also the limitations to accessing data. Fiji National University supported all the recommendations in the report noting that the identification of Pacific island researchers needed to be kept as fluid as possible and it was important to think about what was researched and the position of the researcher. An example used is the high demand for research that strengthens health systems in the region and the need to conduct operational research to see what is working and not working, and suggest what to do. It is also important to determine country gender research needs. This would place the researchers in a position of directly responding to the need of a country when applying for a research grant.

34 Workshop participants were given an opportunity to discuss the study findings in further detail and provided the following feedback on the various areas identified by the research.

**Research gaps**

35 The group that discussed the substantive components of the study identified the following gaps in the findings under the eight thematic areas:

- Limited research on women living with disabilities;
- Transgender, masculinities, culture and religion;
- In the area of education, women in tertiary education and the connection with women in decision making at different levels and in different contexts;
- The lack of Pacific Island men in the bibliography;
- The lack of Pacific theological literature on gender;
- The need to have gender integrated into the design process of a research project with gender needs to be addressed from the beginning and not at the end;
• Need for clarity about what we mean when referring to gender research and how this research engages with men;
• Access to family planning, and comprehensive sexuality education;
• Women in agriculture and the need for clarity about whether this is part of women’s economic empowerment;
• Women’s participation in civil society groups, and cultural and religious groups;
• New technologies, phones etc. and how this is impacting the diverse populations of the Pacific;
• The need for a broader understanding of ‘women in leadership and decision-making’ in order to capture leadership outside the formal political realm; and
• Recognising leadership in civil society and faith-based organisations as well as transgenerational leadership processes.

The following reports were recommended for inclusion in the Scoping Study (Annex 5):
• Twenty years on poverty and hardship in urban Fiji;
• Pacific research protocols from the University of Otago;
• Gender and food and agricultural production in the Pacific Islands concept note;
• Political Representation and Women’s Empowerment in Samoa, Volume 1: Findings and Recommendations;
• Political Representation and Women’s Empowerment in Samoa, Volume 2: Methods and Results;
• Policy Brief – Political Representation and Women’s Economic Empowerment in Samoa;
• Research Brief – Political Representation and Women’s Empowerment in Samoa;
• Gender Analysis of the Cocoa Value Chain in Samoa;
• Revitalisation of Samoa’s Village Women’s Committee for Public Health Promotion;

Quality assurance

36 This was identified as the most difficult area with discussions focusing on what constitutes gender research, what exactly is being quality assured, and what quality looks like. The group noted that often ‘quality’ is conceived as something that arises out of the academic peer review processes. However it was important to recognise that ‘peer review’ could have many different meanings for different research projects depending on the nature and scope of the research. It was noted that in some situations non-academic peer review (e.g. peer review by gender practitioners / research participants / anticipated audience) could yield a more rigorous review processes than conventional academic peer-review processes.

37 Along the same lines peer reviews for gender research had the potential to look like a lot of different things depending on who is involved in the research. A community project could mean
the involvement of a large group of people to provide feedback whereas an academic research project could be reviewed by two or three peers.

38 The group identified the need for forms of accountability, the need to identify relevance, the role of peer groups, the use of existing quality assurance frameworks and the key issues of accuracy, reliability and accessibility.

39 There is a need for a clearing house in the quality assurance decision making process. It was recognised that monitoring and evaluation frameworks could be detrimental to gender research as sometimes development practice is not conducive to producing quality research.

40 Quality assurance can be dependent on the target audience and could potentially change if a target audience is involved with the peer review process or not. Research is also an iterative process and it was important to clearly outline what that means for quality assurance. One way to go about quality assurance is as a collaboration between practitioners, academics and NGOs, while ensuring an accountability.

41 The timing of quality assurance interventions is also important with the research design to be peer reviewed at different stages. Quality assurance could also be ranking based on stakeholder feedback.

Clearing house and access issues

42 A clearinghouse was necessary and would contribute to accessibility and quality of gender research in the region. The model needs to be sustainable with clear goals. As there are intellectual property issues there is a need for necessary approvals in order to make research available.

43 The group noted the importance of language and format to ensure public access including by those with disability. The clearing house needed to be independent and open to critique with an acceptance that critiques will come.

44 It is important that the clearinghouse has a diverse funding base and be a Pacific-owned resource, adapted to the Pacific context with robust classifications and frameworks.

45 Further scoping needed to be done of what is already available or proposed e.g. in the funding for next round of the European Development Fund (EDF 11) there is a proposal for clearing house.

46 Those looking into the scope of the clearing house should consider making academic syllabuses available as shared teaching tools and should also consider a move towards open sourcing. There may be legal barriers with sharing information but if scoped properly, these could potentially be dealt with.

Ethics

47 Ethics was recognised as a key part of the quality assurance process and the capacity of people sitting on committees recognised as key in determining what is considered to be quality and robust research.

48 The discussions highlighted that knowledge on gender research and Pacific research should not be assumed with ethics committees be given guidance and training about the research that needs to be done.

49 Ethics processes take a lot of time, on all levels and this could be a deterrent. It was noted that ethics process can also be over bureaucratised.

50 There is a need for ethical standards for internal and external researchers, looking at researchers as individuals. Researchers need to be mindful of anonymity, and informed
consent. Part of research is informing the process of ethics in the region, learning by doing and protecting research participants.

51 The group stated that from their observations there is nothing in the social sciences that supports development of Pacific based research processes. They noted the lack of recognition for individual knowledge of researchers with this often seen as unethical with indigenous knowledge sometimes assumed as not being valid or robust.

52 The discussions noted that while research challenges norms in communities and societies, it does not mean it should not be done. It should be an empowering process by involving people throughout the research process.

53 The discussion on ethics also focused on the challenges of doing research within NGOs or non-academic research. This type of research often lacked formalised ‘ethics committees’ such as those that are present within universities and therefore assumed that non-academic research is ‘ethically questionable.’ This should not be the case, and it should be possible for NGO / civil society organisations internal processes to be validated as ethically satisfactory.

**Capacity building**

54 Discussion focused on different levels and kinds of capacity building and looked at capacity building activities that close the gap between academia and participatory / action orientated research raised by NGO representatives in the previous session.

55 Capacity building could be a focus of academic institutions and needs to take into account the needs of emerging academics who may require a hub of support or network to build their confidence and capacity.

56 Institutions need to prioritise gender research and capacity building in gender research through better planning, including succession planning.

57 Capacity could also be built by groups coming together, recognising and equally valuing the contribution of everyone involved in the research especially in action orientated research with special focus on the transformational nature of the research.

58 Capacity building should focus on research skills and partners should work together to identify and prioritise research areas. Research partnerships should be examined to ensure there are pathways to build capacity throughout.

3 Existing and planned gender related research

59 This session focussed on existing gender related research work, immediate plans for research and research related capacity building activities. It aimed to present a picture of gender related research in the region from current researchers and institutions, provide the opportunity to identify further areas of research needed to support gender equality while setting the scene for discussions around improving the quality, capacity, relevance and utility of Pacific led gender research to be held over the following sessions of the workshop.

60 Dr Claire Slatter from the University of the South Pacific provided an overview of different types of research, the different motivations for doing research and the different uses of research. These were noted as:

- Research commissioned and paid for by donors or international / regional institutions which was seen as a predominant form of research in the region. It provided consultancy work for gender specialists based within and outside the Pacific islands. Universities and academics have been increasingly drawn into participating in this kind of research as universities have
effectively become corporatised and required to raise research funds via consultancies. This research is not often published.

- Academic research which is mostly produced for publication and ideally in peer reviewed journals. There is increasing pressure for academics to publish in A-ranked journals and they are rewarded with cash bonuses as well as with better promotion prospects. There are A-ranked feminist journals but feminists publish in a wide range of specialist journals in their discipline as well as in interdisciplinary journals. The motivation is not just academic advancements. Most often the researchers are specialists in their field and their contribution to feminist scholarship is driven primarily by their dedication and integrity as scholars. This research does not necessarily involve primary research or gathering information first hand from research subjects, it may be archival research of historical records, or a reading / critique of secondary sources and reinterpretation of evidence.

- Policy related research which may or may not be commissioned and may be initiated by universities or policy institutes or think tanks. How and whether this work is channelled to policy makers and how much of it is actually used to inform policy and influence policy change would be good to investigate.

- Critique for example, of theories and ideas; of development policy / practice; of aid policies and modalities; of extractive industries; of laws and their limitations; of cultural practices. Critique is sometimes criticised for not providing an alternative but it is important to challenge dominant narratives, policies / practices and the most effective critique is supported by evidence from research.

- Advocacy oriented research (action oriented research) is the kind of research that NGOs / Feminist organisations undertake. They know what they want to examine and what they are going to use it for. They do not wear the label of ‘researcher’ but they are beginning to take on research work.

Dr Slatter noted that research is the first part of the process of contributing to knowledge with the second and equally significant part of the process being analysis. The analysis is critical, depends on how the research is framed, what kinds of questions were asked, the political perspective of the researcher and how realities are seen as researchers see widely divergent perspectives.

Prior to inviting the presenters to share their views, Dr Slatter posed the following questions: Why do we do what we do, what is the use of the research we do, does it make a difference to the lives of people? If so, how and would we work differently, if we could?

Professor Margaret Jolly from the Australian National University provided an overview of the gender research work she had conducted on a small remote village in Northern Vanuatu in the 1980s which was motivated partly by academic reasons and also as a feminist. She noted that a lot of the approaches and sensitivities she adopted in relation to research came from dialogue with Vanuatu feminist and women’s activist, Grace Mera Molisa (1946–2002) as she had to be mindful of not taking the imperial position that she was saving her brown sisters. Professor Jolly discussed how the nature of western knowledge and oceanic knowledge frames gives rise to the question of the identity of a Pacific researcher? She stated that the questions are about positionality and how the researcher is situated. Professor Jolly stated that there is ‘whiteness’ in research with research framed within this way of knowing with different ways of knowing and being in the world between different people.

Professor Jolly discussed a research study on gender and social protection conducted in 2015, commissioned by UN Women which had a very narrow terms of reference, presumed western frames and ignored indigenous knowledge. The terms of reference raised concerns about the UN system indicators which runs the risk of reproducing the world in a way of old imperial maps. The terms of reference was too focused on the state and economics as a commodity. She
noted the importance of economic empowerment to connect women to money and commodity of economy but it needed to also focus on how women in their daily lives cross over informal and formal economy. She noted that women are pushed down through commodity and labour laws and this is why researchers need to think of creating value through political forms. Professor Jolly highlighted the way Pacific women are embracing the Human Rights language and putting it into their own processes. In Pacific communities, women exert power through other means, e.g. through the church, even though the focus of gender and human rights tends to look only at parliament and electoral systems. She noted the importance of a research clearing house to provide open access to research material which would provide alternative ways for academic work to percolate into other societies.

Dr Teresia Teaiwa, from the Victoria University of Wellington provided some snapshots and reflections on existing research, future research and capacity building, discussing questions of authorship, audience and access. She highlighted the opportunities for capacity building through contract research while also expressing her own resistance to contract research, where after a gap of 12 years, she undertook contract research again in 2015. She discussed how the experience of contract research had left her disillusioned but that she agreed to do it again in 2015 following a request from her I-Kiribati people.

Dr Teaiwa expressed the importance of the role of universities as outlined in New Zealand in the Education Act. She highlighted the role that university research has in terms of building intellectual independence, with no other space in society guaranteeing this opportunity. Universities also accept a role as the critic and conscience of society and it was important not to give up on this space. In New Zealand the Treaty of Waitangi guarantees the preservation of Maori intellect and acknowledges the equivalence and equality of Maori knowledge. Universities struggled to meet their obligations to this treaty but they are far more advanced than other independent, sovereign societies. She noted that by preserving their sovereignty to their own knowledge, Maori have opened up the space for other Pasifika to also make a case for their voices. In the area of current research on gender, Dr Teaiwa provided an overview of theses on gender as part of Pacific studies at the Victoria University of Wellington, papers on gender presented at the Pacific History Association conference in Guam in 2016 and her experience as co-editor for an international feminist journal of politics, during which time there has been only two submissions on Pacific topics.

