



Faculty  
of Arts &  
Social Sciences

**Maror 2018**

Faculty of Arts and Social Science

# Research Symposium

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2018

Book of Abstracts

Authentic model for national unity

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## **Welcome to the 2018 Maror FASS Research Symposium**

It is my great pleasure on behalf of the Faculty Research Committee to welcome you all to our Faculty Research Symposium Maror 2018. This year marks the fourth year where FASS students and staff have presented research work to the university and Madang community.

The research symposium is an excellent opportunity to share knowledge created through the research process. For this year, we are delighted to have a special guest Dr Fraser Macdonald, an anthropologist and lecturer at the University of Waikato, New Zealand, who will deliver his talk on: The Melanesian Fire: A Pentecostal Revolution in the Western Pacific. Social science research encompasses studies in various aspects of social life. It is reflected in the variety of topics that are presented in the three symposium sessions:

Session 1: Education and Development

Session 2: Challenges in contemporary Melanesia

Session 3: Women, politics and culture in Papua New Guinea

This years Maror is possible because of the commitment and dedication of many people. I would therefore, like to thank all the undergraduate students and faculty staff who are presenting their research papers and their supervisors. My sincere gratitude goes also to Faculty Research Committee members, the Deans Office, Communication Information Centre and students in the Department of PNG Studies and International Relations, Department of Communication Arts and Department of Social and Religious Studies – thank you all for your dedication and hard work in organizing the symposium.

I warmly welcome you all to the 2018 Maror and hope that this year's symposium will inspire you and result in new knowledge and future research collaboration.

Leonie Baptiste (Ms)

FASS Research Coordinator



Faculty  
of Arts &  
Social Sciences

FASS Research Symposium  
Program

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2018

**MC: Miss Annabelle Masiri and Mr-Semie Mansu**

**8:30am**

National anthem and pledge led by Clare Joshua

Opening prayer led by Fr John Ryan, SVLD

**8:40am**

Welcome and opening remarks VP Research and Postgraduate Studies Prof Phillip Gibbs, SVLD

**8:50am**

Guest Speaker: Dr Fraser Macdonald, University of Waikato, New Zealand.

Topic: *The Melanesian Fire: A Pentecostal Revolution in the Western Pacific*

**9:10am Session 1: Education and development**

Chaired by Ms Betty Isikiel

Mr Henry Karukuru

Topic: *Secondary Student's Perception on the Impact of Education on Graduate Output in the Lese Region of Gulf Province*

Ms Gebhrude Bakate

Topic: *Factors causing failure in communication for community development.*

Mr James Oni

Topic: *The factors affecting Daranai primary school students progression into higher and tertiary level of education, in Panguna district of Bougainville.*

Dr Kevin Pamba

Topic: *The communication divide: The Gijira Laitrepo prophesy and the Oil and Gas Act 1998 dichotomy.*

Video presentation by Mr Glen Barua,

*Communication Arts year 3*

**10:10 - 10:40am COFFEE BREAK at JP II Hall**

**10:50am Session 2: Challenges in contemporary Melanesia**

Chaired by Mr Waka Tosa

Ms Aiythea Sraba

Topic: *Cyber Bullying and Online Harassment Among Facebook Users in Papua New Guinea*

Mr Charles Pitingi

Topic: *Media and corruption in the Solomon Islands.*

Ms Lorelle Tekopihiri Yakam

Topic: *The perceptions of police officers on the people's complaints regarding police brutality in Gordons, Port Moresby, PNG.*

Dr. (Fr) Geovanne Bustos

Topic: *Bikman – The text in context: Contextualizing the Gospel in PNG.*

**12:10 – 1:00pm LUNCH**

**1:10pm Session 3: Women, politics and culture in Papua New Guinea**

Chaired by Ms Leonie Baptistie

Ms Sheren Kinau

Topic: *Cultural empowerment of women: a case of female menstrual ritual in Yangoru, East Sepik province*

Mr William Kipongi

Topic: *The 2017 national election impacts on the socio-economic life in the context of money and power of Hokon Tribe of Wapenamanda district in the Eriga Province.*

Ms Bathsheba Saman

Topic: *The challenges of women in small and medium enterprises in Port Moresby*

Professor Patrick Gesch

Topic: *Migrations and Visitations: Sacred sites in the East Sepik Province of Papua New Guinea*

**3:00pm**

Closing Remarks Presentation of certificates by Dean, Associate Professor Miriam Dlugosz  
Announcement of best research presenter by Research Coordinator

