



CENTRE FOR
INTERDISCIPLINARY TRAUMA RESEARCH
AUT UNIVERSITY



VAKATELE

Pacific Research Network

Invites you to attend a seminar by
Koleta Savaii
(BA, BA Hons (1st Class))



Date : 22nd November 2017

Time : 12:00 pm to 1pm

Room : MB317

Venue : AUT South Campus

Zoom Details: <https://aut.zoom.us/j/884412132>

"Pacific youth "romantic" relationships and wellbeing."

BRIEF BIO

I was born in New Zealand but raised in Samoa. I returned to New Zealand after completing the University Preparatory Year Program at the National University of Samoa for further education, with the hopes and aspirations of my family, village, and church that I will be "educated enough" to better serve Samoa.

INFO ABOUT THE TALK

The debate on Intimate Partner Violence has largely been informed by "mainstream/Western" perspectives and models of what is "violence", "healthy/unhealthy relationships", "wellbeing", etc., and most usually from an "adult" standpoint. There is less from the "youth" voice, especially the Pacific youth voice, which was the focus of my study. These "global understandings" are then applied to youth and non-Western populations, with the assumption that what's "good" for adult and/or for Western populations is also good for youth and non-Western populations. Evaluations of two widely-accepted and successful New Zealand Secondary School Healthy Relationship programs – the ACC Mates & Dates and the Loves-Me-Not programs - indicate a dearth with regards to Maori and Pacific youth understandings and needs of Healthy Relationships. The question then is: What does an awareness of Maori and Pacific youth understandings and needs mean, and how does this contribute to programs and services that are relevant and effective for Maori and Pacific youth? As a Samoan female, I was particularly interested in what could improve programs and services for Samoan youth in New Zealand. When I was growing up in Samoa, every white Sunday theme was "A manuia fanau, e manuia aiga, nu'u, ma Ekalesia – When our young people succeed and do well, our families, villages, and churches also benefit". During my research, I decided instead to take a pan-Pacific approach, and so I asked 17 Pacific youth in Auckland what their perspectives were of: "What makes for healthy Pacific youth relationships?". In this presentation, I share these Pacific youths' understandings and needs of Healthy Relationships.

Faculty of Health & Environmental Sciences