In her reflections, Dr Teaiwa, highlighted the divide between occupied and sovereign Pacific states and in New Zealand and Hawaii where one has to indigenise the context of research. She suggested that research is a weaving process, through which one weaves oneself which is different from the western concept of research where one has to remain objective. Indigenous data sovereignty means not relying completely on the state for data and raising literacy of people to question data provided to them. She highlighted the importance of making primary sources of data accessible to rural communities via mobile phones, the importance of more confident engagement with feminist theory and theorising and to 'indigenise it'.

In the discussions that followed, the knowledge of the past and the present was noted as important and ensuring that students are aware of the past, as opposed to too much of a focus on tradition. There is significant difference between the women’s liberation movement of the past and the presentation of it now. This is similar to the human rights discourse in Western ideologies which was not always used as the rights of the individual person during the enlightenment period. It was important to recognise that the rejection of a certain position is often rejected by resistant men who are in danger of losing power.

Providing feedback on why not many Pacific researchers have submitted journal articles to the feminist journal she co-edited, Dr Teaiwa said the word ‘feminist’ often holds people back. She noted the human rights language and discourse has stopped many from using feminist and indigenous language with donors prepared to support human rights but not indigenous rights,
which is a misunderstanding. Genuine research should not be afraid of alternative knowledge and ways of knowing, which is what patriarchy did to women.

Dr Asenati Chang-Tung from the University of the South Pacific and a member of the Pacific Gender Research Scoping Study team, highlighted the issue of gender in relation to the transgender community and the issue of gendering research in relation to the LGBTQI community had already started to emerge from the discussions. She questioned whether this was due to the visibility of the women's movement who are more vocal in Pacific spaces, focusing attention on ‘men as the problem’ approach. She noted that the conservative view on gender relations still lingers and there has been a rise in masculinity studies using the warrior, military and rugby images of men. She discussed work that had been done with women rugby players who identified as bisexual and faced issues within their own families. This required more investigation. Dr Chang-Tung shared her own experience of doing research on homophobia in Samoa and the reaction she received, which included being asked to leave the research community. She suggested that it was important to explore the different types of methodologies engaged in Pacific gender research and to get a better understanding of how to approach these sensitive topics.

Dr Jackie Kauli from the University of Goroka and Verena Thomas from Queensland University of Technology provided the workshop with an overview of the work they were conducting on addressing gender based violence through arts based research practice. The research was conducted within the context of building on the storytelling and performance culture of Papua New Guinea and developing appropriate research approaches to capture the nuances and complexities of human experiences. The intention was also to privilege community voices and knowledge. The research used theatre in conversations, community theatre, community conversations, process drama using the methodology of practice led research, narrative inquiry and performance ethnography.

They highlighted the use of Participatory Research design, collaboration between the two universities based on ethical engagement, giving back and using indigenous research approaches combined with arts based research processes and alternative ways to capture meaning among people and linking it to implementation.

In the longer term, the intention is to strengthen the integration of arts-based approaches in research, recognise communities’ capacities and capabilities in reflective practice, linking in to large research studies to impact policy, strengthening the research capacity both ways – of those being researched and those conducting the research and expanding quality assurance processes for creative research.

4 Pacific gender research quality assurance process

Discussions focused on building a shared understanding of what ‘quality’ research is for different stakeholders in the region in attempt to identify a quality assurance process for the Pacific. Examples of both quality research and quality assurance processes were presented to enable a better understanding of the type of quality research available in Universities, what methods and processes are required to ensure quality and the resources including skills and capacity needed. Discussion also covered quality assurance in the broader sense including ethics and guidelines around research on gender and children’s issues.

Setting the context for the discussion, Papua New Guinea Gender Specialist, Katherine Lepani made some observations on the words rigour and robustness in research that had been discussed during day one of the workshop. It was noted that rigour is a state of mind, about personal integrity, awareness of one’s own positionality and how that guides personal ethical practice in the research process. Quality and rigour is about the process, not just the end product that is published and gets out into the public domain as was demonstrated by work
being done and presented by the University of Goroka and Queensland University of Technology. Rigour is about respect, trust, rapport, reciprocity and relationships built into creative processes much like the metaphor suggested by Dr Teaiwa which identified research as a weaving process.

Dr Yvonne Underhill-Sem drew from work done by the Government of the United Kingdom, Department of International Development and Kepa Morgan’s paper on Assessing the Strength of Evidence. She noted that there were both tangible and intangible things to assess in the decision making process as reflected by Morgan in the Mauri-ometer decision making framework.

Reflecting on the Department of International Development processes, she highlighted that the assessments of quality and merit were based on understanding the importance of:

- **Conceptual framing** and acknowledging existing research theory, practice.
- **Transparency**: design, methods used, data generated, where it took place, how it was analysed, and who funded it.
- **Appropriateness**: whether it was experimental, observational, systematic.
- **Sensitivity**: to what extent was the research sensitive to cultural and social (poverty, cultural difference) situations.
- **Validity**: in measurements (not always quantitative, can be creative and understand that we need to gauge the strength and depth), internal (is there coherence, or something that undermines what can be said elsewhere), external (how does it fit in similar sorts of projects, how can external people or projects validate it).
- **Reliability**: how changeable (a difficult one, the need to know that the investment made, determines how reliable a research may be).
- **Cogency**: the need to be self-critical and to ask is it clear? One needs to be able to read a piece of work and see drawbacks and identify how they can be mitigated.

She noted the matrices of assessment could have three categories of high, medium low, positive, negative, neutral or five categories i.e. very strong, strong, medium, limited, no evidence.

Discussing research quality in Australia, Dr Richard Eves from the State, Society and Governance Program at the Australian National University stated that there appears to be little of the self-conscious discussion of research quality that is found in some of the international literature, in Australia. He noted the discussion about the development of quality assurance in relation to teaching, but not so much in relation to research. The Australian Research Council, the main funding board for research in the humanities, arts and social sciences, does not have any discussion of research quality assurance on its website. Where there is discussion of quality, it has been framed in terms of research excellence through the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) exercise. The ERA is an assessment system that evaluates the quality of research conducted at Australian universities through the lens of each discipline at each university. The ERA uses a broad range of indicators of research quality, including research outputs, research income, esteem measures, and applied measures (such as patents, registered designs and research commercialisation income) (Australian Research Council website).

Dr Eves noted, however, the ERA process assess the research at the level of output and does not assess the quality of the research used in producing the data used in the output. Neither does the ERA measure research impact. Though there is currently discussion going on in Australia about how to assess what is being called ‘research engagement and impact’. The extent to which different disciplines outline or reflect on the methodologies used, and the
research process more generally, varies. He noted from his experience of going through the peer-review process in anthropology, is that the concern is often with an article’s contribution to anthropological theory. So an article submitted to an anthropological journal is not necessarily going to be judged and assessed on the quality of the primary data or the methodological rigour, or indeed, whether it is based on contemporary research.

81 Quoting from Reynolds and colleagues in their 2011 review of quality assurance of qualitative research, they note that ‘disciplines using qualitative research methods have, to date, engaged far less frequently with quality assurance as a concept or set of procedures, and no standardised guidance for assuring quality exists’ (2011: 1).

82 They note that while there are some quality assurance procedures available for quantitative research these are rooted in a positivist epistemology and are not easily translated to the reflexive, subjective nature of qualitative research and the interpretivist-constructionist epistemological position held by many social scientists (2011: 2). This comes through in relation to public health and international health research – where publications often go into great detail of the methods used. This reflects the need by scholars working in these areas to frame their work against the evidence-based model of medicine (Reynolds et al 2011: 1). One of the issues that often arises in discussions of qualitative research is the question of ‘... whether qualitative research should be judged by the same constructs and criteria of quality as quantitative research’ (Reynolds et al 2011: 4).

83 Dr Eves stated that the issue of quality assurance is a minefield and not easily negotiated and he recommended caution about advocating for narrow definitions of quality, since this can easily lead research being pushed into rather formulaic proscriptions, which fail to recognise the iterative nature of much research. He noted as one of the issues in trying to come up with some kind of quality assurance model for gender research in the Pacific, is that those researching gender in the Pacific use a variety of methods. Regardless of whether the research is quantitative, qualitative or mixture of both – there is a plurality of techniques used and research can either be disciplinary based or inter-disciplinary. These range from the participant observation of anthropology to the participatory action research of development studies as well as surveys that seek to elicit numeric data.

84 Quoting again from Reynolds and colleagues, Dr Eves noted the two ways of approaching the issue of research quality in qualitative research – one that is focussed on the outputs and the other focussed on the research process. The first tends to draw on more positivist traditions and advocates for checklists of quality criteria or markers of ‘best practice’ (Reynolds et al 2011: 4). Such checklists comprise specific techniques and methods, the presence of which in qualitative research, was deemed an indicator of quality (Reynolds 2011: 4). These they note, often include – the use of triangulation, member (or participant) validation of findings, peer review of findings, deviant or negative case analysis and multiple coders of data (Reynolds 2011: 4). There is usually very little discussion of the quality of these techniques themselves and how to ensure they are conducted well (Reynolds 2011: 4). Reynolds and colleagues suggest that consequence of the privileging of guidelines as a mechanism to demonstrate quality can easily ‘mislead inexperienced qualitative researchers as to what constitutes good qualitative research’ and ‘runs the risk of reducing qualitative research to a limited set of methods’ (2011: ). He noted as one of the problems with overemphasising lists of criteria is that such lists can be inflexibly read and the research process merely becomes overly proscriptive.

85 Dr Eves highlighted the second approach to research quality tends to privilege values or principles indicative of the qualitative approach, rather than notions like ‘validity’ which are more traditionally linked to the positivist paradigm (Reynolds et al 2011: ) These are often presented

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1 Qualitative Assurance of qualitative research; a review of the discourse, Reynolds J, Kizito J, Ezumah N, Mangesho P, Allen E, Chandler C, 2011, BioMed Central Ltd.
as principles to be understood and upheld by the research teams throughout the research process, from designing a study, through data collection to analysis and interpretation. In their review Reynolds and colleagues identified six principles: ‘reflexivity of the researcher’s position, assumptions and practice; transparency of decisions made and assumptions held; comprehensiveness of approach to the research question; responsibility towards decision-making acknowledged by the researcher; upholding good ethical practice throughout the research; and a systematic approach to designing, conducting and analysing a study.’

Dr Underhill-Sem reflected upon quality assurance processes in New Zealand highlighting the New Zealand Tertiary Education Commission Performance Based Research Fund which ensures that excellence in research is encouraged and acknowledged. The Performance Based Research Fund has 13 specialist review panels with 11 panels including Maori peer review panels, 3 of those panels have Pacific Island members but up until 2006 Pacific Island research still did not have a panel. In 2012 a Pacific Island advisory group was set up and up until now 131 portfolios have been assessed with a growing understanding of assessments. The work done by the Maori panel has paved the way forward for this. The Tertiary Education Commission is working towards establishing a Pacific Research Panel in 2018.

Dr Underhill-Sem noted the excitement of being able to define what constitutes quality, with the scope to be creative within existing guidelines. The discussions provided a chance to have a comprehensive framework for Pacific research to recognise quality, encourage further advancement of Pacific research capability and enable research to accelerate Pacific development. There is a need to evaluate all evidence portfolios where there is evidence of research based on Pacific methodologies that involves Pacific centred subject matter and that impacts on Pacific communities. Quality research is also about getting Pacific researchers in the narrative form and how they would assess the work they are presenting as quality. This provided the opportunity for researchers to explain, what is quality and why it is considered quality.

