

China in Samoa - Alternative Perspectives

lati lati
Lecturer
Department of Politics
University of Otago

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

- Racism?
- 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

P.M. cautions against racism

Thursday, 22 January 2015 06:31
Lanuola Tupufia



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.

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