

# **Global Development in Flux**

## **Symposium incorporating the annual Ron Lister Lecture**

**School of Geography, University of Otago  
4-5 September 2025**

**The Symposium thanks the Ron Lister Trust for their support.  
Co-organised by the School of Geography at The University of Otago and NZ  
Geographical Society (Otago Branch).**

### **Day 1: Thursday 4 September**

#### **Session 1: 12-1pm: Venue Richardson Building 5N4**

12.00-12.20: Introduction; 'Global Development in Flux': Assoc. Prof. Doug Hill and Prof. Etienne Nel (School of Geography, University of Otago).

12.20-1.00: "Charting a course between transactional winds and negotiated currents: A comparative analysis of agency by sovereign Pacific Island states and non-sovereign/associated island territories": Assoc. Prof. Gerard Prinsen (School of People, Environment and Planning, Massey University).

#### **1.00-2.00: Lunch Break**

#### **Session 2: 2.00-3.20**

2.00-2.40: "Sinking into a turbulent sea: New Zealand and the changing world of aid": Dr. Terence Wood (Development Policy Centre, Australian National University).

2.40- 3.20: "Locally led and culturally appropriate development in Pacific Island Countries: Evidence from Solomon Islands" Assoc. Prof. Gordon Nanau (School of Māori Studies and Pacific Studies, Faculty of Arts & Education, University of Auckland).

#### **3.20-3.45: Tea and coffee break**

### **Session 3: 3.45-4.30pm**

3.45-4.30: 'Emphasising the Meaningful in Development Partnerships and Less on the Scale' Taleafoa Schuster (Tutulumanulagi Ltd)

**5.00-6.00: Reception** – 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Seminar Room Richardson Building

**6.00-7.00: Ron Lister Annual Lecture:** presented by Emeritus Prof. John Overton (Te Herenga Waka, Victoria University of Wellington): "From ruptures to resilience? Imagining relationship-based Development".

Venue: Moot Court: 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Richardson Building.

**7.00-8.30: On-line Discussion:** 'Global Development in Flux'

- Prof Sam Hickey, (Head, Global Development Institute, University of Manchester).
- Dr Rory Horner, (Global Development Institute, University of Manchester).
- Prof Emma Mawdsley, (University of Cambridge).
- Prof. Heather Worth, (Te Puna Vai Mārama, the Cook Islands Centre for Research).

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### **Day 2: 5 September**

#### **Session 4: Room 5N4: Richardson Building**

9.00-9.40: "From an Ideology of Place to an Ontology of Presence: Embedding Global Development in a New Framework for Oceania": Dr. Tui Rakuita (Sociology, Gender Studies and Criminology, School of Social Sciences, University of Otago).

9.40-10.20: "Foreign Data Prospectors, Mosquito Scientists and Parachute Consultants: the state of research funding in the Pacific": Prof. Heather Worth (Te Puna Vai Mārama Cook islands Research Centre).

10.20-11.00: "Flipping Localisation: Reimagining Power, Practice, and Possibility in Times of Flux": Sally Angelson (National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. Te Ao o Rongomaraeroa, University of Otago)

**11.00-11.30: Coffee and tea in 5N4**

#### **Session 5: 11.30-1.00 pm**

11.30-12.10: "Coordination in Chaos" – a brief look at disaster response mechanisms activated in Fiji and Vanuatu since the catastrophic TC Pam in 2015, TC Winston 2016, right up to the recent Earthquake in Vanuatu in 2024"

Mereoni Ketewai (Te Tumu School of Māori, Pacific & Indigenous Studies, University of Otago)

12.10-12.50: “Financial Inclusion Assemblages in the Pacific: The asocial Logic of a Contested Enterprise”: Assoc. Prof. Doug Hill (School of Geography, University of Otago).

12.50-1.00: Closing Discussion.

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**Zoom link:** for on-line participation:

<https://otago.zoom.us/j/94840390149?pwd=q6xMGqnnN24PVWR94bsalwMbviEgba.1>

Meeting ID: 948 4039 0149 Password: 688124