**3:30pm**

All gather at the JP Hall for afternoon tea/light refreshments to close off day. Announcement of best research presenter by Research Coordinator

# Presenters and Research Abstracts



**Professor Patrick Gesch**

***Migrations and Visitations;  
Sacred sites in the East Sepik  
Province of Papua New Guinea***

In PNG it is said that 97% of the land is owned by traditional landowners, and only 3% is alienated. The impression this figure gives requires a great deal of modification in the light of long term leases and private deals by citizens. On what basis do the villagers own their land? It seems incredible to many Australians that land rights are claimed on the basis of visitation by spirits, the burying of the old people, by extended migrations stories from the originating times, or by the emergence of humankind from holes in the ground. Land disputes are settled on the basis of those who knows the sacred stories.

This account will draw on materials from the East Sepik Province. It attempts to give meaning to such expressions as, “The land is our mother,” and “we belong to the land.”

*Patrick Gesch is a Divine Word Missionary priest, currently Head of Department for PNG Studies and International Relations. He comes from Townsville in Australia, has worked in USA, Germany and Cook Islands, and has been in PNG as missionary since 1973. He started lecturing in Divine Word University in 1983.*



**Ms Bathsheba Sanau**

***The challenges of women in small and medium enterprises in Port Moresby***

Small to medium-sized enterprises is on the rise in PNG and more people are now engaged in SMEs. SMEs according to Small to medium enterprises corporation vision statement the small to medium-sized enterprises in PNG will be a major contributor towards PNG becoming a middle income country by 2030 and 2050.

This study, Challenges of Women in Small to Medium-Sized Enterprises in Port Moresby reports on the major challenges facing women in SMEs in the capital city of Port Moresby.

Women face a lot of challenges in the small to medium enterprises sector, some challenges are also shared among their male counterparts, and however this research wants to find out the major challenges facing women in SMEs in Port. Moresby.

*Bathsheba Sanau comes from a mix parentage of East Sepik and Milne bay provinces. Born on July 27th 1994, she is currently a fourth year student with the Department of Communication Arts under the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences studying Journalism. Growing up she was fascinated by the way broadcasters talk on both the television and radio programs. This motivated her to take up Journalism because she wanted her voice to be heard and her face to be on television. The best part was to be on television reading news bulletins.*

*Bathsheba aims to become a journalist who speaks the truth based on facts and evidence and be a communication specialist. She was privileged enough to feel the pinch of being a young journalist when she did her practical with NBC Port Moresby in 2016 and 2017 with Kalang Advertising working as a trainee journalist.*

An interesting revelation is that local women for Central and Motuans are not keen in SMEs, women from the highlands region are keen in doing businesses. The study concludes with a recommendation to find out the challenges facing both male and female entrepreneurs in Port Moresby. Also encourage more women to seek financial assistance from banks.



**Guest Presentation:**

**Dr Fraser Macdonald**

***The Melanesian Fire: A Pentecostal Revolution in the Western Pacific***

Dr Fraser Macdonald is an anthropologist of religion based at the University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand. His main research interest concerns how evangelical and Pentecostal Christianity has set up a relationship of critical evaluation towards traditional religion among the Oksapmin people of Sandaun Province. His published work has explored how this process has played out across the realms of witchcraft and sorcery, mythology, clan origins, environmental crises, musical performance, and understandings of souls and the afterlife. Currently he is in the early stages of conceptualising a major research project designed to record and analyse a Pentecostal revival movement that swept across Melanesia in the early 1970s. He will be based here at Divine Word University until the end of October and welcomes any enquiries or discussions.

In the history of global Christianity, the explosion of Pentecostalism within Melanesia during the 1970s remains an untold story. The arrival of the charismatic movement into the region in the 1970s spread Pentecostal worship with unprecedented rapidity, intensity, and geographical scope. As a result of revivalism during this time, Christianity assumed an importance in Melanesia in a way it never had before, as local congregations redefined their church life and spirituality away from a missionary-imposed structure towards a thoroughly localised entity over which they exercised control. At the heart of this profound upheaval in Melanesian Christianity was a single, transnational Pentecostal revival movement, that I call The Melanesian Fire, with roots in New Zealand that I argue is the defining, yet unreported, story of this crucial historical period. In this paper I firstly describe the movement and then offer an explanation of its success in terms of four connected factors: the mutual ramification of The Melanesian Fire with political independence movements throughout the region; the fact that, despite being built on a theology of world breaking, the fire dovetailed with existing religious experiences common to Melanesian societies; the existence of interdenominational and transdenominational organisations that expedited the movement of people, practices, and ideas across local, regional, and national frontiers; and, finally, the personal dimensions of Melanesian revivalism, whereby the genesis, uptake, and diffusion of Pentecostalism often depended crucially upon the persuasive capabilities of influential Christian leaders in each society, many of who have not received due recognition for their role in this important historical event.



