

**APPLICATION FOR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGIES FOR SOCIO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
RESEARCH (ICT) PROGRAMME**

	Principal Applicant From USP	Principal Applicant From Partner Agency
Surname	Patrick	
Forenames	Yoko	
Title	Assistant Lecturer	
Institution address	Department of Sociology School of Social and Economic Development University of the South Pacific Suva	
Telephone No.	321 2497	
Fax No.	330 1487	
E-mail address	patrick_y@usp.ac.fj	

	Co-applicants From USP	Co-applicants From USP
Surname	Rakuita	Koster
Forenames	Tui	Vivian
Title	Assistant Lecturer	Assistant Lecturer
Institution address	Department of Sociology School of Social and Economic Development University of the South Pacific Suva	Department of Sociology School of Social and Economic Development University of the South Pacific Suva
Telephone No.	321 2516	321 2516
Fax No.	330 1487	330 1487
E-mail address	rakuita_t@usp.ac.fj	koster_v@usp.ac.fj

Endorsement by the Head of School approving the Principal Researcher to undertake this research:

Name of the Head of the School

Date

Yoko Patrick

Q1 Title of project (no more than 220 characters):

Country-Specific Websites and Cultural Identity Formation: A Case Study

Q2 Proposed start date (dd/mm/yy):

01/01/2005

Q3 Period for which support is sought (in months):

4 months

Q4 Summary of total costs (in Fijian Dollars):

Staff

\$4,428.80

Equipment

\$0

Consumables

\$3,276.00

Travel

\$10,326.80

Other transportation

\$0

Others

\$0

TOTAL

\$18,031.60

Q5 PROJECT BUDGET

(All costs should be in Fijian Dollars) Draw up a detailed budget for the project, including other funding sources, if any. Do not submit a budget of more than FJ \$40,000 for the project. Provide as much detail as possible in this section and include any other label as appropriate.

Country for which estimated cost is presented: (if outside Fiji) Australia and New Zealand	\$ (See below)
---	----------------

STAFF

State number and type of staff and approximate cost for the duration of the grant, including the employers contributions and other relevant costs.

<p>Graduate research assistant for administration and logistics in Fiji (approx. 4 weeks; F\$200 per week) F\$800.00. Duties include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locating and liaising with potential interviewees Setting interview appointments Locating and liaising with potential participants in focus group discussion Setting and making arrangements for focus group discussion Keeping financial records Providing assistance in data coding Providing assistance in compiling of the final report Providing assistance in organising a public seminar <p>Research assistants for administration and logistics in Brisbane (approx. 8 days; 4 hours per day; A\$30.00 per hour): A\$.960.00/F\$1228.80 (at exchange rate of 1.28) Duties include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locating and liaising with potential interviewees Setting interview appointments Locating and liaising with potential participants in focus group discussions Setting and making arrangements for focus group discussions <p>Research assistants for interview transcription (approx. 200 hours of interview; equivalent to 600 hours of transcription; F\$4.00 per hour): F\$2400.00</p>	\$4,428.80
---	-------------------

EQUIPMENT

(Excluding VAT for large and expensive equipment)

	\$0.00
--	--------

CONSUMABLES

<p>Lease</p> <p>Venue for the focus group discussion: approx. A\$200.00/F\$256.00 (at exchange rate of 1.28)</p> <p>Conference</p> <p>Refreshments for focus group discussion participants (approx. 10 participants; A\$5.00 per participant): A\$50.00/F\$64.00 (at exchange rate of 1.28)</p> <p>Costs relating to a seminar presentation scheduled for March 2005 (approx. 20 participants; F\$7.00 per participant): F\$140.00</p> <p>Educational Materials Development</p> <p>Books, journals, access to online database etc.: F\$500.00</p> <p>Possible purchase of data from websites: F\$500.00</p> <p>Photocopying of interview guide and library materials: F\$150.00</p> <p>Sevusevu to research participants: F\$30.00</p> <p>Telecommunications</p> <p>Telephone calls from Fiji to Brisbane (200 calls; approx. 5 minutes per call; F\$1.4580 per minute): F\$1458.00</p> <p>Telephone calls within Brisbane (100 calls; approx. A\$1.00 per call): A\$100.00/F\$128.00 (at exchange rate of 1.28)</p> <p>Stationery: F\$50.00</p>	\$3,276.00
--	-------------------

TRAVEL

<p>Airfare (Suva-Nadi-Brisbane-Nadi-Suva; F\$1074.00 per head, inclusive of departure taxes): F\$3222.00</p> <p>Visa fees (F\$100.00 per head): F\$300.00</p>	\$10,326.80
---	--------------------

