State of Play
Pasifika peoples,
2019, Aotearoa NZ

Dr Karlo Mila
What the study shows is that those who continue to value their Pacific identity are more confident, proud and more advantaged in mainstream compared to those who don’t.
What does it mean to “come of age” here in Aotearoa?

My PhD
Not migrants
It is difficult to imagine a set of circumstances more likely to deal a fatal blow to a system of extended kinship based on common ownership of resources and which had evolved in a small, rural village-based society.

Macpherson and Macpherson (1999, p. 285)
Quant: Youth2000 Survey

- Provided the foundation of the research
- First ever New Zealand Adolescent Health Survey
- Randomly selected secondary schools
- Sample size: 12,000+
- Pacific Sample: 1113
- More than 523 questions
- M-Casi (answered privately into laptops)
Ethnic comparisons:
Pacific / Pakeha

- Multiple logistic regressions (controlling for age, gender, school decile and five socio-economic variables).
- In all analyses the interaction between ethnic group and gender was tested to see if the differences between Pacific and NZ European students were the same across both genders. If it was significant then the genders are compared within the ethnic groups.
- Otherwise gender comparisons are for the total population with the outcome reported controlling for other variables in the model including ethnicity.
- To better understand the differences between Pacific and NZ European students odds ratio [OR] have also been provided. In these analyses NZ Europeans and males are the reference groups, so an odds ratio greater than 1 [OR>1] means the factor of interest is more likely to occur in the Pacific group than the NZ European group or more likely to occur in females than males. Likewise an odds ratio less than 1 [OR <1] means the factor of interest is less likely to occur in the Pacific group than the NZ European group or less likely to occur in females than males.
- All analyses were conducted using SAS (version 9.1) software.
Significant inequalities

- More than half (52%) of Pacific students reported that their households worried about having enough money for food.

- Pacific students were considerably more likely to be living in overcrowded households; whereas overcrowding was relatively rare among NZ European students [OR 32.0 95% CI (21.6-47.4) p<0.0001].

- Pacific students were much more likely to shift houses frequently compared to NZ European students [OR 2.49 95% CI 1.93-3.20) p<0.0001].
Suicide

• Pacific females (17%) and Pacific males (8%) were seventy five percent more likely compared to NZ European males and females, to report trying to commit suicide in the previous year.

• [OR 1.75 95% CI (1.33-2.31  p < 0.0001).]
The danger of a single story

Chimamanda Adichie, Nigerian Novelist
Strengths-based
Theorising advantage in a context of disparity
Variables

- Ethnic pride and cultural values
- Speaking own Pacific language
- Acceptance by own ethnic group, acceptance by others
- Economic prosperity
- Churchgoing and Spiritual beliefs

- **Educational outcomes**
  - Usually trying hard
  - Achieve average / above average
  - Plans for tertiary education / job

- **Emotional wellbeing**
  - Depressive Symptoms
  - Suicide thoughts
  - Suicide attempts

- **Substance Use**
  - Cigarette smoking daily
  - Binge drinking
  - Ever Tried Marijuana
Being proud of Pacific ethnic identity and placing importance on Pacific ethnic values was associated with:

Twice as likely to report doing well at school (either ‘about the middle’ or ‘above the middle’ at school) [OR 2.01, CI 95% (1.26-3.23), p=0.0036].

One and a half times more likely to report having future plans after school (either ‘further training’ or ‘getting a job’) [OR 1.53, CI 95% (1.06-2.20), p=0.023].

Approximately half as likely to report having made a suicide attempt in the previous 12 months [OR 0.56, CI 95% (0.33-0.93),]
Feeling Accepted

• Just under half (48%) of the New Zealand-born Pacific participants, reported feeling accepted by members of their own ethnic group as well as accepted “by others”.
• Those Pacific participants who felt accepted by their own ethnic group and by others were compared with those participants who did not report feeling accepted. Reporting feeling accepted in response to both questions was associated with:

Were more likely to report usually or always trying hard at school [OR 1.52, CI 95% (1.03-2.24), p = 0.0514].

Were more likely to report doing well at school (“about the middle” or “above the middle”) [OR 2.47, (CI 95% 1.21-5.04), p = 0.0005]
• Were approximately **half** as likely to report having suicidal thoughts in the previous 12 months [OR 0.48, CI 95% (0.28-0.83), p=0.0028].

