Imagining Networks in Anthropological Research on Tuberculosis in the Pacific

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Tuvalu, formerly Ellice Islands, and part of the Western Pacific Commission

Inter-island travel is by boat

Map courtesy Setapu Resture
Funafuti from the air
Connections: the hotel on Funafuti and Sky Pacific
Saying goodbye to the first group of seasonal workers leaving for NZ under the new scheme in Feb 2008, Funafuti airport
Climate change and other issues

Pulaka pit and surface water

WW2 airstrip borrow pit, under water

Borrow pit and rubbish disposal
Raised beds for fruit and veges courtesy of Taiwan Development Aid
Auckland community organised around islands and churches
10 years of TB in NZ

![Graph showing TB incidence rates by ethnic group for 1997-2002 and 2003-2008.](chart)

- European: 3, 1.6
- All groups: 15.6, 14.6
- Pacific: 20.7, 30.3
- Tuvaluan: 3.15, 380

Courtesy of Auckland Regional Public Health Service
TB rates, Western Pacific, 2006

Courtesy Auckland Regional Public Health Service
A TB Awareness meeting in Auckland in 2009
Tuvalu ‘village’ at 2010 Pasifika festival, Auckland
External context:
Collaboration with communities, health professionals, govt & NGOs in 3 countries; other research groups

Historical Study

- History of:
  - TB and health status
  - Public health control and organisation
  - Economic and political standing of country
  - International relationships particularly migration
  - [Bryder - TB & NZ; Herda - Pacific Islands & health; Friesen, Underhill-Sem - Demography and migration]

Ethnographies

- Contemporary status:
  - Current health status
  - Current socioeconomic conditions
  - Current migration status, transnational linkages
  - Current demography
  - [Littleton, Park - health data; Friesen - demography; Underhill-Sem - Cook Islands; A & K Chambers - Tuvalu]

Intervention Studies

- Outcomes:
  - Identification of areas for policy intervention
  - Working with communities to identify priorities
  - Planning with communities intervention projects
  - Applying with communities for funds
  - [Neuwelt, Hand - health care interventions; Littleton, Park - stakeholder consultation & feedback; Kearns - health policy networks]

- Life histories of individuals & communities:
  - Routes to disease
  - Patterns of movement & connections between here & there
  - Experience of & access to health care system
  - Socioeconomic status, housing etc.
  - Effectiveness of treatment
  - Impact of disease
  - [Park, Littleton - anthropological methods; Kearns - geography; Underhill-Sem - geography & Cook Is.; A & K Chambers - anthropology and Tuvalu]

Internal context:
Meetings, reading/writing groups, monitoring & support of emerging researchers, workshops, seminars etc.
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Roof decoration, Tuvalu church, Auckland