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**WHEN IS DEVELOPMENT NOT ‘DEVELOPMENT’?
RECOGNISING UNOFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT
(OR PRACTISING POST-DEVELOPMENT)**

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Post-development theory rejects ‘Development’ as a tool of Western hegemony, as a system of domination imposing Western thinking and discourse about how the world should be. The alternative is indigenous people determining their own future, free of Western expectations and judgements. Here examples of such self-determination from the Pacific are outlined as examples of indigenous development which were not scripted by anyone else but Pacific Islanders themselves. Unrecognised as viable development strategies, they have at times been considered a problem or failure. How then, can development practitioners recognise and support this development which is not ‘Development’? Indeed, can post-development be practiced? Some suggestions are made. The willingness to empty oneself of preconceived notions of what development should be is the first step.

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