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# CURRICULUM VITAE

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## VAOIVA NATAPU-PONTON

### PERSONAL DETAILS:

Contact Address: Meadowbrook Campus, Griffith University, Logan, Queensland 4131

Present position: Senior Research Fellow, Pathways in Place, DVC (Indigenous, Diversity and Inclusion)

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### ACADEMIC DETAILS:

- 2015 DEd, Graduate School of Education, The University of Melbourne, Australia
- 2018 Fellow of The Higher Education Academy, UK Professional Standards Framework for Teaching and Learning Support in Higher Education
- 2017 Graduate Certificate of Pacific Epistemologies and Research Methodologies, Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand
- 2004 Master of Education, Graduate School of Education, The University of Melbourne, Australia
- 1998 Graduate Diploma in Teaching, Secondary Education, Auckland College of Education, New Zealand
- 1995 Bachelor of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, La Trobe University, Australia

### EDITORIAL/REVIEWER EXPERIENCE:

2023-2024

Reviewer of PhD dissertation (University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia)

Reviewer of PhD dissertation (Charles Darwin University and Batchelor Institute, Australia)

2016/2018

Reviewer of Grant applications (Nuholani Dance Academy/Vaiusu)

### PHD SUPERVISION/EXAMINATION EXPERIENCE:

2023-2024

Consultant Supervisor of PhD Candidate Adrian Harris – PhD, Humanities and Creative Arts, *'Creative practice and the Va– Making material knowledge within intercultural relational spaces.'* Charles Darwin University/Graduate School, Batchelor Institute.

2023-2024

Associate Supervisor of PhD Candidate Lexine Solomon - *'The Torres Strait Islander Woman: Her Identity in Music Creation and in Her Music Performance,'* Graduate School, Batchelor Institute.

2023-2024

Consultant Supervisor of PhD Candidate Lindy Kanan – PhD, *'Women's safety and the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) Scheme,'* School of Law and Society, University of the Sunshine Coast

2018-2020

Examiner of Honours and Masters Theses (Auckland University/AUT)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

In 2015, I completed my doctoral research at The University of Melbourne, titled '*An investigation of Samoan Student Experiences in Two Homework Study Groups in Melbourne,*' supervised by Professor Johanna Wyn. Undertaking the first educational research regarding Samoan student experiences in Melbourne high schools, enabled not only the implementation of Pacific methodologies with stakeholders, but also led to the recommendations made for educators to ensure curricula and pedagogy was catered to, and included, Pacific ways of knowing. In 2017, I conducted research with a colleague to gauge the experiences of self-identified Pasifika students' participation in various health programmes at Auckland University of Technology, within Aotearoa New Zealand. It was evident the students excelled when lecturers and support staff (equity and learning support) understood their experiences as learners, as well as incorporated Pacific values and beliefs in the curriculum taught. The outcome of this research included presentations at international conferences (Munich, Brisbane), as well as publications in peer-reviewed journals. Over the last 25 years as an educator and researcher, my interests lie in implementing strategies to enhance student success in the transition from secondary school to the tertiary sector. My ability to lead, manage and participate in collaborative projects is evident in the role I had in liaising with Pasifika groups for universities like the Australian National University (ANU), to gauge interest in academic camps, offered over the last few years. As the Victorian Pacific Island Liaison Officer (2012-2014), I worked with minority community group leaders and communicated with universities regarding the implementation of academic camps for Pasifika students to attend. The Vaka Pasifika Camp was offered by ANU (2012-2014), under the guidance of Associate Professor Katerina Teaiwa, and held at the Kioloa Coastal Campus and Acton Campus. This camp provided innovate ways of engaging senior students (of secondary schools); successful strategies that I have adopted as a researcher in subsequent projects from 2019 to 2023.

## RESEARCH PROJECTS:

- 2022 Researcher – Manawise/Australian National University (ANU)
- Conducted interviews with Pacific Island community to gauge authentic experiences of living in Australia.
  - Critical analysis of previous research to write up literature review of topic for research.
  - Collection and collation of evidence for ANU Policy and Development Department.
  - Writer of 5000-word report for Manawise and ANU.
  - Publication of research findings at international conferences (Fiji).
- 2019 Sustainability in Samoa (AUT Research), Dr Juliet Nanai, Dr Vaoiva Ponton, Associate Professor Sione Vaka, Dr Tolu Muliaina
- Implementation of Fa'afaletui methodology with participants in Upolu and Savai'i to record Samoan views of sustainability using indigenous examples in village forums.
  - Data collection and collation of participant details/transcribed interviews.
- 2015 PhD Research title: An investigation of Samoan student experiences in Two Homework Study Groups in Melbourne.

## OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCES/ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 2023 AARE Bursary Award Recipient, The University of Melbourne.
- 2023 LEAD Team Pasifika Outreach Mentoring
- 2016/2018 Supported Pasifika performance artists with grant applications to implement intercollege Productions.

