

THE PACIFIC WAY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING MATHEMATICS

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Abstract: The mathematics that is taught in schools around the world is often regarded as a socially and culturally neutral body of facts and procedures. It has also been widely assumed that there is only one effective way to convey these skills from one generation to the next, no matter the cultural practices and languages of learners and their teachers. Accordingly, students of mathematics in the Pacific region have learned mathematics in much the same ways as students in classrooms around the globe. This paper examines the idea that teaching mathematics in the Pacific can and should take account of the unique and diverse characteristics and experiences of Pacific Island teachers and learners, and discusses examples of pedagogies that reflect what could be termed a pacific way of teacher/learner interactions.