



Collaborative research to benefit industry and academia:  
Reflections on building a project

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Overview

The project

Building the team

The need for research on youth and leadership in the region

Connecting research with industry

The project approach

The challenges of collaboration



The project

The future of the Pacific: Youth leadership and civic engagement

ARC Discovery Grant 2022-2026

Partners from La Trobe University, Pacific Community, The Asia Foundation, The University of Otago and the Samoan MWCSD  
(As well as civil society representatives in each country)



Building the team

2+ years from initial conversations to application

Multiple iterations of potential partners  
(and the pitfalls of bureaucracy)

Commitments of partners

Taking the lead v. collaboration and consensus



## The need for research on youth and leadership in the region

- 18% of the population in the Pacific Islands Countries and territories is aged from 15 to 24 years old
- They are defined as the strength of families, communities and countries
- Approach over the years has always been tokenistic
- They are perceived as problematic
- Over the years young people have demonstrated great leadership in some areas
- Research has always been done by outsiders
- In search for solutions – we have always looked outside
- Pacific Island Countries and territories have our ways of knowing, ways of being and ways of understanding, these need to be woven into the narrative



## Connecting Research with Industry

There is a huge gap between Research and Policy implementation

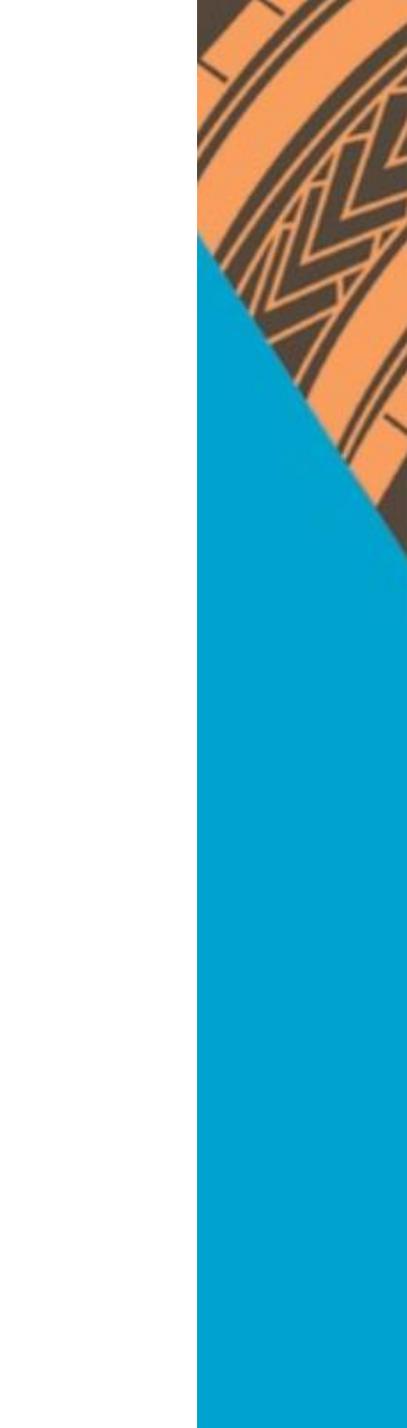
There is often a voice at the end that there is no data, lack of youth disaggregated data

If there is data its not used by policy makers, policy analyst to inform relevant and appropriate interventions

Pacific is always often lumped with Asia

The research should inform the industry's policy and program interventions

Idea of collective – oloolo pito vaa, mulumulu au foe faatasi



## The project approach

Multiple partners with varying levels of active engagement at any time

Flexible research design

Regular meetings and updates

Scaffolded communications across academia, industry and public



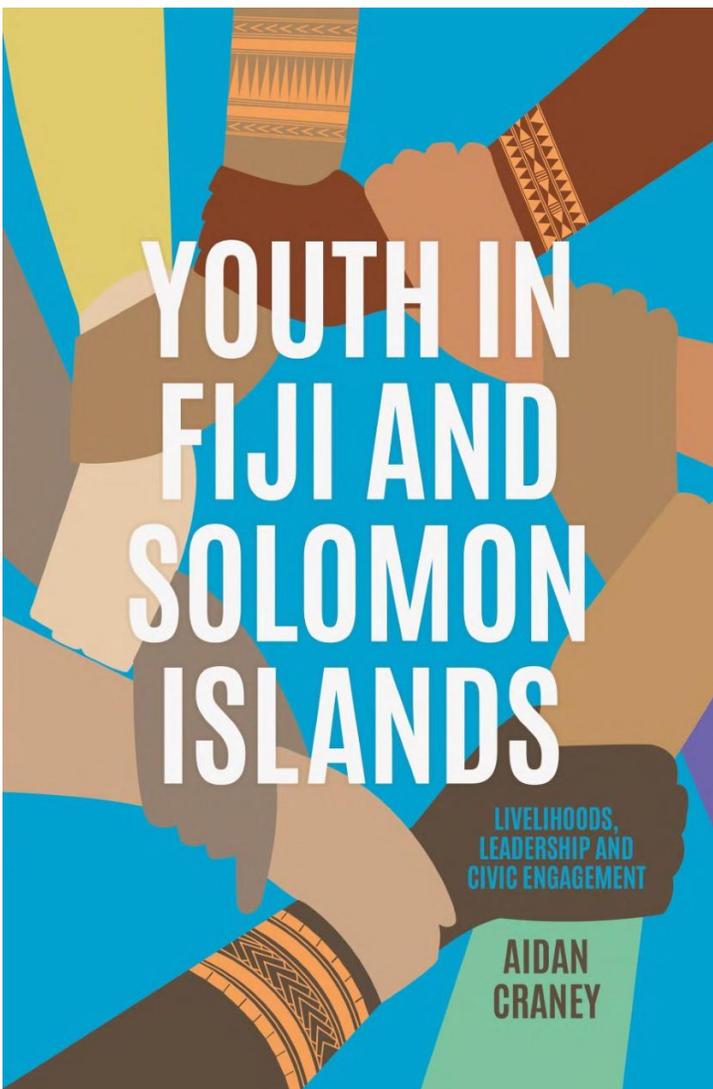
The challenges of collaboration

Not everyone has the same capacity

Balancing skillsets

Balancing bureaucratic needs

The risk of too many cooks



Shameless self promotion