

Manpreet Kaur

Cert. Comp. NZPTC, BEd USP, PGDip, MA UniFiji

Bio: Manpreet Kaur began her teaching career as a graduate of the University of the South Pacific, where she majored in Literature and Language. After teaching in various secondary schools, and completing a Master of Arts in English Literature, she joined The University of Fiji as a Lecturer in Linguistics. Her teaching specializations include Linguistics, Teaching English as a Second Language, and English for Academic Purposes, and selected Literature courses at The University of Fiji. She is actively engaged in research work, bidding for Fiji Higher Education Commission (FHEC) Grants and awarded six interdisciplinary research grants in the last three years. She has presented and participated in a number of international conferences in Fiji and Australia. Recently, Manpreet has been engaged with two successful International and Local conferences held at The University of Fiji, where she headed the first Student Volunteer Programme, utilizing 25 Student Volunteers for manning the overall logistics of the two conferences namely Girit Conference and Knowledge Based Development Conference held at UniFiji on the 6th of May, 2017. Other than that, Manpreet is a Board Member of Sathya Sai Institute of Human Values. She also serves as a Non-professorial representative in The University of Fiji Council – an ardent member of the Council. Manpreet, who is also a poet, is currently developing her life writing – a sample of which appears in LLC's forthcoming issue of Landings. As an early career academic, Manpreet has published collaborative papers in peer reviewed journals. She also won a 3rd best paper award for a collaborative interdisciplinary paper in a Symposium on Climate Change and Adaptation in the Pacific Region in collaboration with The University of Fiji, The Research and Transfer Centre, "Applications of Life Sciences' of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences Germany and International Climate Change Information Programme ICCIP at Tanoa Waterfront Hotel in Lautoka, from 26th to 28th of July, 2016. The title of paper presented: Customary Land and Climate Change Induced Relocation – A Case Study of Vunidogoloa Village, Vanua Levu, Fiji. She has an anthology of poems titled: Echoes of My Footprints, her first book, to her credit.

RESEARCH PROFILE

Research Focus

- 1) ***Current Research work for PhD in English Literature*** from The University of Fiji– area of study: 'Revisiting Memory and History: Creating narratives through Indo-Fijian woman's Perspective.
- 2) ***Current Research project: 2018-2019 titled:*** Feminization of Market Gardening – a case study of Fijian Women in Sigatoka Valley, Fiji. A collaborative research project with Ms. Sanjaleen Prasad of Department of Language, Literature and Communications, School of Humanities and Arts, The University of Fiji.

Local and International Conferences:

Presented papers

- 1) Presented a joint paper titled: 'Changing Identities and Shifting Trends' with Dr. Kamala Naiker via Google Meet, Virtual platform for World Indian Diaspora Conference 2020, on the theme: *Celebration of the Formal Abolition of Indian Indentureship (1920) organized in Trinidad and Tobago – 22 and 23 August, 2020.*
- 2) Scientific Poster Presentation at 2nd International Conference on Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific Region at Waterfront Hotel, Tanoa Lautoka on 21-22 August, 2019. Title of the Poster: ***Place Attachment and Cultural Barriers to Climate Change Induced Relocation: Lessons from Vunisavisavi Village, Vanua Levu, Fiji.***
- 3) Presented two papers at International Conference on Forced Labour and Migration at The University of Fiji – 15-17 July, 2019. Title: **Identity and Home: Where Do We Really Belong?** Manpreet Kaur & Avitesh Deepak Kumar. Manpreet Kaur and Shalen Kumar: Forced Labor and Migration Conference 2019 Fiji: 15th -17th July, 2019 Title: **'Home and Identity – Matrabhoomi to Karambhoomi'.**
- 4) USAID's Pacific American Climate Fund UniFiji Project **Symposium on Interdisciplinary Ocean Science and Sustainable Management** at Sofitel in Nadi, Fiji, on the 28th of September, 2018.
Paper title – *Place Attachment and Cultural Barriers to Climate Change Induced Relocation: Lessons from Vunisavisavi Village, Vanua Levu, Fiji.* Authors: **Dhrishna Charan, Manpreet Kaur and Priyatma Singh UniFiji.**
- 5) **Vaka Pasifiki Education Conference held at The University of the South Pacific, Laucala Campus, Suva 5-6 July, 2018, titled: *Probing the place of English Language in Fijian Classrooms – Language facilitators' perspective.*** Presented a joint paper with Avitesh Deepak Kumar, Senior English Teacher at Ratu Navula Secondary School, Nadi.
- 6) **The Regional Language Centre (RELC) 53rd Conference** in Singapore from 12-14 March, 2018, titled: **'Brain-based Learning in Second Language Acquisition'.** Presented the paper on 13th March, 2018 in Singapore.
- 7) **Knowledge-based Development Conference 2017** held at The University of Fiji on 6th May, 2017. Presented a joint paper with Ms. Sanjaleen Prasad of The University of Fiji on the title:

Fijian Women – Key providers to Sustainable Development goals (a case Study of The University of Fiji).

- 8) **International Conference to Commemorate the Centennial of the Abolition of Indian Indentureship** (CCAI) held at The University of Fiji from March 22 - March 24, 2017. Presented three papers in CCAI:
 - a. Collaborative paper with Ms. Dhrishna Charan, Ms. Manpreet Kaur and Ms. Priyatma Singh. Titled: *Fijian Women's Role in Disaster Risk Management – Climate Change*.
 - b. Ms. Manpreet Kaur – Title: *Fly Away oh Bird! Painful History of Indian Indentured labourers in Fiji* on 23rd March, 2017.
 - c. Joint paper: Ms. Manpreet Kaur and Ms. Sanjaleen Prasad – Title: *Home, Migration and New Identities – Fijian Girmityas* on 23rd March, 2017 at 3.40pm.
- 9) **PESA Conference 2016** on *Knowledge Ecologies* at Warwick Resort, Sigatoka, Fiji Islands from 8-12 December, 2016. Presented a joint paper with Ms. Sanjaleen Prasad of The University of Fiji on the title: The Demands of Future Education.
- 10) Symposium on ***Climate Change and Adaptation in the Pacific Region*** in collaboration with The university of Fiji, The Research and Transfer Centre, "Applications of Life Sciences' of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences Germany and International Climate Change Information Programme ICCIP at Tanoa Waterfront Hotel in Lautoka, Fiji Islands from 26th to 28th of July, 2016. The title of paper presented on 26th July, 2016: *Customary Land and Climate Change Induced Relocation – A Case Study of Vunidogoloa Village, Vanua Levu, Fiji*. Dhrishna Charan. Manpreet Kaur. Priyatma Singh. Department of Science – The University of Fiji, Department of Language and Literature and Communications – The University of Fiji, Department of Science – The University of Fiji.
- 11) **Institute of Interdisciplinary Inquiry** and The University of Fiji conjoint conference titled: *Diaspora of the Pacific: Multilateral, Intergenerational and Transnational Contexts* held at Anchorage Beach Resort, Fiji Islands from 22nd to 25th April 2016. The title of paper presented: *Fiji-Hindi – a vibrant living identity*.
- 12) **The 20th Annual Conference of AAWP: "Writing the ghost train | Rewriting, remaking, rediscovering,"** at Swinburne University, Melbourne, Australia, from 29 November 2015 to 1 December 2015. Nature of Conference: Literary Studies and Creative Writing. Paper entitled "The 'invigorated' text: *Ramayana* and the Indian Diaspora." Co-author: Dr Victoria Reeve.

Publications

Book

- 1) Kaur, Manpreet (2015). *Echoes of my Footprints*. An Anthology of Poems. University of Fiji. Pp.1-83.

