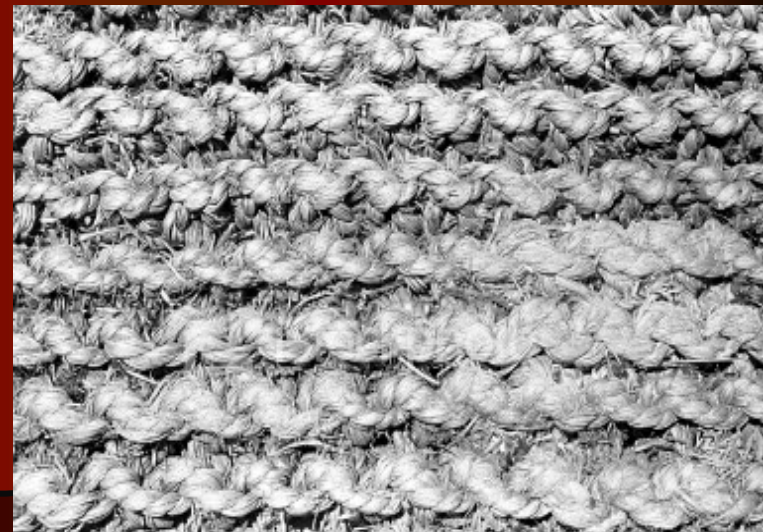
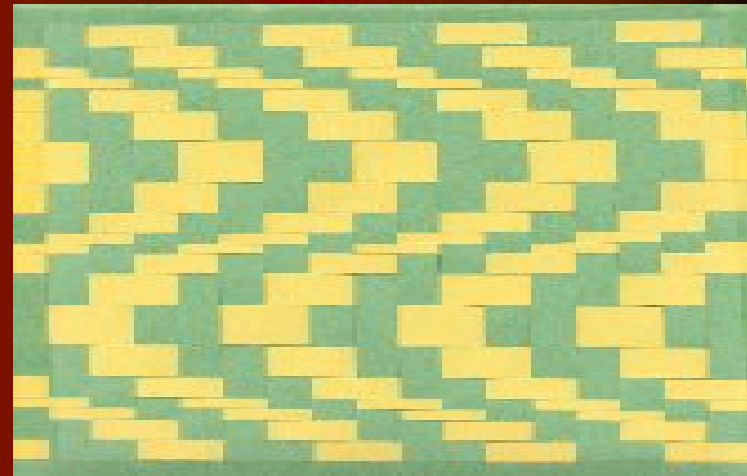


