

Connected Oceans, Connecting People: Talanoa Across Contexts for Climate Change



Bethan Pearson
Supervised by Dr Tony Crook
Department of Social Anthropology



Introduction

This research explores:
The use of talanoa for climate change across three contexts of different scales

In order to argue:
This Pacific cultural storytelling process can create culturally appropriate collaboration and effective, meaningful climate action

And I propose:
The continual increase in using talanoa for climate change discussions, and open discussions about cautions and proposals for future practice

The Pacific and Climate Change

The Pacific peoples are on the **frontlines** of climate change¹ and have a long history **connected to their environments**, but **inaction and exclusion** in international spaces continues to threaten their homes

RELATIONALITY:

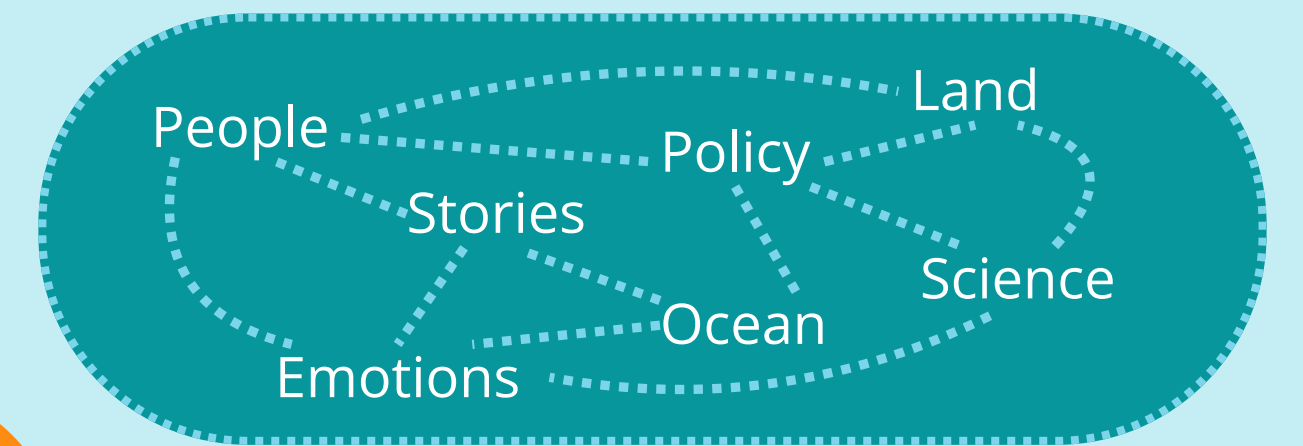
- Pacific worldview
- Everything exists within its relationships to the rest of the world²
- Can prompt creative solutions to protect people and the planet³
- Foundation of talanoa

Western views of relationships:

People — Nature or Stories — Science

VS

Pacific Relationality:



Talanoa: A Pacific cultural storytelling process in...

CULTURE

'Tala' ----- 'Noa'
To talk about nothing or find balance

- **Connects** people and strengthens relationships
- Stories increase **knowledge and understanding**
- Explores the complexity of relationality

Has been passed down across generations, so will always be a **natural way** for Pacific peoples **to discuss climate change**

ANTHROPOLOGY

Talanoa was developed into a research method and methodology to **understand Pacific perspectives**

Highly debated and specialised, but offers 2 important lessons:

1. Reflexivity⁴

self-reflection and recognising privilege and perspective

2. Co-production of knowledge⁵

Collaborating with Pacific people throughout the process for accurate and respectful knowledge

INTERNATIONAL SPACES

"Talanoa for ambition. Talanoa for action."
Fijian Prime Minister at COP23⁶

Used across COP23 and 24 to share stories, increase global ambitions, and **accelerate action to fight climate change**.

It focuses on:
Equality for creating diverse and constructive discussion +
Empathy for connecting people, increasing understanding, and complimenting science

Discussion: Stories to Navigate Scale

Issue:

Bridging the differences between complex **global and local scales** of analysing climate change⁷
Can be solved through...



To produce:

- ✓ Culturally appropriate collaboration
- ✓ Effective climate action
- ✓ Meaningful change

Proposals

1. Tauhi Vā

Nurturing the relationships⁸ formed in talanoa to continue action into the future

2. Being reflexive

Being conscious of how your own worldviews and emotions affect your standing and perspective

3. Having empathy

The foundation for genuine connection with others despite our differences to create action

There is more to learn!

Pacific cultures are rich and diverse, and talanoa is not the only way to engage with them

Scan for full research paper, my Laidlaw profile, and poster reference list



Cautions

- Talanoa must remain **authentically Pacific** wherever it is used
- Non-Pacific participants should be **aware of their power** to create action or perpetuate ignorance
- **Discuss the balance** between political pragmatism and purposeful perspective shifts through talanoa

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