

A stylized map of the Pacific region. Samoa is highlighted in pink, and Australia is highlighted in purple. The rest of the map is in shades of grey. A black circle is visible on the right side of the map.

CONNECTING WITH SAMOA'S DIASPORA

MINISTRY OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

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INTRODUCTION

Global migration patterns have changed dramatically over the years. The world has inevitably become very mobile as global citizens comfortably shift from destinations to destinations with the availability of advance means of transportation, relevant infrastructure, and technology. The availability of services, education, and employment in foreign countries present multiple options for people to migrate, adapt to new environments, and learn and adopt advanced skills and knowledge to earn a comfortable living. These migration patterns have caused the wide spread of various nationalities around the world, languages, cultures and norms, making connections very easy in real time.

Samoa, named as the Navigator Islands by a French explorer – Bougainville in 1768 depicts the fact that the pioneer settlers of the Samoan archipelago were navigators and were people of the sea. This is further epitomized in early migration patterns and interisland marriages between the chiefly families in Samoa, Tonga and Fiji. Migration to date in Samoa continues to unfold remarkably where every year, through citizenship arrangements with the government of New Zealand, about 1100 opportunities for Samoans are provided through the New Zealand quota system for permanent residency. Today, about 150,000 Samoans reside in New Zealand.

The spread of Samoans around the globe has reached new trends and they have accomplished milestones in many walks of life. These achievements have made Samoans as world class achievers in Rugby, America's grid iron, Rugby league, Professional Boxing, Soccer and many other sports. Others have been household names in the entertainment sector as music artists and producers, acting in Hollywood, comedy, and cooking to name a few. The Samoan diaspora has certainly grown from strength to strength and had contributed enormously to the global economy through their expertise, talents, and hard earned resources.

This paper discusses the spread of Samoa's diaspora globally. It discusses and highlights major fields of engagement and the achievements being made and provides options for stronger connection to them through relevant mechanisms. This paper is premised on the old Samoan proverbial saying 'e lele le toloa ae maau i le vai' (literal translation) 'a duck flies many places, but always returns to the water' – meaning that where ever a Samoa dwells they will always return to Samoa.

This is similar to a Jewish saying as recorded in the Bible that 'where ever a Jew goes, they will lift up their window and look to Jerusalem, the holy city of God. In April this year, Prime Minister Tuilaepa and delegation visited Israel the Holy land for the historic signing of the visa waiver agreement between the two countries. This visit was a platform for exploring new opportunities for economic development for Samoa. One of the main topical agenda items was the success of modern Israel since 1967 due to the endless support of Israel's diaspora. Many have returned to Israel but there are also many Jews scattered around the world that continue to contribute to their country's social and economic development. In fact as explained by the Israel's leaders the Israelis diaspora have been the driving force behind Israel advanced developments to date.

By way of a working definition, the term *diaspora* derives from the ancient Greek term *dia speiro* - meaning "to sow over." ¹A classic example of the spread of diaspora was the 6th century exile of many Jews to Babylon during King Nebuchadnezzar's reign. This Jewish exile lasted for seventy (70) years and many did not return to Israel. ²

¹ Diaspora, <https://www.britannica.com> Accessed 23/04/2019.

² Ibid 1.

In today’s globalized world, the term diaspora has become a universal phenomenon and has replaced a variety of flows of migration like labour migrants, refugees, and marriage migrants. This is because more migrants today are due to moving voluntarily rather than due to forced or involuntarily migration such as slavery, persecution or convictions.

PURPOSE : “TO EXPLORE AVENUES TO ENGAGE THE SAMOAN DIASPORA IN THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF SAMOA

OBJECTIVES: The main objectives of this paper are to;

- Build Network with well-known figures of Samoa’s diaspora.
- Explore ways to engage Samoa’s diaspora with government using their talents for the development of Samoa.
- Explore practical and cost effective avenues to incentivize connection with Samoa’s diaspora.

METHODOLOGY

Secondary sources were used to extract data for this research including;

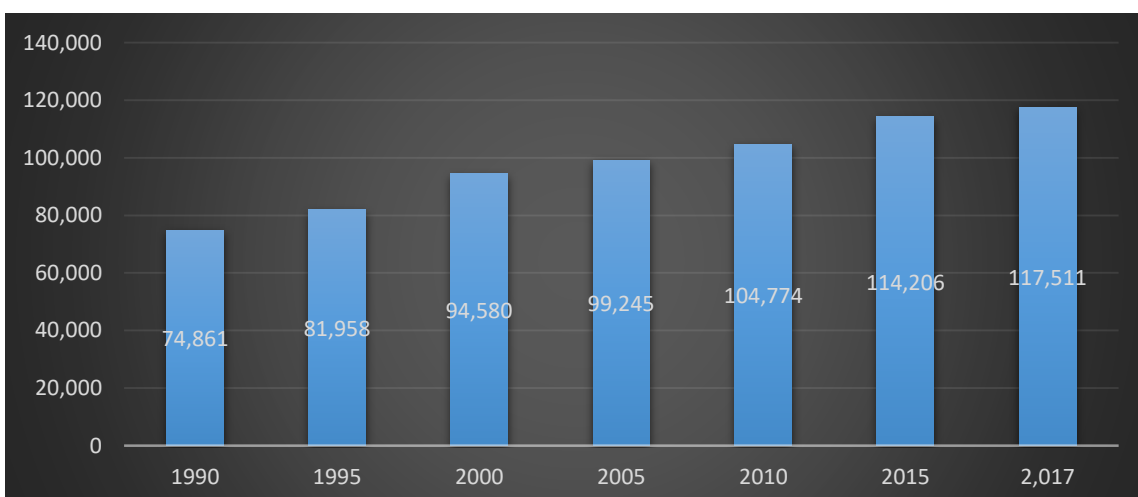
- Online sources (see references)
- Publications on diaspora and researches
- Team Discussion

ANALYSIS

Size and Distribution of Samoan-Born Migrants

Irrespective of the varying definitions and resulting estimates of the size of the Samoan diaspora, one thing that we could assert is the fact that it is growing. *Figure 1 outlines the rise of the estimated size of Samoan-born migrants globally from 1990 to 2017 (UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs., 2019).* There is an estimated growth in the stock of Samoan-born migrant in 1990-2017. In the last two decades, the estimated size is almost doubled.

