

# PACIFIC MEDIA CENTRE ANNUAL REVIEW 2018



**School of Communication Studies** January 2019

### Cover

2018 Pacific Media Centre team members Sri Krishnamurthi (from left), Blessen Tom, Leilani Sitagata, Advisory Board chair Associate Professor Camille Nakhid, director Professor David Robie and designer Del Abcede. Image: Craig Major/AUT

### Pacific Media Centre Annual Review 2018

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### PACIFIC MEDIA CENTRE ANNUAL REVIEW 2018



Pacific Media Centre Advisory Board member Khairiah A. Rahman (from left), with PMC director Professor David Robie, Pacific Journalism Review designer Del Abcede and research fellow Dr Sylvia C. Frain. Image: Hans Tommy/AUT

### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Pacific Media Centre (PMC) became the only university-based communications and media publishing unit to be included in Radio New Zealand's highly praised public outreach programme in recognition of its specialised Pacific knowledge, research and media content production. It was also the only NZ programme invited to join the Journalism Research and Education Association (JERAA) of Australia mega-portal showcasing the "cream" of student journalism. This was launched during 2018: junctionjournalism.com

The Centre also continued to produce a high rate of quality research outputs, conference papers and publications during the year, including two editions of the School's only SCOPUS-ranked research journal, *Pacific Journalism Review: Te Koakoa*, jointly published with Universitas Gadjah Mada in Indonesia and the University of the South Pacific in Fiji.

Student outputs included the making of a short climate change documentary, *Banabans of Rabi* (Bearing Witness project) that was premiered at the Nuku'alofa International Film Festival in November 2018, and also accepted for the Māorilands and Pasifika (San Francisco) festivals in 2019. One postgraduate

student travelled to Fiji twice for coverage of the 2018 General Election as part of the Centre's new International Journalism Project postgraduate coursework and research initiative. Postgraduate students also assisted with the NZ Institute for Pacific Research media strategy.

The Centre's director became the first New Zealand journalism academic to be included in the Social Science panels for the national Performance Based Research Fund audit team (2015–2018), but withdrew in Semester 1 2018 due to health and work balance pressures.

The director was part of a Reporters Without Borders Asia-Pacific media freedom strategic consultation in Paris in July 2018. This related to the Centre's ongoing Pacific Media Watch "critic and conscience" monitoring role in the region. The Centre also employed a one-year research fellow through a faculty grant who specialised in Micronesian militarism and climate change.

The major challenges for 2019–2010 include preparing for a transition in the leadership of the Centre and future

publication plans, and the fact that the director will be overseas on sabbatical for the second half of 2019. The Centre also hopes to complete its new generation research and publication website in Semester 1 2019.

### Some key outcomes in brief:

- More than 10,280 news and analysis articles, audio reviews and videos have now been published on the Pacific Media Watch database – more than 225 during the current year – since the Centre was established.
- 206,333 unique views (29,796 more than in 2017) and 498 subscribers – 127 more than the previous year – have been recorded on the PMC's YouTube channel: www.youtube. com/pacmedcentre
- More than 162,000 unique visitors to the Asia Pacific Report website and 28,340 to the PMC Online website and database.
- Two editions of the peer-reviewed research journal Pacific Journalism Review, with a total of 29 articles, including Māori-Pacific-Indigenous research papers, and 16 reviews were published.
- In November, director Professor David Robie travelled to New Caledonia for the historic referendum on independence from France. He had been in the territory 30 years earlier covering what was known as "les Évènements",



Dr David Robie in Noumea for the New Caledonian referendum. Image: SBS



Te Ara Motuhenga documentary lecturer Jim Marbrook with Bearing Witness climate project students Blessen Tom (left) and Hele Ikimotu. Image: David Robie/PMC

- the insurrection by indigenous Kanaks against rule from Paris. He wrote a series of articles for *Asia Pacific Review* and academic outlets.
- PMC postdoctoral researcher Dr Sylvia C. Frain published some research papers and commentaries, and attended conferences in Hawai'i, Guam, Austria, Australia and New Zealand.
- At least 30 research and publication outputs were published during the year by the Centre's director and AUT research associates.
- The PMC broadcast Southern Cross current affairs radio programmes weekly on 95bFM at the University of Auckland. They were presented by postgraduate student Rahul Bhattarai.
- Postgraduate student Sri Krishnamurthi researched and produced stories and media resources for the NZ Institute for Pacific Research.



Pacific Media Centre's Southern Cross radio programme presenter in the 95bFM Auckland studios. Image: David Robie/PMC

### 2. CHAIR'S REVIEW

Warmest welcome to you all! 2018 was another exciting and productive year for the Pacific Media Centre.

There was so much that was achieved and so much that brought hope and a spirited resilience to the challenges facing the Oceania region.

In 2018, the Pacific Media Centre was invited to be part of Radio New Zealand's public outreach programme in acknowledgement of the Centre's knowledge, research and media content production regarding the Pacific. The Centre continues to publish a large number of conference papers and publications including two editions of the highly rated research journal, *Pacific Journalism Review: Te Koakoa.* 

Students linked to the PMC made a short climate change documentary, titled *Banabans of Rabi* (Bearing Witness project) which premiered at the Nuku'alofa International Film Festival in November 2018.

The Centre had its first ever postdoctoral fellowship with Dr Sylvia Frain whose work focused on her research in Guam.

In late 2017, the PMC celebrated its 10th anniversary as a Centre. The celebration was led by Associate Professor Laumanuvao Winnie Laban, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika) at Victoria University of Wellington, who launched the Centre in 2007 as Minister of Pacific Island Affairs.

PACIFIC MEDIA CENTRE LA CE

Tui O'Sullivan (right) and Tagaloatele Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop... retired advocates for the PMC. Image: Del Abcede/PMC

This year we farewelled one of the PMC's original and long-standing Board members, Tui O'Sullivan. Tui, who retired this year from AUT, was an advocate for the issues the Centre stood for and was a conscientious and proactive member in all of the events and initiatives carried out by the Centre. We also said goodbye to Tagaloatele Professor Peggy Fairbairn–Dunlop, another long-time member of the Advisory Board. Her contributions to some of the publications were invaluable and widely read.

