



ACPIR PRESENTS:

THE PACIFIC SEMINAR SERIES

2022

The Australian Centre for Pacific Islands Research (ACPIR) at the University of the Sunshine Coast invites you to join our monthly Pacific Seminar Series, where presenters discuss aspects of their research, work or cultural experience related to the Pacific Islands. Each gathering will feature a presentation on a topic to open for discussion. We encourage cross disciplinary conversation. Everyone is welcome.

Dialogue from the field: Embracing strengths and voices to codesign a gender inclusive seaweed program in Samoa.

WEDNESDAY 16th November 2022

12-1pm Brisbane . 2-3pm Fiji . 3-4pm Samoa

[Register Here](#)

Participatory research approaches, such as codesign, contest existing power structures through collaborative and bottom-up engagement, thus aligning with constructs of decolonization. This seminar will present the participatory approach taken to codesign a gender inclusive seaweed program to support Samoan communities to work collaboratively in the planning and management of seaweed activities across the village level value chain. Our work used appreciative inquiry, embracing the strengths and voices within Samoan communities and institutions. By directly involving people in the codesign of the program that will shape their lives, we further aimed to build ownership and sustainability of the program and its outcomes. During this seminar, we will offer a dialogue between two researcher teams, one from Samoa and the other from Australia, on the codesign of a gender sensitive village-based seaweed development program. We will present the four stages of the codesign process within a framework of appreciative inquiry and offer insights and commentary from both Samoan and Australian perspectives



Dr Libby Swanepoel is a dietitian and public health nutritionist with the Australian Centre for Pacific Islands Research, based at the University of the Sunshine Coast. Libby is interested in understanding how aquatic food systems can be leveraged to improve nutrition and livelihoods, and gender and social inclusion. Libby has expertise in nutrition sensitive agriculture, where she places nutritionally rich aquatic foods at the centre of overcoming the triple burden of malnutrition. As an applied researcher, Libby works to understand the diversity of protein, fibre and micronutrients in farmed and wild-harvest seaweed for human application. With current projects in Samoa, Kiribati, Fiji, Indonesia, and northern Australia, Libby's work is couched in participatory action, embracing the strengths and voices within communities, to bring about sustainable change.

Ulusapeti Tiitii has been working for more than 20 years at the Samoa Fisheries Division - Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, holding a position of the Principal Fisheries Officer in charge of the Inshore-Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture sections. Ulusapeti completed her Master of Science by Research at UniSC focusing on seaweeds, particularly the *Halymenia* sp also known as the limu a'au in Samoa. Ulusapeti has a keen interest in restoring traditional use and cultural values of seaweeds (limu) as well as evaluating the nutritional benefits of *Halymenia* to the usual diet context of Samoans.



Join us via Zoom or in-person at the UniSC Sippy Downs campus room LT4.