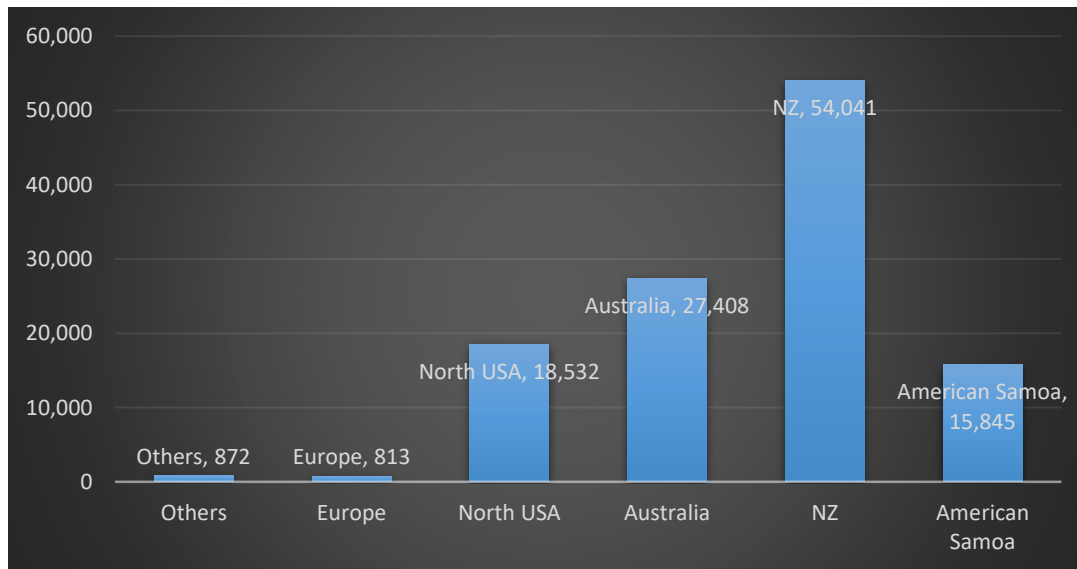
Figure 1. ESTIMATES OF SAMOAN-BORN POPULATIONS OVERSEAS 1990-2017



Source: United Nations DESA (2019)

Figure 2 depicts the estimated distribution of Samoan-born migrants (*Nb. these figures do not include those who were born overseas with ancestral ties to Samoa*). Together, Northern America, Australia, NZ and American Samoa hosts the most of Samoan-born migrants. NZ is the highest in 2017 data with 54,041 of Samoan born migrants moving to NZ.

Figure 2. SELECTED COUNTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST STOCK OF SAMOAN-BORN POPULATIONS-2017



Source: United Nations DESA (2019)

Table 1. Total migrant stock at mid-year by origin and by major area, region, country or area of destination 1990-2017

Year	Africa	Europe	Northern America	Australia	NZ	Fiji	Federal States	American Samoa	Cook Islands	Niue	Tokelau	Tonga	Tuvalu
1990	0	114	11,471	5,709	42,264	271	11	14,674	5	37	114	170	21
1995	0	267	14,172	9,696	41,030	267	14	16,157	5	27	114	192	17
2000	0	429	16,919	13,110	45,849	266	16	17,642	5	16	98	215	15
2005	0	613	16,164	16,620	48,436	267	17	16,738	7	18	98	251	16
2010	0	859	15,889	20,450	50,946	287	22	15,842	9	20	165	267	18
2015	28	812	17,938	26,142	52,640	296	21	15,813	10	20	187	283	16
2017	27	813	18,532	27,408	54,041	299	21	15,845	10	19	193	287	16
	55	3,907	111,085	119,135	335,206	1,953	122	112,711	51	157	969	1,665	119

Analysis of Figures 1 and 2 and Table 1.

Table 1 outlines all of the world figures for Samoan-born migrant's population from 1990 to 2017. NZ is the highest followed by Australia and then Northern America. This clearly reflects the migration patterns by Samoan born migrants over the years. Low figures were depicted for Samoans who migrate to the African Nations and neighboring Pacific Islands.

Figures 1 & 2 indicate that the number of Samoan born diasporas is steadily growing overseas. Most of them are mostly located in New Zealand, Australia, the USA and Am. Samoa. The two figures and table does not explicitly inform us what exactly are these diasporas undertakings are overseas or areas

they are working in, which is why it is hard to pin point and identify our high performing diasporas overseas. However, we were able to find out some of our prominent Samoan born diasporas through the internet as they are being acknowledged for the work they have done in their field of expertise. The annex provided shows some of our diasporas overseas, who have been acknowledged for the work they have done in their specialized fields.

Potential Positive Impacts of Diaspora on Developments in Samoa

Samoa's Diaspora today consists of Samoans, who live overseas, or foreigners who have Samoan origin or ancestry connection, as well as individuals who have Samoan linkage personally or socially. Using such definition provided by IDN, it is estimated about more than **1 million Samoan Diasporas are scattered all over the world.**

In acknowledging the importance of our diasporas, government in its efforts has developed this paper to show how our diaspora links to the national planning framework by government. Our Diaspora links to the *Sustainable Development Goal 17* on partnerships for the goals. The skills and knowledge that our Diasporas have attained from their countries of birth or residence, could assist Samoa with its development as most are living in well developed nations as shown in figures 1&2 and table 1 above. The level of expertise that they have acquired and could bring into Samoa could make a significance contribution to our economy. Establishing that partnership and networking between the government and our diasporas not only supports Goal 17 of the SDG, but our country benefits from it through the prospects offered by our diaspora. Moreover, using our diaspora in the different fields of Samoa's development has an edge over non Samoan experts as they have an understanding of how things are done in Samoa and could deliver the work according to Samoa's context.

Our Diaspora also links directly to the "*SAMOA 2040*" with its vision "to transform the Samoan economy to a higher growth path, to ensure the needs of present and future generations are met and that no one is left behind". The Samoa 2040 outlines the goals our Government aspires to achieve by the year 2040. Tourism is one of the thematic areas in the Samoa 2040 which directly links to our Diasporas as some of our Diasporas are well known figures around the world such as the likes of Seiuli Dwayne Johnson. Diasporas like Seiuli can contribute immensely to Samoa's development in the form of promoting Samoa's national carrier or airline, culture and natural beauty. One advertisement by Seiuli promoting our airline, culture and country could possibly prompt an influx of tourist given his fame in the field of entertainment. The same can be said with the rest of our well known Diasporas and their contribution to the development of Samoa. This is something that we really need to tap into given, Israel has been utilizing the expertise of their Diasporas for many years and the country has flourished from it. Exploiting this possibility is an ideal platform that Samoa should harvest in order to gain the same sort of benefits as Israel.

