

Toksave Pacific Gender Resource: a new home for quality research relating to gender in the Pacific

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The Toksave Pacific Gender Resource aims to address gender inequality in the Pacific by making quality research accessible and discoverable.

The idea for the Toksave Pacific Gender Resource was first sparked in 2014 when a group of Pacific gender specialists gathered at the University of the South Pacific. They were concerned that gender research, especially that undertaken by Pacific researchers, was not discoverable. Fast forward seven years, and on 23 April 2021, Toksave was launched at a side event of the 14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women.

Toksav is a website portal that aims to provide access to Pacific gender research, stimulate new research and discussion, and encourage mutual learning and research among diverse Pacific researchers. University students, researchers and anyone with an interest in the field of gender research will be able to access information from this mobile- and user-friendly website that currently has over 642 research items.

Toksav is unique in that it is owned by the community. Once registered, members can submit research to be published on Toksave, whether it be their own research or other research that is in the public domain or that they have permission to publish. Members can also submit events that might be of interest to the community, and participate in the discussion forum.

Toksav takes a broad approach to research, and publishes a range of resources that may include:

- original research based on the analysis of primary or secondary data,
- policy and evaluation-oriented research,

- research based on creative and performing arts, and
- completed high level degree theses.

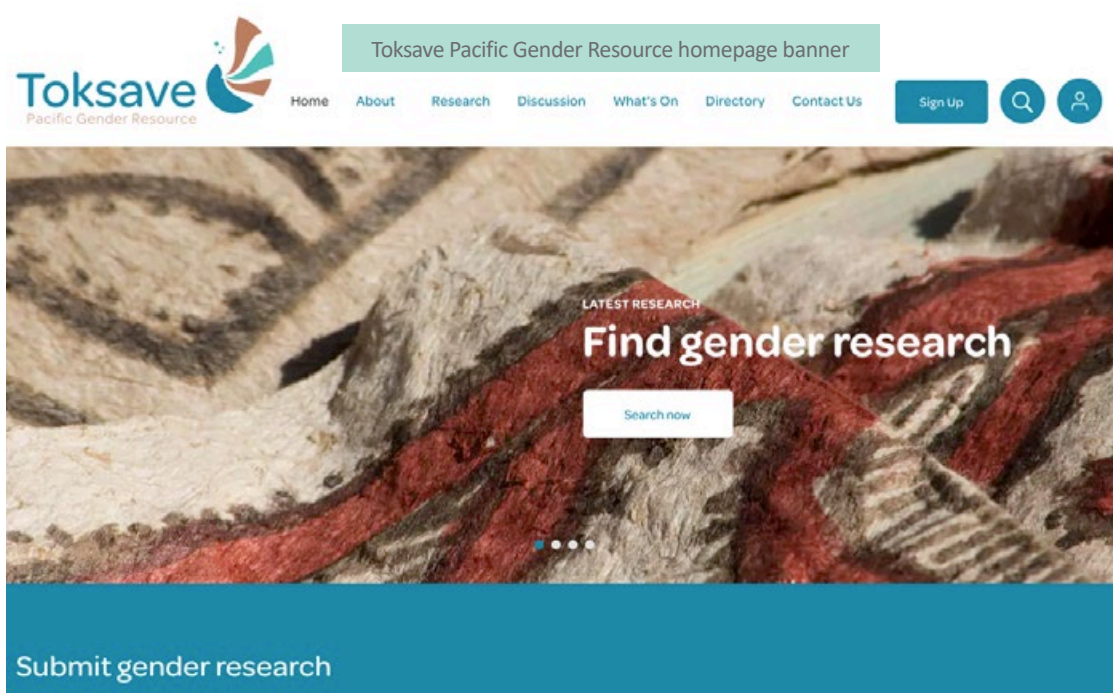
Research that is based on Pacific research methodologies and methods, involves Pacific-centred subject matter and affects Pacific communities is actively encouraged.

