



# 4TH CONFERENCE



## PACIFIC ISLANDS UNIVERSITIES RESEARCH NETWORK [PIURN]

HOSTED BY  
SOLOMON ISLANDS NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

“SHAPING OUR TOMORROW TODAY: RESEARCH,  
INNOVATION AND PRACTICE IN THE PACIFIC”

**22-23 NOVEMBER 2021**  
**Solomon Islands & Virtually**

Information and Registration :  
<https://piurn.org>

### PIURN Members Universities



# PROGRAMME'S OVERVIEW



Day two – Tuesday, November 23 <sup>rd</sup>			
8:30 AM -9:00 AM	Opening Speeches		
<b>Theme: Climate change and biodiversity in the Pacific Islands Countries and Territories</b>			
9:05 AM -10:35 AM	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Panel 7:</b> Climate change &amp; Natural Hazards impacts for the Pacific communities</td> <td><b>Panel 8:</b> Pollution and contaminants in the Pacific</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Panel 7:</b> Climate change & Natural Hazards impacts for the Pacific communities	<b>Panel 8:</b> Pollution and contaminants in the Pacific
<b>Panel 7:</b> Climate change & Natural Hazards impacts for the Pacific communities	<b>Panel 8:</b> Pollution and contaminants in the Pacific		
10:35 AM	Break		
<b>Theme : Sustainable Technology and Innovation in the Pacific</b>			
11:05 AM -12:35 PM	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Panel 9 :</b> Biodiversity conservation</td> <td><b>Panel 10 :</b> Applications of Innovative Technologies for Pacific Islands Countries and Territories' Sustainability</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Panel 9 :</b> Biodiversity conservation	<b>Panel 10 :</b> Applications of Innovative Technologies for Pacific Islands Countries and Territories' Sustainability
<b>Panel 9 :</b> Biodiversity conservation	<b>Panel 10 :</b> Applications of Innovative Technologies for Pacific Islands Countries and Territories' Sustainability		
12:35 PM	Lunch Break		
2:00 PM -3:00 PM	Plenary Session: <b>Presentation of the FALAH (Family Farming, Lifestyle and Health) Project</b>		
<b>Theme: Good governance and innovative decision making for sustainability of Pacific Societies</b>			
3:05 PM -4:35 PM	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Panel 11:</b> Politics' governance in the Pacific</td> <td><b>Panel 12:</b> Pacific Economics</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Panel 11:</b> Politics' governance in the Pacific	<b>Panel 12:</b> Pacific Economics
<b>Panel 11:</b> Politics' governance in the Pacific	<b>Panel 12:</b> Pacific Economics		
4: 45 PM	Closing Ceremony <b>Activate V</b> Go to Settings		

Day One – Monday, November 22 <sup>nd</sup>			
8:00 AM -9:00 AM	Opening Ceremony		
<b>Theme : Impact of Covid 19 in the Pacific</b>			
9:05 AM -10:35 AM	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Panel 1:</b> Health Impacts of Covid 19 in the Pacific</td> <td><b>Panel 2:</b> Learning and Teaching during the Pandemic in the Pacific</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Panel 1:</b> Health Impacts of Covid 19 in the Pacific	<b>Panel 2:</b> Learning and Teaching during the Pandemic in the Pacific
<b>Panel 1:</b> Health Impacts of Covid 19 in the Pacific	<b>Panel 2:</b> Learning and Teaching during the Pandemic in the Pacific		
10:35 AM	Break		
<b>Theme : Improving Health and Well Being in the Pacific communities</b>			
11:05 AM -12:35 PM	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Panel 3:</b> Food Security</td> <td><b>Panel 4 :</b> Health and Well-being in Times of Rapid Social Change</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Panel 3:</b> Food Security	<b>Panel 4 :</b> Health and Well-being in Times of Rapid Social Change
<b>Panel 3:</b> Food Security	<b>Panel 4 :</b> Health and Well-being in Times of Rapid Social Change		
12:35 PM	Lunch Break		
2:00 PM -3:00 PM	Plenary Session: <b>Presentation of the ITN-SUDPAC Project</b>		
<b>Theme: Strengthening Pacific Culture and Identities</b>			
3:05 PM -4:35 PM	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Panel 5:</b> Indigenous Knowledges, Pacific identities and values</td> <td><b>Panel 6:</b> Indigenous Pacific Island Cultures in Times of Rapid Social Change</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Panel 5:</b> Indigenous Knowledges, Pacific identities and values	<b>Panel 6:</b> Indigenous Pacific Island Cultures in Times of Rapid Social Change
<b>Panel 5:</b> Indigenous Knowledges, Pacific identities and values	<b>Panel 6:</b> Indigenous Pacific Island Cultures in Times of Rapid Social Change		
4: 45 PM	Closing Speech – Day one		