For our *Strategy for the Development of Samoa* one of its key priority area is on Economic, under it lies key outcome 4 on tourism development and performance improved which also links to diasporas as alluded to earlier in the case of Seiuli Dwayne Johnson. All in all, government's effort in establishing a Diaspora Unit to build network with well-known figures of Samoa's diaspora and explore ways to engage Samoa's diasporas with government using their talents for the development of Samoa supports our national planning framework from the SDG goals, the Samoa 2040 and our SDS.

Furthermore, diasporas not only contribute in terms of their number but also their contribution to society as a whole. Listed below are five main potential impacts of Diaspora to the development of

Samoa:

- **"Remittances"** - Data from Central Bank of Samoa reveals that Samoa received \$503.40million of remittances in FY2017/2018 (CBS Bulletin). This demonstrates an official development assistance from our overseas Samoans as well as our RSE workers who have in one way or another contributed funds to our economy throughout the years through remittances.
- **"Diaspora Network Can Be Both A Direct Source Of Foreign Direct Investment (Fdi)"**. The Chinese Diaspora has contributed about 60-70% of FDI, as the biggest in the world (Lucas, 2003). There has been considerable discussion of how Chinese business and social networks have overcome barriers to international trade.
- Diaspora can be a **"Bridgehead into Expansion of the Economic Linkages of the Home Nation"**. Korean Americans were the bridgeheads for the successful penetration of the United States market by Korean car, electronics and white good manufacturers. Canadian based studies have shown that a doubling of skilled migration from Asia saw a 74 percent increase in Asian imports to Canada (Lucas, 2001).
- Diaspora networks have become **"Important In Transmitting Information , Transferring Of Resources, Technology, Knowledge And Ideas"**
This aspect is largely confined to skilled migrants. Lucas (2001, 22) has shown how professionals in origin and destination economies have maintained strong linkages so that ideas flow freely in both directions.
- **"Expatriates Return To Their Homeland Country and Contribute To Development"** (Conway and Potter, 2009). They can transfer the invaluable skills and experience they gained abroad.

The New Unit – For Diasporas

It is anticipated that a new Unit will be established to look after our diasporas, identifying who our successful, prominent and outstanding diasporas are around the world. This Unit's role will include finding ways of incentivize our diasporas as we work with them in exploring ways that they could contribute positively to our economy. The new Unit is expected to build a database on all well-known diasporas we have around the world and build a network with them so we could engage with them in areas of their expertise in which they could contribute to Samoa's economy. This new Unit is also expected to liaise with sporting organisations to solicit their assistance and will also liaise with refugee organizations to give professional-refugees status for professionals that could contribute positively to our economy.

It is proposed that two employees (preferably Senior and Principal level) are to start off this Unit under the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and will work closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Samoa Tourism Authority.

During Budget screening in May this year, the Ministry of Finance informed the MPMC that funding has been allocated for the setting up of this new Unit under MPMC and there is also available funding for one Principal and one Senior Officer.

Incentives for our Diasporas

Given that most of our Diasporas are well off individuals, monetary incentives would not be recommended as it does not give them any sense of patriotism due to the fact that most of these people earn millions in their fields. One way that government could reward or honor the services by these individuals is to consider them for an award during our official ceremony for our honors and awards. These awards are the most prestigious that our country offers to our people who have contributed immensely to Samoa's development and it is viewed as the most fitting reward that we could offer our Diasporas. To award our Diasporas with our most highest and prestigious award would be seen as more valuable and memorable as it instills a feeling of patriotism and pride in one's country and people.

RECOMMENDATION

Taken from the different backgrounds of our diasporas as indicated in Annex A, these people can contribute largely to the development of Samoa through the different sectors that they are classified under. Therefore, it is recommended that Government;

- Establishes a Samoa Diaspora Relations Unit within the Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and officially launch a platform to cement its local and foreign network for the betterment of Samoa.


The Public Service Commission, Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will assist MPMC in formulating this new Unit.

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APPENDIX 1: DIASPORA DATABASE

NAMES	DESCRIPTION
TOURISM SECTOR (ACTORS/SINGERS/COMEDIANS FILM MAKERS/DIRECTORS)	
<p>SEIULI DWAYNE JOHNSON</p>  <p>Source: Accessed 28/03/2019</p>	<p>Seiuli Dwayne Douglas Johnson also known as The Rock of Samoan descent is an American actor, producer and a retired professional wrestler.</p> <p>Johnson began training as a professional wrestler in the summer of 1995. Johnson secured a contract with the WWE when it was known as the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) and was promoted as the first third-generation wrestler in the company's history as he was the son of Rocky Johnson and grandson of Peter Maivia. He gained mainstream fame after developing a charismatic persona of a boastful trash-talking wrestler named The Rock. He subsequently won his first WWF Championship in 1998.³</p> <p>Considered to be one of the greatest professional wrestlers and biggest draws of all-time, The Rock headlined the most bought professional wrestling pay-per-view event of all-time, and was featured in some of the most watched WWE Raw and WWE Smack down television episodes ever. The Rock has won several championships in his career, being a two time Intercontinental Championship, a five time world tag team championship, and a ten time world champion⁴. He is also a Royal Tumble match winner and a Triple Crown Champion.</p> <p>Outside of wrestling, Johnson has attained success as an actor, producer, and writer. He played the leading role in numerous films, including, The Scorpion King (2002), San Andreas (2015), Central Intelligence (2016), Moana</p>

³ Sirota, Caity Weaver, Peggy (May 10, 2017). ["Dwayne Johnson for President!"](#). GQ. Retrieved May 12, 2017

⁴ Ibid 3.

