

PERSONAL RÉSUMÉ

PERSONAL DETAILS

NAME	Tarisi Vunidilo BA, (USP) PGDipArch (ANU). PGDipMaori and Pacific Dev, MSc (Waikato) Phd (Pacific Studies, completed January 2016), Graduated May 5 2017)
ADDRESS	430 W. Kawili Street Unit 17B Hilo 96720 Hawaii United States of America
TELEPHONE	(808) 494-9960 (mobile)
CITIZENSHIP	New Zealand/Fiji (Dual)
DATE OF BIRTH	24 August, 1973

EDUCATION DETAILS

- **Phd in Pacific Studies**, University of Auckland, New Zealand (Topic: I Yau Vakaviti: Fijian Treasures in International Museums-A Study of Repatriation, Ownership and Cultural Rights)
Completed January 2016, Passed Oral Exam October 2016, Graduated May 5 2017
- **Master of Social Science in Anthropology**, University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand. (Topic: *The Indigeneity of Archaeological Research in Fiji: Issues and Opportunities*)
Completed in October 2010
- **Postgraduate Diploma in Maori and Pacific Development**, University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand
Completed in 2006
- **Postgraduate Diploma in Arts**, majoring in **Archaeology**, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.
Completed in 1996.
- **Bachelor of Arts** majoring in **Geography, History and Sociology**, University of South Pacific, Suva, Fiji.
Completed in 1994
- **Foundation Social Science Certificate**, University of South Pacific, Suva, Fiji.
Completed in 1991
- **Fiji School Leaving Certificate**, Adi Cakobau School, Suva, Fiji.
Completed in 1990

- **Fiji junior Certificate (A Grade)** – Nabua Secondary School, Suva, Fiji. Completed 1988.

OTHER EDUCATION DETAILS

- **Certificate in Mellow Parenting**, Ohomairangi Trust – Auckland, New Zealand – 2011
- **Strategic Leadership Programme, He Kahui Kakakura** – Victoria University of Wellington - 2004.
- **East West Centre Exchange Student**, University of Hawaii (Manoa & Hilo Campuses) - 1993.

AWARDS

- **Post-Doc Award**, University of Gottingen, Germany - January 2021 to February 2024
- **Travel Award**, University of Auckland – to attend the Art Crime Symposium, City Art Gallery, Wellington – October 2016
- **Tuakana Award**, University of Auckland – to attend SID's Conference in Apia, Samoa – September 2014
- **World Arts Summit Bursary** - 6th World Summit for Arts and Culture, Santiago, Chile - 2014
- **Getty Bursary** – INTERCOM Conference, Sydney, Australia – 2012
- **PIMA-MAC Travel & Research Award** – Trinidad & Tobago - 2012
- **Health Research Award** - Health Research Council, New Zealand – 2005.
- **AUSAID Scholarship**, Canberra, Australia – 1996.
- **Public Service Commission Scholarship**, Suva Fiji – 1991 – 1994.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Fijian Double Spouted Vessels** (1997) in “Domodomo”, Volume 11, No.2, Fiji Museum publication, Suva.
- **The Revival of Pottery Making in Yawe, Kadavu** (1999) in “Domodomo”, Volume 12, No 1, Fiji Museum publication, Suva.
- **Archaeology of a Fijian Island: I Tukutuku Makawa kei Cikobia-I-Ra**, (2001), Department of Archaeology, Museum of New Caledonia, Noumea, New Caledonia.
- **A Fijian Perspective on Rediscovered History: a study of the relationship between science and traditional folklore** (2001). Folklife Congress, Melbourne, Australia.

