



NITRO-Oceania

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Seminar  
Wednesday, July 20, 2022  
12-1 PM AEST  
Online – All welcome!

**Pasifika 'Whole of Life' Education: A Decolonial Communities-based Approach**

**Professor Upolu Luma Vaai**

I will explore the importance of the Pasifika communities-based indigenous philosophy of relationality and how it has shaped transboundary thinking and praxis for centuries, and how it would assist in creating a 'whole of life' education approach. Living in the Moana without boundaries, houses without walls, knowledge without centres, we are never people of closed systems, therefore transdisciplinarity is not a new concept. Unfortunately mainstream education has firmly embedded a compartmentalized learning system that treats and confines knowledge strictly to departments, systems, and categories. While this is helpful in terms of specific employment targets and market driven interests, it has fostered an unhelpful dichotomy that formalizes and gives power to a certain centre of knowledge at the expense of communities, spiritualities, values, and indigenous cultures labelled under "informal knowledge." If we need alternative holistic approaches to education that seriously consider transdisciplinarity and transboundary flow, then we need a 'whole of life' philosophy to underpin a decolonial learning approach.



Upolu Luma Vaai is Principal and Professor of Theology & Ethics at the Pacific Theological College in Suva, Fiji, the first degree offering regional educational institution in the Pacific.

His research interests focus on the intersection of Pacific indigenous relational philosophies/theologies and development within the framework of decoloniality.

He is involved in multiple regional and international initiatives for multiculturalism, anti-racism, peace, anti-corruption, ecological justice, and decolonizing education, research, and development.

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/pasifika-whole-of-life-education-a-decolonial-communities-based-approach-tickets-371898417177>

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