	<p>(2016) , Jumanji (2017). His most successful box office role has been as Luke Hobbs in the Fast and the Furious franchise⁵. He founded his production company, Seven Bucks Productions in 2012 which has since produced several films.</p> <p>He wrote and released an autobiography titled <i>The Rock Says...</i> in 2000, which debuted at number one on The New York Times Best Seller list⁶.</p> <p>The Rock has been consistently ranked among the world's highest paid actors. Last year in 2018, Seiyu Dwayne Johnson was highest paid Hollywood actor earning T\$310 million annually.⁷</p>
<p>KENETI JAMES (KJ) APA</p> 	<p>Keneti James Fitzgerald "KJ" Apa, Samoan by descent is a New Zealand actor.</p> <p>He is known for starring as Archie Andrews in the CW drama series Riverdale. Apa also starred as Kane Jenkins in the primetime soap opera Shortland Street and as teenage Ethan Montgomery in the comedy-drama film <i>A Dog's Purpose</i>.⁸</p> <p>Apa stars as Griffith in the upcoming film <i>The Last Summer</i> which is set to release on May 2019.</p>
<p>PUA MAGASIVA</p> 	<p>Pua Magasiva is a Samoan born, New Zealand actor .He is best known for his roles in the movies,</p> <p>The other Side of Heaven, Siones Wedding, Uso, 30 Days of Night, Matariki, Siones 2: Unfinished Business. Pua Magasiva has been well known for his roles in the films and TV series Shortland Street.</p> <p>Outside his work on television and film, Magasiva has acted in theatre, including <i>Two Days in Dream</i> in 2003.</p> <p>In 2008, he co-starred with brother Robbie in the play <i>Where We Once Belonged</i>. Magasiva has also appeared</p>

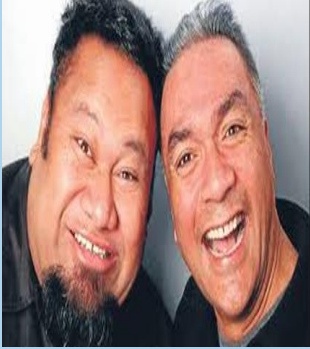

⁵"*Dwayne Johnson*". Archived from [the original](#) on December 27, 2009. Retrieved October 31, 2010.

⁶"*Best Sellers Plus*". *New York Times*. Retrieved August 28, 2012.

⁷<https://www.samoaoobserver.ws/category/entertainment/5910> Accessed 18/04/2019

⁸ Kit, Borys (5 August 2015). "*Britt Robertson, Dennis Quaid join DreamWorks' A Dog's Purpose (Exclusive)*". *The Hollywood Reporter*. Retrieved 25 October 2015.

	<p>in nine Lift Plus commercials in New Zealand and also took over his brother's role as the Small Blacks TV News presenter opposite Conrad <i>Snakey</i> Smith.</p>
<p>JAY LAGAAIA</p>  <p>Source: https://www.google.ws/search?biw=1600&bih</p>	<p>Laga'aia is known for his part on Australian children's TV show Playschool, and also for his role as Captain Typho in the films Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones and Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith. He played a small role of Draco in three episodes of the television series Xena: Warrior Princess.</p> <p>Laga'aia was a regular in Australian television shows Water Rats, Play School, Surprise Surprise, and a contestant on Celebrity Big Brother in 2002 and had a guest role as Gabriel in McLeod's Daughters. He is also known for his stage productions such as The Lion King. Laga'aia played the role of Judas in a 1994 production of Jesus Christ Superstar in New Zealand.</p> <p>On 9 October 2007, Laga'aia released a children's album, Come Dance and Sing. On 24 December 2008, Laga'aia performed on Carols by Candlelight. Laga'aia narrated each of the characters on the children's show Larry the Lawnmower, which ran for 2 seasons starting in 2008. In November 2009, it was confirmed that Laga'aia had joined the cast of Australian soap opera Home and Away, as Reverend Elijah Johnson, until his sacking in February 2012. Laga'aia released his second CD for children; I can Play Anything, in August 2010.</p>
<p>TEILA TULI</p> 	<p>Teila Tuli is a Native Hawaiian actor and former sumo wrestler and mixed martial artist. He is from Laie, Hawaii and is of Samoan descent.</p> <p>Credited as Taylor Wily, he had a role in the comedy film Forgetting Sarah Marshall. He is commonly known for his recurring role as Kamekona Tupuola on the Hawaii Five-0 series.</p> <p>He also appeared as an extra in Magnum, P.I.s 1982 episode titled “The Eighth Part of the Village”.</p> <p>He also appeared as a sumo wrestler in an episode of One West Waikiki, another TV show filmed in Hawaii.</p>

<p>TOFIGA FEPULEAI</p> 	<p>Tofiga Fepulea'i is a New Zealand-based actor and comedian of Samoan descent best known as a member of the stand up comedy duo Laughing Samoans.</p>
<p>SOL3 MIO</p> 	<p>Sole Mio is a New Zealand musical trio consisting of Moses Mackay, Pene Pati and Amitai Pati. Of Samoan descent and classically trained, Moses is a baritone and the Pati brothers are operatic tenors. SOL3 MIO is the combination of three powerful and moving operatic voices, with more than a dash of uncontainable humour.</p> <p>By their own definition they are first and foremost "classical singers bridging the gap with contemporary", but the unique way in which they do it shows the potential to cut through the critical cognoscenti, and appeal to audiences who wouldn't normally be found anywhere near an aria.⁹ Their onstage brotherly bonhomie, off the cuff banter, and impeccable comedic timing is no act but simply an extension of their natural selves, and the culmination of a lifetime's worth of singing, performing and entertaining.</p> <p>Before the group was formed, 2008 saw Moses, 18, and Pene, 20, providing the backing vocals for the tour of the legendary Andrea Bocelli. In 2010, Moses and Amitai were among five that sung the background vocals for George Benson's An Unforgettable Tribute to Nat King Cole Tour.</p> <p>After this performance, the three boys were handpicked by highly esteemed Dennis O'Neill to study their Masters Degree in Music Studies at the Wales</p>

⁹ ["SOL3 MIO". Official Charts. Official Charts. Retrieved 7 September 2015](#)