Dr Teresia Teaiwa provided an overview of the quality assurance process followed for submission of journal articles to the International Feminist Journal of Politics which was established in 1999 and is a unique cross cultural and international forum to foster debate and dialogue at the intersection of international relations, politics and women’s studies. She encouraged the participants to submit their work to international journals and hoped her presentation would de-mystify the process. In terms of standing, the journal was middle ranking with an impact factor of 0.970 in 2015 which is based on the average number of weighted citations in a given year / divided by number of articles published in the past three years. It was ranked 67 / 163 in Political Science and 19 / 40 in Women’s studies. Dr Teaiwa highlighted the importance of publishing work not just in any journal but a feminist journal is because of the editorial duty of care feminist journals give. She noted that it could take up to 3.5 months before a journal article is accepted, and the academic quality assurance process can seem less robust than other processes.

Dr Teaiwa outlined the process of publishing in the journal which provides editorial feedback and asks questions about relevance, accuracy of claims, citing of sources and establishing what is out there already and the consistency of the argument made in the article. There are 3 people reviewing the work with the purpose of making the work the best it can be and even if it is rejected, they offer a feminist frame to gender work. Dr Teaiwa noted that the gender work in the Pacific is abandoning feminist language and there is a need to place the work on gender within the bigger feminism conversation.

Dr Teaiwa stressed that gender researchers should always challenge themselves, as the work they do is based on power and power must always be questioned. She stated the importance of being prepared to engage with comparative dialogues. When researchers place their work into such international journals it relates to other people across the world. Citations mean impact,
and it shows that research work has an afterlife. When research is cited, it means the work continues to live.

91. Discussing the place of ethics when conducting research on violence against women, a representative from the UN Women Pacific regional office highlighted the risks when working with people in vulnerable circumstances. She presented the broad base of research on Violence Against Women and Girls including prevalence studies such as the family health and safety studies, survivors’ experiences with violence, knowledge attitudes and practice studies, the economic costs of Violence Against Women and Girls, the ways in which survivors access help, and the ways in which the health, justice, and social sectors respond to survivors and perpetrators. The kind of data gathered from this research can be invaluable and research is critical for effective advocacy, mobilising resources and developing services. It also draws attention to women’s experiences, highlights underlying inequities, supports program design and intervention and generates policy and can influence behaviour change.

92. Researchers can place women and girls at increased risk of stigma, violence or harm, if ethical and safety issues are not thoroughly addressed from the inception of any research initiative.

93. Ethics has a big part to play as it is about transparency and engaging research participants as equal and key partners in this process. This includes determining outcomes and uses of the research. The primary ethical concern of any researcher conducting gender based violence research is women’s safety first with the most important ethical risk being the potential for inflicting harm to participants through their involvement in research. It was noted that the consideration of participant and interviewer safety guides all project decisions.

94. Fundamental ethical principles were outlined as: respect for autonomy which means giving due deference to a person’s judgment and ensuring that the person is free to choose without interference. This requires seeking their free, informed and ongoing consent. The protection of persons in vulnerable circumstances is also paramount with vulnerability often caused by limited capacity, or limited access to social goods, such as rights, opportunities and power. Individuals or groups in vulnerable circumstances may include children, the elderly, women, prisoners, those with mental health issues and those with diminished capacity for self-determination. Ethno-cultural minorities and those who are institutionalised are other examples of groups who have, at times, been treated unfairly and inequitably in research, or have been excluded from research opportunities.

95. When working with children the best interests of the child needed to ensure confidentiality, informed consent, wishes, rights and dignity. The process of collecting and reporting information on physical violence and harmful practices affecting children should be in line with international ethical standards, Inter-Agency Child Protection Information Management System and the Minimum Standards for Child Protection. Best practice requires that researchers are child protection experts and those trained on child-specific interviewing techniques.

96. Discussions focused on the specific situation of children in the Pacific and what constitutes a period of adolescence. This depends on cultural contexts and location with some 14 year olds considered adults in their communities. It was considered important to highlight these issues so that research practice is appropriate in the context. Attention was also drawn to the ethical guidelines from the World Health Organisation which highlight community spaces and why local researchers should not conduct research in their local areas. In the Pacific it was often important to use local support structures. When working with film there is no anonymity and this means working with people who are positioned to advocate for themselves. The role of the local researcher needs to be included in the research design, methodology and be reflected in how the information will be used as a local person could be going in to the community as an insider and outsider. This will influence how research is conducted. It was noted that for researchers it is was important to collapse all the layers between oneself and the research participants who needed to be viewed as equal in order to have open communication. This raised the issue of
bias in research and it was necessary to deal with the bias as it would come through in the thesis and publication. This then raised the issue of quality and how does the Pacific gender research embody our ethics, maintain accountability and the integrity of the research process?

97 Discussions were then drawn to the importance of protecting knowledge with concerns raised about outside agencies and consultants using information without proper acknowledgement or the recognition of who owns the knowledge. It was suggested that this could be resolved by considering the metaphor of weaving with Pacific researchers addressing the issue as it presents itself through a weaving process of guidelines, a list of things that need to be translated into local context to provide better meaning, which may be better understood through something visual or tangible so the guidelines come from a woven mat of ethics, reflecting different aesthetic or ethos. Weaving is a discipline and tidiness was important to the master weaver with an untidy weaver considered an insult. Dr Teaiwa compared the untidy weaver to those who do not follow correct ethical guidelines noting that what they are doing is taking what they have got and left the source as a mess. She went on to explain that if one did not tidy up ones workspace immediately, it could get into the weaving, and then one has to un-weave. She stressed that the metaphor is an indigenous women’s metaphor about discipline, rigor and care.

98 Discussing access and use of data from census research, it was noted that often data was difficult to access, never disclosed with National Statistics offices producing a brief descriptive report but with no analysis.

99 A participant raised concerns with generalising research findings particularly in the case of Papua New Guinea, where there is such diversity and where research in one particular place e.g. Bougainville is not representative of the situation in the whole country.

5 Capacity building opportunities to expand quality gender research for policy making

100 This session provided an opportunity for selected stakeholders and partners to share what they are doing in the area of capacity building in order to gain an appreciation of the gender research capacity building activities being implemented and supported in the region.

101 Introducing the session, Dr Jenny Bryant-Tokalau from the University of Otago and Dr Milika Sobey from the Fiji Women in Fisheries Network drew attention to strengthening research capacity of both the researcher and the researched stating that this covered aspects of rigour, training, both western and local survey design, the gathering of statistics and the need to ensure that the right data was being collected. They highlighted the importance of acknowledging those who are involved in the process as often research reports do not acknowledge those who put data together, therefore inclusive authorship needs to be part of the discussion. Better capacity for research techniques, indigenous techniques and how this overlaps into ethics. The University of Otago have Pacific research ethics guidelines in place developed from similar guidelines shared by University of the South Pacific. The guidelines are not perfect but are a starting point for guiding Pacific research done at the University.

102 The representative from Fiji National University provided an overview of the gender research being conducted at Fiji National University, the capacity building activities and plans for the future of gender studies at the University. Capacity building was being conducted through the College of Humanities and Education overseen by the gender studies group. Established in 2015, the group aims to lead the College in critically and analytically addressing gender as an important academic and development issue as well as to represent the College and the University in national dialogues and development work on gender through consultations and research. The two targets for the gender studies group are to develop two units on Understanding Gender and Gender Relations in the Pacific and Critical Issues in Gender and
Advancing Gender Research in the Pacific

Development. The group also aims to encourage and provide mentorship to academic staff to identify aspects of gender and development and undertake research.

103 The University of Goroka and Queensland University of Technology highlighted the capacity strengthening strategies in place which include:

- Undergraduate collaboration on cross-cultural understandings and ethics of collaboration.
- Innovating methodologies.
- Building Pacific scholarship in the Pacific – MA Program in Communication and Social Change at University of Goroka.
- Utilising opportunities in Australia – Collaborative Programing and PhD Scholarships.

104 Opportunities are provided for groups of students from Queensland University of Technology to work with students from Ugo over two months, exchanging and valuing knowledge, encouraging work with the community and encouraging community participation. The partnership at the under graduate level provides the foundation for encouraging cross cultural work with the use of technology to showcase the work of women in Papua New Guinea. Collaboration was seen as important for strengthening capacity both ways.

105 The representative from Divine Word University highlighted the university charter which made a special commitment to providing educational opportunities for women and identified the four women in senior positions of management at the University. In terms of capacity building, there is a research initiative at an organisational level which encourages all staff to engage in research and expects one third of the work load to be dedicated to research. At the Faculty level, capacity building is done through ongoing research conversations, ongoing training in research methodologies and a Faculty research symposium. There are also partnerships which provide opportunities to build capacity through research which is taught in all programs of the University.

106 The representative from Massey University provided an overview of the function and purpose of the Pacific Research and Policy Centre that was established as a research knowledge hub with the intention to increase research activities relevant to Pacific / Pasifika issues and communities within New Zealand and in the Pacific. The core focus of the centre is to encourage research and communicate the findings of the research to relevant stakeholder communities. Over the last five years the Centre has appointed a Director, developed a Pasifika strategy and has been working to identify researchers working within Pacific communities and those doing research on Pasifika. The Centre has a Pacific research caucus who review research on the Pacific done at Massey and provide some type of quality assurance. Through the Centre, researchers have been working with Pacific communities and incorporating indigenous approaches. The Centre works with other partners such as the National University of Samoa and the University of the South Pacific.

107 Dr Richard Eves from the Australian National University State, Society & Governance in Melanesia program highlighted the Pacific Research Colloquium held annually which provides an opportunity for 20 participants from the Pacific island region to go through some formal training on research methodologies. The Colloquium has evolved from talking heads to a more participatory approach around different research scenarios.

108 The State, Society & Governance in Melanesia program also offers a Pacific Women Papua New Guinea Research Training program which is a collaboration between the program, Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research and the University of Goroka’s Centre for Social and Creative Media. It aims to train 20–25 researchers and includes training in research methods, development of research tools and knowledge products. It also offers teaching support and miscellaneous training.
Professor Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop from the Auckland University of Technology discussed the ‘Talanoa Hub’ using national access grid technology that bring Pacific researchers together virtually twice a month for two hours as a possible capacity building model that could be adopted to build Pacific gender research. The current model used by Auckland University of Technology connects Pacific researchers from universities in the region. The model was identified as affordable as its only cost is the salary of a research assistant and functions on the good will of the lecturers who avail their time twice a month to be a part of the process. The Talanoa hubs have grown significantly since it started in 2012 with the numbers increasing to over 600. Each University has a responsibility to do an internal analysis of research ideas and present. The forum allows students to share their research methodology and rationale and opens it to dialogue. University of the South Pacific recently joined the discussion hub.

Discussions focused on how new technologies can be used to facilitate mentoring across all the universities in the region, aside from going to conferences which is not always affordable and practical for everyone. Mentoring and capacity building needs commitment from senior researchers and the limited availability of senior researchers was highlighted as an issue. There was potential for emerging researchers to create their own mentoring and peer support groups whereby mentoring was not only be considered as a vertical process but also horizontal where those entering into research could encourage and support each other and also continue to stay connected.

It was suggested that emerging researchers working in the area of gender equality and feminism need to have a better understanding and be able to define Pacific feminism.

Additional contributions from group discussion focused on practical ways to progress capacity building included:

- Further unpack gender and feminism as there are different levels of understanding and these need to be clarified.
- Scope the possibility of a ‘Talanoa Hub’ similar to what was presented by Auckland University of Technology as a Pacific Gender research hub.
- Develop a database of gender experts, researchers, academics and practitioners and include willingness to provide mentoring support in the information.
- Donor commitment to support gender research and capacity building including mentoring as a way to push it to the next level.
- Integrate mentorship programs into the research proposals.
- Integrate capacity building into research proposals.
- Increase collaboration amongst partners.
- Recognise and value research that is undertaken outside of universities.
- Adopt creative methodologies and prioritise Pacific researchers.
- Support capacity building that is focused on translating research into simple language that can be communicated through different channels.
- Recognise the cadre of connectors, intermediary group to connect research, policy and community, similar to the Consultative Implementation Monitoring Committee in Papua New Guinea.