## PUBLICATIONS:

### **Peer-reviewed articles:**

Gerace, G., Itaoui, R., Moors-Mailei, A., Williams, B., Patu, P., & Ponton, V. (2023). Pasifika communities in Australia: 2021 Census. Centre for Western Sydney. <https://doi.org/10.26183/9qbb-cy24>

Boon-Nanai, J. M., Manuel, T., Lagolago, W., Lefono, T., Zaveri, V., Seleni, S., & Ponton, V. (2022). Re-examining the 'culture of silence' through peer-based Pasifika pedagogies in a New Zealand tertiary environment. *Journal of Higher Education Policy and Management*, 44(2), 185-207.  
doi:10.1080/1360080x.2022.2037274

Ponton, V. (2018). Utilizing Pacific Methodologies as Inclusive Practice. *SAGE OPEN*, 8(3), 8 pages.  
doi:10.1177/2158244018792962

Ponton, V. (2017). Our Practices may Change, but the Values and Foundations of the Cultural Traditions Remain. *International Journal of Innovation and Research in Educational Sciences*, 4(6), 716-718.  
Retrieved from <https://www.ijres.org/index.php/issues?view=publication&task=show&id=339>

Ponton, V. (2017). An Investigation of Samoan Student Experiences in Two Homework Study Groups in Melbourne. *Sociology Study*, 7(7), 349-363. doi:10.17265/2159-5526/2017.07.001

Boon-Nanai, J., Ponton, V., Haxell, A., & Rasheed, A. (2017). Through Pacific/Pasifika Lens to Understand Student's Experiences to Promote Success Within New Zealand Tertiary Environment. *Sociology Study*, 7(6), 293-314. doi:10.17265/2159-5526/2017.06.001

### **Peer-reviewed book chapters:**

Faleolo, R.L., Fainga'a-Manu Sione, I., & Natapu-Ponton, V. (forthcoming). Introduction: Intergenerational Understandings of Australian Pasifika. In R.L. Faleolo, I. Fainga'a-Manu Sione, & V. Natapu-Ponton (Eds.). 'Pasifika Living in Australia: Significant Intergenerational Understandings.' Special Section – Migration and Society.

Natapu-Ponton, V. (forthcoming). Utilising Pacific Methodologies to Navigate Whiteness in Australian Education Systems. In R.L. Faleolo, I. Fainga'a-Manu Sione, & V. Natapu-Ponton (Eds.). 'Pasifika Living in Australia: Significant Intergenerational Understandings.' Special Section – Migration and Society.

Ponton, V. (2021). Pasifika Lens: An Analysis of Samoan Student Experiences in Australian High Schools. In K. Camacho (Ed.), *Reppin' Pacific Islander Youth and Native Justice*. Washington: University of Washington Press.

### **Publications submitted and in review or revision:**

Natapu-Ponton, V (2023) *Navigating Whiteness in Education: A Pasifika Perspective*, In Handbook of Critical Whiteness: Deconstructing Dominant Discourses Across Disciplines, Springer

### **Refereed Conference proceedings:**

2023 Natapu-Ponton, V (November). *Navigating Whiteness in Education: A Pasifika Perspective*. Paper due to be presented at the AARE conference, Melbourne, Australia: 26<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

2019

CREDO Oceania Research News Seminar (Aix-Marseille University - June 21) 'Pacific Methodologies in Research: Education, Performing Arts & Sustainability'

Centre for Pacific Studies Seminar: Climate Change (University of St Andrews, Scotland-June 25) 'Pacific Methodologies in Research: Education, Performing Arts & Sustainability'

- Clute International Academic Conference (New York – August 4-8) *Sustainable Development From A Local Perspective: An Interpretive Faafaletui Inquiry*, by Juliet Nanai, Tolu Muliaina, Vaoiva Ponton, Sione Vaka #359
- 2018
- Conference of the European Society for Oceanists (Cambridge University, UK) *Factors influencing learning engagement for Pacific students in Australian high schools: One size does not fit all.*
- 2017
- Equality Practitioners for Higher Education Australasia Conference (Brisbane) Access and Widening Participation *'An investigation of Samoan student experiences in two homework study groups in Melbourne'*
- Conference of the European Society for Oceanists (Munich) *'Gogo: Freedom and direction from the ancient ritual of Tatau (tattooing)'*
- 2015 European Society for Oceanists (ESfO) Conference, Thon Hotel, Brussels (June)
- 2014 Pacific Circle Consortium Conference  
Global Access to Higher Education (Sydney)
- Samoa Conference (National University of Samoa)
- 2012 Hawaii International Conference on Education  
*'An investigation of Samoan Student Experiences in Homework Study Groups in Melbourne'*
- 2011 Education Without Borders Conference, UAE  
(Australian representative)