

Development Discourse & the Postcolonial Challenge – The Case of Fiji's Aid Industry

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Statement of Originality

This thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. I give consent to this copy of my thesis, when deposited in the University Library, being made available for loan and photocopying subject to the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968.

Paul B. Hodge

July 2009

In memory of Lenore Smith

Professor, your love of Classics and intellect inspired me...

Dedication

I dedicate this thesis to my adorable and sometimes mischievous children Lucas and Charlee. Thank you beautiful people; I still have so much more to learn from you.

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List of acronyms

ACSSP	Australian Civil Society Support Programme
ACFID	Australian Council for International Development (formerly ACFOA)
ACFOA	Australian Council for Overseas Aid
ACP	Africa/Caribbean/Pacific (EU grouping)
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ANU	Australian National University
APHEDA	Australian People for Health Education and Development Abroad
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CCF	Citizens Constitutional Forum
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIVICUS	World Alliance for Citizen Participation
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
CS	Civil Society
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSI	Civil Society Index
DFID	Department for International Development
DTP	Diplomacy Training Program
ECREA	Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy
EU	European Union
FCOSS	Fiji Council of Social Services
FWCC	Fiji Women's Crisis Centre
FML	Fiji Muslim League
FPA	Family Planning Australia
FSP Fiji	Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific - Fiji
FSPI	Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International
FWRM	Fiji Women's Rights Movement

GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNI	Gross National Income
GONGO	Government Non-Government Organisation
GP	Greenpeace Pacific
HREC	Human Research Ethics Committees
IAG	Institute of Australian Geographers
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
ILO	International Labour Organisation
LFA	Logical Framework Approach
LFM	Logical Framework Matrix
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NCW	National Council of Women
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NZ	New Zealand
NZODA	New Zealand Official Development Assistance
PACFAW	Pacific Foundation for the Advancement of Women
PANG	Pacific Network on Globalisation
PAR	Participatory Action Research
PCRC	Pacific Concerns Resource Centre
PLA	Participatory Learning and Action
PPA	Participatory Poverty Assessment
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PIANGO	Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
RFHA	Reproductive and Family Health Association
PNG	Papua New Guinea
RRRT	Regional Rights Resource Team
SAP	Structural Adjustment Programme
SHD	Sustainable Human Development
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission

SPACHEE	South Pacific Action Committee for Human Ecology and Environment
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Program
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOPS	United Nations Office of Project Services
US	United States
USP	The University of the South Pacific
WB	The World Bank
WAC	Women's Action for Change