- **Pacific Islander Perspective on Lapita Researchers and Local community relationships: The Way Forward**, (2002), International Lapita Conference, Kone, New Caledonia.
- **Pacific Women's Perceptions of Access to Healthcare for Diabetes and Related Illnesses: An Insight into the Pacific Enderley Community, Hamilton, New Zealand** (2005), Summer Internship Report for Health Research Council, New Zealand
- **Lapita Research and Pacific Indigenous Peoples: Considerations for Oceanic Archaeologists**, paper presented at the International Lapita Conference, Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga (August 2005)
- **Building Bridges: Linking Pacific Collections in Museums and Pacific Communities in New Zealand**, paper presented at the Commonwealth Association of Museums Conference in Mumbai, India (June 2010)
- **PIMA'S ROLE IN THE PACIFIC REGION: A discussion on PIMA's view on digitization of museum collections**, paper presented at the World urbanism and Museum Forum in Beijing, Republic of China (November, 2010)
- **PIMA'S ROLE IN THE REGION: A discussion on PIMA's Code of Ethics**, a paper presented at the Casting the Net Symposium held at the Australian Museum, Sydney (September 2010)
- **WOMEN AND EDUCATION: Our Heritage, Our Career**, paper presented at the Fest Napuan (Music Festival) in Port Vila, Vanuatu (October 2010)
- ***I Tabagone E Aotearoa: Pacific Youths in New Zealand –Museum initiatives to reach our Youth***, paper presented at the Commonwealth Association of Museums Conference held at the Museum of Civilisation, Singapore (May 2011)
- **Pacific Museums and Politics: A Case Study of the Fiji Museum**, paper presented at the ICOM meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark (September, 2011)
- **World Heritage Sites and Museums in the Pacific: A study of heritage Sites** prepared for UNESCO, Apia Samoa (2012)
 - **PACIFIC MUSEUMS AND SEA-LEVEL RISE: Proactive programs for Local Pacific Communities**, INTERCOM Conference, Sydney, Australia (November 2012)
 - **ROLE OF PIMA IN THE PACIFIC: Fiji Art Project**, Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology, Cambridge, United Kingdom (June 2013)
 - **FIJIAN COLLECTIONS IN OVERSEAS MUSEUMS: Research on Repatriation and Appropriation**, Museum of Anthropology, Vancouver, Canada (August 2013)
 - **PIMA in the New Millenium: New Networks: New Models- The Importance of Networks**, 6th World Summit on Arts and Culture, Santiago, Chile (January 2014)

- Roles of Pacific Museums in the Fight Against Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property, Melanesia Workshop, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (July 7-9 2014)
- **Roles of Museums in Climate Change and Environment Education in the Pacific**, Pacific Navigation Workshop, Side event of SIDS 2014, Apia, Samoa (September 1-4 2014)
- **Cultural treasures A Youth Empowerment Programme** to build relationships between Pasifika students, their families, and academic staff, Ako Aotearoa and University of Auckland Collaborative Project (October 2018)
- **Houses of Indigenous Knowledge: The Importance of Museums in the Pacific : Case studies from the Region**, Austronesian Indigenous Conference (November 9-12, 2018)
- **Museums and Identity: Celebrating Diversity in an Ethnically Diverse World**, The Palgrave handbook of Ethnicity (2019)
- **Indigenous iTaukei Worldview: Te Mata Toi-A-Iwi supported Talanoa Series with Lagi-maama**, Auckland, New Zealand (August 2020)
- **Life During COVI-19 - Personal stories and Experiences**, Published by the University of the South Pacific (2021)

BOOKS

I Yau Vakaviti: Fijian Treasures in International Museums – A Study of Repatriation, Ownership and Cultural Rights (2015) by Tarisi Sorovi-Vunidilo. Phd Thesis, University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Na I Talanoa ni Lapita, The Story of Lapita Pottery, (2006) by Tarisi Sorovi Vunidilo – a bilingual (Fijian and English) book written for young people

Na Roka Vakaviti, Fijian Colours, E-book (2012) by Tarisi Sorovi-Vunidilo – a bi-lingual (Fijian and English) book for young people

Na Wiliwili Vakaviti, Fijian Numbers, E-book (2012) by Tarisi Sorovi-Vunidilo – a bi-lingual (Fijian and English) book for young people

Na Matanivola Vakaviti, Fijian Alphabet, E-book (2012) by Tarisi Sorovi-Vunidilo – a bi-lingual (Fijian and English) book for young people

Na Matanivola Vakaviti, Fijian Alphabet, (2013) by Tarisi Sorovi-Vunidilo – a bi-lingual (Fijian and English) book for young people, published by Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, Wellington, New Zealand.