**Session 1:  
Education & Development**  
*Chaired by Ms Betty Isitikel*

**Mr Henry Karukuru**  
*Secondary Student's Perception on  
the Impact of Education on Graduate  
Output in the Lese Region of Gulf  
Province*

The research was conducted in the Lese region of Gulf Province. Using the qualitative method, participants were asked questions based on the main research question of how student perception of education can affect their attitudes towards school; as well as on further supporting questions such as, the various factors that contribute to student mentality to school, how these factors form a perception in general and how this perception can affect their attitude towards school. These are the questions that guided the finding and collection of the data.

*A final year PGIR student.  
Henry was born on February  
20th 1995. He is from Gulf and  
his hobbies include playing rugby  
and singing. Henry's interests  
include international relations  
and project development.*

The major results that were interpreted from these findings were that education was affected by factors that were categorized under four main themes: Teacher Commitment, Forms of Support, Student Habits and Exposure. These four main themes or factors contribute to two main effects that student from Lese showed. These were a lack of interest in school and a lack of motivation to continue going to school.

The significance is that these two effects form the basis of their attitude towards school and leads to a significant finding. This finding was that it now affected the number of students graduating annually. This highlighted an obvious change in mindset towards education in the Lese region of Gulf Province. It would be recommended that further research such as this be carried out in other parts of Gulf to see if this is a trend within the province.



**Mr William Kipongi**

*The 2017 national election impacts on  
the socio-economic life in the context  
of money and power of Iokon Tribe  
of Wapenamanda district in the Enga  
Province*

Money or leadership, wealth or service are two conflicting notions at war in the mind of the Iokon people during the national election. People cried for services before the national election, but during the election they changed their mind. Their hopes and expectations for better life and services were substituted with money and personal gains. When all the short term benefits and material needs are made available, people need to stand for what they wish and dream before the election. Nevertheless, people created avenues for money and wealth to influence social communication links and leadership roles in the society, that manipulate people's choice and dictate their decision. It's a regretful behavior in which people enslave their own rights and freedom. The question comes back to the people, of their choice and behaviors in the national elections. The government needs to uphold the political democracy, to allow the people to exercise their democratic rights to vote without external influence.

*William Kipongi is in SRS 4 and comes from Puakale village, Wapenamanda District, Enga Province. His hobbies include learning new things, meeting friends, and watching movies. William did his primary and high school education in his home province (1989-1998), and grades 11 & 12 at St. Fidelis Minor Seminary in Madang (1999-2000). He joined the Divine Word Missionaries in 2000 and spent 11 years in formation until 2011 where he decided to quit. William enrolled at DWU to take SRS in 2012 but withdrew in 2013. He came back last year and is now in his final year.*

*William has experienced living with first class people in international communities. He has experienced hell on earth as a prisoner, and has experienced life and has no fears. He trusts in God alone for he knows his future.*



*Comes from Sandaun and East Sepik, and lives in Port Moresby. She is the last born of a family of five. Her past time hobbies include reading crime thrillers and watching movies.*

*Sheren is someone who strongly believes in the empowerment of women. She believes that women should be empowered to do things outside the norm and not be confined to the expectations of society. She also believes that people should not be afraid to stand out because after all our creator, the great Yahweh did not create us to fit in but to stand out.*

### **Session 3:**

## **Women, politics and culture in Papua**

### **New Guinea**

*Chaired by Ms Leonie Baptiste*

**Ms Sheren Kinau**

### **Cultural empowerment of women: a case of female menstrual ritual in Yangoru, East Sepik province**

Cultural empowerment of women in modern day PNG: A case of female menstrual ritual in Yangoru, East Sepik Province<sup>2</sup> is a research study that seeks to grasp the insider's perspective towards the cultural practice of menstruation ritual in Yangoru. The research found that the menstrual ritual is not only of great significance to the women in Yangoru but it also plays an important role in their value and importance in the society. This study concluded that, this cultural practice is of great importance to the women in Yangoru as it plays a significant role in their value and importance in the society. Furthermore, this practice is not limiting to the Yangoru women because it serves as a source of strength that gives them a sense of equality and confidence in participating in decision making and community activities. See if this is a trend within the province.



