• Surprised to be involved in research!

• PhD on accounting in The Salvation Army (nonprofit organization, accrual accounting, financial reporting; institutional theory framework)
Research Interests and Prior Work (2)

- **Institutional theory applied to:**
  - Nonprofit (from PhD) (published in third sector journal)
  - Corporations and corporate social responsibility (grant)
  - Banking (joint grant)
  - Accounting History from PhD (PhD + published)
  - Financial decision making in a nonprofit (from PhD +: WIP)
  - Consultancies in a nonprofit (from PhD +: Conference acceptance)
  - Environmental volunteering organisations (joint grant)
Research Interests and Prior Work (3)

Current main interests

- **Main interests now:**
  - Institutional theory (can be applied to almost anything!)
  - Accounting history
  - Financial reporting
    - Standard setting
    - Corporate social responsibility reporting
  - Qualitative research (2 papers published from PhD)
Research Interests and Prior Work (4)

Look – there’s a bird!

Serendipitous projects:
- Theory in qualitative research – based on Fiji Development Bank (joint)
- Foucauldian view of Fiji Development Bank (joint)
Research Interests and Prior Work (5)

Too many projects?
Or too many excuses?

- **Unfinished projects:**
  - Financial reporting in a nonprofit – paper needs minor rewrite to send to journal
  - FDB Foucault paper – paper needs tweaking to send to journal
  - Response to reviewers’ comments from journal – 2 years
  - CSR project – data awaiting writing up
  - Colonial Sugar Refineries in Fiji and Queensland – an idea, data, and a partner but NO TIME TO GET TO IT!
  - Banking project (group)
  - Bushcare project (group)
  - Accounting for south sea islander labour in Queensland sugar industry in late 1800s – paper taken to conference but needs changes for submission to a journal.
The Project to be Discussed I

[Accounting history]

• Accounting for south sea islanders in late 1800s in Queensland: Goondi Mill
• Objectives: to rewrite a conference paper for submission to a journal
• Methodology: archival
• Data: I’m overwhelmed with it
• Theoretical Perspective: Institutional theory BUT with an economic rationalist slant
• Problems:
  - Economic aspects
  - Prioritising
The Project to be Discussed II

[Accounting history]

Accounting within an institutional structure (social, economic and political arrangements of the day)

Institutional influences

Society

Accounting for South Sea Islander Labour at Goondi Mill
The Project to be Discussed III
[Accounting history]

The institutions of the day:
- Colonialism
- Racism enshrined in legislation
- **Capitalism (economic rationalism)**
- Public opinion
- Growth of unionism
- Turbulent world sugar markets
- Physical challenges of tropical agriculture
Potential for Academic Collaboration

[State of progress]

- Already have the data
- Already have a passion for the area of research
- Already have earmarked a journal for submission (Accounting Historians Journal)
- Already have chosen “economic rationalism” as a lens for the paper within an institutional framework
- Yet to be done:
  - Read up on economic rationalism
  - Rewrite the paper with that emphasis
- More data from another sugar mill in Bundaberg (owners lived on site, i.e. no large co. involved)
My style: what I can bring to the project

- Excitable
- Working *closely* with a research partner
- Writing together
- Not overly enthused about using RA (sorry! Reasons:)
- Love working to deadlines
- High commitment to accountability to fellow researchers in a group
- Have published in the journal I’m targeting
Discussion Points for the Audience
[Personal Discipline vs Engagement]

- This project
- Other projects
- Bigger question for me: the role of discipline vs (?) engaged
  - Are they contradictory?
  - How to have both?
  - How to turn research NOT into a crank the handle activity
  - How to maintain passion
  - How to turn ideas into published papers