	<p>International Academy of Voice.</p> <p>In 2015, they were named Top Group of the Year by the Variety Artists Club of New Zealand and again in 2016 at the Pacific Music Awards.¹⁰</p>
<p>MONICA GALETTI FAAFITI</p> 	<p>Galetti was born in Samoa, and was initially raised by two aunts as her mother had moved to Auckland, New Zealand, for work. At the age of eight, Galetti moved from Samoa to Wellington, New Zealand, and lived there with her parents and five siblings. In the early 1990s, she studied for a diploma in hospitality at Central Institute of Technology, Upper Hutt.</p> <p>After completing her studies, Galetti worked at Lower Hutt restaurant Timothy's. The owner sent her to cooking competitions in Australia, America and Europe, and she began to look for a position in London by sending her CV to top restaurateurs. The first offer she received was from Michel Roux Jr - a beginning position as first commis at his two-Michelin-starred restaurant Le Gavroche, well below her position in Wellington as chef de partie. However, she accepted the offer and moved to London in 1999. She worked rapidly through the sections of the kitchen and became senior sous-chef, a position she held until 2015. She was the first woman to hold such a senior position at the restaurant.</p> <p>While working for Roux, she launched, and was Head Chef of, the restaurant Le Gavroche des Tropiques in Mauritius. She has been a judge on the BBC series MasterChef: The Professionals since 2009, as well as a presenter on other food-related television programmes. In January 2017, it was announced that along with her husband David she will be opening a new restaurant in London called 'Mere'. This was achieved with backing from WSH chairman Alastair Storey. Galetti serves Samoa as its UK Tourism Ambassador.</p>
<p><u>TUSI TAMASESE</u></p>	<p>Tusi Tamasese left Samoa when he was 18 and was not doing well in academics. He was sent to New Zealand by his mother for getting into trouble. He studied in University of Waitako where he studied political science. The following are the movies he directed successfully;</p>

¹⁰ ["Top of the pops: NZ's top selling tunes of 2014".](#) Stuff. Fairfax. Retrieved 20 December 2014.



Source:

<https://www.google.ws/search?q=tusi+tamasese&source>

Sacred Spaces (Va Tapuia Orator (O le Tulafale)

One Thousand Ropes- this movie was selected to represent New Zealand at the Venice film Festival.¹¹

Tusi Tamasese is believed to be the first Samoan Movie Director based in New Zealand whose films have been widely received by critics who see value and passion in his work.

SIMA URALE



Source: Accessed 01/04/2019

Sima Urale is a New Zealand filmmaker who was born and raised in Savaii, Samoa. She has won several national and international awards. Her films explore social and political issues¹² and have been screened worldwide. She is one of the few Polynesian film directors in the world with more than 15 years in the industry.

She has written and directed her own films, as well as documentaries, music videos and television commercials. Her films have been screened worldwide and have received international acclaim. Her first screenplay was the short film *O Tamaiti* which won Best Short Film at the Venice Film Festival in 1996, *Velvet Dreams* (documentary) which won the Best Documentary in 1997, *Still Life* (Best Short Film in 2001, *Coffee and Allah* (Best Short Film) in 2008 and won best film and tv awards in her film *Apron Strings* in 2008.

VICTOR RODGER

Rodger was born in Christchurch. In 1995, Rodger entered Toi Whakaari New Zealand Drama School in Wellington and graduated two years later. In 1997, his play *Cunning Stunts* was performed at Bats Theatre in Wellington. He gained the Fulbright-Creative New Zealand Pacific Writers' Residency (2006) based at the University of Hawai'i. During 2004-2005, he studied film writing at the Maurits Binger Film Institute in Amsterdam. In 2009, he was the Ursula Bethell Writer

¹¹https://www.nzherald.co.nz/entertainment/news/article.cfm?c_id=1501119&objectid=10750044

¹² ["Pacific.scoop.co.nz » NZ Artists Connect with Indigenous Art Worldwide"](http://pacific.scoop.co.nz). Retrieved 26 January 2017.



Source:

<https://www.google.ws/search?biw>

in Residence in Christchurch.[6] He is the 2016 Robert Burns Fellow at the University of Otago.

His play Ranterstantrum (2002) was commissioned for the bi-ennial New Zealand International Festival of the Arts. He is also a writer and a storyliner for TV soap Shortland Street. His play Sons was published by Huia Publishers in 2008, and My Name Is Gary Cooper was published by Playmarket in 2012, in the anthology Urbanesia: Four Pasifika Plays.

His acting roles include Stickmen (2001), Mercy Peak and a recurring role on Shortland Street as Dr. Henry Mapasua.

In 2013 he was awarded the Contemporary Pacific Art Award at the Creative New Zealand Arts Pasifika Awards.

SPORTS

SIR BRIAN WILLIAMS



Source:

<https://www.google.ws/search?biw>

Bryan Williams is widely considered to be one of his country’s greatest-ever players. Born in Auckland but of Samoan descent, Williams was the first Polynesian player to represent the All Blacks, well over two decades before Jonah Lomu and company left their indelible mark on the game. Built like a forward but with also blessed with plenty of pace, the physically imposing winger was a nightmare to defend against, as the Springboks found out in 1970. Chosen to tour apartheid South Africa as “an honorary white”.

Williams scored 14 tries in 13 appearances. By the time he retired after New Zealand’s 1978 Grand Slam tour of the UK and Ireland, Williams had 66 tries to his name from 113 matches, 38 of them tests. Williams was also a four-time winner of the Ranfurly Shield with Auckland as well as helping his province to their maiden NPC first division title triumph in 1982. A lawyer by trade, Williams won further honours with Ponsonby and Auckland as a coach and masterminded Samoa’s famous triumph over Wales at Rugby World Cup 1999 before teaming up with Graham Mourie at the Hurricanes. Williams was appointed President of the New Zealand Rugby Union in 2011.

SIR MICHAEL JONES

Auckland legend Jones won global acclaim for the way he revolutionized the openside position with his physical prowess, superior fitness and instinctive play.



Source:

After a solitary cap for Samoa, Jones switched allegiance to New Zealand in time for the inaugural Rugby World Cup in 1987. In the opening match against Italy, his debut, Jones became the first player to score a try. He scored again in the final as France were beaten 29-9.

Jones also played at RWC 1991 but his refusal to play on Sundays on religious grounds restricted him to three appearances. For that reason, he was not considered for RWC 1995. The following year though, operating at number six, he helped New Zealand win the inaugural Tri-Nations title.

Had it not been for injuries and his faith, Jones would have won far more than 55 All Blacks caps. He scored 13 tries. On his retirement, he coached Samoa at two Rugby World Cups.

TIM CAHILL



Source:

<https://www.google.ws/search?q=tim+cahill&source>

Timothy Filiga Cahill is an Australian former professional footballer who last played for Jamshedpur FC in the Indian Super League and played for the Australia national team. Previously, he has played for Millwall, Everton, the New York Red Bulls, Shanghai Shenhua, Hangzhou Greentown, and Melbourne City.