Solomon Islands' Time (UTC+11)

The programme is subject to change



8:00 AM Opening Ceremony

8:05 AM Opening Prayer  
TBA

8:10 AM Opening Speeches  
*Acting Vice Chancellor Dr Jack Maebuta - Solomon Islands National University*  
*President Catherine Ris - University of New Caledonia*  
*Vice Chancellor Pal Ahluwalia - The University of the South Pacific*

---

## THEME: IMPACT OF COVID 19 IN THE PACIFIC

9:00 AM Panel 1: Health Impacts of Covid 19 in the Pacific  
Chair : TBA

9:05 AM Impact of Covid 19 in the Pacific  
*Satish Nand & Rayneet Reddy - The University of Fiji*

9:20 AM Impact of Covid 19 Pandemic In the Pacific; A Health Perspective  
*Dr Musarat Natasha Begg - The University of Fiji*

9:35 AM The Impacts of Covid 19 at CWM Hospital Employees in Fiji Islands  
*Rejina Kumar & Monisha Dutt - The University of Fiji*

9:50 AM Innovation in COVID Crisis: USP Students design and build a low cost Emergency Use Ventilator  
*Daniel Wood - The University of the South Pacific*

10:05 AM Supporting Covid-19 vaccination awareness for adolescents in the Cook Islands  
*Dr Siobhan Tu'Akoi - The University of Auckland*

10:20 AM Worsened by, or even without the COVID-19 crisis, ultra-processed food & sugar over-consumption is a rampant public health threat in the Pacific.  
*Pascal Michon - Nation University of Vanuatu*



9:00 AM

## Panel 2: Learning and Teaching during the Pandemic in the Pacific

Chair : TBA

9:05 AM

Where Pacific Ideas and Modern Technology Meet: A collaborative approach to student support delivery

*Dr Shailesh Lal, Hilda Vukikomoala Kunau & Pratish Raj - The University of the South Pacific*

9:20 AM

Transitioning to the new normal in the 2020 pandemic lockdown: the case of National University of Samoa

*Dr Ioana Chan Mow & Sarai Faleupolu Tevita - National University of Samoa*

9:35 AM

Le vécu du grand confinement de 2020 chez les étudiant·es en formation enseignante sous l'angle genré en Polynésie française et en Nouvelle-Calédonie

*Séverine Ferrière & Rodica Ailincal - University of New Caledonia*

9:50 AM

Fiji's Post-Covid-19 Tertiary Education Policy - A Blunder or a Sensible Adjustment?

*Manpreet Kaur, Dr Sunil Kumar, Gyaneshwar Rao - The University of Fiji*

10:05 AM

Education in Emergency: A case study of the Continuing Education in the Covid 19 period in the Solomon Islands -

*John Fasi - Solomon Islands National University*

10:20 AM

Enseigner à distance dans le Pacifique insulaire : émergence de nouvelles pratiques professionnelles en Nouvelle Calédonie

*Jean-François Loisel - University of New Caledonia*



10:35 AM

**Break**



11: 00 AM

## Panel 3: Food Security

Chair : TBA

11:05 AM

“We used to get food from the garden”. Understanding changing practices of local food production and consumption in small islands states

*Viliamu Iese - The University of the South Pacific*

11:20 AM

A pilot study into local production of supplementary food for malnourished children in PNG

*Carlton Guwada - PNG University of Technology*

11:35 AM

Impact of Climate Change on SMEs and Food Security in Fiji

*Rohit Kishore- Fiji National University*

11:50 AM

Shaping Tomorrow's Agriculture of Pacific Today: Integrating Livestock Production System with the Local Crop Products