Weaving good governance into Pacific traditional societies in transition

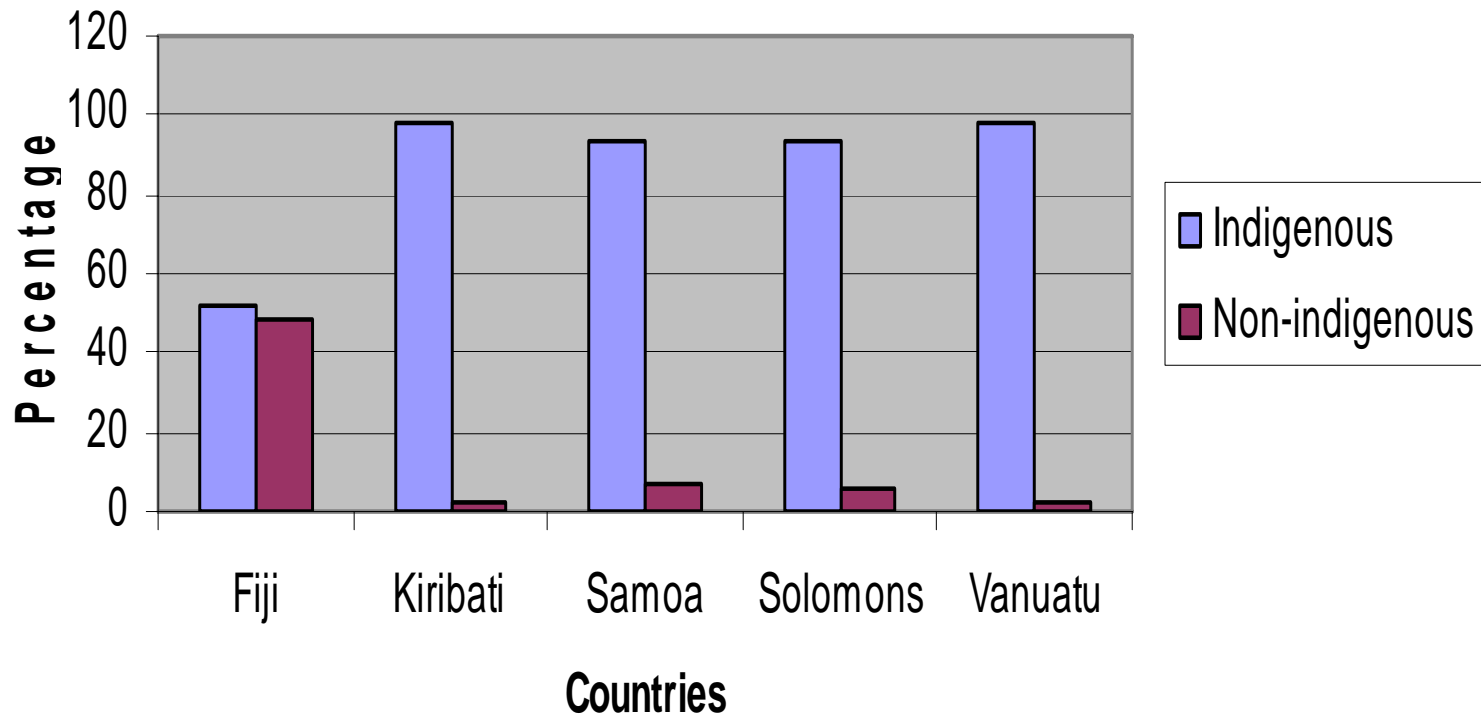
Steve Ratuva



Weaving metaphor: Diverse patterns

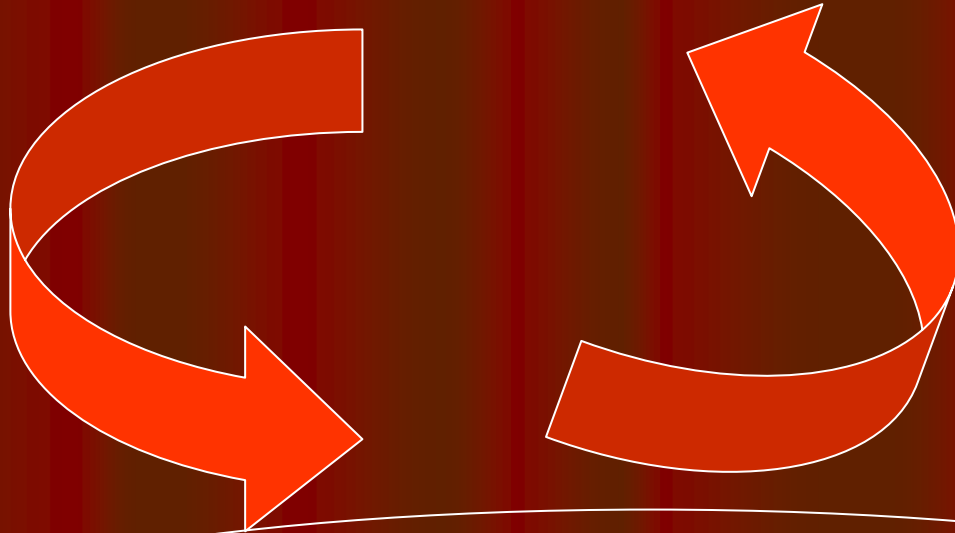


Proportion of indigenous population



Relationship: Good governance and traditional culture

Culture incorporated into governance: Pacific Plan



"Good governance" incorporated into traditional societies

Reconceptualizing good governance

- **“Good” governance** too moralistic and universalistic



- **“Appropriate” governance** more applicable

Governance

- Behavioural: Individual conduct
- Normative: Collective values, principles
- Institutional: Structures, processes

Broad Pacific cultural indicators of "transition"

Traditional	Transition	Modern
Collective	Collective rights individual rights	Individual
Subsistence	Reciprocity, commodification	Market
Holistic	Integrated life, specialized profession	Differentiated
Traditional politics	Consensual politics, choice politics	Democracy
Kinship	Social investment, institutional loyalty	Merit
Restorative	Collective resolution of conflict, courts	Retributive

Some "good governance" norms and cultural perception

Norms	Pacific customary	Western
Transparency	Collective knowledge	Public accountability
Accountability	Customary authority	Institutional authority/public
Honesty	Diverse conceptions	Ethical guidelines
Nepotism	Social investment	Misuse of resources
Truth	Diverse conceptions	Diverse conceptions

Way forward: Dialogue between "traditional" and "modern"

- Not discard "traditional" as outdated
- Not discard "modern" as decadent
- Allow for innovative choices from both
- Create new synthesis between the two to suit circumstances

Basis for choices

Choices not to be based on what is globally fashionable or imposed but...

- Enhances collective welfare
- Sustains individual wellbeing
- Provides basic needs
- Maintains security and stability
- Ensures prosperity
- Provides empowerment
- Promotes self-realization and identity
- Human integrity
- Promotes equity and justice

“Good governance” in the Pacific

- Can't use an imposed rigid template
- Respond to international conventions
- Use what is proven to be effective
- Use what best serve “basis for choice”
- Represents collective will
- Weaving metaphor: Diverse patterns