

About the Authors

Elise Huffer is Acting Director and Associate Professor of the Pacific Studies Program of the Pacific Institute of Advanced Studies in Development and Governance (PIAS-DG) at the University of the South Pacific (USP). She coordinates the Pacific Studies Postgraduate Program and oversees the Institute of Pacific Studies Publications. She joined USP in 1997 after running her own consultancy in New Caledonia from 1992 to 1996. Her main interest lies in contemporary Pacific governance with a particular focus on cultural and gender issues, and Pacific political thought, ethics and philosophy.

Email: huffer_e@usp.ac.fj

Phone: 679- 3232017

Jon Fraenkel is a Senior Research Fellow in Governance at PIAS-DG at USP. He has researched widely on electoral systems in the Pacific Islands, and recently edited a special issue of *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics* on this subject. He is author of *The Manipulation of Custom; from uprising to intervention in the Solomon Islands* (Victoria University Press & Pandanus Books, 2004). His research and publications focus on the economic history of Oceania, electoral systems and contemporary Pacific politics, and he regularly covers contemporary Pacific issues in both the local and international media.

Email: fraenkel_j@usp.ac.fj

Phone: 679-3232581

Alamanda Roland Lauti was born in Nauru and spent her childhood years in Nauru. She studied abroad in New Zealand at Wanganui Girls College. After completion of high school she returned back to Nauru and worked as a public employee in the government sector holding various positions from Executive Secretary, Administration Officer to Reservations Control with Air Nauru. She graduated from the University of the South Pacific in 2003, majoring in Management & Public Administration and Tourism Studies. In 2004 she was appointed acting director of the University of the South Pacific Nauru Centre. In 2006 she was appointed Campus Director.

Email: lauti_a@usp.ac.fj

University of the South Pacific

Nauru Campus

Aiwo District

Republic of Nauru

Telephone/Fax (674) 444 3774

'Ofa-ki-Levuka Louise Gutfenbeil-Likiliki currently lives and works in Tonga as a volunteer coordinator for Tonga Women's Action for Change (T-WAC). She has previously been United Nations Volunteer CEDAW Research & Policy Officer for Tonga; advocate for the ratification of CEDAW by Tonga government; involved in a women in politics committee - looking at how Tongan women can get

more involved in politics and decision making forums in Tonga. She has carried out a number of social & economic impact studies in Tonga including gender impact analysis. She has a media background from the University of Auckland. She is married with one daughter who is 3 and another on the way.

Email: baby_ofa@yahoo.com

Fakavae Taomia (MA (Econ) & PGD (Econ) *Manchester, UK*; BSc (*S.Pac*) is currently a Fellow in Employment and Labour Markets at the School of Economics, Faculty of Business, University of the South Pacific. He is originally from Tuvalu and was a civil servant with the Government of Tuvalu for 16 years, working as a permanent secretary, diplomat, scientific advisor and secondary school science teacher.

Email: taomia_f@usp.ac.fj

Phone: 679 – 3232403

Susie Saitala Kofe was born, raised and educated on the main island of Funafuti in Tuvalu. After completing her secondary studies in Tuvalu she proceeded to study to be a primary school teacher at the Lautoka Teachers College in Fiji. Graduating in 1984, she taught in various schools in Tuvalu for 13 years before taking up postgraduate studies at Victoria University of Wellington for a post graduate diploma in the teaching of English as a second language. In 1997 she was awarded a scholarship to study for a Master's degree in Education at the Victoria University of Wellington. Graduating in 1998, she returned to Tuvalu and was appointed the first Director for the newly established Department of Women Affairs under the Ministry of Health and Education in 1999. In 2001, she became the legal rights training officer for the National Council of Women in Tuvalu (NGO) advocating strongly for human rights and good governance and human rights. Due to health problems she resigned from her job and is currently resting at home. Susie's greatest hobby is writing and she has carried out several research projects for regional organisations as well as written reports at a regional level.

Email: skofe@tuvalu.tv or s_kofe@yahoo.com.au

P.O Box 22, Vaiaku, Funafuti, Tuvalu

For more information about the research process and methodology, please contact the authors directly.



“Women’s participation in legislative decision making is not just a matter of women’s rights. Increased balance between the sexes in decision-making goes hand in hand with good governance as it ensures consideration of a diversity of perspectives and directs attention to issues that may otherwise be overlooked. Increased gender equality in decision making lends to better development decisions being made. This set of research reports provides a comprehensive analysis of both social and electoral barriers to women’s parliamentary representation, which we hope will assist our member countries and the region as a whole, to progress notions of participative democracy and respond to the current gross under-representation of Pacific women in national parliaments.”

*Greg Urwin
Secretary General, Pacific Islands
Forum Secretariat*



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