ABSTRACT

This article explores a number of ironies of globalisation that have transpired from observations of working with communities in Fiji and Kiribati. These ironies illustrate the nexus that exists between culture and globalisation in the Pacific region. The overarching message of this article is that major shifts are transpiring across the Pacific region under the currents and pressures of globalisation. These currents are often viewed as essential for countries within the region to modernise, but they also present serious challenges and can undermine culture and agency, particularly for women, as explored in the examples provided throughout this article. These examples – considered throughout as ironies – are drawn from participant observation and working with a number of communities in Fiji and Kiribati in 2011-2012. Together these ironies highlight the clashes that unravel when transnational forces impact on local communities throughout the region.

Keywords: Culture, Development, Gender, Globalisation, Pacific