Cahill plays as an attacking midfielder and as a forward on several occasions. Cahill has become recognized for "his aggressive and powerful approach and his ability to head the ball in the penalty area."¹³

Cahill is the all time leading goal scorer for Australia having scored 50 goals in 108 caps between 2004 and 2018.¹⁴

He was the first Australian to score at a FIFA World Cup. Cahill has scored three World Cup with five goals. In 2007, he became the first Australian player to score at an AFC Asian Cup. Cahill is known for his adept heading ability and high vertical leap having scored many of his goals with his head.

SONNY BILL WILLIAM

Sonny Bill William of New Zealand and Samoan by descent is a New Zealand rugby union footballer,

¹³ McCarthy, Kyle. *"McCarthy's Musings: Tim Cahill, New York seal move in short order to bolster Red Bulls' MLS Cup hopes"*. Goal.com. Retrieved 31 July 2012.

¹⁴ *"Tim Cahill topscorer"*. Twitter.com. Dugout.



Source: Accessed 03/04/2019

heavyweight boxer and former rugby league footballer. He is only the second person to represent New Zealand in rugby union after first playing for the country in rugby league, and is one of only twenty players to have won two rugby union World Cups.

In rugby league, Williams has played seven seasons in two spells in the National Rugby League (NRL) with Canterbury Bulldogs and Sydney Roosters. He has won 12 caps for New Zealand and won the RLIF Awards for Rookie of the Year in 2004 and International Player of the Year in 2013.

Outside of rugby, Willian has boxed professionally seven times, winning all of his heavyweight bouts. He was formerly the New Zealand Professional Boxing Association Heavyweight Champion and World Boxing.¹⁵

UALE MAI



Source: Accessed 02/04/2019

Uale Mai Vala is a rugby union player and plays for the country's national teams, Manu Samoa and Samoa Sevens. He is a former captain of the Samoa Sevens team which represents Samoa internationally in the IRB Sevens World Series. He is Sevens rugby's most capped player and is considered one of the greats in the international sport.

In 2010 he has joined the CR El Salvador. Mai was the first Samoan to be awarded the IRB International Sevens Player of the Year which he received for the 2005–06 World Sevens Series. The ceremony took place in Glasgow's historic Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Britain on 26 November 2006. He was also awarded Player of the Tournament at the Hong Kong Sevens in 2007. In 2009, Mai took a short break from the Samoa Sevens team but returned in 2010 under new coach Stephen Betham. Mai is from Vailoa village in Palauli district on the island of Savai'i.

COMMUNITY SECTOR

¹⁵ Ganguly, Sudipto. *"Sonny Bill Williams stripped of boxing belts"*. Reuters. Retrieved 21 March 2019.



LUAMANUVAE WINNIE LABAN

Source:

<https://www.google.ws/search?biw=1600&bih=>

Made history as the first Pasifika woman to be elected to New Zealand Parliament in 1999. While Labour was in government she held the post of Pacific Island Affairs Minister.

She retained the seat in the 2008 election, before resigning from politics in 2010 to take up the position as an assistant vice-chancellor at Victoria University. The former MP was rewarded for her service to education and the Pacific Community in the 2018 Queen's Birthday honours, when she was made a Dame.¹⁶ Luamanuvae Winnie Laban was born in New Zealand to Samoan-born parents; she was given the title Luamanuvae in recognition of her work with the Pacific Island community.¹⁷

Winnie's grandfather, Fauono Tunupopo Patu was a member of Samoan Legislative Assembly before independence, and her father Leutele Vaafusuaga Poutoa was the Minister of Lands in the first elected government.¹⁸

EDUCATION

MICHAEL LIGALIGA



➤ **.Source:**

<https://www.odt.co.nz/news/duedin/campus/university-of-otago>

Michael Ligaliga is the first Pacific Island Student to complete a doctorate at Otago University in Peace and Conflict Studies. He is the first person from his family to complete a university degree, let alone complete a PhD. He is also the first Pacific Island student to earn a PhD through the Otago Peace and Conflict Studies Centre since it was established in 2010.

His research topic examined aspects of Fa'a Samoa (Samoan culture) and was devoted to "Fa'a Samoa: Peacebuilder or peacebreaker? Understanding Samoa's domestic violence problem: A peace and conflict perspective".

Samoan-born, he spent about half of his earlier life in Samoa and the rest in New Zealand, and has spent at least 10 years working in his family's funeral director business, both in Samoa and in Auckland.

¹⁶https://www.nzherald.co.nz/trailblazers/news/article.cfm?c_id=1504553&objectid=12112237

¹⁷<https://teara.govt.nz/en/ephemera/34059/pacific-mp-winnie-laban>

¹⁸<https://e-tangata.co.nz/korero/the-lasting-legacy-from-migrant-parents/>

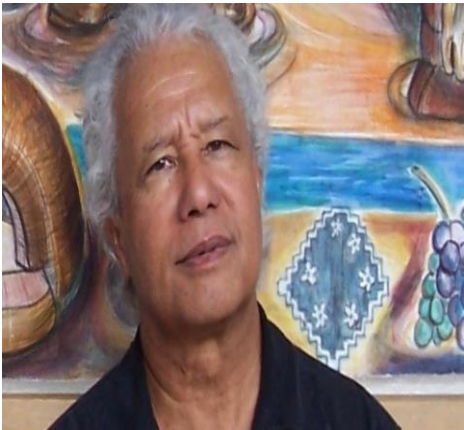
His study had made use of Norwegian theorist Johan Galtung's concept of the "typology of violence", and that "direct violence is reinforced by structural and cultural violence".

Some contributing factors were "masked and hide behind Samoa's traditional institutions", but all such factors needed to be addressed, he said.

He had undertaken in-depth interviews, including with participants in top-level positions dealing directly with domestic violence in Samoa.

The topic was challenging, but it helped that he was Samoan and a matai (family chief), and he had mainly sought to raise awareness and foster constructive dialogue to help make improvements for the future.¹⁹

ALBERT WEDNT



Source:<https://www.google.ws/search?biw=1600&bih=>

Albert Wendt, (born October 27, 1939, Apia, Western Samoa [now Samoa]), Samoan novelist and poet who wrote about present-day Samoan life. Perhaps the best-known writer in the South Pacific, Wendt sought to counteract the frequently romanticized, often racist literature about Polynesians written by outsiders.