<p>Accommodation and per diem 8 nights in Australia (F\$200.00 per night, per head) 2 nights in Nadi (F\$90.00 per night, per head) F\$1780.00 per head: F\$5340.00</p> <p>Travel expenses within Brisbane:</p> <p>Brisbane Airport transport (two trips per head; approx. A\$50.00 per trip per head): A\$300.00/F\$384.00 (at exchange rate of 1.28) Taxi fare within Brisbane (20 rides; approx. A\$20.00 per ride): A\$400.00/F\$512.00 (at exchange rate of 1.28) Train fare (8 days; approx. A\$15.00 per day per head): A\$360.00/F\$460.80 (at exchange rate of 1.28)</p> <p>Taxi fare to/from Nausori Airport: (two rides per head; \$18.00 per ride) F\$108.00</p>	
--	--

TOTAL \$18,031.60

Yoko Patrick

Q6. OUTLINE OF SCIENTIFIC PROPOSAL

Maximum 7 pages excluding appendices.

Abstract

The processes associated with identity formation have always been a core issue in the general discussion of development, be it in nation building or general societal maintenance. There are numerous factors that play a pivotal role in the processes of group identification, such as the mass media, family, school, peer groups, etc., that are encapsulated in the socialization processes embedded within the fabric of a given society. In recent times, however, the rise of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) has added a new and significant dimension to these processes, which invites a fresh look at the complexities of the problem.

In light of the above, the proposed study is designed to address a lacuna in the analyses of identity formation processes in the contemporary Pacific. The study presupposes that the study of cultural identities in a social context increasingly characterized by the onset of ICTs warrants a close examination of how these technologies are utilised by the growing diaspora of '*virtual*' communities. It needs to be noted that such an inquiry does not attribute to people and their cultures a passive role in the multitudinous ways they constitute themselves; to do so would be to run the risk of reifying people as objects vulnerable to the manipulation of technologies. The current study is therefore geared towards an understanding of *how* people actively utilise the Internet in the processes of their group identification. More specifically, the outcome of the research is intended to shed light on a dimension of the social significance of ICTs for migrant communities in their quest for the sustenance and redefinition of their cultural identity. An attempt will be made to examine the specificity or otherwise of the role played by the Internet and especially country-specific websites in the shaping of their cultural identity. The indigenous Fijian community in Brisbane will be the focal point of the proposed research. The primary method selected for the purpose is semi-structured in-depth interviewing, which will be complemented by the use of email, content analysis of websites, and analysis of existing data.

A grasp of the complexities associated with contemporary cultural identities and how they are formed in various and multiple contexts is highly important for the understanding of the challenges that face Oceanic communities at the dawn of the new millennium. It is hoped that this study will facilitate further work in this direction.

Importance of the Study to the University and the Wider Academic Community

The success of the USP in its role as a service provider to the people who inhabit a wide stretch of the ocean has been lauded in various circles. Recently, its ability to reach the remotest of outposts has been greatly enhanced by the use of ICTs through its multimedia learning and teaching tools, in keeping with what is increasingly seen by educationalists and commentators around the world as the way forward in the dissemination of knowledge. This has reaffirmed both the role of the University as the premier educational institution in the region and its commitment to meeting the unique requirements of the

member countries. The current study seeks to contribute to the University's continuing interest in the ICT utilisation and research by directing scholarly attention to the social implications of the rise of ICTs in the region – in particular, to the issue of diasporic identity formation in a globalised setting and its linkage with the rise of ICTs. This inquiry is intended to further promote the standing of the University as a leader in ICT research in the region and simultaneously to bring into focus some of the contemporary social issues that collectively face Oceania and its people.

Project Background and Justification:

The migration of Pacific Island peoples has attracted much scholarly attention in the past. A substantial body of literature is today available on aspects of the internal migration of Pacific Islanders, especially in the context of Melanesian societies (see e.g. Lode 1985, Haberkorn 1989, Jowitt 2001), where urban migration and other types of domestic movement of people have been pronounced. The majority of the previous research on the international migration of Pacific Islanders, on the other hand, has focused on Polynesian experiences, especially of Samoans and Tongans, amongst whom international immigration has historically been more widespread (see e.g. Pitt and Macpherson 1974, Kallen 1982, Va'a 2001).