The name *Toksav* was suggested by Professor Betty Lovai, Pro Vice Chancellor of the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG). Linguistics lecturers at UPNG provided some information about the word. Toksave as a verb means to announce, to explain, to clarify, to call to attention, to inform, to report or to declare. As a noun, it means an announcement, declaring or reporting. The team creating the portal, who represented five different Oceanic countries, agreed that this was the perfect word to encapsulate what the portal was hoping to achieve.

Senior Lecturer and Deputy Head of the School of Law and Social Science at the University of the South Pacific Margaret Mishra says

Toksav brings together research that studies the production, reproduction and resistance to norms that produce inequality across all genders.

By having access to resources about men, women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex communities, we can better understand how gender is performed and woven into our everyday lives.



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We are in a better position to critique the structures and the practices that contribute to our oppression.

Mishra added that “Toksavé will offer a safe space for us to critically evaluate inequalities, highlighted through our research. Through these dialogues, we can bring about change in our homes, our communities, our countries, the region and the world.”

Associate Professor of Pacific Studies at the University of Auckland Yvonne Underhill-Sem said

Toksavé will highlight the pre-existing research and grow a community of researchers.

We wanted to be sure that Toksavé highlighted the research that was happening in our region, the ways it was done, and the connections to other older researchers and research entities.

We also need to build new generations of researchers who have the courage and confidence to be innovative and creative, so that we can bring those insights and make the kind of difference we really want.

Toksavé belongs to the people, and it is your one-stop platform for gender research in the Pacific.

The idea for Toksavé has been voiced and pondered for a number of years, with numerous consultations and scoping

studies undertaken. One of the participants in the early consultations said, “I’m nearly 50 now, I really want this portal to be completed in my lifetime”.

Professor Nicole Haley of the Department of Pacific Affairs at the Australian National University was instrumental in securing funding for the portal to be developed. She said,

I’m so pleased that the ANU was able to help bring the vision to life.

We really encourage anyone with an interest in Pacific gender research to sign up and become a member of the Toksavé community.

The site is a place where you can ask questions and go out to the community of practice (the other Toksavé members) if you want information, or you want to start a discussion.

This is a resource for all of us who are working in this space, who are committed to Pacific gender research and addressing systemic inequalities.

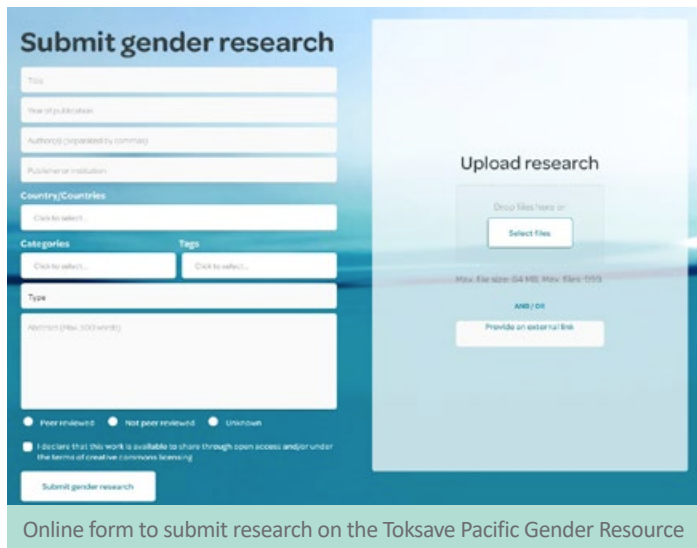
Toksavé has been well received by the community. As one of the attendees said at the launch event in April 2021, “Congratulations. So happy to see the Toksavé portal finally happen – in my lifetime as well!”

Creation of the Toksavé Pacific Gender Resource has been a collaborative effort. A Reference Group has overseen the development of the site, with members from institutions including National University of Samoa, University of Papua New Guinea, University of the South Pacific, University of Auckland, Australian National University and the Pacific Community (SPC).

You can find the Toksavé Pacific Gender Resource at www.toksavepacificgender.net

Acknowledgements

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Online form to submit research on the Toksavé Pacific Gender Resource



Discussion forum thread on the Toksavé Pacific Gender Resource



Example of research on the Toksavé Pacific Gender Resource