Experiencing Difference - Women’s Involvement in Pentecostal/Evangelical Churches in Urban Fiji (Suva)

The paper will discuss urban Fijian women’s ideas about and expectations from their affiliation with Pentecostal/Evangelical Churches. These ideas not only reflect efforts to negotiate gender relations, they also point towards a growing sense of class differences experienced by Fijians in a sub-urban low-income settlement of Suva. Pentecostalism/Evangelicalism seems to offer comfort and was perceived supportive in order to employ individual strategies facing situations of loss (desertion, widowhood) and economic poverty. At the same time, women were willing to differentiate themselves from the majority of Fijians (as represented by the Methodist Church) including husbands and in-laws.

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