While, as many have pointed out, Pacific Island peoples have traveled and migrated across oceans for over 1000 years (Bedford, Macpherson and Spoonley 2001), the growth in international migration both within and beyond the region in the last several decades has stimulated renewed academic interest in the phenomenon. Studies have been undertaken to delineate the historical patterns and changes in the international migration of Pacific Islanders especially to the metropolitan societies of Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Canada. The key issues examined in the past include the demographic characteristics of the immigrant populations (including the population size, age, sex, family backgrounds, educational and professional backgrounds) and the socio-economic impacts of the migration on the home and destination societies (see e.g. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific 1982, Connell 1985, Naidu, Vasta and Hawksley 2001). These studies have derived from the need for empirical information on the international movement of people previously unavailable as well as for assessment of its various impacts and effects.

Among the many Pacific Island migrant communities overseas, Samoans in New Zealand have received the greatest research attention, most probably due to their sizable population. Samoans comprised 50% of the Pacific Islander population in New Zealand in 1996 (Statistics New Zealand 1998), making up by far the most conspicuous Pacific Island migrant community in the country, which seems to parallel the amount of scholarly attention it has attracted. Studies on the Pacific Island migrant communities elsewhere, on the other hand, have been visibly lacking. Few studies have examined the experiences and characteristics of the Pacific Islander communities in Australia, the United States or Canada. This suggests that there is a need for further research beyond the previously studied areas of the general historical and demographic patterns, socio-economic impacts, and experiences of larger migrant communities. Studies that highlight the experiences and needs of smaller Pacific Islander communities in Australia, New

Zealand and elsewhere seem especially important for a better understanding of the Pacific Islanders' experience of migration in its various dimensions and aspects.

The formation of cultural identity is one such dimension of migrant experience that may be fruitfully explored. As pointed out by Bedford, Macpherson and Spoonley (2001), the "islandness" - or what it means to be an "islander" - is becoming an increasingly complicated matter for Pacific Islanders born and raised outside their island homes. A number of factors, such as access to formal education, diversity of social networks, intermarriage, language loss, social mobility and geographical dispersal, have contributed to the changing values, experiences and identity of the younger Pacific Islanders in metropolitan societies. Based on this observation, Bedford et. al (ibid.) have argued that a new "Pan-Pacific identity" is emerging among young Pacific Islanders in these societies as they become increasingly aware of their commonalities with the children of other Pacific Island migrants. While the emergence of such a transnational or regional Pacific Island identity appears to presuppose the decline of the more conventional cultural identities based on national origins (e.g. "Samoan," "Tongan," "indigenous Fijian" identities), anecdotal evidence points towards conflicting trends. In parallel with the emergence of a diffuse, "Pan-Pacific" identity, the reconstruction (rather than "preservation") of the conventional cultural identities seems to be under way. Being a person of "Pacific Island descent" does not necessarily preclude or conflict with what is perceived to be a unique and meaningful experience of being a "Samoan" or "indigenous Fijian." While the younger generations certainly do not experience being a Samoan or indigenous Fijian in the same manner as their parents do, they are able to redefine or refashion their cultural identity by a variety of means, such as interaction with their family members and other members of the migrant communities, visits to their island homes, and a wide range of print and audio-visual mass media (books, newspapers, magazines, television, films, radio, etc.). Hence cultural identities based on national origins may continue to possess certain significance for the younger members of the migrant communities, even as they are constantly recreated and renewed.

Among these means of contemporary identity (re-)formation, the interactive media, and especially information and communication technologies (ICTs), deserve special attention. In contrast to the predominantly one-way flow of information characteristic of the conventional mass media, the interactivity of ICTs has allowed individuals and groups located in societies geographically remote from the metropolitan centres to actively participate in the exchange of ideas and information at the global level. Country-specific websites such as Fijilive, Fijivillage and others are a case in point: these websites vigorously contribute to the dissemination of information from Fiji, a society conventionally situated outside the route of the global information flow. The Internet has superseded the time and space restrictions that previously hindered the communication and interaction of people dispersed across the oceans. This provides the younger (as well as other) members of the Pacific Island migrant communities a new significant means of cultural identity construction. Cyberspace may be seen as a place to both maintain and (re-)create identity, an opportunity to (re-)define a sense of place without having to be within territorial boundaries and with anonymity: it is "a new place in which to negotiate our culture" (Dicken et.al, 2002:509). In this, there is an element of continuity and

change – the search for belonging remains but the vehicle changes. Individuals who live outside their country of birth/ancestral connection are able to remain linked through this new space. They in fact form new virtual communities that share their time, ideas and beliefs about both the countries in which they live and the one they have emotional but spatially distant ties to (Anderson, 1997). In the sharing they not only maintain their latter identity through representation on the Internet, but they also offer and are encouraged, by the lack of sanction, to take up other affiliations. Thus the individuals in the virtual community are better able to manoeuvre themselves through the various groups to which they belong. Such greater fluidity provides a conducive environment for the second-generation (and other) migrants who have, on the one hand, a point of reference and a cultural anchor for their ancestral identity, and on the other hand, room for manoeuvre with their transnational identity.