The idea of a clearing house was recognised as a way forward as well as a mentorship program connecting senior researchers to emerging researchers. It was suggested that should a clearing house be established it would need to be operated as a consortium. It was suggested that
Pacific Women initiate a scoping study to look into the possibility of a clearing house, possible stakeholders and how this might be taken forward as a consortium.

The group discussed opportunities for a Pacific journal on gender to be developed. It was noted that Oxfam was currently working on a series of articles on gender and development in the Pacific. There was also potential for a Pacific gender and development reader to be published similar to what has been published by the Open University. This could feature articles from a range of different practitioners, academics and non-governmental organisations.

6 Improving access to Pacific gender research

In discussion on improving access to Pacific gender research the workshop heard about clearing house options and looked at the strengths and weaknesses of these systems including the resources required to operate and maintain them.

Dr Jimaima Tiata-Seath from the University of Auckland presented the New Zealand Family Violence Clearing house model which serves as a national centre for family and whanau (Māori-language word for extended family) family research and information, funded by the New Zealand Government. The rationale behind the establishment of the centre is that access to high-quality information is critical in ensuring family violence prevention and intervention strategies are effective and achieve the greatest possible success.

The Centre makes knowledge accessible through a number of different means and provides the evidence base link to practice, policy and research. The Centre produces fact sheets, up to date statistics, current information and other official information. It is run by a team of five staff and is guided by two advisory groups with representatives from New Zealand universities, government and non-government agencies. This ensures the depth of accountability. The strength of the Centre is that it is independent and is a trusted information source but it also runs the risk that demand will outweigh capacity.

The representative from the Equality Institute in Australia discussed various clearing house models including: Gendered Violence Research Network in the Asia Pacific, Research Organisation for Women’s Safety which was established under Australia’s National plan to reduce violence against women and their children, Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety, Sexual Violence Research Initiative and the UN Women Virtual Knowledge Centre. Common features of these models are that they prioritise solid research with a focus on outcomes, the research, reports and proposals utilise knowledge and experience of survivors of violence and they engage with stakeholders in a way that takes account of stakeholder needs and behaviours.

Questions emerged from discussions about a Pacific gender research clearinghouse with the need to further identify whether it exists as just a repository of research, whether it provides services for translation of information, should it influence policy and practice, how the research will be disseminated, whether it will build capacity and is it expected to collate content, produce content and send it on to a clearing house mechanism.

Discussions on the clearinghouse models agreed that they provided useful insight into clearinghouse functions and mechanisms. However, it was felt that Pacific gender research requirements for a clearing house were much broader and needed to cover the whole spectrum from research to public engagement across all the substantive areas of gender research. The proposed clearing house needed to engage with governments, non-government organisations and communities and needed to link back to policy. It needed to independent and be a living space rather than a collection point which raised discussion on the ‘Clearing House’ title as this identified it as place which just clears information. The Clearing House also needed to be Pacific driven and reflect Pacific values and cultural knowledge.
7 Partnerships to expand quality gender research for policy making in the Pacific

121 The session aimed to identify concrete initiatives and working partnerships to strengthen coordination for improved policy related gender research in the region, including increasing the capacity of Pacific Island researchers to carry out and share this research. It reflected on the first two days of the meeting and focused on the benefits of working more closely together by discussing collaborative research initiatives; best practice principles in collaborative work, the type of research to focus on, and some concrete initiatives that can take this forward.

122 This session began with a presentation from Tait Brimacombe, who illustrated two examples of research collaboration: (i) a research collaboration of early career researchers at La Trobe University and the University of the South Pacific towards a project exploring digital feminism in Fiji (this example illustrated some of the strengths of an Early Career Researchers research collaboration – including solidarity and opportunities for horizontal mentoring); and (ii) a long-term and ongoing action-research partnership between the Institute for Human Security & Social Change at La Trobe University and the Pacific Leadership Program. This example illustrated the benefits that a partnerships approach can bring to research collaboration, and the process involved in drafting a partnership agreement to underpin research.

123 The representatives from Queensland University of Technology and University of Goroka discussed their partnership in the Project, *Yumi Kirapim Senis*, where they worked together with a community to address domestic violence using participatory action research, visual research informed by indigenous research concepts, creative practice (photo workshops and filming) which created a foundation for ownership and involvement. Through the partnership and the approach, the project created a safe space for participation, built trusting relationships, provided the space to share with others and discuss in a group, built people’s capacity to express themselves. The project unpacked contextualised narratives of gender-based violence and created advocacy material for exhibition. The initiative acts as a catalyst to promote dialogue among people and stakeholders including policy makers. It has established new links and networks among a variety of individuals and groups and has been able to influence the Papua New Guinea National gender-based violence strategy which is now at the final draft stage for approval by the government.

124 The representative from University of Otago presented the New Zealand Institute for Pacific Research partnership which is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and is a consortium between three research intensive New Zealand universities, the University of Auckland, Otago University and Auckland University of Technology. All three universities have a long history of Pacific focused research back to 1960s and excellent post-graduate research capacity in Pacific students. Between them the three universities educate 75% of Pacific students in New Zealand, produce 60% of Pacific PhDs and employ 90% of the 175 Pacific academics working in universities in New Zealand. New Zealand Institute for Pacific Research is currently involved in five projects and have a number of research engagements.

125 The New Zealand Institute for Pacific Research partnership raised the following issues: the number of donor driven projects in the Pacific, the influence of governments and national election cycles on the focus and funding for research and often the timeframes for when the research is to be conducted and the need to ensure countries are fully engaged especially women and all people at community level. It was noted that the Pacific now is very different to the Pacific in the 1960s and 1970s; with Pacific people clearly leading much of the research, consultancies, policy making and planning. The challenge is to influence the donors or ultimately not have to use them at all.

126 In terms of collaborations and partnerships, the meeting discussed the need for standards and guidelines for partnerships and the roles and responsibilities of multi-disciplinary partners, as
well as ethical guidelines. Partnerships should be based on a shared agenda be equitable and of mutual benefit. It should also include risk identification and mitigation with a need recognised for more local partnerships and partnerships with communities. Lessons could be learnt from the movement building and alliance work with guidance and reflection needed to make partnerships sustainable.

127 The Gender Issues Officer from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat highlighted the way that research used the right way had been instrumental in getting the issue of cervical cancer on the Pacific Forum Leaders agenda. The policy direction will be guided by research that will be presented to Leaders later this year with the research showing the links with sexually transmitted infections, power relations and women’s agency from a ‘feminist’ perspective.

128 Essential to effective partnerships with a particular focus on integrating LGBTQI research into feminist coalition research, was organising and managing political engagement with each other. Research needs to be undertaken in line with agreed principles, expectations and specific requirements outlined in the partnership agreement between researchers and other stakeholders to ensure safety and ownership of the information. It was also noted that women are not homogenous e.g. lesbian women and women with a disability.

129 The meeting heard about the tension in partnerships between academia and NGOs, with some big partnerships noted as time consuming and resource intensive. It was therefore important that the NGOs defined what they needed from the partnerships as well as the fears and risks. This needed to be guided by either a memorandum of understanding which outlined the publication and its dissemination, i.e. when and how information would be disseminated and would make these decisions within the group or a partnership agreement which allows various institutions to give voice to their respective individual and institutional needs so that these can be understood alongside the shared research objective. The partnership agreement allows partners to be transparent about their various funding constraints, agendas etc. which improves the overall efficiency of a research collaboration and removes any potential power imbalances from the equation.

130 The meeting discussed the reality that donor funding has a large influence on gender research in the Pacific island region and mention was made of Pacific Women and how the bulk of its support for research was going to non-Pacific based researchers and institutions.

131 It also highlighted the importance of recognising that the integrity of scholars and researchers is at stake if all the research is being driven by donors.

8 Concluding comments and recommendations

132 The meeting concluded by providing an opportunity for the participants to reflect on the workshop summary and conclusions presented in a draft outcomes statement.

133 The participants provided feedback on the statement and highlighted specific recommendations for advancing gender research in the Pacific.

134 The meeting endorsed all the recommendations from the Pacific Gender Research Scoping Study with the following additional recommendations:

- That forums be held in the near future with the objective to re-envision Pacific feminism and gender for the new generation of Pacific researchers now working in this space.
- That ongoing support be provided to ensure that the bibliography compiled in the study is current and able to be searched by country and by relevant themes.
- That a directory of researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders working in Pacific gender research be established which includes information about capacity, sectoral skills, and
availability to review research, mentor emerging researchers, or translate research into policy briefs, communications tools etc.

- That more efforts be made to support Pacific islanders doing gender research and shaping the research agenda in the Pacific region.

- That the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders conducting gender research be acknowledged and recorded to facilitate partnership and coalition building as well as identify gaps in gender research.

- That a scoping exercise be commissioned to develop a Pacific clearing house model that would define its boundaries and functions, refine its name, identify potential funders and / or partners and potential location. The scoping exercise is to include a review of existing clearing house networks.

- That recognition be given to the different locations within which Pacific gender research is being undertaken and all partners, including NGO, civil society organisations and Pacific Island universities be considered when advancing the gender research agenda in the region.

- That a review of existing quality assurance processes be done to consider issues of accuracy, reliability, accessibility and accountability.
Annex 1  Participant directory for Pacific Gender Research Workshop

20–23 June, 2016 – The University of the South Pacific

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<tr>
<th>Contact</th>
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<td><strong>Australia</strong></td>
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1. **Dr Margaret Anne Jolly**  
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- An Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow 2010–2015  
- Professor in the School of Culture, History and Language in the College of Asia and the Pacific at the Australian National University  
- Taught at Macquarie University in Sydney, the University of Hawai’i and the University of California, Santa Cruz and has been a visiting scholar in Anthropology in Cambridge University and at Centre de recherche et documentation sur l’Océanie in Marseille  
- In 2009, held a Poste Rouge with the Centre national de la recherche scientifique in France  
- An historical anthropologist who has written extensively on gender in the Pacific, on exploratory voyages and travel writing, missions and contemporary Christianity, maternity and sexuality, cinema and art  
- Her most recent book is Divine Domesticities: Christian Paradoxes in Asia and the Pacific (ed. with Hyaeweol Choi) Australian National University Press, Canberra 2014. She is presently focused on issues of gender and climate change in the Pacific.

2. **Associate Professor Richard Eves**  
Senior Fellow, State Society & Governance in Melanesia Program  
Australian National University College of Asia and the Pacific  
ACT 0200, Australia  
Email: Richard.eves@anu.edu.au

- An anthropologist with extensive field and consultancy experience in Papua New Guinea  
- Research interests in Melanesian ethnography, medical anthropology, and gender based violence, sorcery and witchcraft

3. **Marta Jasinska**  
Communications and Marketing Manager  
The Equality Institute  
6/172 Princes Street, Carlton North 3054  
Victoria, Australia  
M: +61 430 001 582  
Email: mart@equalityinstitute.org ; jasinska.m88@gmail.com

- Has worked in development for the last five years  
- Attained a Master of International Trade and Development before pursuing further Masters study in Communications  
- Worked for the UN in Geneva, international trade organisations in Australia and for Amnesty International  
- Her focus in recent years has been on women’s rights, and currently works for The Equality Institute on internal and external communications in addition to
**Contact** | **Background**
--- | ---

**3. Scarlett M. Thorby:** Listo
Visual Designer
Equality Institute
Unit 8/ 20:22 Valiant Street, Abbotsford, 3067 Victoria, Australia
M: +61 430435525
Email: scarlett@equalityinstitute.org; scarlett.thorbylister@gmail.com
- Visual Designer
- Holds a Bachelor of Design from University of NSW Art & Design and has previously worked with clients such as Greenpeace, International Women’s Development Agency, and HARDA
- Uses design as a tool for change.

