China in Samoa - Alternative Perspectives

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Research

• Pilot study

• Geopolitical discussions largely irrelevant

• China in Samoa - Chinese settlement vs. Chinese government

• Why are ordinary people’s perspectives important
  • Politics remains localized
Positive

- The Chinese - Reducing the cost of living
- A genuine desire to help
- Not like the Indians in Fiji
- Safeguards against “Chinese takeover”
Threat Discourse

• The Chinese - too many, too fast
• The Chinese - devious and unscrupulous
• The Chinese - taking over
Making sense of the threat discourse

• Rascism?

• Samoa - A homogenous society, a nation based on the fa’aSamoa
  • A homogenous society facing a rapidly increasing foreign group
  • The reasons for the rapid increase unexplained
  • Era of rapid societal transformation and political reform

• A political environment conducive of suspicion, distrust and fear
Prime Minister, Tuilaepa Sa’ilele Malielegaoi, has hit out at Samoan citizens over what he said was a persistent attitude of racism and looking down on Chinese and dark-skinned people.