It is this question of contemporary identity formation and the role of ICTs that the proposed study is concerned with. The study intends to focus on the experiences of the second generation and younger members of the indigenous Fijian community in Brisbane. The reason for its focus on indigenous Fijians, despite the fact that the majority of Fiji's emigrants have been Indo-Fijians, is two-fold. First, while the previous studies have predominantly focused on the Indo-Fijian emigration since the 1987 coups and the consequent skill and brain drain (see e.g. Bedford 1989, Connell 1985, Chetty and Prasad 1993, Voigt-Graf 2002), no focused research attention has been paid to the experiences of indigenous Fijian migrants to date. Although indigenous Fijians make up only a small percentage of the total emigrant population, analysis of their experience of migration and its effects on aspects of their social life is essential if one is to have a more comprehensive picture of the migration of Fiji Islanders. The proposed study aims to provide preliminary analysis as a step towards this goal. Second, focusing on Indo-Fijian migrants inevitably broadens the scope of the study, as it entails careful examination of the "Indian" dimensions of the migrants' identity formation – their knowledge of and identification with the cultures and communities of India as well as of Fiji. This, while it is an extremely important task, is not methodologically viable for the proposed study within its limited time frame of four months. For the purpose of comparative analysis, however, the study will include an analysis of the experience of a small number of indigenous Fijians in Fiji.

This study thus aims at providing preliminary information on the ways in which young indigenous Fijians born in Brisbane construct their cultural identity and the extent to which ICTs, and especially country-specific websites, contribute to this process.

Research Questions:

The study intends to examine the following key questions:

1. What is the significance for the younger members of the indigenous Fijian migrant community in Brisbane of their identification with their island home (Fiji) community, and how is this identity, the sense of "indigenous Fijianess," constructed or redefined?
2. To what extent do the ICTs and especially country-specific websites contribute to this process of identity formation?

3. Do such ICTs and websites play any distinctive role, in comparison with other major influencing factors such as personal contact with members of the home (Fiji) community and the conventional mass media?
4. What are the possibilities of other meaningful usage that ICTs offer to the migrant communities in their quest to sustain and redefine their link with the home (Fiji) community?

Project Objectives:

The primary objective of the study is to illuminate the role played by ICTs and especially country-specific websites in the second-generation and younger indigenous Fijians' knowledge of their island home (Fiji) community and definition of themselves as part of that community. While multiple factors come into play in the formation of the migrant cultural identity – such as parental/family influence, interaction with other members of migrant communities, sustained contact with family members in Fiji, ongoing effects of the mass media etc. – the research intends to examine whether country-specific websites as a new form of “link” between the migrant and home communities play a specific role in this process. These websites provide not only instant access to Fiji's local news but also an opportunity for simultaneous interaction between the members of the home and migrant communities through their chat rooms and opinion forums. For instance, the opinion forums of Fijilive often host topics relevant to the sustenance of the link between home and migrant communities. The proposed study aims at assessing the extent to which ICTs and country-specific websites with their unique features contribute to the construction of a cultural identity in today's increasingly multi-cultural, globalised world. The study intends to supplement this with a comparative analysis (albeit on a limited scale) of the experiences of the migrants and those of indigenous Fijians in Fiji. The outcome of the research will shed light on a dimension of the social significance of ICTs for indigenous Fijian communities overseas, a question neglected by most researchers in the past.

Project Beneficiaries:

The research is intended to benefit the indigenous Fijian migrant communities, particularly those situated in Australia. It aims to provide preliminary information on the manner in which ICTs may contribute to their changing yet sustained link with their island home (Fiji) community and point towards the new possibilities and potentials ICTs offer for creative refashioning of their cultural identity. In other words, the study aims not only to describe the current ICT usage by the migrant communities but also to suggest a range of socially meaningful, possible usage of ICTs for the communities.

Project Sustainability:

The study is intended to serve as a basis upon which more comprehensive research may be undertaken in the future. While no formal arrangements have been established, the results of this study may be used and expanded by the research team members or the

wider academic community as part of a sustained research enterprise that investigates into the relationship between ICTs and the Pacific Island migrant experiences.