**4. Tait Brimacombe**
DLP Research Fellow
*Developmental Leadership Program & Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University*
3/83 Speight St, Thornbury, Victoria 3071, Australia
T: +61 394791335
M: +61 417840182
Email: T.Brimacombe@latrobe.edu.au; tbrimacombe@hotmail.com
- Currently completing PhD exploring the intersection of communication for development and gender in the Pacific, with a particular focus Vanuatu and Fiji
- Her current research with the *Developmental Leadership Program* at the Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University explores themes including women’s leadership, collective action and activism in the Pacific
- Currently working on research focusing on digital feminism in Fiji, and the use of a variety of communication tools, techniques and platforms throughout Melanesia for communicating narratives and discourses around gender equality.

**5. Meghan Cooper**
International Women’s Development Agency Program Manager, Pacific (Fiji, We Rise)
Level 1, 250 Queen Street, Melbourne Victoria, Australia
T: +61 3 8373 2517
M: +61 435 073 101
Email: mcooper@iwda.org.au
Skype: meghancoope
- Fiji Program Manager at the International Women’s Development Agency and working with partners in the We Rise Coalition
- 10 years’ experience working on women’s rights and research both within civil society and the UN
- Professionally accredited partnership broker
- Research Advisor with the Australian Council for International Development, successfully managing a 3-year, multi-partner, DFAT funded program supporting academic and NGO partnerships, and advising on Australian NGO research
- Her own research interests relate to areas of gender based violence, feminist research methodology and praxis, movement building and citizenship.

**6. Jessica Davis**
Women’s & Children’s Health Specialist
Burnett Institute
11 Thorn St, Barwon Heads, Victoria 3227, Australia
- Women’s and Children’s Health Specialist with the Centre for International Health at the Burnet Institute
### Contact

**Email:** Jessica.davis@burnett.edu.au  
Jessicaxdavis@gmail.com  
**T:** +61 3 9282 2124  
**M:** +61 416 101 821

- **Adjunct Lecturer at the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University**
- **Primary areas of interest include community-based care for maternal, newborn and child health, engaging men in supporting the health of their families, and sexual and reproductive health.**

### Background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8. Dr Verena Thomas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Queensland University of Technology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUT Gardens Point D5.513</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George St, QLD 4000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Email:** verena.thomas@qut.edu.au  
Verena.thomas@gmx.com  
**T:** +61 3138 7096 M: +61 405836618 |  |
| **Co-Director of the Centre for Social and Creative Media at the University of Goroka** |  |
| **Research Fellow at Queensland University of Technology** |  |
| **At the University of Goroka, has set up the Centre for Social and Creative Media research centre with its vision to innovate the use of media and communication research and practice in the Pacific applying and investigating concepts of social justice and indigenous values** |  |
| **Her research focus is on the use of creative and action research approaches and their integration into programs that address issues around gender, health and well-being** |  |

### Fiji

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9. Alisia Evans</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Associate: Research FemLINKPACIFIC</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Box 12793</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suva, Fiji</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **T:** +679 3318160  
**M:** +679 765 9978  
**Email:** research@femlinkpacific.org.fj |  |
| **Part of the organisation’s Young Women’s Leadership Team as Program Associate:Research** |  |
| **Holds a Bachelor of Arts in Human Geography from Lancaster University in the United Kingdom.** |  |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10. Aliti Vuniseya</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Independent Consultant: Gender, Fisheries &amp; Climate Change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O.Box 1321, Nabua</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **M:** +679 9938931  
**Email:** vunisealiti@gmail.com |  |
| **Researcher & Practitioner, Climate Change, Fisheries Agriculture and Gender in Pacific countries.** |  |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>11. Luse Qereqeretabua</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordinator, Women in Fisheries Network</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Rose Place, Rewa Street</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suva, Fiji</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **M:** +679 9276514  
**Email:** luseq4wifnetworkfiji@gmail.com |  |
| **Holds a Master of Arts in International Development Cooperation** |  |
| **15 years’ experience in community development, policy development and gender & development.** |  |

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<tr>
<th>12. Husnaeen Jasmine Hussain</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecturer/ Act Head of School –Education Fiji National University</td>
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<tr>
<td>PO Box 5529, Lautoka</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **T:** +679 6667533  
**M:** +679 9279504 |  |
| **Lecturer at the School of Education** |  |
| **Acting Head of School-Education. Academic** |  |
| **Interest in research includes school/teacher improvement, women and educational leadership, literacy issues,** |  |
13. Avelina Rokoduru  
Fiji National University  
Pasifika Campus  
Fiji School of Medicine  
Private Bag  
Suva, Fiji  
T: (679) 323 3036  
Email: avelina.rokoduru@fnu.ac.fj

14. Maria Talei Divuyaliyali Musudroka  
Statistician – Household Survey Unit  
Fiji Bureau of Statistics  
P O Box 5150  
Suva, Fiji  
T: +679 3315 822 M: +679 9962271  
mariam@statsfiji.gov.fj; taleiwing@gmail.com

- BA, PGdip, MA Development Studies  
- Senior Statistician Household Survey Unit (2015:2016)  
- Interests include research work in advancing development initiatives.

15. Dr. Milika Sobey  
Chair, Executive Committee  
Women & Fisheries Network, Fiji  
PO Box 14607  
Suva Fiji  
M: +679 9928895  
Email: milikasobey@connect.com.fj  
milikasobey@gmail.com

- Worked in academia for 20 years and conducted research in marine sciences  
- Active member of the Women and Fisheries Network since its inception in 1993  
- Managed two large climate change adaptation projects in Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu.

16. Shirleen Aziza  
Regional Training Institute Manager  
Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre  
PO Box 12882  
Suva, Fiji  
T: +679 3313 300  
M: +679 9920133  
Email: shirleen@fijiwomen.com

- Regional Training Institute Manager.

17. Menka Goundan  
Fiji Women’s Rights Movement  
Level 2, TAF House  
76 Gordon Street  
Suva, Fiji  
T: +679 3313156  
Email: menka@fwrm.org.fj

- Research Officer  
- Interest include women human rights and transitional justice.

Hawaii

18. Dr Tina Tauasosi:Posiulai  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
94-011 Waipahu Street, APT. D212  
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797  
tauasosi@hawaii.edu ; tina.posiulai@gmail.com

- Community Partnership & Research Specialist.

New Zealand

19. Dr. Jennifer Joy Bryant  
Associate Professor  
University of Otago  
Te Tumu, School of Maori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies, University of Otago, PO Box 56

- Geographer working in Pacific Islands Studies, University of Otago.  
- Taught at the University of South Pacific and University of Papua New Guinea and worked as Sustainable Development
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Institution</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Jenny Bryant Tokalau        | Adviser for United Nations Development Programme in Suva | Dunedin, NZ 9054 T: +64 3 4716946 M: +64 27632534 Email: Jenny.bryant.tokalau@otago.ac.nz; jbryanttokalau@gmail.com | - Currently the Principal Investigator for the NZ Institute of Pacific Research project on the Commercial Potential of Land in the Pacific  
- Interests include Poverty and Inequality, Urbanisation and Resilience and Environmental Change in the Pacific.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Dr. Litea Meo-Sewabu        | Coordinator of the Pacific Research and Policy Centre, Massey University | Private Bag 1122 Manawatu Mail Centre, 4442, NZ T: +6463569099 x 83520 M: +64210655700 Email: L.Meo:Sewabu@massey.ac.nz | - Teaches Pacific wellbeing and Gender and development  
- Specialises in cultural understanding of health and wellbeing amongst “Marama iTaukei” (Indigenous Fijian Women)  
- Explored “culturally embedded agency” of Fijian women, introducing a policy framework inclusive of these  
- Has published in the area of Indigenous research ethics and methodology, indigenous wellbeing and social policy and culturally embedded agency and gender.  
- Worked in the Ministry of Health in Fiji in Health Planning and Health Promotion  
- Taught Public health and community medicine at the Fiji School of Medicine.                                                                                                                                   |
| Dr. Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop  | Teaching, advocacy and research and publication in Pacific and gender challenges (youth and family security) through national planning offices and also through NGO (Women and agriculture, politics and violence against women) | Auckland, New Zealand T: +64 09 921 9768 x 6203 M: +64 921 245 9148 Email: pfairbai@aut.ac.nz | - Coordinated the Pacific Platform of Action for Women (Beijing) with SPC and Plus 15 Review  
- Since returning to NZ in 2006 was national president of PACIFICA  
- Main thrust now is gender and education, family violence and leadership.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Dr Teresia Kieuea Teaiwa    | Specialises in theory and practice of Pacific Studies research and teaching | Wellington 6140, New Zealand T: +64 04 4635110 M: +64 2 103 16547 Email: Teresa.Teaiva@vwu.ac.nz ; teaiwa@xtra.co.nz | - Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award, New Zealand 2014  
- Pacific People’s Award for Education 2015  
- Research and gendered/feminist analysis of militarism in Fiji and the Pacific.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Dr Jemaima Tiatia-Seath     | Pacific suicide prevention                               | Wellington, Po Box 600 Wellington 6140, New Zealand T: +64 04 4635110 M: +64 2 103 16547 Email: Teresa.Teaiva@vwu.ac.nz ; teaiwa@xtra.co.nz | - Youth development  
- Mental health                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Experience/Interests</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Brenda Kosi Andrias</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea Monitoring and Evaluation Officer</td>
<td>Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Support Unit</td>
<td>P.O Box 1826, Boroko NCD, Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>Work: +675 3201375 ; M: +675 7963 8547 Email: <a href="mailto:Brenda.andrias@pacificwomen.org.fj">Brenda.andrias@pacificwomen.org.fj</a>; <a href="mailto:andriasbrenda@gmail.com">andriasbrenda@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Dr Iwona Kolodziejczyk</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Research Coordinator</td>
<td>Divine Word University</td>
<td>Postal Address; Divine Word University Main Campus, Nabasa Rd P.O. Box 483 Madang, 511 Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>Work: +675 4221813 ; M: +675 70407734 Email: <a href="mailto:ikolodziejczyk@dwu.ac.pg">ikolodziejczyk@dwu.ac.pg</a>; <a href="mailto:iwonapng@gmail.com">iwonapng@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Dr. Jackie Rose Kauli</td>
<td>Arts Based Development Practitioner and Researcher</td>
<td>University of Goroka/Queensland University of Technology</td>
<td>P.O.Box 1078 Goroka, Papua New Guinea Email: <a href="mailto:jkauli@qut.edu.au">jkauli@qut.edu.au</a>; <a href="mailto:jackie.kauli@gmail.com">jackie.kauli@gmail.com</a> M: +675 72346455</td>
<td>Works as a development practitioner using arts based methodologies to encourage meaningful engagement from people and communities; Works between Australia and Papua New Guinea. Current focus is the use of arts based methodologies to support gender based violence initiatives in Papua New Guinea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Dr. Jennifer Litau</td>
<td>Dean of School of Arts and Humanities</td>
<td>Pacific Adventist University</td>
<td>Private Mail Bag, Boroko, National Capital District, Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>Work: +675 328 0200 Ext 240 M: +675 79020715</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>28. Dr. Katherine Mary Lepani</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea Governance Facility</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 1, Raivalian Haus, Harbour City</td>
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<td>P.O. Box 591</td>
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<td>Waterfront 12</td>
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<td>NCD, Papua New Guinea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone +675 307 2200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:Katherine.Lepani@pgf.org.pg">Katherine.Lepani@pgf.org.pg</a></td>
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</table>

**An anthropologist with research interests in gender relations and public health**

- Holds a Bachelor of Arts (Anthropology) from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (1991), a Master of Public Health from the University of Queensland (2001), and a PhD in Anthropology from the Australian National University (2008)
- Lecturer and senior research associate with the Australian National University College of Medicine, and the College of Asia and the Pacific, where she developed and taught a graduate course on qualitative methodologies for health research, and co-developed and convened a course on gender and sexuality in the Pacific
- Her book Islands of Love, Islands of Risk: Culture and HIV in the Trobriands (Vanderbilt University Press, 2012), based on her PhD thesis, is the first full length ethnography that examines the interface between global and local understandings of gender, sexuality, and HIV in a Melanesian cultural context.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>29. Ms. Netty Sisy Daemuna</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea Constitutional and Law Reform Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/: Constitutional and Law Reform Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POBox 3439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boroko</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCD, Papua New Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T: Number: +675 33252840; M: +675 73934612</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:ndaemuna@crlc.gov.pg">ndaemuna@crlc.gov.pg</a>; <a href="mailto:ndaemuna@gmail.com">ndaemuna@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Graduated with a law degree from the University of Papua New Guinea and admitted to the bar in 2013**