Wendt was born into a Samoan family with German and English ancestry. After attending Ardmore Teacher's College (1958–59) and Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand (M.A., 1964), he taught (1965–69) at Samoa College, a secondary school, and later became its principal (1969–73). In 1974 Wendt accepted a professorship at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji, and three years later he established a branch of the university in Western Samoa (now Samoa), serving as a professor and administrator. Through satellite television, classes and lectures were broadcast throughout the southern Pacific region. He later became a professor at the University of Auckland (1988–2006) and held the Citizen's Chair at the University of Hawaii (2004–08).

¹⁹ john.gibb@odt.co.nz Accessed 20/04/2019.

LANI WENDT



Source:

<https://www.google.ws/search?biw=1600&bih=>

Lani Wendt Young is a Samoan/ Maori writer, editor, publisher and journalist. She was born and raised in Apia Samoa. Her father is Samoan from the villages of Lefaga, Vaiala, Sapalii, and Malie. Her mother is NZ Maori of Ngati Kahungunu.

In February 2019, Young was the recipient of a New Zealand Society of Authors Waitangi Day Honor.

Young was the 2018 ACP Pacific Laureate, selected by the Africa, Caribbean, Pacific Group of States. The writer prize recognises creativity, courage and entrepreneurship. The prize acknowledged her fiction writing, utilising of digital publishing to take Samoan stories to a global audience, and also her journalism.

Wendt Young is a co-founder of the online media Samoa Planet. In May 2018 she was the recipient of the Douglas Gabb Australia Pacific Journalism Internship, hosted by ABC News and the Australian Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade. In 2017, she was one of 10 "outstanding journalists" from the Pacific selected to report on the 2017 United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Bonn Germany²⁰.

She is the author of the Young Adult fantasy *Telesa series*, which has been described as the Pacific version of *of Twilight* and credited with helping to inspire young Pacific people around the world to read fiction from Oceania.²¹

In 2015, Wendt Young published two books in her contemporary romance series -*Scarlet Secrets* and *Scarlet Lies*.

In 2011 Young's *Sleepless in Samoa: A Collection of Short Fiction* won the USP Press Prize for Fiction. It was later published as *Afakasi Woman: A Collection of Short Fiction*. She also writes stories for children, which have been published by the New Zealand School Journal.²²

She was commissioned in 2009 to research and write'

²⁰ Sharma, Shivani (15 July 2017). "[Lani Young of Samoa Planet – a COP23 Journalism competition winner](#)". [Samoa Planet](#).

²¹ Ibid 20.

²² [Young, Lani Wendt](#)". [New Zealand Book Council](#). Retrieved 7 December 2017

	<p>'Pacific Tsunami Galu Afi. <i>The book gave accounts of over 180 survivors, rescuers, medical teams and aid workers from Samoa, American Samoa and the Tongan island of Niuatoputapu.</i></p> <p>In 2002 she won the Telecom Samoa short story competition. Her short fiction has since been published in collections in New Zealand, Australia and Samoa. Young has called blogging her "first writing love" and her blog Sleepless in Samoa has an international following. She chronicles with wry humor, the parenting journey raising 5 children.</p> <p>She also writes about feminism, religion, climate justice and LGBTI/faafafine/faatama in Oceania. She is an advocate for survivors of child sexual abuse and has written at length about family violence in Samoa.</p> <p>The ACP Secretariat said of Young, "Through her, we wished to salute courage: this young journalist who writes for Samoa Planet, in fact openly denounces the vacillation of the major powers-that-be, which have been so slow to adopt urgent measures to tackle climate change.</p>
<p><u>RICHARD WENDTWORTH</u></p>  <p>Source: https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2013/jun/11/richard-wentworth</p>	<p>Sir Richard Wentworth is a Samoan born, British Sculptor.²³</p> <p>Wentworth is well known by transforming and manipulating industrial and found objects into works of art.²⁴</p> <p>His sculpture takes as its subject the semantics of the everyday world, taking readymade and frequently incongruous objects and arranging them in a fashion that forces us to recognise the drama inherent in that which we too easily dismiss as routine.²⁵</p> <p>He is known as a 'godfather of Arts' to the Young British Artists.</p> <p>In 2002 he was made Master of the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art at Oxford University, and also tutors at the Royal College of Art, London.</p>

²³ http://www.artcyclopedia.com/artists/wentworth_richard.html

²⁴ <https://www.zabludowiczcollection.com/events/view/master-class-richard-wentworth>

²⁵ <http://www.thewhitereview.org/feature/interview-with-richard-wentworth/>

In 2009, he became Professor and Head of the Royal College of Art's Sculpture Department

In 2011, Wentworth was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the 2011 New Year Honours for services to art.²⁶

TRADE

VIRGINIA TOALEPAI



Virginia Toalepai, born in Upolu, founder and CEO of World Wide Safety (WWS), is the epitome of a positive role model for women both personally and professionally.

Toalepai has put together one of the most disciplined and successful teams in the safety consulting industry today, but she began with the odds stacked heavily against her. She started out five years ago, a recently divorced mother of four young daughters, with \$12 in her pocket and the idea that she could help make a difference.

Today, at 36 years old, she has already founded five successful companies over a five-year period.

Her drive to make a positive difference in this world is demonstrated through her widespread charitable contributions, starting her own non-profit, and her involvement in numerous trade associations, charitable and networking organizations.

From her humble beginnings, Toalepai opened WWS in August 2013. WWS assists general contractors, subcontractors, corporations and businesses of all sizes. It has become the largest safety consultation company in Nevada and one of the most successful construction consultation companies in the U.S., a multimillion-

²⁶ ["No. 59647". *The London Gazette*](#) (Supplement). 31 December 2010. p. 8

dollar operation with 30 employees, and services more than 150 companies and 10,000 workers in several states throughout the nation.

With its corporate headquarters in Las Vegas, WWS also has offices in Salt Lake City, Phoenix, Palm Springs and Livermore, California.

Toalepai had a big dream when she came up with the name for her company, World Wide Safety. She had the vision of being the biggest company there is and to be worldwide. She is passionate about educating her clients and assisting them with their safety, health and goals.

Toalepai is keen on saying she may have the very best job in the world because she helps ensure that her clients' employees make it home safely to their families every night. She says nothing gives her greater satisfaction.

Toalepai has taken an advanced path to business development and networking. She said, "I met just the right people, joined them, found out what they were interested in, what their passion is in life; and I help support them in their pursuit to success."