MEMBERSHIPS

- **K'aute Pasifika Health Services** – Fijian representative in the Board for the Hamilton and Waikato region, New Zealand - March 2005 – March 2007
- **Waikato University Pacific Island Student Association** – General Member – (2004-2010).
- **Creative New Zealand** - Fijian Representative/Adviser to Pacific Arts Committee – Jan 2003 – Dec 2006.
- **Ministry of Education - Fijian Representative to the Pacific Advisory Group-** Jan 2003 – Dec 2006.

ASSOCIATIONS

- Executive member of the Pacific Arts Association (International Body) – August 2010-present
- Founding member of Pacific Arts Association Pacific Chapter-March 2011-present
- Vice President of Pacific Arts Association Pacific Chapter-March 2011-present
- Administrator to Pacific Islands Museums Association Board-Feb 2010-present
- General member of Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM) – May 2010-present
- Expert member of the Pacific Heritage Hub Working Group (April 2011-present)

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- **Cultural Competency Educator**, Hawaii Museums Association (HMA), Webinar Series, Funded by the Hawaii Tourism Association (HTA) (May-December 2020)
- **Choreographer** for the University of Hawaii-Hilo Fijian Dance Group, February 23, 2019
- **Organiser & facilitator** for Launch of 2017 Fijian Language Week Celebration, Centre for Pacific Studies, University of Auckland, October 9, 2017
- **Organiser & facilitator** for Inaugural Fijian Language Week Celebration, Centre for Pacific Studies, University of Auckland, October 4, 2016
- **Fijian Dance Co-Judge** for the Fijian Dance Competition for Fijian Language Week, Mangere, Auckland, October 8 2016
- **Organiser & facilitator** for the Melanesia Museums' Fight Against Illicit Trafficking of Museum Objects Workshop, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, June-July 2014
- **Organiser** of the Pacific Youth and Heritage Workshop, Honiara, Solomon Islands, July 2012
- **Organiser** of Vaka Pasifika: Exploration into Pacific Heritage Arts Fono, Auckland Museum, March 15th, 2008
- **Organiser** of Arts Pasifika Awards, Auckland Museum, November 2007
- **Festival Judge** for Fijian section in CenPac Secondary School Polynesian Festival-September 2007
- **Festival Judge** for Fijian section in CenPac Secondary School Polynesian Festival-September 2006

- **Festival Judge** for Fijian section in CenPac Secondary School Polynesian Festival-September 2005
- **Choreographer** for Fijian dance for Polyest 2014-Papatoetoe High School (came 2nd overall) – 2014
- **Choreographer** for Fijian dance for Polyest 2014-Auckland Girls Grammar - 2014
- **Choreographer** for Hamilton Girls High School for Pacific By Nature festival –2005
- **Choreographer** for Fijian Dance for Church College, Hamilton for Polynesian Festival-2005
- **Choreographer** for Hamilton Fraser High School for Pacific By Nature festival –2005
- **Contributor to Fiji Observer newspaper** on Fijian Legends written in Fijian vernacular-2005
- **Choreographer** for Fijian Dance for Hamilton Girls High School for Pacific by Nature Festival-2004
- **Part-time Social Worker** for IDEAS Services-2004-5
- **Online Fijian Language and Culture teacher via SKYPE on Verbalplanet.com**, 2012-present
- **Fijian Language and Culture teacher to Fijian families, PEC**, Auckland, 2008-present
- **Fijian Language and Culture teacher to Fijian families**, Hamilton, 2004-2006
- **Fijian Language and Culture teacher** to Fijian children, Wellington-2002-3
- **Judge- Fijian Language Youth Oratory Competition, UNITEC**, Auckland, New Zealand. October 10, 2013
- **Judge – Fijian Wearable Arts, Mothers and Daughters Program**, Palmerston North, New Zealand. December 7, 2013.