- Work for the Papua New Guinea Constitutional and Law Reform Commission
- Have worked in the formulation of laws that are either gender neutral or promote gender equality.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>30. Dr Betty Lovai</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Box 286, University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCD, Papua New Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:lovaibp@upng.ac.pg">lovaibp@upng.ac.pg</a> <a href="mailto:bplovai@gmail.com">bplovai@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T: +675 3267626, 3267622 M: +675 76836221</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Served in the past on government committees or bodies such as Papua New Guinea Constitutional and Law Reform Commission (2005:2013), Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary Review Committee (2004), University of Goroka Investigation Committee (2005), the Guns Control Committee (2005), Papua New Guinea Sustainable Development Program Advisory Council as a member and later chairperson (2003:2011), member of the Screening Panel for Nominated Women to Parliament (2009),**
Advancing Gender Research in the Pacific

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>31. Dr Lalen Julianna Simeon</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Director:</strong> Research and Postgraduate Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Adventist University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Mail Bag, Boroko NCD, Papua New Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T: +675 3280200; M: +679 7341 4290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:lalen.simeon@pau.ac.pg">lalen.simeon@pau.ac.pg</a>; <a href="mailto:lalen.simeon77@gmail.com">lalen.simeon77@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>An educator</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Worked as a research project team leader and social science researcher on collaborative projects between Pacific Adventist University and universities in western countries, especially Australia. (University of NSW, University of Tasmania, UC, Deakin University and other research institutes within Papua New Guinea) The research projects involved in are as follows: youth, women and girls, women and families, gender issues, HIV and Aids and educational research project</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The current research projects involved in are the women and family research projects that is sponsored by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research and Pacific Women.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Samoa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>32. Ailepata Manila</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samoa Bureau of Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Box 1511 Apia, Samoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:ailepata.manila@sbs.gov.ws">ailepata.manila@sbs.gov.ws</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T: +685 62000 M: +685 7280166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assistance Chief Executive Officer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Holds a Master of Business Administration, University of the South Pacific.</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>33. Helen Tiaoalii Tanielu</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PO Box 1622 Le Papaigalagala Campus Apia, Samoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:h.tanielu@nus.edu.ws">h.tanielu@nus.edu.ws</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T: +685 20072 ext. 307 M: +685 7648323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Senior Lecturer Sociology at the National University of Samoa</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Researcher in the areas of Gender and Gender based violence, youth, Stress and coping, Education, social issues in Samoa and Pacific, health.</strong></td>
</tr>
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Solomon Islands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>34. Paraniala Lui</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHD Candidate Queensland University of Technology Brisbane, Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A final year PhD student at the School of Public Health, Queensland University of Technology</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Email: paraniala@gmail.com

- Have investigated the prevalence of ‘Violence and other harmful experiences during childhood among males in the Solomon Islands’ as part of a research on Reproductive health problems faced by men in Honiara, Solomon Islands (prevalence of sexual dysfunctions and associated factors)
- Graduated with a Master of Public Health from the University of the South Pacific/Fiji School of Medicine in 2008.

### Vanuatu

**35. Heidi Marion Tyedmers**  
PO Box 1189  
Port Vila, Vanuatu  
Email: natoraconsulting@gmail.com  
T: +678 5559090

- Worked with the Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta on a research and advocacy project focused on youth in peri-urban settlement communities
- Holds a Masters degree in Anthropology, Pacific and Asian Studies and Social Work focusing on justice, gender and culture, and the critical application of participatory action research
- Has been engaged in partnership work between First Nations communities and the Pacific, and also spent nine years at a university-based Asia/Pacific Research Centre
- Has just completed a major research project on conflict management and access to justice in rural Vanuatu, with a special focus on women.

**36. Frida Bani**  
Pacific Institute of Public Policy  
PMB 9034  
Port Vila, Vanuatu  
Email: frida@pacificpolicy.org  
T: +678 29842 M: +678 5964439

- Joined the Pacific Institute of Public Policy under the Pacific Institute of Public Policy research internship programme
- Currently work as Communications Officer.

### Regional/International Organisations

**37. Megan Chisholm**  
Country Director  
Care International Vanuatu  
PO Box 1129  
Port Vila, Vanuatu  
Email: megan.chisholm@careint.org  
T: +678 7756714

- Country Director for CARE International in Vanuatu with a focus on women and girls empowerment, resilience and has a strong background in gender equality and emergency response working for CARE and previously for AusAID in over 25 countries.

**38. Dr Jimaima Lako**  
Senior Lecturer  
University of the South Pacific  
Suva, Fiji  
Email: lako_ji@usp.ac.fj  
T: +679 3232169

- A Food and Nutrition Scientist who has conducted various food and nutrition research and community project
- Conducted research on phytochemical and antioxidant intakes and related health status of Fijian population; animal –clinical studies in the intake of flavonoids and the treatment of diabetes; dietary patterns and prevalence of diabetes in some local communities in Fiji and the glycemic index factor of some commonly consumed South Pacific foods
<p>| | | |</p>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>33. Involved in the development of niche food products for the food processing industries including the vanilla bean paste, cinnamon paste, sea urchin gonads, sea grapes and tilapia products. Other research interests include isolation of bioactive components in foods and herbs, functional food bioavailability and dose response studies. Teaches Food Safety, Food Microbiology, Food Chemistry, Food Quality and Food Processing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|   |   | 39. Virisila Buadromo  
Buadromo Consultancy  
PO Box 12944  
Suva, Fiji  
buadromconsultancy@gmail.com;  
virisila@gmail.com  
   | Principal Consultant and Feminist Activist. |
|   |   | 40. Genevieve Jiva  
University of the South Pacific  
s11086237@student.usp.ac.fj  
   | Postgraduate student: Master in International Affairs (Research). |
|   |   | Dr Kathryn Imray  
Pacific Theological College  
Private Locked Bag  
Suva, Fiji  
Email: Kathryn.imray@ptc.ac.fj  
   | Lecturer in Hebrew Bible, specialising in feminist biblical studies. |
|   |   | 41. Christine Fowler  
Programme Manager, Access to Justice, Rule of Law and Human Rights  
Level 7 Kadavu House  
414 Victoria Parade  
Suva, Fiji  
Christine.fowler@undp.org  
T: +679 3312500  
   | Practitioner lawyer who has been working in the access to justice, rule of law and human rights development field for the past thirteen years, initially for (the then) AusAID in Solomon Islands, and since then for United Nations Development Programme in Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia and Pacific Office. |
|   |   | 42. Madeline Marucha Salva  
Medical Officer HIV, STI, Hepatitis  
World Health Organization  
Suva, Fiji  
Email: salvam@who.int  
T: +679 3234100  
   | Medical Officer, World Health Organization Office of the Representative for the South Pacific and Division of the Pacific Technical Support since 2012. |
|   |   | 43. Beatrice Olsson  
Country Coordination Officer  
Asian Development Bank  
Private Mail Bag  
Suva, Fiji  
Email: solsson@adb.org  
T: 6+79 3318101 M: +679 9216653  
   | Country Coordination Officer at the Asian Development Bank’s Pacific sub-regional Office based in Suva, Fiji for programming ADB’s operations in the Cook Islands and Tuvalu. Coordinating knowledge management and external relations activities. Committed to improving ADB’s engagement with civil society towards a more inclusive and participatory approach for sustainable development outcomes. Has over 10 years of development experience in the Pacific region. |
|   |   | 44. Mereani Rokotuibau  
Program Manager  
   | Currently managing the Pacific Leadership Program’s national programs. |
### Pacific Leadership Program

**GC041, Garden City**  
Suva, Fiji  
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*in Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands.*

| **45. Morgane Landel**  
Regional Rights Resource Team, Pacific Community  
Suva, Fiji  
T: +679 330 5582 M: +679 804 0227  
Email: morganel@spc.int; mclandel@gmail.com |
|---|
| Senior Human Rights Advisor  
Gender Focal Point for Regional Rights Resource Team work in Vanuatu and Tuvalu. |

| **Alia Bloom**  
UN Women  
Suva, Fiji  
T: +679 9006438  
Email: alia.bloom@unwomen.org  
Alia.bloom@yahoo.com |
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<tr>
<td>Social worker and researcher with a focus on family violence and resettlement.</td>
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| **46. Ophelie Bettiol (Ms)**  
International Labour Organization  
ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries  
8th Floor FNPF Place (Dolphins)  
343-359 Victoria Parade  
Suva, Fiji  
T: +679 3313866 (Ext: 133)  
www.ilo.org/suva |
|---|
| International Labour Standards / TACKLE programme Intern  
Master’s degree in international and European laws  
Delegation of the European Union intern  
Currently Legal Research Assistant for TACKLE Project (tackling child labour through education, EU funded project). |

### Research Team

| **Dr Yvonne Underhill-Sem**  
School of Social Sciences  
University of Auckland  
Human Sciences Building : East : Bldg 201E  
Level 8 , Room 837  
10 Symonds St  
Auckland 1010  
New Zealand  
T: +64 9 923 2311  
Email: y.underhill-sem@auckland.ac.nz |
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expertise in gender and development, critical population geographies, feminist political ecology, Pacific development, progressive social movements.</td>
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</table>

| **Dr Asenati Chan Tung**  
Coordinator, Gender Studies Program  
School of Social Sciences  
University of the South Pacific  
Lauca Campus, Suva, Fiji  
T: +679 323 2646 |
|---|
| Primary research interest is in gender and development with specific focus on women’s work and mobility  
Current research is in the area of women and leadership in Pacific islands public sectors, and women in parliament  
Previous work focused on brain drain in the Pacific and, women and commercial flower production. |

| **Dr Sarah Pene**  
Institute of Applied Sciences  
University of the South Pacific  
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| **Dr Evelyn Marsters**  
School of Social Sciences  
University of Auckland  
e.masters@auckland.ac.nz |
## Peer Review Group

**Dr Claire Slatter**  
Governance Program  
School of Government, Development and International Affairs  
University of the South Pacific  
Laucala Bay Campus  
Suva, Fiji  
T: +679 323 2533  
Email: slatter_c@usp.ac.fj

- Research interests are in the:  
  - Politics of reform in Pacific island countries  
  - Global influence of neoliberal ideas and impacts of neoliberal economic reforms in PICs  
  - Constitutional, political and electoral reforms in Fiji and other PICs  
  - Empowerment/disenfranchisement of activist NGOs in PICs  
  - Gender issues in public policy

**Dr Andreea Torre**  
School of Government, Development and International Affairs  
University of the South Pacific  
Laucala Bay Campus  
Suva, Fiji  
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Email: torre_a@usp.ac.fj

- Interdisciplinary background in modern languages and literatures, social anthropology and migration studies  
- Main theoretical interests focus upon themes of low-wage (irregular) labour, migration and the state, transnationalism, community and identity, gender and immigrant agency and research methodologies  
- Worked on several research projects dealing with the labour market integration of migrants and refugees in Europe, including the feminisation of labour migration. These projects involved comparative fieldwork in European and non-European countries (Italy, UK, Romania, Ukraine, Ecuador) as well as the use of innovative and interdisciplinary methodologies combining participant observation, photo-elicitation, consciousness-raising workshops, group-diaries, alongside with semi-structured and narrative interviews and participant observations.  
- Current research interests are in the area of gender and internal, regional and international migration in the South Pacific region, transnational temporary labour migration and family making, diverse mobility patterns and impacts on social and economic development, and governance of migration in the Pacific Region.