Toalepai and her team work closely with countless well-known general contractors, specialty trade subcontractors, corporations and businesses of all sizes in the development of safety training programs and practical hazard controls. These programs include health/safety program development and implementation, safety leadership training, job site safety inspections, regulatory compliance, emergency management, fall protection, construction safety, respiratory protection, forklift training, SDS/hazardous materials/waste clean-up operations, health and safety management OSHA-required training, and design and implementation of loss prevention initiatives

Toalepai created her nonprofit, RYSHOC Family, in 2017 to engage at-risk and homeless children and youth by helping them create a future they deserve through life skills, career training and higher education scholarships.

Toalepai has also just launched a #SafeKids2018 drawing contest where school-age kids submit drawings portraying safety first. She will be providing three \$1,000 prizes for schools (grade school, middle school, high school) in the Clark County School District. In

	<p>addition, the three winning kids will receive a \$250 Visa gift card, trophy and certificate, and their schools will receive plaques.</p>
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<p>HEALTH</p>	
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<p><u>RAKESH JATTAN</u> (Top Samoan Oral Maxillofacial)</p>  <p>Source: Accessed 01/04/2019.</p>	<p>Rakesh Jattan, of Samoan and Fijian-Indian descent, is one of the most qualified surgeons in New Zealand in the field of oral maxillofacial.</p> <p>He completed his Bachelors of Dental Surgery (BDS) at Otago in 2000, and then his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBCHB/ MDS) in 2009. Rakesh specializes in dentistry and medicine and deals with treating diseases, injuries or defects in the head, neck, face, jaws and the hard and soft tissues of the oral (mouth) and maxillofacial (jaws and face).</p> <p>He currently works as a Maxillofacial Consultant at Auckland and Middlemore Hospitals.</p>
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<p>INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY (ICT)</p>	
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<p><u>MIKE BAUKES</u></p>	<p>Mr. Michael Baukes, also known as Mike is a Samoan citizen. He is the Co-Founder and Co-CEO of UpGuard. Upguard is a company in Silicon Valley which</p>
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Source:

specialises in cyber resilience, and scores the security risks of companies across the world. Up Guard's origins hail from Australia and it has grown to have offices in Singapore, Sydney and San Francisco. To date, UpGuard has raised \$33M in venture capital.²⁷

UpGuard's proprietary technology continuously evaluates the operational integrity of an organization's IT infrastructure both internally and externally and calculates the potential risk for future intrusions and outages.²⁸

In addition to his current role, Mike contributes to the Forbes Thought Leadership Council as a thought leader in Cyber Risk and Cyber security. He has also appeared in Dark Reading, Recode, Tech Crunch and Insurance Business Magazine. Prior to in 2012, Mike worked in in senior technology and M&A roles for financial institutions such as ANZ, Lloyds Banking Group, and Commonwealth Bank of Australia, leading teams in technology and strategy.²⁹

Mike is also an active start up investor. Since 2013, Mike has been an investor and mentor for Startmate, Australia's premier accelerator program.

He's an entrepreneur at heart and is as comfortable dealing in technical detail as he is strategic in delivering outcomes. He held senior leadership roles in major corporates including Lloyds, E*Trade and CBA all at a young age. He has also had a successful yet modest exit. Their ScriptRockInc is now widely known as Upguard and currently based in Silicon Valley, US³⁰.

LAW AND JUSTICE

²⁷ Pacific Corporation Foundation, UpGuard CEO encourages the Pacific to embrace the digital era, News 2 Sep 2017, <https://pcf.org.nz/news/2017-09-02/upguard-ceo-encourages-the-pacific-to-embrace-the-digital-era> Accessed 23/04/2019.

²⁸ Ibid 22

²⁹ Ibid 22

³⁰ Accessed 24/04/2019.

DR GUY FITI SINCLAIR



Source:

<https://www.google.ws/imgres?imgurl>

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A Samoan with roots in Tiapapata, Satalo, and Sapapali'i, Dr Guy Sinclair has been awarded the prestigious 2018 European Society of International Law Book of the Year Prize.

He is currently a Senior Lecturer at Victoria University of Wellington Faculty of Law.

The 2018 European Society of International Law (E.S.I.L.) Book Prize jury unanimously decided to award him the 2018 for his book *"To Reform the World: International Organizations and the Making of Modern States"* published by Oxford University Press.

The E.S.I.L. Book Prize jury evaluated a wide range of books published in 2017 submitted for consideration by leading international law publishers. The jury members for this year's Prize were Sandrine Maljean-Dubois (Aix-Marseille University), Ana Maria Salinas De Frias (University of Málaga) and Christian J. Tams (University of Glasgow).

The jury explained their decision as follows:

"Guy Fiti Sinclair's book examines the expansion of powers exercised by international organizations under international law. The topic has been studied before, but Guy Fiti Sinclair approaches it in an innovative manner.

He writes elegantly, and effortlessly straddles divides: between the doctrinal analysis of the law and reflective thinking about its role in international society; between big picture arguments and historical detail; between general concepts of international institutional law and the work of three very different organizations at different times, viz. technical assistance by the International Labour Organization, peacekeeping by the United Nations, and the World Bank's turn to governance.

Above all, he persuasively argues that the different attempts to 'reform the world' through international action reflected an attempt to 'mak[e] modern states on a broadly Western model' of statehood, and that international law was a central part of that attempt.

This is an important new perspective that enhances our understanding of the working of international law and of the relationship between international action and visions of statehood."

The E.S.I.L. Annual Conference in Manchester in

	<p>September 2018 included a conversation with the author about the prize-winning book, and the award was presented during the conference dinner.</p> <p>His principal area of scholarship and teaching is public international law, with a focus on international organizations law, the history and theory of international law, and law and global governance.</p> <p>He is currently working on a project on 'Making International Economic Law: The Interaction of Institutions' supported by a Marsden Grant, awarded by the Royal Society of New Zealand.</p> <p>He holds first degrees in law and history from the University of Auckland, and a JSD from New York University School of Law, where he was a Fulbright scholar. Prior to his academic career, Guy practised corporate and commercial law in the United Kingdom and New Zealand for over 10 years.</p> <p>He is an Associate Director of the New Zealand Centre for Public Law and a member of the Scientific Advisory Board (and former Associate Editor) of the European Journal of International Law.</p>
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