

The journal of Contemporary Pasifika Theologies (CPT)

The Journal of Contemporary Pasifika Theologies (CPT) is a peer-reviewed open-access journal based at Pasifika Communities University (PCU) that provides a unique platform for theological scholarship from and about the Pasifika household.

The name *The Journal of Contemporary Pasifika Theologies* was chosen to indicate the journal's vision:

- **Contemporary**—The journal addresses issues that matter, real-life issues that affect Pasifika people today from a theological and ecumenical perspective. This does not exclude historical topics but situates them in a broader context drawn by the imperative of understanding the present and planning the future in light of the past to serve Pasifika communities.
- **Pasifika**—More than the mere geographical designation for the Pacific region, the journal understands “Pasifika” as a “new awareness,” a liberative mindset that reclaims faith and indigenous agency in articulating and transforming the development narrative and seeks justice and self-determination for Pasifika people.
- **Theologies**—Theological education should inform and transform public policies and development models. It rejects the “Onefication” of theology that has too often been imposed by colonisation, whether this be in the form of politics, economics, or religion. As a journal based at the only regional ecumenical university of the Pasifika churches, it seeks to promote diverse approaches and ways of theologising as well as diverse voices of communities, grounded in a commitment to the ‘whole of life’ vision and recognition of diverse forms of being and knowing that can coexist in mutual contradiction.

Rationale for the Journal

In Pasifika theologies, there is a need for:

1) High-quality peer-reviewed articles

Before CPT, there was no peer-reviewed and internationally visible academic journal dedicated specifically to the theologies of the Pacific region. CPT has been established to fill this gap in academic publishing and to provide the go-to place for theological discussions from and about Pasifika that meet international standards of academic quality assurance yet are driven by the wisdom of Pasifika communities.

2) Easily accessible open access publications

Academic publishing is a justice issue. Pasifika students and scholars are often excluded by the financial cost of academic literature, be it for online resources behind paywalls or for physical copies that come with added shipment and customs costs. While open access publications are free for the reader, they usually come with high open access publishing fees for the authors or their academic home institutions. With CPT, the PCU provides a platform that is both free to read and free to publish in, as a service to developing young theologians and strengthening theological education in the Pasifika household and beyond.

3) *Holistic theologising based on the Pasifika ‘whole of life’ principle*

As the home of ‘whole of life’ education, PCU stands for an approach to theologising that reaches into current discussions of societal and global relevance. CPT has been established as an internationally visible platform for Pasifika prophetic voices as well as international scholars writing about Pasifika. With a commitment to justice, self-determination, and a ‘whole of life’ vision, it seeks to publish research with a holistic and life-affirming outlook that serves the whole of the Pasifika household of God and beyond.

Key Objectives

- To publish critical theological engagements and articulation of contemporary issues that are of high relevance to the Pasifika household such as development, leadership, climate change, diplomacy, social cohesion, and the protection of land, sea, and people from exploitation.
- To showcase the diversity of Pasifika voices through sound academic work that draws on the richness of Pasifika thought, peoples, and cultures that can contribute to transforming theological education to read the signs of the time.
- To promote theological reflection and engagement that is visionary, prophetic, life-affirming, and dedicated to justice and a sustainable future for all, covering the whole breadth of theological fields, including history of Christianity, pastoral theology, ecumenical studies, missiology, interfaith studies, and ethics.
- To foster a ‘whole of life’ approach that resists dichotomies, onefication, and compartmentalisation and furthers an integral vision for humanity and the flourishing of the whole person.
- To disseminate the writing of established and younger-generation Pasifika theologians, inspiring innovative and creative theological thought for rethinking and restoring Pacific history, making sense of the present situation, and envisaging the region’s future.
- To encourage authors to explore how theological language rooted in Pasifika contexts and cultures can contribute to public policy discussions and development transformation.
- To publish exemplary research on ethical engagement with communities that can contribute to developing a strong Pasifika research culture and transforming the nature of research itself from a communities-based approach.
- To share key theological and ecumenical initiatives and developments from PCU to enhance exchange and collaboration between Pasifika and other regions.

History

CPT was initiated in 2023 by then Principal of Pacific Theological College (PTC), Rev. Dr Upolu Lumā Vaai, now the Manu Folau (Vice-Chancellor) of Pasifika Communities University. For the faculty and leadership of PTC, years of researching, publishing, and editing experience in the Pasifika context showed that a theological journal was needed. This journal would provide a peer-reviewed platform for academic articles to encourage the voice of theology in contemporary public issues, and to encourage research and conversation between older and younger theologians grounded in the Pasifika ‘whole of life’ vision. The idea and vision for the journal were presented to PTC faculty at the 2023 faculty retreat.

In early 2024, the first meeting of the editor and editorial team was held, and the name was set as *The Journal of Contemporary Pasifika Theologies*. It was decided that as inaugural issues, the first two issues of the journal should be dedicated to research connected to PTC/PCU and its key ideas, showcasing especially the

work of academics with a connection to the institution. In March 2024, a call for journal contributions was sent to selected academics who had worked at PTC or have recently been connected to the institution as visiting scholars. In early 2025, the first CPT editorial board was confirmed. CPT was officially launched during the launch celebrations of Pasifika Communities University. The launch of the journal, in other words, marks a shift of theological education in the region grounded in the ‘whole of life’ vision. The launch was held in the context of a workshop on the ‘whole of life’ vision in the presence of many regional and international academics, church leaders, civil societies, policy makers, and the ecumenical community. The first issue was published in July 2025.

Structure

The editor oversees the content and organisation of the journal. The journal is supported by an editorial board comprised of regional and international experts. An editorial support team based at Pasifika Communities University closely collaborates with the editor in the daily editorial processes from peer review to author communication.

CPT publishes original research articles, book reviews, opinion pieces, poems, research frameworks, and other documents that contribute to Pasifika theological talanoa. CPT accepts submissions from anywhere in the world and issues both open and thematic calls for submissions. Occasionally, it also directly invites submissions from scholars whose research and previous publications align with the key objectives of the journal. All original research articles are sent out for double blind peer review.

CPT is published by the PCU Press, an academic publisher established and run by Pasifika Communities University. The journal is published twice a year and publishes both regular issues and special issues by a guest editor or team of guest editors. It is primarily published as an online open access journal but each issue also has a small print run, primarily to be held for reference in the PCU library.