

**Course: Human Equality and Dignity in the  
Divine Economy**

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**Name of Institution:**

**Course Code:**

**Course Title: Human Equality and Dignity in the Divine Economy**

**Year: 2020**

**Mode of Delivery: Face to Face**

**PQF Level: 4 (5)**

**Credit Points: 240**

**Course Description:**

Explore the biblical and theological foundations for human equality and dignity as embodied in God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and in the Reign of God. Engage in life-giving and life-affirming indigenous cultural values and principles across Oceania. In the process, identify situations of unequal power relations and changing roles, and be motivated to address the factors influencing socio-cultural change. Examine human equality and dignity through the intersecting lenses of biblical theology, indigenous cultures, and social change. The knowledge gained is both transformative and practical for leadership and ministry within the church and in the wider social world.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

<b>Certificate Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Diploma Learning Outcomes</b>
By the end of the course, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Discuss</b> biblical and theological foundations for human equality and dignity;</li><li>2. <b>Identify</b> situations of unequal power relations and changing roles;</li><li>3. <b>Recognise</b> the relevance of indigenous cultural values and principles in promoting human equality and dignity; and</li><li>4. <b>Demonstrate</b> practical ways and benefits of shared leadership and equal partnership in ministry.</li></ol>	By the end of the course, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Analyse</b> theological and biblical foundations for human equality and dignity;</li><li>2. <b>Differentiate</b> between power relations and structures that promote or deny human equality and dignity;</li><li>3. <b>Examine</b> indigenous cultural values and principles in relation to human equality and dignity; and</li><li>4. <b>Design</b> an action plan involving shared leadership and equal partnership in ministry for the local church context.</li></ol>

## Unit Learning Outcomes

Unit Titles	Learning Outcomes
<p><b>Unit 1: Biblical and Theological Foundations</b></p> <p>This Unit explores the key biblical and theological foundations for the dignity, equality AND difference of all human beings. With this core message, it assesses biblical-theological claims that deny women and girls of their equality and dignity.</p>	<p>By the end of Unit 1, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate basic understanding of human equality and dignity from Biblical and theological perspectives and discourses;</li> <li>2. Assess biblical interpretations that deny the equality of women and girls; and</li> <li>3. Identify concrete areas where human equality and dignity are applied in their own context.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Unit 2: Indigenous Cultural Perspectives</b></p> <p>Values and perspectives of indigenous cultures that underpin and promote human equality and dignity, and main factors of influence, are the focus of this Unit. Links to biblical-theological bases are also made.</p>	<p>By the end of Unit 2, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss the key values and principles of indigenous culture in relation to human equality and dignity</li> <li>2. Examine the impacts of colonisation and missionary influence on indigenous cultures</li> <li>3. Revalue indigenous culture by distinguishing the relevant and resilient elements that promote human equality and dignity in daily life.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Unit 3: Changing Roles in Society</b></p> <p>This Unit builds upon Unit 2 to distinguish between biological specific, and socio-culturally defined roles for women and men, and the impact of social change on the latter. Students are motivated to identify social structures that uphold power struggle and domination.</p>	<p>By the end of Unit 3, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify biological, social and cultural constructs that define roles of women and men;</li> <li>2. Explore the impacts of social change that affect roles and responsibilities of women and men in Oceania; and</li> <li>3. Examine underlying social structures that cause unequal power relations.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Unit 4: Shared Leadership and Ministry</b></p> <p>In contrast to the unequal power relations examined in Unit 3, this Unit invites students to recognise and affirm the value of shared leadership and ministry in individual, family and community life. It further explores alternative models that empower and liberate.</p>	<p>By the end of Unit 4, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recognise the value of shared leadership and ministry;</li> <li>2. Explore alternative models of shared leadership and ministry that are empowering and liberating; and</li> <li>3. Apply the principles of shared leadership and ministry in their daily lives, family and community.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Unit 5: Weaving and Advocating Change</b></p> <p>This Unit brings together the four previous units by looking at social issues that conceive and breed inequalities. In light of biblical-theological foundations, indigenous cultural values and perspectives, students</p>	<p>By the end of Unit 5, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explore advantages of power sharing and social inclusion;</li> <li>2. Discuss implications of shared leadership and equal partnership in relation to social</li> </ol>

are encouraged to identify ways to address these issues in order to practice equality and dignity, and at the same time affirm our differences, in the church and wider community.	issues in the church and the community; and 3. Apply life-affirming and life-giving principles to transform unjust relationships and structures.
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## Course Contents

