

The potential of multi-ethnic Fiji Islander sociality: A comparative perspective of two migrant settings (Japan and the United Kingdom)

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To date, anthropologists working in Fiji and the Fiji diaspora have focused almost exclusively on only one of the various ethnic groups that constitute the population of Fiji and paid scant attention to inter-ethnic relations beyond the political sphere. This paper builds on work in progress and addresses this gap by exploring the potential of multi-ethnic Fiji Islander sociality in two migrant settings, Japan and the United Kingdom, through the lens of a socio-cultural function in Tokyo and a meeting of a formal migrant organisation in London. While such events demonstrate the protagonists' sense of common diasporic belonging, they also reveal ongoing tensions among them. These tensions are shaped by discourses and practices of ethnic othering and blur additional factors of social stratification. Drawing on sociality and (multi-)ethnicity as a broad theoretical framework and taking into consideration inter-ethnic relations in Fiji, this article aims to ponder the nexus of multi-ethnic inclusion and ethnic exclusion that frames the ways first-generation Fiji Islander migrants relate to one another and opens the floor for a discussion of what delineates multi-ethnic Fiji Islander sociality more generally.