The main challenge for the Pacific Media Centre remains the succession planning for the Director's role as well as for the continuation of the *Pacific Journalism Review* journal. We hope that the University recognises the incomparable contribution and value of the Pacific Media Centre and makes a determined and sustained effort towards the Centre's continued success and reputation. It is fair to say that the high esteem in which the Pacific Media Centre is held can be largely attributed to the work of Professor David Robie and Del Abcede.

We thank the Advisory Board members for their continued support as we continue to work towards the Centre maintaining its position as the only research journalism centre in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Associate Professor Camille Nakhid Chair, PMC Advisory Board Auckland University of Technology

### 3. BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

The Pacific Media Centre is a cross-disciplinary unit and is in a unique position of "diversity" and "inclusive" influence in the media industry and has the potential to develop on a number of strategic fronts through a contribution with media research to economic, political and social change media and development communication in the region. This was reflected in the 2013 Pearson Review external review which deployed the Associate Dean Research's Research Unit profiles criteria and stated that it was vital the university and the school give support through a commitment to structural and resource support:

The Pacific Media Centre (PMC) has grown in its six years of operation from a single person initiative to an AUT asset with a strong research, education and media reputation in New Zealand and beyond, particularly within the Asia-Pacific region of its main focus.

However, its operations will not be sustainable beyond the tenure of its current director, Professor David Robie, without institutional, faculty and school commitment to a restructure and resource allocation allowing for others to share in the responsibilities and considerable rewards. (Pearson Review, p. 2)

Professor Pearson advocated a special development budget from the university above the current PMC minimal budget to achieve this. However, major improvements have happened in the past six years with the School Research Committee which has enabled the PMC to become more consolidated with an internal budget grant projected for 2018. The PMC also raises some specific project grants and royalties from the centre's databases and news services.

### 4. MISSION STATEMENT

The PMC's mission is based on the belief that robust and informed journalism and media research contributes to economic, political and social development in the Asia-Pacific region. The PMC goals are:

- undertaking and stimulating research into contemporary Māori, Pacific, Asia-Pacific and ethnic/ diversity media and culture production
- raising Aotearoa/New Zealand research capability in media production
- · presenting and publishing the findings of media research

- winning funding from government and industry partners that support research into media production
- developing collaborations and relationships with other Asia-Pacific centres of research excellence in media and cultural production
- developing social change and development communication editorial and publications capability, including:

Asia Pacific Review asiapacificreview.nz
Pacific Journalism Review www.pjreview.aut.ac.nz
Pacific Media Centre Online www.pmc.aut.ac.nz

### 5. MARKET ANALYSIS

The PMC is currently the only media research centre of its kind in Aotearoa/New Zealand. There is no other journalism and media research centre that has been created by a due diligence process and officially listed as part of the university's research structure published in the annual *University Calendar*. A major strength is that the Centre is multidisciplinary, cross-cultural and with a focus on inclusive and diversity journalism. Even with a limited budget, the centre has been able to establish a high-profile presence in the news mediascape and has now co-published 11 Pacific media books with partners in Fiji, Hawai'i, Manila, Papua New Guinea, Singapore and in AUT University since it was established. According to the Pearson external review review (p. 3):

"While the PMC is categorised as a 'Recognised Research Centre', it is predominantly the external funding quantum that holds it back from Institute status on the other required criteria. (It has attracted about \$60,000 in external funding over the past three years.)"

While only a small team, its research outcomes have considerable impact and influence policy making at an international level. It attracts international students and senior researchers and is internationally acclaimed as a research entity. Leading communication scholar Professor Graham Murdock reviewed the School's research and described the PMC thus: 'The School has already seized the opportunity presented by New Zealand being a Pacific nation to develop a world leading Pacific Media Centre' " (Murdock Review, p. 8).

### 6. OBJECTIVES

- Establish the centre as the pre-eminent institution of its kind in Aotearoa/New Zealand.
- Develop financial partnerships that can extend research and publication collaborative opportunities
- Strengthen cooperative arrangements with comparable centres and institutions and develop them into more structured MOUs, for example with the Centre for Southeast Asian Social Studies (CESASS) at the Universitas Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta, Indonesia (completed 2017), University of Santo Tomas, Philippines, Journalism programme (under review in 2017) and the Pacific Regional Journalism Programme (University of the South Pacific – completed 2011).
- Expand publishing (eg research monographs, media texts)
  and digital media programme capacity. (A new series of
  Pacific Journalism Monographs was started in 2012 and they
  are archived by the National Library of New Zealand).
- Provide a resource office, workspace and support facilities for School of Communication staff, other researchers and journalists, and students on exchange and internships.

### 7. KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES



Deputy Head of School and PMC board member Dr Frances Nelson at the Centre's farewell to Tui O'Sullivan. Image: Del Abcede/PMC

- Successful media publishing and documentary making programmes based on research-led teaching
- Enhancing Māori, Pasifika and diversity/cross-cultural research, publication and broadcasting
- Raising the national profile of the university through critical studies and analytical seminars appealing to media industry, staff and postgraduate and undergraduate students
- Raising the international profile of the University by developing partnerships with regional and global centres with a synergy matching PMC's objectives

### 8. STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS

### Stakeholders in the PMC within AUT include:

School of Communication Studies

School of Social Sciences and Public Policy

Chair of Pacific Studies

Te Ara Poutama

Office of Pacific Advancement

### Associates include:

Asian Congress for Media and Communication (ACMC),

Singapore - COLLABORATIONS

Asian Media, Information and Communication Centre (AMIC),

Manila - PARTNER

Asia New Zealand Foundation, Wellington -

**COLLABORATIONS** 

Centre for Journalism and Social Change (UQ), Brisbane -

**COLLABORATIONS** 

Edith Cowan University (ECU), Perth, Western Australia –

**COLLABORATIONS** 

Centre for Communication and Social Change (University of Queensland), Brisbane – COLLABORATIONS