Project Methodology:

The methodological approach of the intended study is shaped largely by practical considerations. A quantitative research design, which requires a large sample, is considered inappropriate given the limited time frame and size of the research team. The proposed research design is hence qualitative in nature – a case study whose primary aim is to obtain an in-depth understanding of the websites' role in individual experiences of cultural identity formation. As noted above, the study may be usefully complemented by similar studies on a larger scale in the future.

The proposed methods are as follows:

Primary Method

The study intends to employ as its primary method in-depth interviews and a focus group discussion with members of the indigenous Fijian community in Brisbane. In addition, in-depth interviews will be conducted with a small number of indigenous Fijians in Fiji for the purpose of comparative analysis.

In-depth, semi-structured interviews will be undertaken with approximately 100 persons. The interviewees will be identified and recruited by the snow-balling method (see below for the sampling criteria and a list of key informants). Random sampling, which would be essential to quantitative interview research, is practically difficult and will not be employed in this study. Accordingly, the interview data will be examined qualitatively by means of basic coding and interpretive analysis rather than statistical variable analysis. The central objective of this analysis will be to capture the role of ICTs in the process of cultural identity formation as experienced by individual research subjects, rather than to measure the distributions and correlations of predetermined variables. Additional in-depth interviews will be undertaken with a small number of indigenous Fijians in Fiji for the purpose of facilitating a small-scale comparative analysis. These will be complemented by a focus group discussion undertaken in Brisbane. The data collected through the focus group discussion will be analysed in a similar interpretive manner. All data collection and analysis, except data transcription, will be undertaken by the research team members.

Sampling criteria

The study intends to draw its sample on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Second-generation migrants from Fiji
2. Ethnicity: full or part indigenous Fijian descent (determined on the basis of membership of the Brisbane Fijian Association)
3. Geographical location: residence in Brisbane, Australia
4. Age: between 15-29
5. Gender: approx. 50% female, 50% male
6. Educational background: maximum variation

7. Occupation: maximum variation
8. Other criteria: Internet users

Key informants

The following individuals who currently reside in Australia have indicated their willingness to act as key informants/intermediaries to assist the research team in locating and recruiting the interviewees who meet the criteria specified above:

Dr. Vilaseri Tuicolo, President of Fiji Association, Brisbane (PO Box 316, THE GAP QLD 4061 Australia, phone: 3300 0744)

Patrick Vakaoti, PhD candidate, University of Queensland, Brisbane
(S4048223@uq.edu.au)

Alumita Durutalo, PhD candidate, Australian National University, Canberra
(alumita.durutalo@anu.edu.au)

Dr. Tuicolo, the President of the Fijian community in Brisbane, possesses a complete list of the members of the community and is currently requested to allow the research team to have access to it. Dr. Tuicolo is scheduled to fly into Fiji on 18 December. The team hopes to meet him shortly to further discuss his participation in the research.

In addition, an attempt has been made to obtain official statistics on the indigenous Fijian population in Brisbane from the **Australian Bureau of Statistics website** (<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abscensus2.nsf/0301e971e04f2be2ca256cb60006bf37/919110830232b7e4ca256d0800227a9d!OpenDocument>). However, the relevant information can only be obtained by purchase (A\$75.00). The research team intends to purchase the information as soon as the project begins.

Interview guide

The study intends to utilise an “interview guide,” which serves as a kind of checklist indicating areas to be covered while leaving the exact wording and order of the questions to the interviewer, in contrast with an “interview schedule” which contains set questions in a predetermined order adhered to in each interview (Newell 1993). The interview guide for the present study includes the topics listed below. **Please refer to Appendix 1 for a more detailed list of key questions.**

1. Demographic information on the interviewee (sex, age, family background, year of parents’ migration, educational background, occupation, etc.)
2. Significance of the Internet use in the interviewee’s everyday life (frequency and duration of the Internet/email use, favorite websites, purposes of the internet/email use, etc.)
3. Comparison of the use of the Internet with that of the conventional mass media (TV, newspapers, magazines, etc.) in the interviewee’s everyday life
4. Cultural identity or the sense of “indigenous Fijianness”, as experienced by the interviewee, especially in comparison with other dimensions of his/her identity (as an “Australian,” “Pacific islander,” etc.)

5. The process whereby the above cultural identity is formed, especially the sources of information on, and the medium of the linkage with, the island home (Fiji) community (e.g. mass media, family members, trips to Fiji, etc.)
6. The role of the Internet, and especially that of country-specific websites and other relevant websites, in the above process
7. The specificity (or otherwise) of the role played by the Internet and country-specific websites in the cultural identity formation.