*Surendra Prasad - The University of the South Pacific*

12:05 AM

Prevalence and Determinants of Overweight and Obesity in Fiji

*Deevika Anjani- The University of Fiji*

12:20 AM

Food Security and Diet Quality in the Rural Pacific; the case of St Cruz, Temotu Province, the Solomon Islands

*Dr Alan Quartermain - University of Goroka*



12:35 AM

**Lunch Break**

# THEME: IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELL BEING IN THE PACIFIC COMMUNITIES



11: 00 AM

## Panel 4: Health and Well-being in Times of Rapid Social Change

Chair : TBA

11:05 AM

“Talanoaga e uiga i soifua maloloina o Tina i Samoa - Producing a Pilot Podcast Series on Women’s Health Issues

*Falelua Maua - National University of Samoa*

11:20 AM

Breaking the cycle of NCDs within the Pacific Islands Communities

*Melenaite Tohi - University of Auckland*

11:35 AM

Cannabis use, peri and post birth: should mothers who use cannabis absolutely abstain from breastfeeding?

*Dr Yann Barguil - Centre Hospitalier Territorial de Nouméa*

11:50 AM

The Effects of Kava on Mental and Physical Health of Adults in Fiji

*Dr Ravindra Kumar Prajapati, Dr Neelam H. Zaidi, Dr Samuela Korovou, Chaya Chand & Ali Nikhat - The University of Fiji*

12:05 AM

Maria elimination in Isabel province in the Solomon Islands

*Dr Hugo Bugoro- Solomon Islands National University*

12:20 AM

The Role of plant based medicines in the prevention and management of Non-Communicable diseases in the Pacific Islands Countries

*Pr Prem Rai - Solomon Islands National University*



12:35 AM

**Lunch Break**



2: 00 PM

Presentation of the ITN SUDPAC Project  
*Valérie Burtet-Sarramegna, University of  
New Caledonia*



## THEME: STRENGTHENING PACIFIC CULTURES AND IDENTITIES

3:00 PM

Panel 5: Indigenous Knowledges, Pacific Identities  
and Values

Chair : TBA

3:05 PM

Musique, identité et stéréotypes à Hawaii et en Polynésie  
française : du syncrétisme artistique à la construction identitaire  
*Florent Atem - University of French Polynesia*

3:20 PM

Talanoa vā māfana: An indigenous Tongan method for  
researching Tongan leadership  
*Dr Mele Katea Paea, Dr Linitā Manu'atu, Dr Halahingano  
Rohorua Dr Fred Rohorua, Dr Sione Paea - The University of the  
South Pacific*

3:35 PM

Strengthening Pacific Culture and Identities  
*Claire Bartolome - The University of the South Pacific*

3:50 PM

«V-PAC» Valorisation de l'écosystème coutumier et sa  
biodiversité marine et terrestre en vue d'une économie sociale  
et solidaire  
*Eddy Wadrawane - University of New Caledonia*

4:05 PM

Mathematics and the number 153 in the Bible  
*Pr Jito Vanualailai -The University of the South Pacific*

4:20 PM

Xupina : des créations pour renforcer les répertoires plurilingues  
et pluriculturels d'étudiants océaniens à l'Université  
*Suzie Bearune, Stéphanie Geneix-Rabault - University of New  
Caledonia*

4:45 PM

---

Closing Speeches



3:00 PM **Panel 6: Indigenous Pacific Island Cultures in Times of Rapid Social Change**

Chair : TBA

3:05 PM **Strife in Gender Balance: An Indo-Fijian Perspective**  
*Vandana Vikashni Nath, Dip Maharaj - The University of Fiji*

3:20 PM **Transmettre la littérature du passé pour affronter ensemble le traumatisme de la pandémie : défis et enjeux du partage littéraire temps de crise en contexte postcolonial**  
*Carole Atem - University of French Polynesia*

3:35 PM **Gender, Development and Creative Expression: A Case Study of Women's Space in Fijian Literature.**  
*Sangeeta Ram - The University of the South Pacific*

3:50 PM **Women's Responses To Domestic Violence and Services Use: A Case Study in Malekula Island, Vanuatu**  
*Dona Jella Tagaro - The University of the South Pacific*