Human Rights Commission, Wellington – COLLABORATIONS Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria – COLLABORATIONS

Pacific Islands Media Association (PIMA, Auckland) – COLLABORATIONS

Pacific Islands News Association (PINA, Suva) – COLLABORATIONS

Pasifika Media Association (Pasima, Apia) - COLLABORATIONS

Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF), Paris, France – COLLABORATIONS

Radio NZ Pacific, Wellington, NZ - PARTNER

Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane -

**COLLABORATIONS** 

Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Yogyakarta, Indonesia – PARTNER

University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji - PARTNER

### 9. STAKEHOLDERS AND THEIR EXPECTATIONS

Stakeholders in the Centre are represented through the Advisory Board (see Governance structure below).

### 10. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

An Advisory Board was established in May 2007 and meets quarterly or three times a year to assist the director with governance. The composition of the Board was chosen to ensure a wide range of stakeholders' interests were represented. The current Board of 11 people also includes the School of Society and Culture and three external media members, including from TVNZ's *Tagata Pasifika* and *Brown Pages*. The current PMC structure as indicated in the Pearson Review 2013, p. 8.

The director and the Advisory Board are accountable to the Faculty and School governance boards and the Head of the School of Communication Studies. The director produces regular progress reviews of the centre and minutes of the Board meetings. These documents are stored on the Pacific Media Centre Blackboard space on AUT Online. The Centre also publishes the quarterly newsletter *Toktok* about its activities.



The current PMC structure as indicated in the Pearson Review 2013, p. 8.

### PMC Advisory Board:

Chair: Associate Professor Camille Nakhid (AUT School of Social Sciences and Public Policy)

Dr Frances Nelson (School of Communication Studies)

John Pulu (Television NZ's Tagata Pasifika)

Iulia Leilua (*Brown Pages* media consultancy)

Jim Marbrook (Te Ara Motuhenga – Documentary Research Collective, AUT)

Paul Janman (Pacific documentary maker, AUT)

Janet Tupou (Diversity Chair, School of Communication Studies, AUT)

Professor Barry King (Director, Centre for Performance Studies, AUT)

Khairiah A. Rahman (School of Communication Studies, AUT)

Junior Nomani (Faculty of Design and Creative Technologies, AUT South)

Professor Wendy Bacon (independent journalism advocate, PMC external member in Australia and Frontline editor of Pacific Journalism Review)

### Ex officio:

Director of Pacific Advancement: Walter Fraser

Chair of Pacific Studies: TBC

Faculty Associate Dean (Research): Associate Professor Tony Clear

Faculty Associate Dean Postgraduate/AUT South: Dr Rosser Johnson

Deputy Head of School, Communication Studies: Head Acting Deputy Head Dr Frances Nelson

Head of Journalism Curriculum Leader: Louise Matthews

Director of the PMC, Professor David Robie

PMC Publications Designer: Del Abcede

Pacific Media Watch project researcher/editor: TBC

Postgraduate student representative: Pauline Mago-King

### PMC research associates include:

Dr Jan Sinclair (climate change researcher, Massey University)

Associate Professor Evangelia Papoutsaki (International Communication, Unitec, Auckland)

Professor Chris Nash (Monash University, Melbourne)

Professor Mark Pearson (head of journalism and new media, Bond University, Gold Coast)

Dr Lee Duffield (retired, formerly Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane)

Dr Shailendra Singh (Head of Journalism, University of the

South Pacific, Fiji)

Associate Professor Trevor Cullen (Edith Cowan University, Perth)

Dr Sione Vikilani (Tonga)

Dr Levi Obijiofor (University of Queensland)

Dr Heather Devere (National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Otago University)

Susan O'Rourke (retired, formerly School of Communication Studies, AUT)

Dr Allison Oosterman (retired, formerly School of Communication Studies, AUT)

Professor Steven Ratuva (Director, Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies, University of Canterbury)

### Research project students and editors:

Manny Cruz, Guam (doctoral candidate, media in Guam/ Micronesia, due 2019)

Pauline Mago-King, Papua New Guinea (MCS candidate)

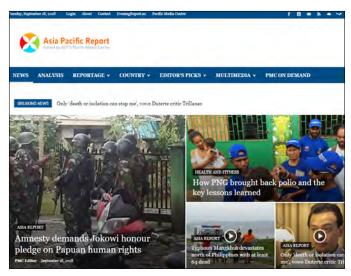
Mahreen Baloch, NZ (PhD candidate)

Emeka Austin Ndaguba, Nigeria (PhD candidate)

Associate Editor of PIR and research associate Dr Philip Cass

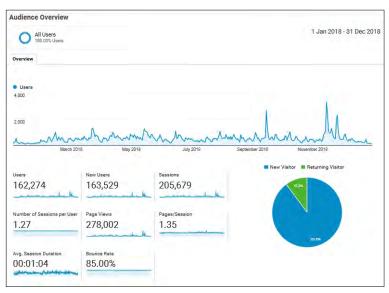
Del Abcede (*Pacific Journalism Review* research journal, *Pacific Journalism Monographs* and *Toktok* newsletter layout and production, PMC photographer)

### 11. ASIA PACIFIC REVIEW



Front page display from Asia Pacific Review on the unexplained death in September 2018 about an Amnesty International plea for Indonesia's President Joko Widodo to honour his pledge to investigate human rights violations.

In collaboration with *Evening Review* editor and owner, Selwyn Manning, a former chair of the Pacific Media Centre Advisory Board, the PMC began in late 2015 to develop a new digital news, current affairs and analysis website Asia Pacific Review www.asiapacificreview.nz to replace Pacific Scoop as a quantum leap forward in journalism education and publication. The new website was launched in late January 2016. In the three years of publication since then, the website has made its mark internationally, especially with its environmental, human rights, politics and digital media coverage.