RELEVANT WORK HISTORY

University of Hawaii-Hilo

August 2018 to Present

Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology

Teach graduate and undergraduate anthropology courses with a specialty in museum studies with an emphasis on community-based collections management and material conservation; develop an active program of research that would incorporate the management of collections in the department of anthropology at UH Hilo; provide service to the department including advising students and mentoring student clubs; and contribute to program development, including close collaboration with the North Hawai'i Education and Research Center's (NHERC) Heritage Center and 'Imiloa Astronomy Center.

University of Auckland

Jan 2016 to Present

Professional Teaching Fellow & Tutor, Pacific Studies

My **current teaching role** encompasses the following:

- Developing lesson plans for 100, 200 and 300 level students
- Lecturing Pacific Studies classes (Pacific Music, Dance, Arts and Development Studies)
- Developing assessments, marking of students' work
- Working directly with students and assisting them to meet their program deadlines
- Developing examination papers and marking students work
- Represent the University in external programs and workshops
- Liaise with key stakeholders on academic and cultural program development
- Present research papers at local, national and international events

My **research interests** span the following fields:

1. Anthropology (My MA Thesis explored relationship between Fijian Oral Traditions and Western Science)
2. Archaeology (Lapita Research in the Pacific)
3. Museology (Pacific Collections, Repatriation and Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Materials. I am currently writing a book on Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Materials in the Pacific)
4. Indigenous Cultural heritage studies (My PIMA work has opened up many writing and research opportunities in this field)
5. Pacific Cultural Studies (I assist to teach these subjects at the University of Auckland)
6. Pacific Music and Dance (I helped teach this course since 2012, I am also a choreographer and dancer)
7. Gender and Pacific Island diaspora (Courses I taught at the University of Auckland has opened my eyes to do more research in this field)
8. Pacific Languages (I teach Fijian language part-time through the Pasifika Education Centre)

Pacific Islands Museum Association

Feb 2010 to Present

My role is to manage the PIMA secretariat, which is based in Port Vila, Vanuatu. At the moment, I work between New Zealand and Vanuatu, focusing my work on advocacy and grant writing. To date, a new PIMA website has been built (thanks to UNESCO-Apia) for information sharing. Since 2011, a PIMA training program has been implemented in the areas of conservation, exhibition development and a workshop on illicit trafficking. One of my recent focuses is on capacity building and encouraging young Pacific Islanders to take up careers in museums or heritage fields. A Pacific Youth and Heritage Workshop was held in Honiara, Solomon Islands during the Festival of Pacific Arts in 2012 and was seen as one of the best ways to launch a regional effort and raise heritage awareness to our young people. In 2014, I will be facilitating a museum workshop on the theme of Fight Against Illicit Trafficking of Museum Objects, with a focus on museums in the Melanesian region (Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia & Fiji).

Creative New Zealand

March 2007 to July 2009

Programs Advisor, Pacific Arts

- Administer and support the delivery of arts development funding and other support programmes and initiatives to Pacific communities
- For initiatives that are being managed, ensure that agreed timelines and quality standards are met and that all financial and other accountability requirements are met.
- Monitor the quality of programmes and initiatives, including dealing with customer queries and complaints
- Assist with reviewing and continuously improve the delivery of specific arts development programmes and initiatives to Pacific communities
- Work with members of the Strategy team to identify arts development needs, carry out relevant research or identify relevant information, and select and evaluate appropriate interventions

Waikato Museum of Art & History

Dec 2003-March 2007

Collection Services Manager

- Team Leader for the Collections Team focusing on the management of all museum collection
- Manage and liaise with other organisations regarding the heritage sites of Hamilton and the wider Waikato
- Coordinate all museum exhibitions programs
- Maintain the overall care of the collection
- Implement rigid registration methods for all museum objects
- Link with the community for all museum projects
- Oversee the successful implementation of the Vernon database using high standard electronic registration and recording

Te Papa Tongarewa**Collection Manager (Registrar) of Pacific Collection**

- Manage and maintain high standard and safety of all Pacific Collection
- Process and register all incoming acquisitions
- Update electronic Te Kahui database
- Work across museum disciplines & handle works during exhibition development and maintenance e.g. History, art and science
- Facilitate Pacific related museum exhibitions programs and physically handle all works
- Liaise with Pacific community in relation to collection access and information gathering