The key questions listed in Appendix 1 were prepared by consulting similar studies undertaken in the past, especially the following:

Anderson, J. W. (1997), *Cybernauts of the Arab Diaspora: Electronic Mediation in Transnational Cultural Identities*,
<http://www.bsos.umd.edu/CSS97/papers/andersaon.html>, retrieved September 2004

Bakker, P. (2004) *Reinventing Roots: New Media and National Identity*,
<http://home.bakker.pscw.uva.nl/roots.html>., retrieved August 2004.

Da Rosa, V., Gold, G. L. and Lamy, P. (2004) *Ethnicity in a Globalizing World: Borders, Boundaries and Virtual Communities*,
http://www.geocities.com/gerr_gold/Ethnicityglobalw.htm, retrieved September 2004.

Diamandaki, K. (2001) *The Politics of Identity in Cyberspace: Virtual Nationalities and Digital Nations*,
<http://www.papandreou.gr/torture.aspx?articleid=358&language=1>,
 retrieved 9 September 2004.

Mihalasky, S. Y. (1994) *Lemkos in Poland Surveyed*,
<http://www.carpatho-rusyn.org/kr/sysyn1.htm>., retrieved December 2004.

Survey Console, *Sample Survey Website Web Questionnaire*,
<http://www.surveyconsole.com/console/showLibrary.do?mode=1&categoryID=6>, retrieved December 2004.

Zurawski, N. (2004) *Culture, Identity and the Internet*, <http://www.uni-muenster.de/PeaCon/zurawski/Identity.htm>., retrieved December 2004.

The questions are currently being refined by means of **pilot interviews**. Four pilot interviews have been undertaken by 16 December and more are scheduled for 17 December and the coming week.

Additional adjustments are expected to be made as the interviewing progress, as is normally the case in qualitative interviewing. For instance, some new topics may emerge from the interviewees' accounts and be added in the subsequent sessions.

While these adjustments may be considered problematic from the positivist point of view, this study is guided by the view that a major strength of qualitative interviewing is its flexibility that allows the improvement of questioning and accommodates new lines of inquiry as the research progresses (Weiss 1994, Rubin and Rubin 1995).

Use of e-mail

Following the interviews in Brisbane, communication with the interviewees will be continued by means of e-mail. This is intended to mitigate the relatively short face-to-face contact and ensure that a sufficient amount of information is obtained as the data analysis progresses.

Secondary Methods

Content analysis of websites specialising in information on Fiji will be conducted. It is understood that there exist a number of such websites frequently accessed by indigenous Fijians overseas. These will be identified and their content will be analysed in order to outline the type of information and knowledge offered by the Internet today.

In addition, Fijilive has been approached for the possibility of cooperation. It has been indicated to the research team that the website welcomes the interest, and that a formal negotiation meeting is to be scheduled once the project begins. On the commencement of the project, other country-specific websites will be approached in a similar manner for possible assistance. The research team intends to request the websites' assistance in conducting an on-line poll on topics relevant to the research interest. The websites will also be requested to allow access to their existing data. Such information, if obtained, will be used as preliminary data to present a general overview of the range of website usage. This will serve as a backdrop against which the study will focus on its specific topics.

Project Timeline:

January 2005:	Library research (literature review) Preliminary data collection (liaising with websites) Arrangement of interviews
February:	Interviews in Brisbane
March	Interview transcription Coding and analysis of interview data
April:	Preparation of final report

Please refer to **Appendices 2 and 3** for more detailed timelines.

Risk Management

One of the obvious limitations of qualitative interviewing is its lack of probability sampling and limited sample size – that is, the lack of representativeness of its data and generalisability of its findings. The interviewees in this research will not be a representative sample of the population under study. However, in addition to the fact that

probability sampling of this population would be practically difficult even if it was desired, it may be pointed out that the purpose of the interviews in this study is not to make statistical inferences but to illuminate the possible range and complexities of the role of ICTs in individual experiences of cultural identity formation. It is therefore deemed necessary to obtain in-depth information from a diversity of interviewees by a flexible, snow-balling method rather than to obtain a statistically representative sample of the population. As for the limited size of the sample, the distinctive emphasis of qualitative research on in-depth analysis dictates a different principle of determining the sample size. Attention to meanings, contexts and details renders a large sample impossible (or even undesirable), and moreover, the sample size in many qualitative studies is determined not on the basis of statistical considerations but by what qualitative researchers describe as the “saturation point.” The sample size in this study will also be determined according to this principle.

