

## Keynote address: Psychology at the Margins

Pacific peoples in Aotearoa, New Zealand are the largest Pacific diaspora in the world. Auckland often described as the Polynesian capital of the world, hosts the largest Polynesian festival in the world – 'Polyfest'. For the first time ever in New Zealand's history it now has the most Polynesian cabinet leading the nation in a labour-coalition government. Aotearoa, New Zealand is part of a wider Oceanic eco-system, yet to date in psychology there remains little to no representation of Pacific-indigenous knowledges within the teaching and understanding of psychology. Understanding that traditional psychology does not inevitably reflect indigenous cultures has been well documented. The acknowledgement by APA (American Psychological Association) of a rapidly changing knowledge base calls into question the current state of psychology as it is understood and taught in Aotearoa, New Zealand. It raises tensions not easily resolved especially for a discipline that by its own admission is philosophically divided.

The recent government tour through the Pacific called its mission a "reset". Through this wayfinding journey of psychology at the margins, I present the time has come for a reset of psychology's mission in the Pacific. One that draws on Pacific-indigenous knowledges for resetting the foundations, so that our practitioners and students are better equipped for the new wave of generations washed ashore in the lands of psychology.



Dr Siautu Alefaio (Samoan lineage from the villages of Matautu-Tai, Sasina, Manunu ma Fagamalo) is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Psychology Massey University and International Fellow of the Humanitarian Innovation Initiative (HI<sup>2</sup>) – Watson Institute, Brown University. Trained in Educational psychology Siautu is an experienced psychologist practitioner of 18 years and is the first woman of Samoan and Pacific descent to become an Educational psychologist. She has worked across various applied psychology contexts in education, health, social services, community, family violence, forensic rehabilitation and disaster humanitarian response in Aotearoa, New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific. Her research expertise draws on extensive applied psychology experiences to develop a NIU (New Indigenous Understandings) psychological research platform for re-informing psychology theory and practice. More recently Siautu founded New IndigenoUs-innovation of Pacific Humanitarians (NIUPaCH), a virtual research collective based in School of Psychology Massey University focused on improving the effectiveness and accountability of disaster preparedness, risk resilience and management, humanitarian response, and post-emergency reconstruction within Oceania. Siautu's work pioneers a new way forward in psychology that encompasses experiences, values and beliefs of Oceania.