**Seema Naidu**  
Gender Officer  
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat  
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**Tara Chetty**  
Executive Director  
Fiji Women’s Rights Movement  
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### Abigail Erickson
Ending Violence Against Women Program  
Specialist  
UNWomen  
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Suva, Fiji  
Email: Abigail.erickson@unwomen.org

| Dr Asenati Chan Tung | Research interest is in gender and development with specific focus on women's work and mobility  
| | Current research is in the area of women and leadership in Pacific islands public sectors, and women in parliament. |

| Kim Robertson | Survey Statistician and Data Analyst specializing in household surveys and government administrative data across national statistical systems  
| | Collection, presentation and dissemination of statistics to a wide range of stakeholders. |

| Joanne Lee Kunatuba |  
| Gender Equality Officer  
| Social Development Programme  
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| DFAT  

| Suzanne Bent |  
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| Australian High Commission  
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| Email: suzanne.bent@dfat.gov.au  
| T +679 3388 385; M +679 7071 256  
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| Nilesh Goundar |  
| Program Manager  
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| GPO Box 214  
| Suva, Fiji  
| T +679 3388 361; M +679 994 3287  
| E: Nilesh.goundar@dfat.gov.au  
| www.fiji.highcommission.gov.au |
Annex 2  Symposium program

Advancing Gender Research in the Pacific
Official Opening and Symposium

20 June 2016 – 6.00–9.00pm
Faculty of Business and Economics Postgraduate Lecture Theatre, University of the South Pacific

6.00 pm  Arrival of Chief Guests

6.05 pm  Welcome by the USP Vice-Chancellor and President
          Professor Rajesh Chandra

6.15 pm  Opening remarks, Australian High Commissioner
          HE Margaret Twomey

6.25 pm  Pacific Gender Research Scoping Study Key Findings and Conclusions
          Associate Professor Yvonne Underhill-Sem, University of Auckland

7.10 pm  Discussant responses
          • Professor Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, Auckland University of Technology
          • Professor Betty Lovai, University of Papua New Guinea
          • Virisila Buadromo, Women’s Activist / Student

7.30 pm  Comments from the floor

8.00pm  Refreshments

9.00 pm  End of Opening Symposium

For further information contact Amelia on 679 3314098 or visit www.pacificwomen.org
Annex 3  Workshop program

Pacific Gender Research Workshop
20–23 June 2016
Venue: Faculty of Business and Economics Postgraduate Lecture Theatre,
University of the South Pacific (USP)

Purpose of the Workshop

The Pacific Gender Research Workshop will be convened to:

- Present the Pacific Gender Research Scoping study to a range of interested partners who are involved in supporting, conducting and using Pacific gender research for policy and development related work and to seek their input to further refine the analysis, findings and recommendations including identifying any further research that may need to be undertaken to take action forward;
- Discuss and agree on a way forward to progress the Pacific gender research quality assurance process;
- Discuss and agree on a way forward to progress the proposed gender research clearing house process;
- Discuss and agree on capacity building opportunities to expand quality gender research for policy making in the Pacific that is initiated and led from within the Pacific islands;
- Identify opportunities for strengthened partnerships and coordination to expand quality gender research for policy making in the Pacific island region;
- Develop a set of concrete steps within an agreed action plan to progress to expand quality Pacific gender research.

The workshop will consist of presentations and working sessions and propose concrete actions to take the agreed findings and recommendations of the Scoping Study forward.
Opening Symposium
Advancing Gender Research in the Pacific

Monday 20 June – 6.00–9.00 pm
Faculty of Business and Economics Lecture Theatre, USP

Program

Welcome
Professor Rajesh Chandra, Vice Chancellor and President, University of the South Pacific

Opening Remarks
HE Margaret Twomey, Australian High Commissioner

Facilitator/Moderator
Tara Chetty, Executive Director, Fiji Women’s Rights Movement

Presenter
Associate Professor Yvonne Underhill-Sem, University of Auckland

Discussants
Professor Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, Auckland University of Technology
Professor Betty Lovai, University of Papua New Guinea
Virisila Buadromo, Women’s activist/student

The Pacific Gender Research Scoping Study is presented to a wide audience including partners who are involved in supporting, conducting and using Pacific gender research for policy and development related work for the purpose of sharing information. The outcome of this session will be the sharing of information to a wide group of stakeholders and getting responses and feedback on the scoping study.

Event will be followed by light refreshments.
### Advancing Gender Research in the Pacific

#### Tuesday 21 June – Faculty of Business and Economics Lecture Theatre, USP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Session Plan</th>
<th>Facilitator</th>
<th>Session Outcome</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.00-8.30am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>8.30-9.00am</td>
<td>Overview of the workshop objectives and program of work. Round the table view of expectations from participants.</td>
<td>(i) Present workshop objectives and program; (ii) participants share expectations; (iii) suggest and invite comment on workshop protocols; (iv) share logistical information; and (v) respond to questions/provide clarifications.</td>
<td>Linda Petrenen, Team Leader – Pacific Women Support Unit</td>
<td>Agreement on program and protocols; obtain a sense of participant expectations that can be revisited on the last day as part of the concluding session.</td>
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</table>
| 9.00am-1.00pm (Tea Break: 10.30-11.00am) | Pacific Gender Research Scoping Study – review and reflection | Discussion will focus on the findings of the study in more detail and allow time for:  
- More in depth presentation of scoping study findings and recommendations;  
- Leading group/panels to present and discuss their views on the respective thematic areas; and  
- Identifying gaps in the areas covered by the study;  
- Provide general comments on the various aspects of the study as a lead into the rest of the workshop sessions. | Senn Naik, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat | This session will allow stakeholders to make additional contributions to aspects of the research. |
| Presentation of findings and recommendations of the study: Associate Professor Yvonne Underhill-See (30mins) | | | | |
| Participant reflections on the study: selected participants invited to provide reflections on the study (45 mins) | | | | |
| - National University of Samoa  
- Fiji National University  
- Boston Word University  
- Pacific Adventist University  
- University of Hawai  
- Massey University  
- University of the South Pacific  
- La Trobe University  
- Women in Fisheries Network, Fiji  
- CARE Vanuatu  
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community  
- Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat | | | | |
| Other reflections: Open session (30 mins) | | | | |
| Focus group discussions: Participants break into groups to discuss specific aspects of the research facilitated by members of the research team: (i) gaps in thematic areas; (ii) quality assurance; (iii) funding sources; (iv) capacity building; and (v) ethics (40 mins) | | | | |
| 1.00-2.00pm | Lunch                                      |                                                                              |                                     |                                                                                 |
| 2.00-5.30pm (Tea Break: 3.30-4.00pm) | Existing and planned Gender Related Research | Discussion will focus on existing gender related research work, immediate plans for research and research related capacity building activities in order to present a picture of gender related research in the region provided from the scoping study and from current researchers and institutions. This would assist workshop participants to contribute to analysis, findings and recommendations of the scoping study report as well as to identify further areas of research needed to support gender equality. This session is planned to provide a frame for discussion for the rest of the agenda which is focused on improving the quality, capacity, relevance and utility of Pacific island gender research. | Dr. Claire Satter, USP | This session will result in a ‘snapshot’ of existing research work, immediate plans for research and include gender research related capacity building activities in order to inform the rest of the workshop agenda. |
| Introduction: Dr. Claire Satter, USP (10 mins) | | | | |
| Snapshot of existing research, future research and capacity building: Professor Margaret Hilly, Australian National University (30 mins) | | | | |
| Dr. Teresa Taitimu, Victoria University of Wellington (30 mins) | | | | |
| Q&A (30 mins) | | | | |
| Using gender research: Finding a Place in a crowded field: Dr. Amezi Dau-Ting, University of the South Pacific (30 mins) | | | | |
| Dr. Jackie Kasi, University of Gerehu (30 mins) | | | | |
| Q&A and other contributions (30 mins) | | | | |
| Session summary/conclusion (10 mins) | | | | |
### Advancing Gender Research in the Pacific

**Wednesday 22 June – Faculty of Business and Economics Lecture Theatre, USP**

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<th>Time</th>
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<th>Session Plan</th>
<th>Facilitator</th>
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| 9.00am-1.00pm (Tea Break: 10.30-11.00am) | Pacific gender research quality assurance process  
Discussion will focus on developing a shared understanding of what “quality” research is for different stakeholders in the region and to identify a quality assurance process for gender research in the Pacific. The session will present examples of both quality research and quality assurance processes from the Pacific and further afield in order to enable better understanding of what kind of quality research we want, what methods and processes this requires and the resources needed to do this, including skills and capacities needed. The session will also discuss quality assurance in a broader sense, including ethics and guidelines around research on gender and children’s issues. | Introduction: Draw out key points and challenges for assessing quality research – Associate Professor Yvonne Underhill-Scott, University of Auckland (10 mins)  
Examining examples of quality research. Break into groups and share examples of quality research to (i) Identify features and map as a whole group, highlighting diversity; (ii) identify the challenges for developing/identifying/establishing a quality assurance process for gender research in the Pacific (20 mins)  
Quality assurance process in New Zealand, Australia, international journals, national journals (10 mins)  
Australia – Dr Richard Doss, ANU/State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program  
New Zealand – Associate Professor Yvonne Underhill-Scott, University of Auckland International Journal of Feminist Politics – Dr Teresia Teina, Victoria University of Wellington  
Plenary discussion: What components of these processes are useful for identifying a quality assurance process for gender research in the Pacific (10 mins)  
The place of ethics: Megael Erikson, FIVAW Advisor, UN Women (20 mins)  
Q&A (20 mins) | Dr Gelberte Lesiap, Gender Adviser, Papua New Guinea | This session will result in agreement on what “quality” gender research is within the Pacific context and on the need for standard ethical research guidelines |
| 1.00-2.00pm | Lunch                                                                 |                                                                              |                                                                              |                                                                              |
| 2.00-5.30pm (Tea Break: 3.30-4.00pm) | Capacity building opportunities to expand quality gender research for policy making  
This session will consist of selected stakeholders and partners sharing what they are doing in the area of capacity building in order to gain appreciation of the gender research capacity building activities being implemented or supported in the region, e.g. academic fellowships, training, research institutions, programs and projects as well as their effectiveness in contributing to improved gender research and policy and program related work.  
Discussion will focus on: (i) the spread of research capacity building initiatives; (ii) the relevance of these initiatives and programs in terms of building gender research capacity and its policy relevant research; and (iii)  
Introduction: (5 mins)  
Set the scene around what we want to achieve regarding improving capacity for quality gender research using the input and based on three key questions outlined below.  
Presentations: (5 x 10 mins each)  
Selected institutions present their experiences focusing on answering questions 1 and 2 below.  
ARIL Divine Word University, QUT; Massey University and Fiji National University  
- To get an idea of the spread of initiatives, in the last five years, what research capacity building programmes have been sponsored or run - in particular for gender / policy relevant research.  
- How have these programs contributed to building capacity for relevant gender research in the Pacific island region.  
Q&A and additonal contributions (15 mins)  
Group discussion: (40 mins) | Dr Jeremy Brandt-Tukolua, UNDP University  
Rajah Norsa, DIFAM Pacific | This session will result in agreement on capacity building needs and opportunities and options to take this forward |
Advancing Gender Research in the Pacific