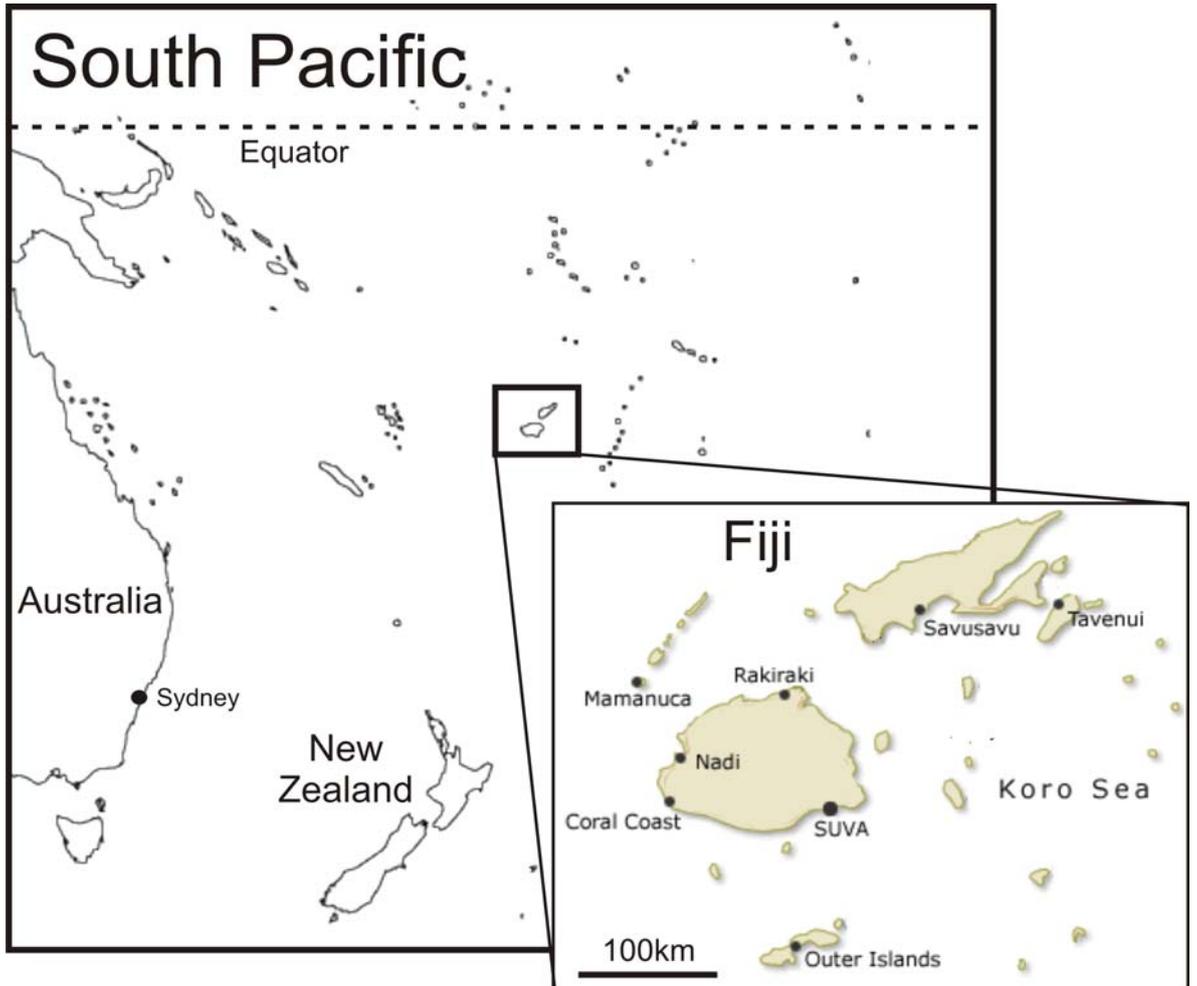
Abstract

This thesis presents a postcolonial critique of development and academic discourses in the context of the South Pacific. Focusing on Fiji's aid industry, I challenge the apparent inevitabilities underpinning an increasingly narrow and parochial donor 'good governance' agenda in the region. I also confront geography's sojourns in, and on, the 'Third World' laying bare a number of epistemological and methodological inconsistencies. Having exposed various definitional rigidities produced by these discourses, I emphasise the decentred and nuanced meanings and ways of envisioning 'development' enabled by postcolonial sensibilities.

The thesis has three primary aims. First, to highlight the constraining *and* enabling aspects of discourses. I emphasise the productive features of development discourse; its framing attributes, fragility and transformative potential, drawing on the activities and intentions of NGOs and donor organisations operating in Fiji. Second, I draw attention to the way 'identities' form and shape aid relations in the country. Again, utilising examples from Fiji's aid industry, I foreground the centrality of 'traditions', religion, gender and ethnicity in 'development' and critique their virtual silence in donor policies and programmes in the region. Finally, I 'unpack' the way academia intervenes in development settings. Here I suggest that any reflection on the relevance of research will inevitably involve taking methodology seriously and posing fundamental questions about why we are there in the first place.

Advocating more than a methodological revisionism, I argue that 'doing development differently' will involve reorienting development relations and embarking on a far-reaching mission to subvert development's self-evidence while proposing and supporting collaborative efforts that explore negotiated and newly emerging cultural forms.

Map of the South Pacific



Source: www.enchantedlearning.com