Second, interpretative analysis applied to qualitative interview data may be questioned of its validity, especially because qualitative interviewing is not an unobtrusive method: the rigor of data collection as well as analysis in qualitative interview research may be questioned on the grounds of researcher bias and reactivity. While the problems of reactivity and researcher bias require close attention, these are not unique to qualitative interview research. Indeed, as pointed out by many commentators, there is no totally transcendent way to study social phenomena: all methods are constrained by the inevitable social character of the relations they rely upon. In view of this, rather than assuming, in the positivist fashion, that the adherence to standard procedures solves the problem, the intended study seeks to address its limitations with pursuit of reflexivity. The interviews will be conducted in an informal manner that allows greater freedom and initiative on the part of the research subjects, which is not only methodologically more suitable for qualitative interviewing but also ethically desirable. As for the question of researcher bias and validity of qualitative interpretation, the study intends to draw on some basic strategies advocated by various methodological schools. First, much can be gained from the researchers’ self-awareness of their positionality and its possible effects on interpretation. Second, the study intends to provide details of the processes of data collection and analysis so that they can be subjected to the assessment of the wider research community. Although member checking is an effective means of enhancing data accuracy, practical limitations faced by the intended study render it impossible to carry it out.

Project Outputs:

The findings of the proposed study will be presented in the form of a final report and submitted to the Japan International Agency Cooperation. Journal articles and conference papers may also be produced as a means of disseminating the findings to the wider research community.

Project Monitoring:

Progress reports will be produced and submitted regularly to the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Project Originality:

As noted above, the role of ICTs in the Pacific Island migrant identity is an area that has received no focused research attention in the past. While this presents many methodological challenges and necessarily limits the scope of the study, it also renders the study a pioneering work in the field. The major aim of the study is to provide preliminary information that has been unavailable to date in order to encourage increased research attention in the future.

References:

- Anderson, J. W. 1997, *Cybernauts of the Arab Diaspora: Electronic Mediation in Transnational Cultural Identities*, <http://www.bsos.umd.edu/CSS97/papers/andersaon.html>
- Antonijevic, S (n.d.) *From Nation to Virtual Community: The Eethnogenesis of Cyber Yugoslavia*, <http://aoir.org/members/papers42/Antonijevic.pdf>
- Bakker, P. (2004) *Reinventing Roots: New Media and National Identity*, <http://home.bakker.pscw.uva.nl/roots.html>., retrieved August 2004.
- Bedford, R. D. (1989) "Out of Fiji ... A Perspective on Migration after the Coups," *Pacific Viewpoint*, 30(2): 142-53.
- Bedford, R., Macpherson, C. and Spoonley, P. (2001) "Pacific Communities in the Information Age," in Naidu, V., Vasta, E. and Hawksley, C. *Current Trends in South Pacific Migration*, Wollongong: APMRN Secretariat: 1-17.
- Chetty, N.K. and Prasad, S. (1993) *Fiji's Emigration: An examination of Contemporary Trends and Issues*, Suva: Population Studies Programme, University of the South Pacific.
- Connell, J. (1985) *Migration, Employment and Development in the South Pacific: Country Report no.4: Fiji*, Noumea: South Pacific Commission.
- Da Rosa, V., Gold, G. L. and Lamy, P. (2004) *Ethnicity in a Globalizing World: Borders, Boundaries and Virtual Communities*, http://www.geocities.com/gerr_gold/Ethnicityglobalw.htm, retrieved September 2004.
- Diamandaki, K. (2001) *The Politics of Identity in Cyberspace: Virtual Nationalities and Digital Nations*, www.papandreou.gr/torture.aspx?articleid=358&language=1, retrieved 9 September 2004.