4:05 PM **Stereotypes and the stereotyped: perspectives of Indo-Fijian women in a rural agricultural community**  
*Raveena Goundar - The University of the South Pacific*

4:20 PM **Alcohol consumption among university students: A study in Divine Word University**  
*Lorelle Yakam - Divine Word University*

4:45 PM

---

**Closing Speeches**





8:30 AM

Opening Speeches

*Dr Jack Maebuta, Acting Vice Chancellor -  
Solomon Islands National University*

## THEME: CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

9:00 AM

Panel 7: Climate change & Natural Hazards  
impacts for the Pacific communities

Chair : TBA

9:05 AM

An integrated combined power and cooling strategy for small  
islands

*Moslem Yousefzadeh - University of Sydney*

9:20 AM

Global Navigation Satellite System and its Application to Space  
Weather Natural Hazards Event

*Pr Sushil Kumar - The University of the South Pacific*

9:35 AM

Farmers' Perception of Natural Hazards and Coping Methods in  
Rural Agricultural Communities on Viti Levu, Fiji

*Samroy Liligeto & Dr Naohiro Nakamura - The University of the  
South Pacific*

9:50 AM

Litter Decomposition of Mangrove Species in Marovo Lagoon,  
Solomon Islands

*Mary Tahu Paia - Solomon Islands National University*

10:05 AM

Exploring the extraction of banana fiber for sustainable product  
development in the Pacific

*Jone Mataitoga & Apisalome Nabaro - The University of the South  
Pacific*

10:20 AM

Tools and systems for sharing and disseminating scientific data:  
examples of implementation

*Guillaume Wattelez, Ass. Pr Touraivane, Pr Michel Allenbach -  
University of New Caledonia*

# THEME: CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES



9:00 AM

## Panel 8: Pollution and contaminants in the Pacific

Chair : Dr Valérie Burtet-Sarramegna - *University of New Caledonia*

9:05 AM

Acquaculture Development in PICTs, a livelihood paradigm: the impact, challenges and food security

*Collin Rudolf Nobbs Gereniu, Kofi Otumawu-Apreku, Jim Hyacinth Damusaru & Kezyiah Saepioh - Solomon Islands National University*

9:20 AM

Trace metals distribution in mangrove soils and roots downstream an abandoned open-cast Ni mine (New Caledonia)  
*Sarah Robin - University of New Caledonia*

9:35 AM

An assessment of heavy metals contamination in marine sediments and fish in Honiara Harbor, Solomon Islands  
*Dickson Boboria - Solomon Islands National University*

9:50 AM

Isolation of endophytic plant growth-promoting microbes associated with the roots of halophytes: a promising tool for the heavy metals phytoremediation of the new Caledonian polluted salt marshes

*Pauline Bonaventure - University of New Caledonia*

10:05 AM

Using natural pozzolanic rocks to partially replace cement in backfilling - a case study using pitchstone fines

*Gideon Yowa - PNG University of Technology*

10:20 AM

Halophyte Species cultivation in Shrimp ponds as a promising agri-aquaculture system for shrimp ponds remediation

*Marie Colette - University of New Caledonia*

10:35 AM

—  
**Break**



11: 00 AM

## Panel 9: Biodiversity Conservation

Chair : TBA

11:05 AM

**Biodiversity Preservation in the Pacific**

*Aezeden Mohamed - PNG University of Technology*

11:20 AM

**Traditional Ecological Knowledge and practices associated with the Raggiana Bird of Paradise in Koiari, Central Province, Papua New Guinea**

*Challis Pulotu- Pacific Adventist University*

11:35 AM

**First report on the reproductive features of Shadow drift fish *Cubiceps whiteleggii* (Perciformes Nomeidae)**

*Jun Ohtomi, Kaito Hirowatari, Yasuji Masuda, Md. Mosaddequr Rahman, Lindon Havimana - Kagoshima University, Solomon Islands National University*

11:50 AM

**The effect of altitudinal gradient on the epiphytic ferns, *Asplenium cymbifolium* and *Asplenium australasicum*, and their macroinfauna, on Chorochoru Pass, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands**

*Kevin Sese - Solomon Islands National University*

12:05 PM

**Consistency in diversity and abundance of Fiji's endemic bird community among forest but not grassland sites across years**