Asia Pacific Review statistics summary for 2018 – more than 160,000 users.

### 12. PUBLIC SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

The Centre organised and hosted the following public media and research seminars, and participated in conferences during 2018:

FEB 21	Conference: Bearing Witness 2017: Phase 2 of a Pacific climate change journalism project case study: Professor David Robie: Connecting climate change and militarisation in the Marianas Archipelago: Dr Sylvia Frain, 2nd Pacific Climate Change Conference, Victoria University, Wellington
MAR 13	PMC Seminar: 'Safe food' governance after the Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster: <b>Otago University PhD candidate Karly Burch</b>
MAY 3	PMC Seminar: World Press Freedom Day, Indonesia and media 'open door' to West Papua: <b>PMC director</b> <b>Professor David Robie</b>
MAY 30	PMC Seminar: Micronesian militarism – considering climate change: PMC research fellow Dr Sylvia C. Frain
JUNE 7	Conference: Karoronga, kele'a, talanoa, tapoetethakot and va: Expanding millennial notions of a 'Pacific way' journalism education and media research culture: Professor David Robie, AMIC 26th annual conference: Disturbing Asian Millennials: Some Creative Responses, Manipal, Karnataka, India
JULY 4	Strategic Meeting: RSF strategic media freedom summit planned for Asia-Pacific: PMC director Professor David Robie and RSF colleagues in Paris, France.
JULY 25	PMC Seminar: Translation as struggle and resistance – re–translating 19th century Tagalog revolutionary texts: Otago University PhD candidate Pia Cristóbal Kahn

AUG 29	PMC Seminar: Folk wisdom: Superstition and 'old wives' tales' across the Pacific: <b>PhD candidate</b> Jourdene Aquon
CEDT 15	•
SEPT 15	'Decolonising' Research Methodologies Conference, University of Trinidad and Tobago, Caribbean: <b>PMC</b> <b>chair Associate Professor Camille Nakhid</b>
OCT 2-13	PMC Seminar: Okinawa's media response to US military response: Associate Professor Evangelia
	Papoutsaki, Central Asian University
OCT 19	Awards Presentation: University of the South Pacific Annual Journalism Awards – celebrating 50 years: <b>Keynote speaker Professor David Robie</b>
NOV 23	PMC Seminar: Democracy and media in the
	Pacific – Fiji, Kanaky and the people's choice: <b>Sri</b>
	Krishnamurthi, Nik Naidu and Professor David
	Robie
NOV 29	Conference: Driving an innovative journalism
	research and publication strategy: <b>Professor David</b>
	Robie: Oceans and Islands: A conference for Pacific
	research, University of Auckland.
NOV 30	Conference: Diversity in the Media Panel: <b>Lynda</b>
	Chanwai-Earle (chair), Kim Baker Wilson, Carmen
	Parahi, Professor David Robie and Henrietta
	Bollinger. SCANZ Conference, Wellington
DEC 5	Conference: Bearing Witness 2018: A climate crisis
	documentary/journalism development project:
	Professor David Robie and Jim Marbrook

### 13. PROJECTS

The Centre currently has one part-time director, three part-time research project people and volunteers working on the Pacific Media Watch project, NZ Institute for Pacific Research, Pacific Journalism Review, Pacific Journalism Monographs and Toktok. The move of the permanent office location from the tenth floor of the AUT Tower Building in December 2012 to the tenth floor in the Sir Paul Reeves communication precinct building has strengthened the collaboration with

other postgraduate staff and students and the journalism programme, and also boosted communication and media resources. The director also has an office in the centre. Among current and recent projects are the Bearing Witness mini documentary initiative and preparing for a proposal to host the Asian Congress for Media and Communication (ACMC) conference themed "Change, Adaptation and Innovation: Media, Communication and Culture" at AUT in 2020.

### 14. PACIFIC MEDIA WATCH

While the Pacific Media Watch research and publication project recruited a postgraduate student for 10 hours a week, she resigned after six weeks of training to concentrate on a PR part time work assignment while at AUT. It was decided not to appoint a contributing editor for the rest of the year with this role being partially adopted by the Centre director and project convenor. Instead, the Centre relied on volunteer contributions by students in semester 1 and appointed two Pacific Media Watch part time reporters during semester 2 – Rahul Bhattarai (postgraduate) and Leilani Sitagata (final year BCS). Rahul hosted our weekly radio programme Southern Cross and covered human rights stories while Leilani wrote Pasifika and cultural media profiles.



Pacific Media Watch 2018 contributions from students Rahul Bhattarai and Leilani Sitagata. Image: PMC

### 15. SOUTHERN CROSS RADIO 95bFM



PMC's Sri Krishnamurthi (right) and NZ Institute for Pacific Research manager Dr Evelyn Masters being interviewed by Reuben McLaren on Southern Cross in the 95bFM studios at the University of Auckland. Image: PMC

The Pacific Media Centre's weekly Southern Cross radio programme on 95bFM is a popular offering from the Centre and this provides an opportunity for students to gain professional experience and develop confidence on the air waves. It was first developed by Alex Perrottet (now at Radio NZ) and Alistar Kata (*Tagata Pasifika*). In Semester 2, this was hosted by Rahul Bhattarai and he included a range of talent among academics, students and journalists for a wide spectrum of interviews. The programme also supported the collegial work of the NZ Institute for Pacific Research to help provide a showcase for researchers in the region. In one programme:

"David Robie gave a rundown on the accusations that Facebook has been censoring a West Papua photograph by a leading photojournalist, Ben Bohane, from Vanuatu."