Units	Contents
<p><b>Unit 1: Biblical and Theological Foundations</b></p> <p><b>Readings</b></p> <p>Belz, Lisa Marie. "The Rhetoric of Gender in the Household of God: Ephesians 5:21-33 and Its Place in Pauline Tradition." PhD thesis, Loyola University Chicago, 2013.</p> <p>Bird, Cliff. <i>Human Dignity and Gender Equality from a Biblical-Theological Perspective: Framework Paper</i>. Sydney: UnitingWorld, 2016.</p> <p>Ete-Lima, Michiko. "Jesus Christ the Feagaiga and Nofo-tane: A Christological Perception of the Tamaitai". Master of Theology Thesis, Pacific Theological College, 2001.</p> <p>Freedman, R. David. 'Woman: A Power Equal to Man – translation of woman as a "fit helpmate" for man is questioned.' Libronix Digital Library System, 6/6/2004.</p> <p>Johnson, Lydia and Tofaeono, Joan (eds). <i>Weavings: Women doing Theology</i>. Suva: South Pacific Association of Theological Schools &amp; University of the South Pacific, 2003.</p> <p>Moltmann, Jürgen and Elisabeth Moltmann-Wendel. <i>God – His and Hers</i>. Crossroads, 1991.</p> <p>Tomlinson, Matt. "Gender in a Land-Based Theology." <i>Oceania</i>. Vol. 85, Issue 1. 2015, 79-91.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human beings as equal yet different from each other</li> <li>• Equality in creation and in the Image of God</li> <li>• Equality and dignity in Christ</li> <li>• Equality and dignity in the Holy Spirit</li> <li>• Equality and dignity in the Reign of God</li> </ul>

## Unit 2: Indigenous Cultural Perspectives

### Readings

Ernst, Manfred & Anisi, Anna. "The Historical Development of Christianity in Oceania" In *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to World Christianity, First Edition*. In Edited Lamin Sanneh and Michael J. McClymond (eds). John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. Published 2016 by John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, 2016.

Gibbs, Philip. 'Emerging Indigenous Theologies in Oceania'. *Concilium* 5 (2010): 34-44.

Latai, Latu. "Changing Covenants in Samoa? From Brothers and Sisters to Husbands and Wives?" *Oceania*, Vol. 85, Issue 1 (2015): 92–104.  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/oceania.5076>

Narokobi, Bernard. "Christianity and the Melanesian Cosmos: The Broken Pearls and a Newborn Shell", in *The Gospel is not Western: Black Theologies from the Southwest Pacific*. Gary Trompf (Ed). Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1987.

Taabeti, Meeri Eriuta. "The Biblical Case for Gender Equality: a Kiribati Womanist Perspective." Master of Theology Thesis, Pacific Theological College, 2017.

Vaii, Upolu Luma and Aisake Casimira (eds.). *Relational Hermeneutics: Decolonising the Mindset and the Pacific Itulagi*. Suva: University of the South Pacific and Pacific Theological College, 2017.

Vaii, Upolu Luma and Unaisi Nabobo-Baba (eds.). *The Relational Self: Decolonising Personhood in the Pacific*. Suva: University of the South Pacific and Pacific Theological College, 2017.

