

**Seuta’afili Dr Patrick Thomsen** is of Samoan descent and is currently a lecturer in global studies at the University of Auckland, recently housed as a lecturer in Pacific studies at the University of Auckland’s Te Wānanga o Waipapa School of Māori Studies and Pacific Studies and teaching into the Asian studies, gender studies and arts scholars programmes. He completed his doctoral training at the University of Washington in Seattle and holds a MA in international studies from Seoul National University.



As the first Samoan scholar to complete a PhD in Korean studies and international studies anywhere in the world, his research and teaching straddles multiple social and cultural worlds. His doctoral study was the first to deploy Pacific research methodologies and ethics to investigate the complex factors that impact the (in)visibility of Korean gay men in a transnational setting (Seattle and Seoul).

He is a former Chairperson for Pasifika Connect South Korea, an organisation dedicated to creating community and pastoral care for Pacific people in South Korea after helping to co-found the Pasifika Connect Cultural night in Seoul.

As an interdisciplinary scholar, his work is positioned at many edges including the Pacific and Asia, whilst running research projects that currently deal with how race, religion, culture, community and the impacts of colonialism, shape discourses and relationships between queer Pacific worlds and communities among New Zealand’s Pacific population.

His published work speaks to international development, Samoa – Korea relations, Pacific pedagogies, Pacific research, human rights, Korean studies and gender and sexuality studies. He is currently the principal investigator for the Manalagi Project, New Zealand’s first health and wellbeing project focused specifically on the wellbeing of Pacific Rainbow+ communities. He is also the Pacific Data Co-Lead for the Human Rights Measurement Initiative and is a prolific writer and public commentator having written for many of New Zealand’s premier news outlets and is a columnist with E-Tangata, New Zealand’s only Māori and Pacific weekly magazine.