Southern Cross podcasts on Sound Cloud: https://soundcloud.com/user-688507213

### 16. ACADEMIC STAFF CONTRIBUTIONS



Several AUT academic staff and from other universities contributed articles for PMC's *Asia Pacific Review* and *PMC Online* and facilitated projects during the year, notably the PMC chair, Associate Professor Camille Nakhid. Dr Nakhid initiated a conference on indigenous research methodologies at the University of Trinidad and Tobago's Valsayn campus on September 12–13. The conference, jointly organised by UTT, the University of the West Indies and Auckland University of Technology, provided an opportunity to discuss strategies for conducting research that is organic to the diverse practices of the Caribbean. The development and use of Caribbean research methodologies are in response to the "need to question and challenge the accuracy and validity of traditional Eurocentric and Western approaches employed to study Caribbean peoples and contexts".

PMC director Professor David Robie contributed many articles during 2018 and research fellow Dr Sylvia Frain also wrote some articles in the first half of the year. Academics from other universities, such as Dr Shailendra Singh of the University of the South Pacific were among regular contributors.

Do great things with postgraduate study video interview with PMC chair Associate Professor Camille Nakhid: www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3W7T3jhj6Q

# 17. PACIFIC JOURNALISM REVIEW, PACIFIC JOURNALISM MONOGRAPHS AND TOKTOK

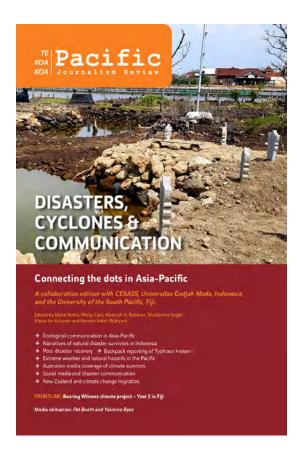


Pacific Journalism Review: Te Koakoa has been indexed by SCOPUS since 2005 – the first New Zealand media journal to be indexed by a major global PBRF metrics agency such as this. The journal is also featured on AUT's Tuwhera indigenous research platform along with Pacific Journalism Monographs. During the year, Pacific Journalism Review published two editions as part of Volume 24, with the first edition featuring "Disasters, Cyclones and Communication", the second special edition on this topic, in collaboration with Universitas Gadjah Mada in Indonesia and the University of the South Pacific. The second edition published groundbreaking research about the imapact of post-traumatic stress disorder on television journalists covering the extrajudicial killings as part of President Rodrigo Duterte's so-called "war on drugs".

Besides the editor, Dr David Robie, and designer Del Abcede, associate editor Dr Philip Cass and assistant editor Khairiah A. Rahman, have played key roles on the journal. They were supported by AUT's Tuwhera digital team Luqman Hayes and Donna Coventry and the proof readers, Linnéa Eltes and Ani Zhang, and JEANZ board member Dr James Hollings.

The school has a Pacific Media Centre page online at the AUT Shop which offers PJR and other centre publications and PMC tee shirts for direct online sale. Del Abcede has been working on the production and layout of *Pacific Journalism Review* and also does the layout for the Centre's newsletter *Toktok*.

PMC on AUT Shop: www.autshop.ac.nz/pacific-media-centre/



July 2018 24(1) 249 pp

# DISASTERS, CYCLONES & COMMUNICATION

Editors: David Robie, Khairiah A. Rahman, Philip Cass, Hermin Indah Wahyuni and Vissia Ita Yulianto

This edition features a range of papers about narratives of disaster, social media and emergencies and climate change. It also feature some papers from Pacific Ocean Pacific Climate: The Second Pacific Climate Change Conference hosted by Victoria University of Wellington and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) at Te Papa Tongarewa Museum in Wellington, New Zealand, on 21–23 February 2018. The editorial features a keynote address at the conference by 2010 Nobel Peace co-laureate Professor Elisabeth Holland of the University of the South Pacific. The edition is published in collaboration with the Center for Southeast Asian Social Studies (CESASS) and *IKAT: The Indonesian Journal for Southeast Asian Studies* at the Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and also the University of the South Pacific, Fiji.

The night watch – Filipino TV journalists and Duterte's bloody 'war on drugs'

SPECIAL REPORT: The Qatar-Gulf crisis and media freedom EDITED BY DAVID ROBIE, PHILIP CASS AND KHAIRIAH A. RAHMAN

1. The Pacific Media Centre Pacific Media Watch, impunity and human rights
1. Hidden West Papua: A regional media matter
1. The internet under threat in the Pacific?
1. Azehnese or Indonesian? Post-conflict representation of identity
1. How Timor-Leste's media bloomed from the ashes of violence
1. PHOTO ESSAY: Buried in debt only to have their loved ones get a burial PLUS
1. Representations of Islam and Muslims in New Zealand media
1. Southeast Asian journalism education
1. Media, militarism and climate change in the Marianas Archipelago

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# JOURNALISM UNDER DURESS IN ASIA PACIFIC

Editors: David Robie, Khairiah A. Raman and Philip Cass

November 2 is the United Nations date that is observed globally each year to mark the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists (IDEI). To honour journalists who have died, or have been beaten, tortured or brutally gagged in defence of the truth and the public right to know and to explore safety of journalist strategies, this is a special edition of Pacific Journalism Review. This follows on from the Pacific Media Centre's public seminar in Auckland, Aotearoa/New Zealand, in November 2017 marking 10 years of the centre. Several multimedia presentations were made at the seminar in support of a free press in the Asia-Pacific region. The Ampatuan massacre of 32 journalists in the Philippines in 2009, with a failure of the authorities to successfully prosecute anybody for this horrendous crime almost a decade later, and violent abuses against journalists in West Papua were some of the issues raised in the seminar. Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Samoa are among Oceania nations that are cracking down on internet freedom to stifle "ghost writers" and "troublemakers" as one Pacific leader has described them. Cover photograph: © Fernando G. Sepe Jr. of ABS-CBN News

### 18. BEARING WITNESS PROJECT, DOCUMENTARY AND FILM FESTIVALS



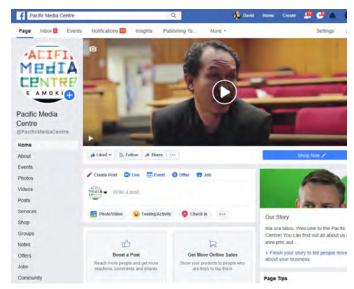
The 2018 Bearing Witness climate project team, screen production student Blessen Tom and student journalist Hele Ikimotu travelled to Fiji in April and collaborated with the Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (PaCE-SD) and regional journalism programme at the University of the South Pacific to produce a series of multimedia packaged stories about topics ranging from ocean waka voyaging to ePop climate stories for France 24 television network. Their highlight was a final project documentary entitled Banabans of Rabi: A Story of Survival, a storytelling output based on a narrative between Hele and his mother Janet (pictured), who had migrated from Rabi some 40 years earlier. The documentary was premiered at the Nuku'alofa International film festival in November 2018, and has since been accepted for the Māorilands and Pasifika festivals in 2019.