Video:

The White Man's Burden",  
<https://www.youtube.com>

- Indigenous cultural values that support human equality and dignity
- Impacts of colonisation and missionary influence on indigenous cultures
- Indigenous responses to colonialism and mission in the past and present

<p>Adichie, Chimmanda N. "The Danger of a single story", <a href="https://www.ted.com">https://www.ted.com</a></p>	
<p><b>Unit 3: Changing Roles in Society</b></p> <p><b>Readings</b></p> <p>Harrison, Brigid C. <i>Power and society: An introduction to the social science</i>, 14th edition, Boston: Cengage Learning, 2015.</p> <p>Jones, Edwin C.F. "Fijian Masculinity and Alcohol Use: An Ethnographic Study of Male Drinkers Living in Qauia Settlement." Master of Arts Thesis. University of the South Pacific, 2009.</p> <p>Lindsey, Linda L. <i>Gender roles: A sociological Perspective</i> 6th edition. London: Routledge, 2016.</p> <p>Lips, Hilary. <i>Sex &amp; Gender: An Introduction</i> 6th edition New York: McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2008.</p> <p>Newman, David M. <i>Families: A sociological Perspective</i>. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2009.</p> <p>Tarabe, Akanisi. "Re-assessing gender roles: A study of indigenous Fijian Women's Role in Funerals." Master of Arts Thesis. University of the South Pacific, 2015.</p> <p>Video:  Tarai, Jope, "Rethinking the Fijian Man", TEDxSuva <a href="https://www.youtube.com">https://www.youtube.com</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define sex and gender</li> <li>• Factors that influence social change</li> <li>• Impacts of social change on gender roles and relations</li> <li>• Patriarchal structures as power structures and their impact on gender roles and relations</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unit 4: Shared Leadership and Ministry</b></p> <p><b>Readings</b></p> <p>Davidson, Richard M. "Headship, Submission, and Equality in Scripture." In Nancy Vyhmeister (ed.) <i>Women in Ministry</i>. Berrien Springs: Andrews University Press, 1998.</p> <p>Halapua, Winston. 'Theomoana: Toward an Oceanic Theology'. <i>Concilium</i> 5 (2010).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define shared leadership and ministry</li> <li>• Collaboration and partnership between men and women in ministry</li> </ul>

<p>Moltmann, Jürgen and Elisabeth Moltmann-Wendel. "Becoming Human in New Community." In Constance F. Parvey (ed.). <i>The Community of Women and Men in the Church</i>. Geneva: WCC Publications, 1983.</p> <p>Sanga, Kabini and Keith Douglas Walker. <i>Apem Moa Solomon Islands Leadership</i>. Wellington: He Parekereke Institute for Research and Development in Maori and Pacific Education, Wellington University, 2005.</p> <p>Tomlinson, Matt and Debra McDougall (eds). "Introduction: Christian Politics in Oceania." <i>Christian Politics in Oceania</i>. New York: Berghahn Books, 2013.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentoring, role modelling and practical examples of shared leadership and ministry</li> <li>• Denominational structures and leadership challenges</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unit 5: Weaving and Advocating Change</b></p> <p><b>Readings</b></p> <p>Ah Siu-Maliko, Mercy. "Public Theology, Core Values and Domestic Violence in Samoan Society." PhD thesis, University of Otago, 2015.</p> <p>Ah Siu-Maliko, Mercy. <i>Christian Faith and Family Violence: A Report for Samoan Communities in New Zealand</i>. Otago: Centre for Theology and Public Issues, University of Otago, 2016.</p> <p>Bird, Cliff. <i>God's Vision for Human Relationships: Bible Study Resources on Human Dignity and Equality</i>. Vol.1. Sydney: UnitingWorld, 2016.</p> <p>Bird, Cliff. <i>God's Vision for Human Relationships: Bible Study Resources on Human Dignity and Equality</i>. Vol.2. Sydney: UnitingWorld, 2017.</p> <p>Bird, Cliff <i>et al.</i> "Together Towards Life and Pacific Contemporary Theology." <i>Ecumenical Missiology 1910 – 2012</i>. Geneva: Regnum Books and World Council of Churches, 2016.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressing and eliminating Gender-Based Violence</li> <li>• Other forms of inequality in local contexts, for example, violence against children and people with disabilities</li> <li>• Promoting human equality and dignity</li> <li>• Advocating for change</li> </ul>



