

CONTRIBUTORS

Faafetai Aiava is a Samoan-born theologian and pastor from the Congregational Christian Church and currently serves as Associate Professor and Head of the Theology and Ethics Discipline at Pasifika Communities University in Fiji.

Melanie Barbato is a Senior Lecturer at Pasifika Communities University in Fiji. Her academic focus is on (inter)religious communication. She holds a doctorate in Indology and Religious Studies from LMU Munich and a Licence in Divinity from Maryvale Institute, Birmingham. She also coordinates the Network of Hinduism in Dialogue that is based at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies.

Stephen Burns is Professor of Liturgical and Practical Theology at Pilgrim Theological College, University of Divinity, Melbourne, Australia. Recent publications include *Anglican Theology: Postcolonial Perspectives*, edited with James Tenganaga (London: SCM Press, 2024) and *Feminist Theologies: A Companion*, edited with Kerrie Handasyde and Katharine Massam (London: SCM Press, 2024). He is co-editor, with Victoria Turner, of *International Journal for the Study of the Christian Church*.

Carlos Caldas holds degrees in Theology and Literature. He received his doctorate in Religious Studies from São Paulo Methodist University. Currently, he is a Professor at the Post-Graduate Department of Religious Studies at Pontifical Catholic University of Minas, Belo Horizonte, Brazil. His academic research has two main foci: the dialogue between theology and the arts, with emphasis on literature, and public theology, from the perspective of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's theology.

Brian Philip Dunn is Lecturer and Head of the History discipline at Pasifika Communities University, Fiji. Having lived in Zambia, Canada, the U.K., the U.S., and India, he brings intercultural, ecumenical, and interreligious experience to his work. He holds an M.St. in the History of Religions and a D.Phil. in Comparative Theology, both from Oxford University. His research focuses on the early Church Fathers, the history of global Christianity—including Indian and Pasifika Christianity—and Christian engagement

with other religious traditions, particularly Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam. He is the author of *A. J. Appasamy and His Reading of Rāmānuja* (OUP).

John G. Flett is Professor of Missiology and Intercultural Theology at Pilgrim Theological College, University of Divinity, Senior Research Associate, Faculty of Humanities, University of Johannesburg, South Africa, and Außerplanmäßiger Professor of the Kirchliche Hochschule, Wuppertal, Germany. He is also Minister of the Word in the Uniting Church in Australia. His most recent publications include *Apostolicity: The Ecumenical Question in World Christian Perspective* (IVP, 2016), and *Questions of Context* (IVP, 2020).

P. Zubeno Kithan, a Lotha Naga from Nagaland, India, holds Master and Doctor of Theology degrees in Pastoral Theology and Care from the United Theological College, Bengaluru. Following the completion of her doctorate in 2019, she taught at Union Biblical Seminary, Pune, Maharashtra. In 2024, she joined Pasifika Communities University, Fiji, as a Senior Lecturer in Practical Ministry. Her research focuses on a transformative vision of pastoral theology by centring women's lived experiences in patriarchal, postcolonial contexts and reimagining care through the lens of Indigenous wisdom, collective trauma, and decolonial, justice-driven frameworks.

Bendanglemla Longkumer is Associate Professor in Theology and Ethics at Pasifika Communities University, Fiji. Alongside teaching and supervising, she is involved in research and writing, which is published in journals and books. Her writings include *Christ, The Healer: Exploring Indigenous People's Spirituality* (Christian World Imprints), which was awarded the J. G. Franklin Award for Theological Books in 2019. Her recent work includes "Adverse Effects of Covid-19, Globalization and Modern Day Slavery: Towards Interdependence, Solidarity and Radical Hospitality", in the *International Journal of Public Theology* 18 (2024) 509-527 (doi:10.1163/15697320-20241589).

Nikotemo Sopepa is Head of the Ecumenism Discipline at the School of Theology and Ecumenism, Pasifika Communities University. He holds a Masters of Theology from Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, USA and a Ph.D. from the Pasifika Communities University. His area of interest is in the intersectionality of theology and politics, Pasifika philosophy and spiritualities, and rereading of scriptures and theology through Pasifika hermeneutics and epistemologies. He is an ordained minister of the Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu. He hails from the island of Kioa in Buca Bay, Cakaudrove, Fiji. He is married with two children.

Tamasailau Suaalii-Sauni is of Samoan descent, with ancestral links to Tonga and Fiji. She is the daughter of Ta'oa Unatea Makerita Suaalii and Leauanae Tuimavave Luamanuvae Matiasi Suaalii. She hails from the Samoan villages of Saoluafata, Salani, Saleaumua, Amaile/Samusu and Iva (Savaii). Tamasailau is currently an Associate Professor with the criminology programme, at University of Auckland. Her current research interests include Indigenous jurisprudence in the Pacific, Indigenous research methodologies and ethics, and the relationship between law, culture, and justice.

Afereti Uili is from Samoa. He is a facilitator of learning in the Biblical Studies discipline at the Pasifika Communities University. He facilitates Hebrew Bible/Old Testament studies, and is also the Head of the Biblical Studies discipline. His long-term project is a 'reweaving of the biblical mat', more appropriate for Pasifika inspirations and purposes.