• Were approximately **seventy percent less** likely to report a suicide attempt in the previous 12 months [OR 0.30, CI 95% (0.14-0.64), p <.0001].
Culture counts
Pacific values matter
Pride in identity matters
Feeling accepted counts
Relationships matter
Polycultural Capital:
Advantage of not being monocultural
ʻA`ohe pau ka `ike I ka halau ho`okahi’
(Hawaiian Proverb)

All knowledge is not
taught in the same school
How do we fill this kete?
Why is it so empty?
Mana Moana:
The power and mana we derive from who we are and where we are from.
Contemporary journey into the ancient

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I learned about my culture</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It gave me new ways of seeing things</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It helped me with my own wellbeing</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I learned new skills</td>
<td>9.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>It is different than other programs I've been on</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It showed me things I didn’t know about</td>
<td>9.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I could apply it to my own life</td>
<td>9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I could do it at school</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It comes with images and a journal to keep</td>
<td>9.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I felt more connected to people and things afterwards</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It helped me improve some of my relationships</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is made especially for Pacific youth</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It gave me a sense of purpose and legacy</td>
<td>9.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It had a lot of fun activities</td>
<td>9.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANGI</td>
<td>FA(E)NUA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matangi (O37)</td>
<td>ra’akau (P42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afaa (MP21)</td>
<td>Wao (MP30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ua (A42)</td>
<td>Hala (MP44)</td>
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<td>Po (MP44)</td>
<td>Wai (MP43)</td>
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<td>po’uli (P37)</td>
<td>Tupu (MP44)</td>
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<td>manu (MP44)</td>
<td>Mae (O29)</td>
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<tr>
<td>fetu’u (MP 21)</td>
<td>Fua (A47)</td>
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<td>La’a (O36)</td>
<td>Aka (A28)</td>
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<td>Malama (P42)</td>
<td>Ma’unga (P34)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L+Malie (P19)</td>
<td>Fale (MP44)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Moana

utah

waka

ama

galu

taula

hakau

awa

moana

Tangaloa
Moana

utah

waka

taula

matangi

ama

galu

Tangaloa

awa

hakau

moana

37

42

22

43

24

35

33

28
Moana

A ua sala uta, ia tonu t'ai. When a mistake has been on inland, it should be rectified at sea. (Samoa)

He au kei uta, e taea te kape; he au kei te moana, e kore e taea. The rapids on shore can be bypassed, the whirlpool at sea, cannot. (Maori)

Sei muamua ona ala uta. Try the fishing line first on land. (Samoa)

Ka ai ha mala to ki 'uta. If there is a curse, let it fall to shore. (Tonga)

Kaua e rangituatia te hapai o te hoe; e kore tootaatou waka. E uu ki uta. Do not lift the paddle out of unison, or our canoe will never reach the shore. (Maori)
Moana

Ia lafoia i le alogalu. May you be cast on the land side of the reef. (Samoa)

Holo pe tuu he koe ngalu e fasi. Keep place, for the waves will break. (Tonga)

Kua peke ki te koko o te tai. Drawn by the current of the sea – aimless (Cook Islands)

Anu tahi. Soaked deep in sea (overwhelmed by problems) (Tonga)
AROFA

‘Ofa (T) Ofa (N) Alofa (S) Alofa (Tu) Aroha (M) Aro’a (Ra) Aloha(H)

(Source: POLLEX-Online, Polynesian Lexical Project, a large-scale comparative dictionary of Polynesian languages.)
Aro’a atu, i te aro’a mai.
Love flowing outwards, love flowing inwards

Anau ta te aro’a, e aro’a.
Love breeds love

Ulu a’e ke welina a ke aloha.
Loving is the practice of an awake mind

Aroha mai, aroha atu.
This point about the power of love as light and shield in times of darkness can be found in another story, a much older story in Samoan history, involving the people of Atua, a district area in Upolu, Samoa.

The story involves a daughter who attempts to placate her father’s anger at her husband’s people, the people of Atua, by offering her life for theirs... Weeping and touching her womb, she cried softly: “My father, look at me, I am with-child. If you destroy Atua you will destroy not only the inheritance of my husband but the inheritance of my child. On behalf of my unborn child, I call on you to please spare his people”.

Utufaasili then states the famous Samoan saying: *e leai se gaumata’u, na o le gaualofa,* meaning: *what you do in the name of hatred will not survive, but what you do in the name of love will live forever.*

Tagaloa Funefeai moved by his daughter’s words and willingness to sacrifice herself in protection of her husband’s inheritance and that of their unborn child then replied: “Notwithstanding my anger with Atua, I hear what you say and I will spare them”.

The one thing that redeems, eases and/or soothes hurt, anger, hate, pain or depression is the ability to find and believe in love, notwithstanding...”
Va is the space between, the between-ness, not empty space, not space that separates, but space that relates, that holds separate entities and things together in the unity-in-all, the space that is context, giving meaning to things.

(Albert Wendt, 2002)
Your impact

What flows from you into shared spaces?
What you receive / respond to
VA

Restoration of relationships and connectedness
Reconnect to sea and land

Waiheke Island
Reconnection to the realm of ancestors and the spirit
A carefully curated journey
Activating the ancestral, decolonizing and reclaiming our indigenous knowledge
Return to wholeness
This knowledge basket has a lot to offer Aotearoa, NZ, and the world.