



TEARS, FEARS, SACRIFICES, COURAGE & RESILIENCE

**The Covid-19 stories of female Pacific
Business students**

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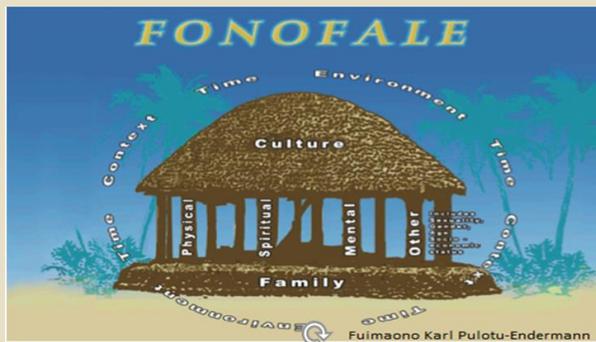
Why this research?

- Covid stories
- The need for understanding and empathy
- It is not unique but...
- It is important

Covid-19 as a disruptor – Imagine...

- The campus is out of bounds – no entry!
Classes are delivered online.
- ~~Family gatherings, meeting friends, church services.~~
- ~~Welcoming new family members at weddings, births, and farewelling loved ones at a tangi.~~
- Home is also a classroom, workplace, meeting room, recreation space, living space, and sick bay.
- Five zoom sessions, one laptop, clashing times.
- No phone credit

The Research Framework – *Fonofale*



Pacific Health Model; often used in Pacific research to understand Pacific ways of being

- holistic
- authentic
- acknowledges Pacific worldview and paradigms
 - Family
 - Culture
 - Physical
 - Spiritual
 - Mental
 - Other
 - Sexuality, gender, age, socio-economic

(Pulotu-Endemann, 2001)

Using explanatory models that are aligned with Pacific ways of knowing and doing in conjunction with a Pacific framework can be useful in helping us unpack “why”... (Willing, 2017 as cited in Malungahu, 2021)

As a Pacific researcher; it will guide the way I work with the participants and as a non-Pacific researcher; it will enable a new perspective of the learners, resulting in a closer relationship.

Pacific Research Methodology - *Talanoa*

Framework, informed by Pacific context, ethics and assumptions, which guides the research design and choice of method used in the research.

Defined as “...*talking about nothing in particular, chat, or gossip and it is within the cultural milieu of talanoa that knowledge and emotions are shared.*”
(Farrelly & Nabobo-Baba, 2012, p.1)

Tala - inform, tell, relate, command, ask, apply

Noa - anything, nothing specific, abstract, void

Talanoa - talk about nothing specific and engaging without the structures of discussions

(Vaiolleti, 2006)

Grounded in Pacific epistemologies and ontologies;
validates the voice and experiences of Pacific peoples
(Naepi, 2017)

Data Analysis Grounded Theory approach

- Talanoa, with its open-ended, unforced method of data collection of perceptions (without the interjection of objective/constructive nuances) minimizes preconceptions because it is about peoples' perspectives.
- “What is actually happening in the data? ...what is going on?” (Glaser, 1978 p. 57, and Glaser 1998 p. 12, as cited in Simmons, 2012 p. 18).
- Actions reflect a person's response to a situation, has no consistent numerical value. It is a relationship between the actor and the circumstances (Simmons, 2012).
- Identifies patterns of behaviour, action, and explains why, which lends to a theory grounded in the data (Simmons, 2012).

The value of this research

- The importance of data interpretation from a Pacific female's perspective with Pacific knowledge, as opposed to interpretation without Pacific knowledge.
- When the needs, aspirations and goals of a Pacific woman is diminished by the needs of the family, church and wider community, it may also diminish those of the fanau's. By empowering her, the fanau is empowered.
- By understanding her decision-making process in needs-prioritising, changes can be embedded in her academic journey to enable achievement opportunities and therefore those of the fanau.
- This research can be expanded to cover other disciplines and genders, for a more complete understanding of Pacific students on their academic journey.
- Its contribution to IRM.

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