Scholarly Journals

1. **Kaur, M.**, & Prasad, S. (2020). Fijian Women – Key Providers to Sustainable Development Goals (A Case Study of the University of Fiji). *Contemporary Research in Education and English Language Teaching*, 2(1), 1-15. Retrieved from <http://learning-gate.com/index.php/2641-0230/article/view/69>
2. Ali, W. & **Kaur, M.** (2020). 'Mediating Educational Challenges Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic', *Asia Journal of Contemporary Education and Communication Technology*, vol. Issue. 2. pp. 40-57. Available at: <http://apiar.org.au/?journal=asia-pacific-journal-of-contemporary-education-and-communication-technology>
3. Bai, A., Kaur, M. & Lord, R. (2019) 'Climate change implications in Fiji and the need to redevelop Educational Policies in Fiji Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment' *Staff and Educational Development International* 23(2). 91-100.
4. Chand, R. R., **Kaur, M.**, & Singh, P. (2018) 'Reformations and Promoting Active Learning via Course Based Research [CRB] at the University of Fiji'. *Asian Journal of Distance Education*, 13 (2). Pp. 20-31.
5. **Kaur, M** & Kumar, A. (2017). Non-communicable Diseases – A Grave Concern for Fiji. *Southern Hemisphere Medical Journal*. <http://www.pacificmedicals.org/>. Pp. 11-18.
6. Kaur, M. & **Prasad, S.** (2017) 'Home, Migration and New Identities: Some Reflections' *Fijian Studies: A Journal of Contemporary Fiji*, 15(1) 145-158.
7. **Kaur, M.** & Prasad, S. (2017) 'The Future Demands of Education in Fijian Classrooms' *IOSR Journal of Humanities & Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*, 22(3) 54-58.
8. Charan, Dhrishna., **Kaur, Manpreet.**, Singh, Priyatma. (2016). Fijian Women's Role in Disaster Risk Management – Climate Change. *Pacific Asia Inquiry*, 7 (1). <http://www.uog.edu/pai>.
9. **Kaur, Manpreet** and Singh, Priyatma. 2016. Promoting Second Language Development in Fijian Classrooms. *International Journal of Humanities and Cultural Studies*, 3 (2), Pp.897-906.
10. Article: interdisciplinary – **Kaur, Manpreet** and Bai, Atelini. Practicum Teaching Quality for Educators and aspiring teachers in Fiji – a case study of selected high schools in Viti Levu and Vanua Levu in *International Journal of Humanities and Cultural Studies*, 2 (4), 2016. Pp.283-311.
11. Article: interdisciplinary – Goundar, Prashneel and **Kaur, Manpreet**. Multilingualism, the Linguistic Landscape of Fiji. *International Journal of Humanities and Cultural Studies*, 2 (4) 2016. Pp. 625- 632.
12. Goundar, Prashneel and **Kaur, Manpreet**. The Artist as a Healer: A Glimpse of Satendra Nandan's writing as a Healer. *International Journal of Humanities and Cultural Studies*, 2 (3) 2015. Pp.480-491.

Book Chapter

- 1) Kumar, A., & **Kaur, M** (2020). "Probing the Place of English Language in Fiji Secondary Schools in the Present Day – from English Facilitators' Perspectives: in *It takes an island and an Ocean*, Pp 2-17. Available at:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/5sjfmzpo02gra0p/It%20takes%20an%20island%20and%20an%20ocean%20%282020%29.pdf?dl=0>
- 2) **Kaur, M.** & Prasad, S. (2020). 'Parental Involvement for Literacy Achievement in Fiji Classrooms', In F. Altinay and Z. Altinay (Eds.), *Online Pedagogy and Management for Smart Societies*, pp. 125-140, Turkey: Pegem Publications. Available at
<https://www.pegem.net/k Kitabevi/index.aspx>
- 3) Singh P., Charan D., **Kaur M.**, Railoa K., Chand R. (2020) 'Place Attachment and Cultural Barriers to Climate Change Induced Relocation: Lessons from Vunisavisavi Village, Vanua Levu, Fiji', in: Leal Filho W. (eds) *Managing Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific Region*. Climate Change Management. Springer, Cham.
https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-40552-6_2
- 4) **Kaur, M.** (2018) "Reminiscing my First Publication". In Goundar, P. R. & Maharaj, V. K. (Eds.) (2018) *Writing and Publishing in Fiji: Narratives from Fijian Writers*, USP Press, Suva. 81-84.
- 5) Charan, D., **Kaur, M.** & Nadan P. (2017) 'Customary Land and Climate Change Induced Relocation—A Case Study of Vunidogoloa Village, Vanua Levu, Fiji'. In Leal, W. and Lojewski, J. (Eds.) (2017) *Climate Change Adaptation in Pacific Countries*, Springer International Publishing, Germany. Pp. 19-33.
http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-50094-2_2
- 6) **Kaur, M.** (2016) in 'English Communications Year 12', Curriculum Development Unit, Ministry of Education, Fiji, (2016) *Beauty of Language and Literature*. Pp. 139-140.