<p>Keith, Chris. "Jesus began to write: Literacy, the Pericope Adulterae and the Gospel of John." Doctoral Thesis, University of Edinburgh, 2008.</p> <p>Moltmann, Jürgen and Elisabeth Moltmann-Wendel. "Becoming Human in New Community." In Constance F. Parvey (ed.). <i>The Community of Women and Men in the Church</i>. Geneva: WCC Publications, 1983.</p> <p>Nyabera, Fred and Taryn Montgomery, (eds). <i>Tamar Campaign: Contextual Bible Study Manual on Gender-Based Violence</i>. Nairobi: The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and The Horn of Africa, 2007.</p> <p>Wati, Longchar. <i>Transforming Cultures and Praxis: Engaging Peoples in the Margins</i>. PTCA Series No. 16. Hualien: Asia-Pacific Indigenous Research Centre, 2017.</p>	
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### Course Assessments

Task	Length	Weight	Course learning outcomes assessed	Due date
Weekly journal reflections	200 words for each weekly journal entry	30%	1, 2, 3, 4	Every Friday by 11pm starting Week 2
Group performance	5-7 minutes	30%	1, 2, 3, 4	To be confirmed with lecturer
Major paper	1000-1500 words excluding references	40%	1, 2, 3	To be confirmed with lecturer

### Details of Assessment Tasks

#### Assessment 1: Weekly Journal/E-Journal Reflection

**Weighting: 30%**

**Due: Every Friday by 11pm starting Week 2**

Following the lectures each week, students will write a weekly journal/e-journal (e.g. OneNote) to reflect on their learning. The students can use print media, online media, television coverage and their day to day experiences in relation to the lecture content. The entries in the journal/e-journal should reflect the criteria in the marking rubric.

- Each journal entry should at least be 200 words
- Journals must be submitted every Friday by 11pm starting from Week 2
- The lecturer will provide feedback every Friday from Week 3

### Marking Rubric

Content	Mark
Variety of media used in your journal (e.g. print media, online media, television coverage) – more than 2 per week	/10
Evidence of critical thought given to the issue concerning the Unit content covered for that week	/20
The ability to look deeper into the issue, rather than only reporting what has been expressed in the source	/20
Link the issue presented to your past and present experiences	/15
Proposing a way forward (recommendations)	/15
Student voice is clearly presented and expressed	/15
Grammatically correct, legible and readable. Evidence of proof-reading is apparent	/5
	<b>TOTAL /100</b>
<b>Comments</b>	

### Assessment 2: Group Performance

**Weighting: 30%**

**Due: To be confirmed with lecturer**

In groups of 4-5, choose ONE theme from the options in the table below to create a song, group artwork, drama performance OR short video clip that demonstrates your learning so far on human equality and dignity.

- Each performance/presentation should be 5-7 minutes
- Students are reminded to be clear in their messaging about human equality and dignity
- Students will be awarded for creativity and originality in their performance
- All group members must participate in the performance
- Teamwork is important for this assessment as students will be given one grade as a group
- Group performances will be presented at a time chosen by the lecturer

Option	Theme	Unit of study
1	Challenging cultural norms and expectations	Indigenous Cultural Perspectives
2	Addressing a situation of unequal power relations	Changing Roles in Society
3	Demonstrating a model of shared leadership	Shared Leadership and Ministry

### Assessment Rubric

Content	Mark
Clarity of message in relation to human equality and dignity	/25
Level of engagement with the chosen theme	/20
Quality of the performance	/15
Creativity and originality	/15
Level of group participation	/15
Length (within 5-7 minutes)	/10
	<b>TOTAL</b> <b>/100</b>
<b>Comments</b>	

### Assessment 3: Major Paper

**Weighting: 40%**

**Due: To be confirmed with lecturer**

Discuss biblical and theological perspectives on human equality and dignity in relation to ONE of the following topics:

1. Gender-based violence
2. Gender roles and stereotypes
3. Unequal power relations and structures in the Church/community
4. Indigenous cultural norms and expectations

- In the paper, students must consider the implications for women and girls, children and people with disabilities in the discussion of your chosen theme
- The paper should be 1,000 to 1,500 words excluding references (approximately 5-7 pages, double spacing, font size 12)
- Students will be penalized for submitting work that is not their own according to the college policy

**Marking Rubric**

<b>Content</b>	<b>Mark</b>
Evidence of research with relevant sources	<b>/15</b>
Clear and easy to understand	<b>/10</b>
Logical and well organised (appropriate introduction, logical paragraph linkages and appropriate conclusion)	<b>/15</b>
Use of relevant Biblical and theological concepts	<b>/25</b>
Displays insight and critical thought	<b>/25</b>
Correct in-text referencing and bibliography	<b>/10</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	
<b>/100</b>	
<b>Comments</b>	

## Resources

### ***Theological-Biblical***

- Ah Siu-Maliko, Mercy. "Public Theology, Core Values and Domestic Violence in Samoan Society." PhD thesis, University of Otago, 2015.
- Ah Siu-Maliko, Mercy. *Christian Faith and Family Violence: A Report for Samoan Communities in New Zealand*. Otago: Centre for Theology and Public Issues, University of Otago, 2016.
- Belz, Lisa Marie. "The Rhetoric of Gender in the Household of God: Ephesians 5:21-33 and Its Place in Pauline Tradition." PhD thesis, Loyola University Chicago, 2013.
- Bird, Cliff. *Human Dignity and Gender Equality from a Biblical-Theological Perspective: Framework Paper*. Sydney: UnitingWorld, 2016.
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- Ete-Lima, Michiko. "Jesus Christ the Feagaiga and Nofo-tane: A Christological Perception of the Tamaitai". Master of Theology Thesis, Pacific Theological College, 2001.
- Freedman, R. David. 'Woman: A Power Equal to Man – translation of woman as a "fit helpmate" for man is questioned.' Libronix Digital Library System, 6/6/2004.
- Gibbs, Philip. 'Emerging Indigenous Theologies in Oceania'. *Concilium* 5 (2010): 34-44.
- Halapua, Winston. 'Theomoana: Toward an Oceanic Theology'. *Concilium* 5 (2010).
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- Johnson, Lydia and Tofaeono, Joan (eds). *Weavings: Women doing Theology*. Suva: South Pacific Association of Theological Schools & University of the South Pacific, 2003.
- Keith, Chris. "Jesus began to write: Literacy, the Pericope Adulterae and the Gospel of John." Doctoral Thesis, University of Edinburgh, 2008.
- Latai, Latu. "Changing Covenants in Samoa? From Brothers and Sisters to Husbands and Wives?" *Oceania*, Vol. 85, Issue 1 (2015): 92–104. <https://doi.org/10.1002/oceania.5076>
- Moltmann, Jürgen and Elisabeth Moltmann-Wendel. *God – His and Hers*. Crossroads, 1991.
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- Narokobi, Bernard. "Christianity and the Melanesian Cosmos: The Broken Pearls and a Newborn Shell", in *The Gospel is not Western: Black Theologies from the Southwest Pacific*. Gary Trompf (Ed). Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1987.
- Nyabera, Fred and Taryn Montgomery, (eds). *Tamar Campaign: Contextual Bible Study Manual on Gender-Based Violence*. Nairobi: The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and The Horn of Africa, 2007.
- Taabeti, Meeri Eriuta. "The Biblical Case for Gender Equality: a Kiribati Womanist Perspective." Master of Theology Thesis, Pacific Theological College, 2017.
- Tomlinson, Matt and Debra McDougall (eds). "Introduction: Christian Politics in Oceania." *Christian Politics in Oceania*. New York: Berghahn Books, 2013.
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- Vaii, Upolu Luma and Aisake Casimira (eds.). *Relational Hermeneutics: Decolonising the Mindset and the Pacific Itulagi*. Suva: University of the South Pacific and Pacific Theological College, 2017.
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- Wati, Longchar. *Transforming Cultures and Praxis: Engaging Peoples in the Margins*. PTCA Series No. 16. Hualien: Asia-Pacific Indigenous Research Centre, 2017.
- West, Gerald and Ujamaa Centre Staff. *Doing Contextual Bible Study: A Resource Manual*. Johannesburg: Ujamaa Centre for Biblical and Theological Community Development and Research, 2007.