*Alivereti Naikatini - The University of the South Pacific*

12:20 PM

**Species diversity and abundance on intertidal zone of East and West Honiara, Solomon Islands**

*John Rofeta - Solomon Islands National University*

12:35 PM

---

**Lunch Break**



- 11:00 AM **Panel 10: Applications of Innovative Technologies for Pacific Islands Countries and Territories' Sustainability**  
**Chair** : Dr Timothy Hiele - *Solomon Islands National University*
- 11:05 AM **Vanuatu, vers l'émergence d'une université nationale bilingue**  
*Jean-Pierre Nirua & Anne-Sophie Vivier - National University of Vanuatu*
- 11:20 AM **Presenting and communicating academic identity across personal networks and disciplines in Papua New Guinea**  
*Peter Nasale - Divine Word University*
- 11:35 AM **The Improvement of Synchronization Method with Low Overhead for Multi-hop Wireless Network Emulation and Parallel Processing Environment**  
*Timothy Girry Kale - Solomon Islands National University*
- 11:50 AM **In search of Principles of Second Language Acquisition in the Design and Unpacking of Fiji's English Syllabus**  
*Evangeline Narayan - The University of the South Pacific*
- 12:05 PM **Diagnostics of low severity stator inter-turn faults in Induction Machines**  
*Sukhde Harishkumar Joshi & Krish Kumar Raj - The University of the South Pacific*
- 12:20 PM **Impact of School to Transportation System Study Case for Florence Young School and St. Nicholas School**  
*Cyril Bernard Rachman - Solomon Islands National University*
- 
- 12:35 PM **Lunch Break**



2: 00 PM

Presentation of the FALAH (Family Farming, Lifestyle and Health) Project  
Olivier Galy *University of New Caledonia*

**THEME: GOOD GOVERNANCE AND INNOVATIVE DECISION MAKING FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF PACIFIC SOCIETIES**

3:00 PM

**Panel II: Politics' governance in the Pacific**

Chair : TBA

3:05 PM

The Oceania we want and the Political Thinking that will drive it.  
*Jeshua Hope, Lilieta Soakai, Ozayr Akbar & Ratu Manoa Rokotavaga - The University of the South Pacific*

3:20 PM

The Governors and the Governed- Living up to the will of the people  
*Shivani - The University of Fiji*

3:35 PM

Nouvelle-Calédonie : quels chemins vers la réconciliation ?  
*Clara Filippi - University of New Caledonia*

3:50 PM

Pacific Islanders to farm traditional food crops in large scale production  
*Raphael Semel- National University of Samoa*

4:05 PM

Barriers to Female Leadership in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) for Existing Staff at Selected Pacific Island Universities  
*Gilianne Brodie-The University of the South Pacific*

4:20 PM

Mandatory vaccination against Covid-19 in New Caledonia: When public health prevails over individual freedoms  
*Charles Froger- University of New Caledonia*

—

# THEME: GOOD GOVERNANCE AND INNOVATIVE DECISION MAKING FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF PACIFIC SOCIETIES



## 3:00 PM Panel 12: Pacific Economies

Chair : TBA

3:05 PM Women in Higher Education: Compromising Study with Expectations of Male Counterpart- A Tok Stori on the Experiences of Home Economics Students at Solomon Islands National University  
*Grace Zimateko Rohoana - Solomon Islands National University*

3:20 PM RAMSI and Economic Growth: A Cointegration Test for the Solomon Islands  
*Lekima Nalaukai - The University of the South Pacific*

3:35 PM The Pacific Premium - A Survey of Shipping Rates  
*Andrew Irvin & Lili Zay- The University of the South Pacific & University of North Carolina*

3:50 PM Knowledge Exchange and Inequality in Fisheries Resource Use: Evidence from a small-scale fishery, Solomon Islands  
*Kofi Otumawu-Apreku- Solomon Islands National University*

4:05 PM Quels effets de la loi sur l'emploi local en Nouvelle-Calédonie ?  
*Amélie O'Ona Chung - University of New Caledonia*

4:20 PM Assessment of Science and Technology publication output across PICs during 2015-2020  
*Dr Ranasinghe Amaradasa - The University of Fiji*

4:45 PM

---

Closing Speeches: TBA