Academic paper about this project at Tuwhera: ojs.aut.ac.nz/pacific-journalism-review/article/view/257

### 19. FACEBOOK AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The Pacific Media Centre's Facebook has passed a milestone of 4030 "friends" and "followers" – excellent progress for a small and specialised media centre. The PMC's conventional email list had only 250 members and this has now been phased out. The Centre uses Facebook, Twitter (4606 followers), Instagram (197 followers), Soundcloud (74 tracks and 2344 plays) and other social media as being integral to its communication strategy. A YouTube account was established in 2008 and now has 499 subscribers and 206,333 views.

- www.facebook.com/PacificMediaCentre/
- twitter.com/pacmedcentre
- junctionjournalism.com
- soundcloud.com/user-688507213
- youtube/pacmedcentre



Del Abcede with an image from the PMC 10 Years exhibition. The images are in a video on the PMC YouTube channel: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfHuearIT74">www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfHuearIT74</a>

### 20. REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS ASIA-PACIFIC PROJECT IN PARIS



Professor David Robie (centre) with Daniel Bastard (left) and other Asia-Pacific media freedom colleagues at the strategic conference in Paris, France, in July 2018. Image: RSF

Centre director Professor David Robie was flown to Paris for the inaugural Reporters Without Borders Asia–Pacific media freedom strategic consultation in July 2018. The media freedom defenders gathered with Asia–Pacific director Daniel Bastard and other RSF leaders to explore ways to strengthen their activities. In the region. The Pacific work is carried out by the PMC's Pacific Media Watch project, involving part time postgraduate students and Dr Robie as convenor. The media freedom defenders also attended workshops on digital security and visited the global news agency offices of Agence France–Presse in the Place de la Bourse. In his review of media freedom issues in the region, Bastard summed up:

"With 34 countries and more than half the world's population, the Asia–Pacific region holds all the records, with the biggest prisons for journalists and bloggers, especially China and Vietnam, and the world's deadliest countries for journalists and bloggers, above all Pakistan, Philippines and Bangladesh. The Asia–Pacific region also has the biggest number of 'Predators of Press Freedom,' who run some of the worst dictatorships and information 'black holes', such as North Korea and Laos."

Dr Robie also during the year presented conference papers at the Second Pacific Climate Conference hosted by Victoria University of Wellington; the 26th Asian Media Information and Communication (AMIC) Centre conference in Manipal, South India; the NZ Institute for Pacific Research conference at Auckland University; the DevNet conference hosted by the University of Canterbury in Christchurch; and was a guest speaker on the "Diversity in the Media" Panel at the Science Communicators of NZ (SCANZ) conference along with Lynda Chanwai–Earle (chair), Kim Baker Wilson, Carmen Parahi and Henrietta Bollinger at the Royal Society in Kelburn.



Media freedom defender Associate Professor Joseph Fernandez of Murdoch University, Perth, WA, a research associate of the Pacific Media Centre and a frequent contributor of research papers to *Pacific Journalism Review*. He was also in Paris but missing in the group photo. Image: David Robie/PMC

### 21. FUNDING AND SPONSORSHIP



Sri Krishnamurthi with his Fiji Elections Office press card. Fiji elections coverage: asiapacificreview.nz/category/intjourn-project/ Image: David Robie/PMC

As in previous years, the operating costs of the Centre have been met by the School of Communication Studies. The Centre is also generating largely self-funding revenue for *Pacific Journalism Review* through subscriptions, database royalties (such as Copyright Licensing Ltd, INFORMIT and Knowledge Basket) and occasional external grants. It has the potential to generate limited funds from projects such as book publishing and royalties. The budget and financial reviews are prepared separately within the School by the manager in consultation with the director. The centre continues to need support in identifying potential future funding proposals and partnerships. It also needs more support if the centre is to evolve and grow.

In mid-2017, the NZ Institute for Pacific Research contracted the Pacific Media Centre to provide a research article, video and publication service. Former NZ Press Association news agency journalist Sri Krishnamurthi provided this service during 2018 on behalf of the Centre, and he also travelled to Fiji twice to cover the second post-coup General Election.

Their work can be viewed at the NZIPR Lali blog: www.nzipr.ac.nz

### 22. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION OUTPUTS

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### Professor David Robie

Director Pacific Media Centre 30 January 2019

### APPENDIX 1. DCT RESEARCH REVIEW 2018, PP 53-55



### PACIFIC MEDIA CENTRE TURNS 10 - A DECADE OF RESEARCH INNOVATION

### **Contributed by Professor David Robie**

When the Pacific Media Centre was founded a decade ago in October 2007 at Auckland University of Technology -- and launched by Laumanuvao Winnie Laban as then Minister of Pacific Island Affairs – the region faced a turbulent era. Fiji's so-called "coup culture" had become entrenched by yet another coup in December 2006 by military commander Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama, although this time it was not an ethnocentric putsch, but a "coup to end all coups" and in support of a multiracial future. A six month state of emergency period followed with many human rights violations, ending in May 2007. There were concerns in Papua New Guinea over human rights violations, including police brutality and killing of suspects in law enforcement episodes. Relations were restrained between Solomon Islands and Australia over the Moti affair, about an Australian lawyer Julian Moti who had been appointed to the post of Attorney-General, culminating in an Australian police raid on the Solomon Islands prime minister's office. Corruption, gender violence and other human rights violations were rife.