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<th>Facilitator</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30-10.00am</td>
<td>Improving access to Pacific gender research</td>
<td>Introduction: Associate Professor Yvonne Underhill-Sen (10 mins)</td>
<td>Dr Veronica Thomas, Research Fellow, Queensland University of Technology</td>
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<td>Discussion will focus on what research we have and how we can disseminate it more widely so that it is used for improved development decisions. Clearing house options from the report will be presented for discussion and consideration; other institutions could be invited to share experiences of processes with a focus on strengths and weaknesses of these systems including resources required to operate and maintain them.</td>
<td>Brief presentations on three Clearinghouse models (30 mins)</td>
<td>The aim of the session is to identify a workable clearing house option for the region and consider what might be needed in terms of resources to make this work.</td>
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<td>NZ Clearinghouse: Dr Jemima Tutia-Smith, University of Auckland</td>
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<td>Australian Clearinghouse model: Maria Jasinska, Equality Institute</td>
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<td>NZ Research Review Associate Professor Yvonne Underhill-Smith</td>
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<td>Other clearinghouse models: Open discussion on other models (30 mins)</td>
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<td>Preferred features of a clearinghouse for gender research for the Pacific:</td>
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<td>Small group discussions on preferred features of a clearinghouse for gender</td>
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<td>research for the Pacific (30 mins)</td>
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<td>Groups report back to plenary and whole group discussion to agree on a</td>
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<td>workable clearinghouse option (30 mins)</td>
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<td>11.00am-1.00pm</td>
<td>Working together to expand quality gender research for policy making</td>
<td>Introduction: PIFS/SPC (10 mins)</td>
<td>Seema Naidoo, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat</td>
<td>A clear vision and concrete steps underpinned by clear principles of engagement and guidelines for partnerships and collaboration in advancing gender research in the Pacific.</td>
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<td>in the Pacific</td>
<td>Brief presentations on partnership initiatives that focus on the</td>
<td>Kim Robertson, Secretariat of the Pacific Community</td>
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<td>questions below: (45 mins)</td>
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<td>1. What was the nature of the research partnership in terms of</td>
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<td>principles and approach; what are</td>
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<td>needed in terms of resources to make this work.</td>
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Thursday 23 June - Faculty of Business and Economics Lecture Theatre, USP
### Advancing Gender Research in the Pacific

**Time** | **Topic** | **Session Plan** | **Facilitator** | **Session Outcome**
---|---|---|---|---
1.00-2.00pm | Lunch | | | 

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**Time** | **Topic** | **Session Plan** | **Facilitator** | **Session Outcome**
---|---|---|---|---
2.00-3.30pm | Closing session: Reflections and workshop summary and conclusions. This session will: • review workshop summary and conclusions; • provide the opportunity for participants to reflect on the value of the workshop; • make any final contributions; and • complete a formal workshop evaluation. | Present summary of workshop discussions and conclusions for discussion and comment by the meeting (45 mins) Meeting evaluation (15 mins) Final reflections/closing remarks (30 mins) | Linda Peterson, Tara Cherity | Aged workshop conclusions and workshop evaluation. 

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**Workshop ends**

**Pacific Women Research Strategy**

**4.00-5.30pm** | **Pacific Women Research Strategy** | (i) Present the role of research in the Pacific Women Program; (ii) discuss the links with the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework; and (iii) present for discussion plans to develop the research strategy over the period July through September 2016; and (iv) seek feedback and discussion from the group, including interest in being on the Pacific Women Research Reference Group. | Linda Petersen, Brenda Andrews | Brief plan and next steps to develop PW research strategy July – September 2016
Annex 4 Outcomes statement

Overview

The Advancing Gender Research in the Pacific Workshop was convened from 20–23 July 2016 at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji to present the Pacific Gender Research Scoping study to a range of interested stakeholders from universities, civil society, regional, international and donor organisations involved in supporting, conducting and using Pacific gender research for social change, public engagement, and knowledge enhancement.

The Pacific Gender Research Scoping Study and the workshop were supported by the University of the South Pacific, UN Women, the Fiji Women’s Right Movement, Pacific Community, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Australian Government.

The purpose of the workshop was to review the findings of the study, with a focus on the conclusions drawn, the methodology engaged and the recommendations which were organised under strategic, technical and substantive areas of Pacific gender research. It sought responses from the participants and developed additional recommendations to advance quality Pacific Gender research.

Participants commended the critical nature of the work undertaken by the study team, led by Associate Professor Yvonne Underhill-Sem from the University of Auckland, assisted by Dr Asenati Chan-Tung and Dr Sarah Pene from the University of the South Pacific, and Dr Evelyn Marsters from the University of Auckland in providing a starting point for further substantive discussions on Pacific gender research.

Participants

- Noted existing and planned gender related research, the different types of research currently being undertaken in the region including commissioned, academic, policy related, critical, advocacy orientated research, critical and participatory frameworks and Pacific research methodologies.
- Examined examples of quality assurance processes including ethical considerations.
- Acknowledged that rigor in Pacific gender research is about personal integrity, awareness of ‘positionality’ i.e. recognising the effect of ones gender, race, identity, ethnic heritage, age and/or other particular social features, with principles of respect, trust, humility, rapport and reciprocity woven into the research process and reflected in end products.
- Affirmed the importance of supporting Pacific Island researchers, including emerging researchers and appropriate methodologies in gender research in the region.
- Acknowledged the challenges presented by donor funded research to the integrity of scholars and researchers in this area and the implications of this in terms of framing the research.
- Emphasised the importance of identifying power relations in the research process, the need to integrate the focus on gender at the beginning of research projects and to encourage collaboration and ownership at all stages of the research project.
- Emphasised the importance of framing and conducting gender research around feminist values and human rights in order to ground ongoing work on Pacific gender research.
- Endorsed the recommendations from the Pacific Gender Research Scoping Study.
- Recommended that funders and development partners provide adequate resourcing for the work on Pacific gender research while at the same time encouraging independent research framed by the priorities of women of the Pacific.
Substantive recommendations

In considering the substantive recommendations of the study, participants noted the diverse range of gender research in the Pacific, the strength that all partners, i.e. non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations, governments, communities, development partners and donors bring to research partnerships and affirmed the need for gender research to be culturally sensitive, pay attention to country contexts and be grounded in indigenous knowledge systems and values.

Participants acknowledged that while the Scoping Study focused on eight thematic areas identified as priorities for Pacific women in the Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and the Advancement of Women, additional areas of research are needed including research on:

- women living with disabilities;
- sexualities and gender identities;
- masculinities;
- culture and religion;
- women’s leadership in tertiary education;
- women’s access to family planning, and comprehensive sexuality education;
- women in agriculture;
- women’s participation in civil society groups, cultural and religious groups;
- migrant women;
- impact of mobile technology on society - access to internet, pornography and their gendered impacts;
- gender and feminism – conceptual issues;
- women in the informal sector / vulnerable work;
- women and aid and development;
- women and the care economy;
- women who exchange sex including sex workers;
- women access to justice; and
- macroeconomic policy and trade.

Recommendation

Participants recommended that future gender research forums include sessions on re-envisioning Pacific feminism and gender for the new generation of Pacific researchers now working in this space.

Technical

In considering the technical recommendations of the Pacific Gender Research Scoping Study, participants discussed the issues of capacity building and partnerships.
Capacity Building

Participants

- Recognised the need to support emerging Pacific gender researchers in various ways to build confidence and capacity including through mentoring programs operated through virtual support hubs or mentoring networks that connected senior and emerging gender researchers throughout the research process.

- Agreed that both vertical and horizontal mentor/peer support systems were needed.

- Affirmed the need for academic institutions engaged in Pacific gender research to include and prioritise capacity strengthening at all levels, in research proposals and projects to facilitate peer learning and skill sharing throughout the research process.

- Recognised the need to focus on capacity building in a range of research techniques, including Pacific (indigenous) research techniques, writing skills as well as the translation of research into Pacific languages and accessible, creative, non-technical communication.

- Recognised different kinds of research provided different opportunities to strengthen the capacity of Pacific researchers.

- Agreed the identity of a ‘Pacific researcher’ needs to be kept fluid within the context of Pacific gender research.

Recommendations

Participants recommended ongoing support to ensure that the Bibliography produced as part of the Pacific Gender Research Scoping Study is regularly updated and revised to ensure searches by country and relevant themes.

Participants recommended the establishment of a directory of researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders working in Pacific gender research which includes information about capacity, thematic knowledge and skills, and availability to review research, mentor emerging researchers, translate research into policy briefs and develop communications tools and knowledge products.

Partnerships

Participants

- Acknowledged the diverse range of partnerships and stakeholders engaged in the research process including, the design, strategic objectives, purpose and complexity of the research and the strategies used to disseminate information to the different groups of partners and stakeholders.

- Recognised emerging research modalities, especially participatory research, and the value of using visual and creative media to communicate research findings.

- Recognised the need for partnership and collaboration processes and agreements based on a shared agenda to guide and inform gender research, which address ethics, risk management, engagement at all levels (political, community, non-government organisation, faith-based organisations and civil society organisations and social movements and government etc.), communications and dissemination.

- Noted concerns about the sustainability of partnerships and coalitions and highlighted issues around reliance on key people as well as the risk to the researcher when exploring sensitive gender issues at the community level.
Noted that partnerships can be challenging in terms of managing the expectations, agendas and risks of all parties involved.

**Recommendations**

Participants strongly recommended that more efforts be made to support Pacific islanders doing gender research and shaping the research agenda in the Pacific region.

Participants recommended that the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders conducting gender research be acknowledged and recorded to facilitate partnership and coalition building as well as to identify gaps in gender research.

The workshop recognised the different locations where Pacific gender research was being generated and undertaken and recommended that future efforts to advance the gender research agenda in the Pacific Island region be more inclusive and involve all partners, in particular non-government and civil society organisations and universities in Pacific Island region.

**Strategic**

In considering the strategic recommendations of the Pacific Gender Research Scoping Study, participants discussed the clearing house concept and models, and issues of ethics and quality assurance.

**Clearing House**

**Participants**

- Recognised the need for a clearing house for Pacific gender research which needs to be established as an independent, living space, co-funded by groups to distil and disseminate research. They further suggested that collaboration, independence and openness to critique be some of the critical principles of the clearing house.

- Agreed the clearing house needs to be a Pacific owned resource, broadly representative and accessible to all disadvantaged and marginalised groups such as women living with disabilities.

- Discussed several clearing house models considered useful to guide the establishment of a Pacific gender research clearing house.

- Affirmed the key role of the clearing house in providing the key link between all stakeholders in gender research and in distilling the information into succinct, accessible, innovative and meaningful forms to diverse groups for ongoing public engagements i.e. policy makers, community leaders, members of the public.

- Agreed that rigor in Pacific gender research is about personal and institutional integrity, and awareness of positionality and practice of reflectivity with an emphasis on the process as well as the end products.

**Recommendation**

- Participants recommended that a scoping study of the clearing house model be commissioned to define its boundaries and functions, refine its name, identify potential co-funders, consortium members and potential location based on the outcomes from the workshop. The scoping study is to include a scan of existing clearing house networks.
Ethics

Participants

- Affirmed the importance of drawing from the diversity of Pacific indigenous knowledge in gender research as central to ethical research.
- Identified the need to clearly define what is considered valid, robust and ethical in Pacific gender research and to develop and enhance processes to facilitate this.
- Affirmed the merit of innovative research methods and encouraged the use of arts-based and practice-led, digital media and other creative and innovative methods when conducting gender research.
- Emphasised that ethics is also about accountability in research practice to communities.
- Noted that the process of facilitating ethical research needs better understanding of gender issues in the Pacific.
- Affirmed that gender researchers should commit to the highest levels of ethical practice.

Quality Assurance

Participants

- Agreed that there is value in a transparent quality assurance process for Pacific gender research while recognising limitations of some established quality assurance processes.
- Recognised that in the process of peer and community reviews quality assurance considers the different types of research being conducted and diverse processes by which peer reviews are conducted, with the importance of engaging communities as a group.
- Noted that quality assurance requires an accountable collaboration between practitioners, academics, non-government organisations and communities with due recognition given to all involved at different stages of the research process.
- Acknowledged that quality assurance interventions need to be carried out at all stages of the research process.
- Noted that the quality assurance of Pacific gender research needs to be independent and provide space to direct and frame the research agenda in order to ensure that the research is not only driven by donors and intergovernmental agencies but based on the lived realities of people in the Pacific.
- Affirmed the importance of due care and consideration for all parties by all researchers throughout all stages of the research process with the metaphor of weaving identified as capturing the passion and discipline that needs to be invested into the research process.

Recommendation

Participants recommended a review of existing quality assurance processes to consider issues of accuracy, reliability, accessibility and accountability.
Annex 5  References for extra resources


Recommended websites:

https://www.sprep.org/Pacific-Environment-Information-Network/pacific-climate-change-resources