- Dicken, J, Martin, C, Mitchell, D, Pannekoek, F and Bernard, P. (2002) "The Internet as a Site of Citizenship: The Final Report of the Information Deficit – Canadian Solutions Conference," *Canadian Journal of Communication*, 27: 509-34
- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (1982) *Migration, Urbanisation and Development in South Pacific Countries*, New York: United Nations.
- Haberkorn, G. (1989) *Port Vila – Transit Station or Final Stop?: Recent Developments in Ni-Vanuatu Population Mobility*, Pacific Research Monograph no.21, Canberra: National Centre for Development Studies, Australian National University.
- Jowitt, A. (2001) *Migration, Unemployment and Crime in Vanuatu*, Port Vila: School of Law, University of the South Pacific.
- Kallen, E. (1982) *The Western Samoan Kinship Bridge: A study in Migration, Social Change, and the New Ethnicity*, Leiden: Brill.
- Lode, H. (1985) *Provincial Population Projections Solomon Islands: Based on An Assessment of Internal Migration*, Groningen, the Netherlands: Geographical Institute, Groningen State University.
- Naidu, V., Vasta, E. and Hawksley, C. (eds.) (2001) *Current Trends in South Pacific Migration*, Wollongong, APMRN Secretariat.
- Newell, R. (1993) "Questionnaires," in Gilbert, N. (ed.) *Researching Social Life*, London: Sage Publications: 94-115.
- Mihalasky, S. Y. (1994) *Lemkos in Poland Surveyed*, <http://www.carpatho-rusyn.org/kr/sysyn1.htm>., retrieved December 2004.
- Pitt, D. and Macpherson, C. (1974) *Emerging Pluralism: The Samoan Community in New Zealand*, Auckland: Lognman Paul.
- Rubin, H. J. and Rubin, I. S. (1995) *Qualitative Interviewing: The Art of Hearing Data*, Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.
- Statistics New Zealand (1998) *Fijian People in New Zealand*, Wellington: Statistics New Zealand.
- Survey Console, *Sample Survey Website Web Questionnaire*, <http://www.surveyconsole.com/console/showLibrary.do?mode=1&categoryID=6>, retrieved December 2004.

- Va'a, L. F. (2001) *Saili Matagi: Samoan Migrants in Australia*, Suva: Institute of Pacific Studies, University of the South Pacific.
- Voigt-Graf, C. (2002) "The Construction of Transnational Spaces: Travelling between India, Fiji and Australia," unpublished PhD thesis, University of Sydney.
- Weiss, R. S. (1994) *Learning from Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies*, New York: Free Press.
- Zurawski, N. (2004) *Culture, Identity and the Internet*, <http://www.uni-muenster.de/PeaCon/zurawski/Identity.htm>., retrieved December 2004.

Yoko Patrick

Q7 CURRICULUM VITAE FOR PRINCIPAL APPLICANT AND EACH COAPPLICANT

Please copy the page and label the copies as Section 7 (i), (ii), (iii), etc. Each page should have the name of the principal applicant at the top. At this stage, only abbreviated CVs should be supplied, using the table below.

(a)	SURNAME:	Patrick	FORENAMES	Yoko
(b)	DATE OF BIRTH:	16 August 1968	NATIONALITY:	Japanese
(c)	DEGREES, DIPLOMAS etc. (subject, class, university and dates):			
	BA in Foreign Language and Area Studies, Sophia University, Tokyo, 1991. MA in Sociology, University of the South Pacific, 1995 PhD in Sociology, University of New South Wales (current)			
(d)	CURRENT POST (with dates):			
	Title:	March 2003- Assistant Lecturer		
	Department:	Department of Sociology		
	Institution:	University of the South Pacific		
	Date of appointment and if appropriate, expected termination:	March 2003-July 2005		
	Source of Funding			
(e)	PREVIOUS POSTS HELD (maximum 3 most recent posts with dates, source of funding for salary and country):			
	February – June 1996:	Lecturer in Sociology, University of the South Pacific, Fiji		
	July 1996 – September 1998:	Research Attaché, Embassy of Japan, Suva, Fiji		
	February – November 2000	Part-time Assistant Lecturer in Sociology, University of the South Pacific, Fiji		

Yoko Patrick

RESEARCHER'S UNDERTAKEN

(**no more than ten** which you consider to be the most important. **Please give details of funding agency, completion time, name of team members if applicable, and any publications, etc.**)

1993-1995:

MA thesis research on the social construction of stereotypes of Japanese in Fiji

1996-1998:

Research papers submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, in the areas including;

Review of the 1992 Constitution of Fiji and overview of the 1977 Constitution

Historical background of, and current developments in the matters concerning the Agricultural Landlord and Tenant Act (ALTA)

Historical background of, and current developments in the matters concerning the EU-ACP relations

Current status of the Tuvalu Trust Fund

Current economic policies of Fiji, Kiribati and Nauru

Development of Tonga's and Vanuatu's potential export products to Japan

Current:

PhD thesis research on the historical development of European imagery of indigenous Fijians and its relationship with Fiji's mass tourism development

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

(**no more than ten** which should be those you consider to be the most important and relevant to this application. **Please give citation in full, including title of paper and all authors.**)