*Gethrude Bakaie is a 22-year-old female from Simbu Province. She was born on Thursday, 20th of November 1995. She finished her primary education at Mिंगende and graduated from Rosary Secondary School in 2014.*

*She is now a final year Communication Arts student. Gethrude, who is very social and approachable with a smile always on her face, wants to be a Media and Communications Officer after she graduates.*

**Ms Gethrude Bakaie**

### **Factors causing failure in communication for community development**

The result of the current Mitnada's development problems is its failure to consider the factors that cause failure in the communication process. Many people believe that, development only takes place when there is a new bridge, aid post or school being built. However, communication for community development is more than just the physical infrastructures. It is more to deal with people and to improve their ways of living. Community development workers may struggle to help bring about change in the community. It is not an easy task when it comes to dealing with people because they have their own experiences and they make their own decisions. This study was developed to identify the communication barriers that lie within the communication process to help the flow of development.



**Mr James Oni**

***The factors affecting Darenai primary school students progression into higher and tertiary level of education, in Panguna district of Bougainville***

Factors affecting Darenai primary school students is the presented topic. The topic was chosen to address the issue that majority of students' education journey is being affected by certain factors. These factors were identified through the research carried out and will be stressed on in the chapters of this paper. As a Social and Religious Studies student, the researcher is very concerned about the future of this nation. Youths and children are the essential part of the nations' human resources who will contribute towards the development of the country. Education is one vital tools for creating a pool of future effective human resources. However, many students tend to stop at one stage, and loose interest in their journey of education. Most of them are neglected by the community, which triggers them to behave negatively towards the society. Every situation has its causes. Therefore, the researcher's topic aimed at exploring and identifying factors affecting students' progression into higher and tertiary level of education.

*James Oni is 24 years old and comes from Panguna and Hanahan, in Central and North Bougainville. James father is very influential in his life, and is the fourth child in the family of 7 children. With the professional knowledge obtained from this university, he is fully capable to contribute towards the developments in Bougainville and Papua New Guinea. He has higher goals in life, and commits himself towards achieving them. With all that he acquires from further studies, he believes to be in a position to fight for justice amongst all citizens as an agent of change.*



**Dr (Fr) Geovanne Bustos**

***Bikman – The text in context: Contextualizing the Gospel in PNG.***

Because of its cultural diversity, Melanesia offers a broad scope for reading the gospel in different ways. However, this diversity can also pose challenges for us in the way we dialogue with people. In this paper I reflect on the meaning of contextualising the gospel based on my pastoral experience in the local Church of PNG. I want to explore a way of contextualising the gospel looking firstly at Jesus Christ, the example par excellence of contextualising (inculturation), and secondly, at his disciples, who left us another good example to follow in their three basic practices of dialogue, appreciation and acceptance, as seen in the Acts of the Apostles. In the last section I describe how the people of Chambri Lakes in the East Sepik Province of Papua New Guinea made sense of the gospel through the Bikman funeral rite as they experienced the word becoming flesh in their own culture.

*Geovanne Bustos, a member of the Divine Word Missionaries (SVD), has been working in Papua New Guinea since 2001. He is originally from Mexico. From 2001-11 he did pastoral work in the East Sepik Province (Chambri, Amboin, and Kunjitingini). He completed his doctorate in the field of pastoral theology at the University of Vienna (2011-14). His research interests focus on contextual theology and the dynamics of inculturation. Since January 2018 works at DWU as HoD and lecturer for Social Religious Studies.*





**Ms Lorelle Tekopiri Yakam**

***The perceptions of police officers on the people's complaints regarding police brutality in Gordons, Port Moresby, PNG.***

Police brutality is a major problem nationally and globally. In most cases the public's outcry drown the voice of the police officers, without proper dialogue to mitigate this issue. This research therefore offers a chance for an opportunity for a dialogue by presenting the perception of police officers on the issue of police brutality and how it is viewed by the public. It focuses on police officers in Badili, Gordons, Gerehu and Boroko police stations, and tries to establish some causes of police brutality. Though there were many literature on police brutality, there was limited or no research done on this specific topic in those specific settings. The significance of this study lies in the understanding that is brought between the concerned parties in order to mitigate this issue. The qualitative method of study was employed using one-to-one interviews involving both genders. It was concluded that police officers are often stereotyped by the public with regards to police brutality. Further, majority of the participants responded that police brutality is caused by several different factors.