In the wider Asia–Pacific region, arbitrary, unlawful, and extrajudicial killings by elements of the security services and

political killings, including of journalists, were already a major problem in the Philippines – but not anything like on the scale of today (UNESCO, 2018); and in Timor-Leste security forces carried out nine killings that year – less than a third of the 29 the previous year – and there were human rights violations against journalists and other civilians (US State Department, 2008).

The circumstances of the era were ideal for the establishment of the Pacific Media Watch media freedom project as one of the first research and publication initiatives under the Pacific Media Centre umbrella, having transferred there from the University of Papua New Guinea and University of Technology Sydney where it had been founded by ABC Four Corners investigative journalist Peter Cronau and PMC director David Robie.

Billed is an independent, non-profit network reporting on media developments in and around New Zealand and the Asia-Pacific region, the initiatives and work were inspired by the Australian Centre for Independent Journalism (ACIJ) – which unfortunately closed in April 2017 after a quarter of a century of cutting edge investigative journalism — and

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especially by the work of Cronau, and two former directors of the ACIJ, Chris Nash and Wendy Bacon.

Professor David Robie with Del Abcede and staff and students of Universitas Gadjah Mada at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Borobudur, a 9th century Mahayana Buddhist temple near Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Image: CESASS

During 2017, the Centre director, Dr David Robie, was appointed by the Universitas Gadjah Mada of Yogyakarta as one of its six global professors on the World Class Professor (WCP) programme for collaborative research and publication on climate change and the role of media in a comparison with Fiji. This was funded by the Indonesian Government for a visit on climate change and the role of media in a comparison with Fiji. This was funded by the Indonesian Government for a visit

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Professor David Robie with Del Abcede and staff and students of Universitas Gadjah Mada at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Borobudur, a 9th century Mahayana Buddhist temple near Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Image: CESASS

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PACIFIC MEDIA CENTRE TURNS 10
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DCT RESEARCH REVIEW 2017

to Semarang, Central Java, to investigate rob (coastal) flooding and joint research publications were planned for 2018.

Despite its limited resources, the PMC has contributed to greater diversity and more analysis of the region's media. As faith in neoliberalism and the quality and plurality of newspapers has been eroded in Australia and New Zealand, universities and other non-profits are being increasingly seen as alternative backers for serious journalism. The Pacific Media Centre is regarded as pioneering example of such a venture and that its early adopted project, Pacific Media Watch, was originally launched in 1996 at UTS and fuelled on the "smell of an oily rag" (Robie, 2017). The project was awarded the AUT Dean's Award for Critic and Conscience of Society in 2014 (PMW freedom project wins, 2014) and the year before in 2013, the then student PMW project contributing editor Daniel Drageset, a Norwegian journalist, won Columbia University's Dart Asia-Pacific Media Centre Award for Journalism and Trauma Prize for a multimedia series he reported on the torture of two Fijian prison escapees by security forces.

Another cornerstone of the Pacific Media Centre has been publication of *Pacific Journalism Review*, a Scopus-ranked international research journal that was launched originally at the University of Papua New Guinea and has now been published for 23 years. At a conference at AUT in 2014 celebrating 20 years of publication and publication of 710 articles, an academic analysis by Queensland University of Technology journalism coordinator Lee Duffield (2015) concluded that PJR "gives oxygen to campaigns that decry suppression of truth" and examines self-censorship by news media

Pacific Journalism Review is concerned with freedom, and with truth, easily defined as the outcome of inquiries based on plan evidence. Its stance is above all journalistic; as a publishing outlet for investigative journalism, and for scholarship in media and community; as an outlet for reflective debate within the media community about its work, and as a contributor to the formation of new entrants into journalism – in their values and aspirations to best practice. (Duffield, 2015, p. 31).

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### PMC PUBLISHES PHOTOJOURNALISM SPECIAL EDITION

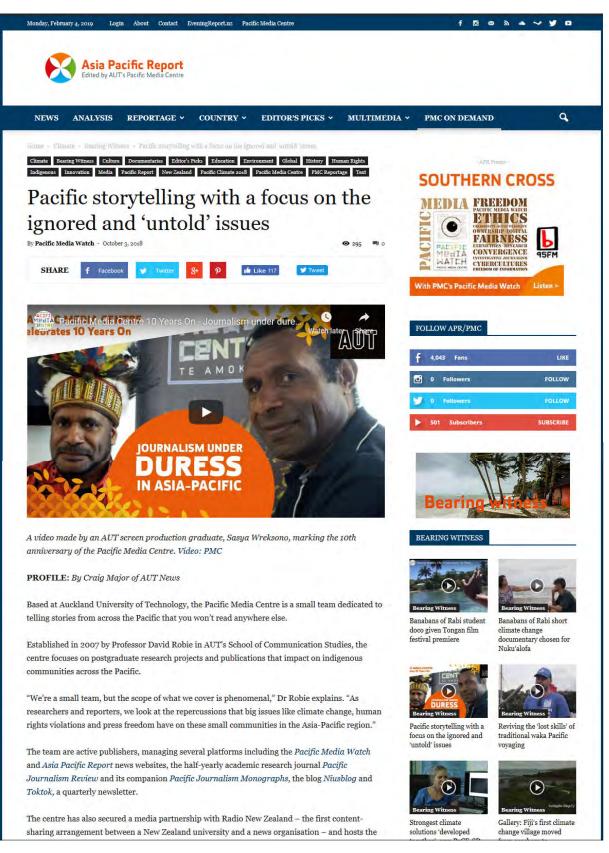
#### Contributed by Professor David Robie

To mark the 10th anniversary of the Pacific Media Centre, a special book dedicated to investigative and photojournalism was researched and published in 2017. Edited by Jim Marbrook, Del Abcede, Natalie Robertson and David Robie, with a foreword by Berrin Yanıkkaya, the book Conflict, Custom & Conscience: Photojournalism and the Pacific Media Centre 2007-2017 celebrated the "voice of the voiceless" and the work of many Asia-Pacific contributors over the decade.

