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DWU Research Journal

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Divine Word University
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Divine Word University
Divine Word University (DWU) is a national, Christian university in Papua New Guinea (www.dwu.ac.pg). The vision of DWU is to be open to all, serving society through its teaching and research. The university shares with all institutions of higher education a triple mission:
- The acquisition of knowledge, which is the mission of research
- The transmission of knowledge, which is the mission of teaching
- The application of knowledge, which is the mission of public service

Purpose of the Journal
The Contemporary PNG Studies: DWU Research Journal, a twice yearly publication, provides the means for DWU staff, students and associated academics to publish research findings, personal perspectives, reports of projects or developments and reviews of recent books on Papua New Guinea. The journal promotes investigations of practice and theory in fields covered by faculties and activities of Divine Word University at all its campuses.

Procedures for submission
Articles should be approximately 3000-5000 words in length, accompanied by a 100-150 word abstract and a 50-70 word biographical note about the author. Reviews of recent books on Papua New Guinea should be 900-1500 words in length. Electronic contributions using PC software can be sent by email attachment to pmorris@dwu.ac.pg OR post or deliver three hard copies with a disk copy to Ms Patricia Morris, Divine Word University, PO Box 483, Madang, Papua New Guinea.

Format for submitted work
Text should be typed, double spaced, with ample margins on A4 pages. The journal uses the Harvard author-date reference system (e.g. in-text, Larsen 1972, p. 254). References cited in the text should be listed in alphabetical order using the Style Manual (Australian Government Publishing Service 1994). Examples are as follows:

Review process
Manuscripts will be acknowledged on receipt. The editors will review contributions. In some instances an article will also be reviewed by a member of the editorial advisory board with expertise in the discipline. The views of contributors are not necessarily those of the editorial advisory committee for this journal.

Subscription rates: PNG K60, US $60, AUS $60 (includes airmail post)
CONTENTS

Editorial Note
Pam Norman, Daniel J. Stollenwerk
Evangelia Papoutsaki & Patricia Morris

The relationship between a university and its sponsoring religious community: The vision of DWU as challenged by the reality of higher education in Papua New Guinea
Jan Czuba

Issues in educational leadership in Papua New Guinea: A communication arts curriculum case study
Michael McManus

Nambawan to watch: EMTV, PNG’s only TV channel
Dick Rooney

Who were the Papuans?
Peter Maurice McCallum

Melanesian indigenous knowledge and spirituality
Catherine Nongkas & Alfred Tivinarlik

The Melanesian way: Law and justice before the arrival of the white man
Patrick Howley

Making a community out of two or more language groups: The process of integration of Simbu and Enga migrant groups in the Western Highlands Province
Douglas W. Young, John Gui & Joseph E. Lakane

Nation-making in public tank, Sisiak
Pat Gesch

Book review

Breaking spears and mending hearts: Peacemakers and restorative justice in Bougainville by Patrick Howley
Reviewer: Daniel J. Stollenwerk
Editorial Note

Education issues have been at the forefront of the challenges Papua New Guinea has had to face over the last two decades. Having to rely on decreasing resources and increasing demands, tertiary institutions in this country are struggling to fulfil their basic duties to provide higher education services and conduct academic research. Of the two, it is the academic research that has been most effected by budget cuts and lack of resources.

Divine Word University, involved in the changing of the higher education landscape in PNG since 1996, has sought to face the challenges of the system, assess its needs and positively contribute to its future development. One of the first steps in this direction is the creation of the Contemporary PNG Studies: DWU Research Journal that aims to foster a research culture in the academic community of DWU and those associated with it. We consider research vital to the healthy growth of higher education in this country and hope that the journal will provide a forum for discussion and sharing of ideas.

In this inaugural volume, the first two articles focus on DWU to address issues of educational vision and leadership. Jan Czuba, President of the university, considers the role of the founding religious community, the laity, the council and the students in fulfilling the mission of a Christian university in PNG, while Michael McManus investigates the Communication Arts curriculum over the years to see whether it is meeting the real needs of the country, or simply acquiescing to the demands of the dominant mainstream media.

Dick Rooney’s research into whether the country’s only home-based television channel meets the informational and developmental needs of the nation provides a link, then, with the following articles that address issues of PNG history, spirituality, law, and linguistic and cultural diversity. Maurice McCallum surveys nearly five centuries of references to the origin and meaning of the word ‘papua’. Catherine Nongkas and Alfred Tivinarlik explore Melanesian spirituality as the society transits from traditional subsistence to a more technological and sophisticated life style. Patrick Howley takes up the same theme of societal change posing the question of whether there can be a synthesis of customary law and Westminster justice. Douglas Young, John Gui and Joseph Lakane examine a process of social integration between immigrants and landowner communities suggesting that the ideas learned from this study may help foster unity on a national basis. Finally, Pat Gesch concludes our first volume with insights into the socio-cultural dynamics of the Sepik settlement of Public Tank near Madang.

We believe this collection of articles forms a solid beginning to DWU’s commitment to investigation in the form of a research journal. We were very encouraged by the number of submissions indicating a great degree of interest in publishing locally on matters of importance to PNG. Finally, we would like to thank the contributors for sharing their ideas and having patience during the long editing process, as well as the DWU council for approving the funds to launch this first edition of the Contemporary PNG Studies: DWU Research Journal.

Pam Norman, Daniel J. Stollenwerk, Evangelia Papoutsaki, Patricia Morris
Editors

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