Review

- 1) Chand, G., **Kaur, M.**, Lal, P. C., Prasad, S., Kumar, S. & Prasad, R. (2018) 'Education in the Pacific, as Explored in Academic Journals: A Bibliography' *Pacific Journal of Education* 2(1) 33-154.
- 2) **Kaur, M.** (2018) 'What's in the Skin?' *Pacific Journal of Education* 2(1) 156-159.

- 3) **Kaur, M** and Prasad, S. (2017) 'A Review Essay: Quality Teachers and Teacher Education in Fiji *Identities, Challenges & Priorities. Final Report 2011*' *Pacific Journal of Education*, 1(1) 147-154.
 - 4) **Kaur, M.**, Kumar, S. & Prasad, S. (2017) 'A Review Essay: 'Discussions and Debates in Pacific Education, by Jeremy Dorovolomo & others (eds)' *Pacific Journal of Education*, 1(2) 141-154.
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Kaur, M. (2018). *Rethinking and Revisiting Education for Sustainable Development* in Fiji Teachers Union 2018 88th Annual Conference and AGM. Pp.85-86.

Research interests and grants

- 1) **2019-2020** Grant Application for research project titled: Feminization of Market Gardening – a case study of Fijian Women in Sigatoka Valley, Fiji – Budget \$12,162.00. Research Collaboration with Ms. Sanjaleen Prasad of Department of Language, Literature and Communication of School of Humanities and Arts.
- 2) **2017-2018** Grant application for research Project titled: *Material Evaluation and Analysis: Relevance and Appropriateness of Year 11-13 English Language Teaching Materials* – Budget \$5,895.
- 3) **2016-2017** Grant Application for an interdisciplinary Research Project titled: *Parental Involvement for Literacy Achievement in Fiji Schools*. Application bid for \$5000: Research Collaboration with Ms. Sanjaleen Prasad of Department of Language, Literature and Communication of School of Humanities and Arts.
- 4) **2016-2017** Grant Application for an interdisciplinary Research Project titled: *Climate change implications in Fiji and the need to redevelop educational policies in Fiji Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment*. Application bid for \$8000: Research Collaboration with Ms. Atelini Bai –Department of Education, School of Humanities and Arts and Ms. Rigieta Lord – Department of Education, School of Humanities and Arts.
- 5) **2015-2016** Grant Application for an interdisciplinary Research Project titled: *Climate Change Adaptation – Women's coping mechanisms in Ba District, Western Viti Levu, Fiji Islands*. Approval granted for \$4000: Research Collaboration with Ms. Priyatma Singh of School of Science and Technology.
- 6) **2015-2016** "Diasporic Networks and Communities: Interdisciplinary approaches to the effects of large-scale social and ethnic upheaval, movement and resettlement." A joint project with Dr. Victoria Reeve of LLC UniFiji. Approval granted for \$8,300.
- 7) **2014-2015** Grant Application submitted for Research Project titled: *Practicum Teaching Quality for Educators and Aspiring Teachers in Fiji* – A case study of selected High schools in

Viti Levu and Vanua Levu - Approval granted for \$10,300: Research Collaboration with Ms. Atelini Bai of Education Department.

Scientific Paper Presentation

- 1) Scientific Poster Presentation at 2nd International Conference on Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific Region at Waterfront Hotel, Tanoa Lautoka on 21-22 August, 2019. Title of the Poster: ***Place Attachment and Cultural Barriers to Climate Change Induced Relocation: Lessons from Vunisavisavi Village, Vanua Levu, Fiji.***
- 2) **Kaur, Manpreet.,** Charan, Dhrishna and Singh, Priyatma collaborative Scientific Poster on *Customary Land and Climate Change Induced Relocation – A Case Study of Vunidogoloa Village, Vanua Levu, Fiji.* The poster was presented by Priyatma Singh on 9th February, at AMOS/MSNZ Conference and ANZCF 2017 - Manning Clark Centre, ANU, Canberra 7-10 February 2017.