Fiji Museum*June 2000 – February 2001***Director**

- Manage 23 staff and manage relevant budget of the museum
- Organise training and up-skilling of staff and develop excellent human resource management skills
- Represented Fiji in national, regional and international forums, workshops and meetings
- Liaise with international institutions and organisations for the safety of Fiji's natural and cultural heritage
- Ensure museum object safety by increase level of security within collection storage

Fiji Museum*June 1997 – June 2000***Archaeologist and Head of Archaeology Department**

- Manage and maintain the museum's archaeological collection
- Develop research programs for archaeological research in Fiji
- Liaise with international Universities and research institute for research collaboration
- Ensure the security and the up to date information of the museum collection database
- Liaise and network with the rural and urban Fijian community regarding research of their archaeological sites

Fiji Museum*June 1994 – December 1996***Graduate Trainee, Archaeology Department**

- Participated in a mentoring program with 2 archaeologists from Australia and Japan
- Updated filing system of the department
- Liaised with relevant government ministries regarding heritage related projects within Fiji and the Pacific
- Participated in archaeological work in Australia, Vanuatu and Fiji
- Developed an additional volunteer coordinator role during and post archaeological work

Other Pacific Community Roles/Contribution

University of the South Pacific Part time Lecturer/Tutor (Part-time)

Jan 1995 – Nov 2000

- Teaching/Tutoring Introduction to Pacific History within the Sociology Department
- Organised field work and assessment for students
- Collaborate with other Universities/Museums in Australia, Canada and New Zealand in relation to cultural heritage research

Fiji Broadcasting Commission Guest Radio Announcer (On-Call)

Jan 1995-Nov 2000

- Develop heritage related radio programs in both Fijian vernacular and English
- Promote the importance of knowing Fijian language and culture
- Represent the museum in these programs with nation wide interests

Fiji Television Presenter (Part-Time)

July 1997 – Jan 2000

- Developed and present show in Fijian vernacular once a week
- Research and interview relevant guests using topical issues
- Promote use of Fijian language and culture

Pacific Education Centre (Auckland, NZ) Fijian Language Tutor (Part-Time)

Jan 2009-Present

- Assist in teaching Fijian language and culture to families in Auckland region
- Develop heritage programs for young teenagers and youths
- Organise museum tours to visit collections and exhibitions at Auckland Museum
- Teach Fijian songs and dance to young people learning the language

Auckland Museum Tala Pasifika Pacific Educator (On-Call)

Jan 2010- June 2011

- Assist a team of Pasifika educators to deliver Pacific topics to schools visiting the museum
- Linking objects to students through story-telling, songs and dance
- Support museum programs in the community in Auckland

Graduate Teaching assistant (Tutor/Lecturer) Centre for Pacific Studies University of Auckland

February 2012 - 2017

- In charge of tutoring PAC 110 and PAC 102 classes
- Assist Lecturer in lecturing museum, art galleries and Fijian dance topics
- Mark tests, essays and exams
- Organise practical classes
- Organise tours to Auckland Museum
- Assist & present in Vaka Moana sessions (mentoring programs)

Interests

Sports

Swimming
Tennis
Volleyball

Hobbies

Learning about other Indigenous cultures
Performing and creative visual arts
Traveling
Cooking
Gardening

Licenses

New Zealand Full Driver License
State of Queensland Full Driver License

Referees

A/Professor Damon Salesa

Head of Department

Centre for Pacific Studies
University of Auckland
New Zealand
Email: d.salesa@auckland.ac.nz

Kate Vusoniwailala

Previous Director, Waikato Museum of Art & History & Fiji Museum

Victoria Wines
Nadi, Fiji
Email: kate.vuso@gmail.com

Dr. Steven Ratuva

Professor of Anthropology & Phd Supervisor
Department of Anthropology
University of Canterbury
Christchurch
Email: steven.ratuva@canterbury.ac.nz

A/Professor Caroline Vercoe

Dean and Senior Lecturer
Art History Department
University of Auckland
Email: c.vercoe@auckland.ac.nz