### **Other Resources**

- Ernst, Manfred & Anisi, Anna. "The Historical Development of Christianity in Oceania" In *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to World Christianity, First Edition*. In Edited Lamin Sanneh and Michael J. McClymond (eds). John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. Published 2016 by John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, 2016.
- Geertz, Clifford. *The Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic Books, 1973.
- Hau'ofa, Epeli. *A New Oceania: Rediscovering our Sea of Islands*. Suva: University of the South Pacific in association with Beake House, 1993.
- Harrison, Brigid C. *Power and society: An introduction to the social science, 14<sup>th</sup> edition*, Boston: Cengage Learning, 2015.
- Hollander, Jocelyn A and Judith A. Howard. "Social Psychological Theories on Social Inequalities." *Social Psychology Quarterly* Vol. 63, No. 4, Special Millennium Issue on the State of Sociological Social Psychology (Dec., 2000), pp. 338-351.
- Jones, Edwin C.F. "Fijian Masculinity and Alcohol Use: An Ethnographic Study of Male Drinkers Living in Qauia Settlement." Master of Arts Thesis. University of the South Pacific, 2009.
- Lindsey, Linda L. *Gender roles: A Sociological Perspective 6<sup>th</sup> edition*. London: Routledge, 2016.
- Lips, Hilary. *Sex & Gender: An Introduction 6<sup>th</sup> edition* New York: McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2008.
- Macpherson, Cluny and La'avasa Macpherson. *The Warm Winds of Change: Globalisation in Contemporary Samoa*. Auckland: Auckland University Press, 2010.
- Nabobo-Baba, Unaisi. *Knowing and Learning: An Indigenous Fijian Approach*. Institute of Pacific Studies – University of the South Pacific, 2006.
- Newman, David M. *Families: A sociological Perspective*. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2009
- Nicole, R. "Disturbing History: Aspects of Resistance in Early Colonial Fiji, 1874- 1914." PhD Thesis, University of Canterbury. 2006.
- Ryle, Jacqueline. *My God, My Land: Interwoven Paths of Christianity and Tradition in Fiji*. London, Routledge, 2016.
- Sanga, Kabini and Keith Douglas Walker. *Apem Moa Solomon Islands Leadership*. Wellington: He Parekereke Institute for Research and Development in Maori and Pacific Education, Wellington University, 2005.
- Tarabe, Akanisi. "Re-assessing gender roles: A Study of indigenous Fijian Women's Role in Funerals." Master of Arts Thesis. University of the South Pacific, 2015.
- Tarabe, Akanisi and Sereima Naisilisili. "Decolonising Fiji: Reclaiming Indigenous Fijian Psychologies". See [https://researchcommons.waikato.ac.nz/bitstream/handle/10289/1538/NMPPS%202007\\_Tarabe,Naisilisili.pdf?sequence=1](https://researchcommons.waikato.ac.nz/bitstream/handle/10289/1538/NMPPS%202007_Tarabe,Naisilisili.pdf?sequence=1)

Taufe'ulungaki, A. and Johansson, Fua S. and Takapautolo T. *Sustainable Livelihood and Education in the Pacific: Tonga Pilot*. Suva: Institute of Education, University of the South Pacific, 2007.

**Videos**

"The White Man's Burden", <https://www.youtube.com>

Adichie, Chimmanda N. "The Danger of a single Story", <https://www.ted.com>

Tarai, Jope, "Rethinking the Fijian Man", TEDxSuva <https://youtube.com>