Other publications and projects by the Centre include:

- Pacific Journalism Review: NZ's only SCOPUS ranked communication studies research journal and the flagship publication on AUT's Tuwhera research Open Access platform of eight university journals, and Pacific Journalism Monographs, with a commitment to Indigenous and vernacular media research.
- Bearing Witness climate change project: For Pacific and other diversity students to carry out an experiential project in Fiji in partnership with AUT's Te Ara Motuhenga and the University of the South Pacific. The project has included researching and making mini-documentaries.
- Pacific Media Watch freedom project: A programme carried out in collaboration with the Paris-based Reporters Without Borders.
   This annual position provides an opportunity for a Pacific or other diversity student to gain professional research and publication experience in an Asia-Pacific and global context.
- NZ Institute for Pacific Research (NZIPR) collaboration: One or two students a year are selected for a media internship to work with the institute to further public awareness and knowledge of Pacific media research. Facilitated and supervised by the PMC.
- Asia Pacific Report asiapacificreport.nz: A news and current affairs website devoted to "diversity" issues and topics ignored or shut out by mainstream with a unique content sharing agreement with Radio New Zealand.

# APPENDIX 2: PACIFIC STORYTELLING WITH A FOCUS ON THE IGNORED AND 'UNTOLD' STORIES, ASIA PACIFIC REVIEW, 3 OCTOBER 2018.



#### PMC ON DEMAND

weekly Southern Cross radio programme on 95bFM



Some of the Pacific Media Centre team: Sri Krishnamurthi (from left), Blessen Tom, Leilani Sitagata, Associate Professor Camille Nakhid, Professor David Robie and Del Abcede. Image: Craig Maior/AUT

Dr Robie, along with Advisory Board chair Associate Professor Camille Nakhid, sees the centre as having a strong advocacy role across the Pacific and further afield.

"I think it is a real strength of the PMC that the team can find issues in the Pacific that just aren't covered in the mainstream New Zealand media, then explore them and report on them with authority and conviction," Dr Robie says.

### Beyond a travel brochure

"The team is skilled in identifying issues that are beyond the scope of what the public sees in a travel brochure."

Dr Nakhid echoes this sentiment. "New Zealand's media can be very insular when reporting on what is happening in the Pacific – even though there is so much happening right outside our doorstep."

Internally the team takes a cross-discipline approach, working closely with students and staff in the School of Communication Studies (particularly Te Ara Motuhenga, the documentary collective) and the School of Social Sciences.

The centre also has international partnerships, such as with the Paris-based Reporters Without Borders, and maintains close ties to Pacific communities based in New Zealand – and are sure to collaborate with community groups for events and seminars.

"Pacific Media Centre organised a seminar about the refugee situation in Myanmar recently," recalls publications designer Del Abcede. "Through talking to the Burmese citizens that we had invited, we discovered a range of issues that only came to light in the mainstream after the Myanmar election."

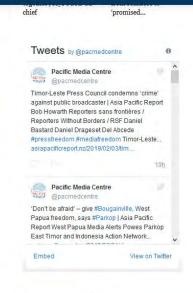
PMC reporting staff – mostly postgraduate students – are encouraged to uncover and explore the issues that interest them.

"Working with the PMC has been very illuminating," says Sri Krishnamurthi, a postgraduate student who has covered Fiji-based news for PMC, and has interviewed two of the three party heads hoping to win Fiji's general election next month.

"I have a background in communications and journalism, but doing this kind of reporting has been a real eye-opener," says Krishnamurthi, a Fiji-born journalist who worked with the NZ Press Association for 17 years.

### Film festival screening

And just this week two students from the centre, Hele Ikimotu and Blessen Tom, have had their Bearing Witness climate change documentary, Banabans of Rabi, accepted for screening at the



#### APJS NEWSFILE



While PNG promotes APEC big money, youth



40 luxury Maseratis for PNG, but little effort put



Tukuitonga goes into battle on behalf of Pacific for WHO position



Memo NZ: 'Get on the right side of history' over

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Timor-Leste Press Council condemns 'crime' against public broadcaster



'Don't be afraid' – give Bougainville, West Papua freedom, says Parkop



Mysterious Australian businessman swoops on Bougainville's minerals



Vanuatu's 'shared vision 2030' tourism goal – a pipe dream...

EDITOR'S PICKS

### PMC ON DEMAND



The trailer of Banabans of Rabi, a short documentary on climate change accepted by the 2018  $\,$ Nuku'alofa Film Festival. Video: BOR

The freedom to pursue stories in the region is an opportunity for Dr Robie and the team.

"Students that work with us learn so much – and there really is no underestimation of their abilities," Dr Robie said.

"Not only that, it promotes media and journalism as a viable career path for Pacific students, and leads to opportunities for international journalism projects."

- Pacific Media Centre website
- Pacific Media Centre on YouTube



Iran refugee detained in PNG wins Australia's richest literary prize



Sincha Dimara: My mother, a West Papuan survivor of many hardships,...



Typhoon Usman and nightmarish Christmas holiday times in Bicol



Human rights watchdog calls for police probe into 'unclear' Papua killings

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### MOST COMMENTS



Still stealing the generations – the abduction of Indigenous Australian children...



Deported Freedom Flotilla activist Mike Treen arrives back in NZ







International press covering the historic New Caledonian referendum on independence awaiting French Prime Minister Édouard Philippe, who had just flown to Noumea from Vietnam, in November 2018. Image: David Robie/PMC





### PACIFIC MEDIA CENTRE

Faculty of Design & Creative Technologies

School of Communications Studies

Auckland University of Technology, WG1028, Sir Paul Reeves Building PO Box 92006, Auckland 1142

www.pmc.aut.ac.nz