**Dr Kevin Pamba**

***The communication aspects of the Papua New Guinea Liquefied Natural Gas project in Hela Province***

This paper is derived from the findings chapter of my doctor of philosophy (PhD) thesis titled "Communicating with indigenous landowners in a liquefied natural gas project: A Papua New Guinea Case Study" (Pamba, 2018). The PhD study looked at the communication and engagement issues between the indigenous landowners, the government and the developer/company (ExxonMobil) in the PNG LNG Project in Hela Province. It was a qualitative case study that engaged several theoretical lenses, notably development communication, Habermas' Communicative Action Theory and indigenous knowledge systems.

This paper focuses on communication from the landowners' standpoint based on the indigenous knowledge systems of the Hela people which is derived from their local folklore, principally the Gigura Laitrepo prophesy. The landowners of Hela who participated in the study viewed and communicated about ownership of the gas resource from their indigenous perspectives and not from the perspective of the modern resource ownership laws of the country, notably the Oil and Gas Act 1998, which is a western derivative that rests ownership of petroleum resources in the State on behalf the people of the entire country of Papua New Guinea

The dominant Huli-speaking people of Hela who inhabit the lands where the LNG project is located in the Komo Local Level Government area of Komo-Margarima District call themselves tindi apa and gas apa interchangeably. In Huli, tindi means land and apa literally means 'father' but it is also used to refer to ownership of property such as land. So when a Huli speaking man calls himself tindi apa he means he is the owner of a piece of land or 'father' of that land. Likewise when an indigenous landowner from the LNG project site calls himself gas apa, he is saying he is the 'father' or 'owner' of the gas and this has strong spiritual overtones from the perspective of the Gigura Laitrepo prophesy.

Dr Pamba also holds a Master of Arts in International Communication from Macquarie University Sydney Australia, a Postgraduate Diploma in Education from the University of Goroka, PNG and a Bachelor of Journalism from the University of Papua New Guinea, PNG.



**Session 2:  
Challenges in contemporary  
Melanesia**  
*Chaired by Mr Waka Tosa*

**Ms Alythea Siraba**

***Cyber Bullying and Online  
Harassment among Facebook***

*Alythea Siraba is 22 years old and is from Central and Oro Province. She believes that the solution to many of our social problems lies in research. She further adds that without research policy makers lack the knowledge to plan accordingly and in turn many of our people are missing out.*

This study is about cyber bullying and online harassment among Facebook users in PNG and aims to identify whether cyber bullying and online harassment is

existent among users in PNG and how users respond to it. A purely quantitative approach was employed with two sets of surveys distributed; one was facilitated online via Survey Monkey and the other was manually distributed. There were a total of 98 participants; 50 female and 48 male participants who were all Facebook users; with the majority being between the age group of 21 to 25. The major research question regarding the responses of Facebook users in PNG was answered. The study identified that Facebook users in PNG do face forms of cyber bullying and online harassment but are unaware of it however, the extent it is experienced by users and how it affects the users are both areas that require further studies.



**Mr Charles Piringi**  
***Media and Corruption in the  
Solomon Islands***

Media collaboration is a missing link, and it's the only way forward to curbing corruption in Solomon Islands.

Years of civil unrest, weak justice system and financial institutions, rife of institutionalized systematic corruption, Solomon Islands media is in real struggle.

The country was ranked 86 in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) scale out of 180 countries, by Transparency International in 2016.

All these crippled the country to the verge of collapse in the recent past.

The press is stifled in its own cage. Media people sensed it, but cannot speak up due to numerous influential factors.

Traditionally, investigative journalism as Matbob (2008) pointed out, that the intensity of investigative journalism is influence by growing competition by media organisations. This is true, especially for privately owned media organisations.

But when it comes to curbing corruption, the idea of competition for big news stories should be an out dated culture in this digital era. It remains the challenge, which compromised the media to its external sources.

Instead, media collaboration should be the only way forward for tackling corruption.

This was proven in 2016, with the success story of the Panama Papers Project, exposing tax evading scheme of global politician, celebrities and billionaires. It was a collaborative effort to curbing corruption by nearly 400 journalists globally. The issue of corruption requires multi-sectoral approach.