

# ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY IN OCEANIA

Newsletter #139

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## I. FROM THE EDITOR

Reflecting a robust meeting in Honolulu, and the annual inclusion of the Officer Reports, this issue of the newsletter offers quite a lot of information on recent ASAO activities. So sit back, pour yourself a tasty beverage and enjoy.

Thanks to the officers, session organizers and members for working together to help make the issue come out in a timely fashion.

The deadline for submission to the September newsletter is August 20<sup>th</sup>. I will be away for research through August 9<sup>th</sup>, so please be patient if I don't respond or acknowledge materials received until after that date.

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## II. FROM THE CHAIR

Waikiki's urban kitsch, gorgeous beach, and high-rise hotel-land, all swathed in balmy ambiance, provided the setting for ASAO's 2011 meeting. There were, as always, a few challenges leading up to the meeting. This year it was the hotel declaring that we had to pay extra to plug in computers in session rooms, and were not allowed to project onto the walls, but were obliged to rent screens and power strips at exorbitant rates for those sessions planning to incorporate slides. This was just another reminder that the more we can rely on old-fashioned face-to-face contact and discussion in our sessions rather than high-tech gizmos, the more money and trouble we save our great organization and the people who make it work. Another glitch was a last-minute request to host a special session, which we were unable to accommodate because all our rented spaces were fully occupied. We all regret the lost opportunity, and will endeavor to leave a space open in the schedule of future meetings to attempt to accommodate such windfalls when we can; but we should all remember, too, that impromptu sessions have been officially encouraged for many years, and organizers are free to set up informally and for free at nearby venues such as cafes, in consultation with the program coordinator on site.

Otherwise, the hotel was great, and in addition to a very busy roster of successful sessions, past chair Joshua Bell organized a tour of the Bishop Museum by its Cultural Resource Specialist Marques Hanalei Marzan. Other high points were a welcoming chant by Marques at our opening plenary, and Jonathan Kay Kamakawi'ole Osorio's thought-provoking distinguished lecture, sandwiched between lovely musical performances, that reminded us that recognizing our connections to past and future generations helps guide our decisions toward a more sustainable future.

As someone who has been to every ASAO meeting since my first in Pensacola, Florida in 1998, two years before I earned my P.D., I am what we call in Canada an ASAO "keener." Anyone who has attended one of our meetings knows the engaging and supportive sociality, and the intellectual enrichment and productivity that this organization's people and culture make possible. My doctoral advisor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Maria Lepowsky, had been touting the value of ASAO to me for years, and I'll always be grateful to her for connecting me with this special organization, where all, from beginning students to senior scholars, come together to learn from one another in a spirit of informal collegiality. What other organization encourages sessions to meet and advance together over three years? What other organization sets the expectation that all participants in a session read and react in depth to every other participant's paper? What other organization gears sessions specifically toward joint publication? We have a very special association here. I am delighted to have the opportunity to partly repay the benefits I have received as a member by acting this year as chair.

We owe thanks to outgoing past chair, Toon van Meijl, who did a tremendous service to our association in shepherding the updating of our bylaws on his watch, a process that is in its final stages under Joshua Bell's leadership, first as chair and now as past chair. Joshua has been a proactive advocate for greater inclusivity and technological progress as chair. Elfriede Hermann, our retiring board member sitting on the PISF committee, has been ready with encouragement. Aletta Biersack has ably taken over her seat. I would also like to welcome incoming board members, Ping-Ann Addo, who will in turn replace Aletta as the board representative on the PISF committee next year, and Edvard Hviding, who is my heir apparent as chair-elect.

While the buck stops with the board when it comes to final decisions, ASAO officers handle the daily work of the organization. Past secretary, Jocelyn Armstrong, stayed on this year, hovering like a spirit at the margins to provide ancestral assistance, to help our current secretary, Cato Berg, over his first year. Cato is now showing us how it's done. Mary McCutcheon, our treasurer, has been providing us with the information we need to remain in the black as our

meetings become more expensive. On that score, please remember to renew your membership every year, regardless of whether you plan to come to the meeting: your dues keep our organization financially secure while helping support the Pacific Islands Scholars Fund (PISF). Eric Silverman has been hard at it handing membership renewals and the database. Newsletter editor Jamon Halvaksz has expanded our beloved little rag to include more non-meeting related information to help us all learn even more from one another. I have particular empathy for program coordinator Laura Tamakoshi, having done her schedule-organizing job myself. Please respect the deadlines and constraints she has to work with, and know that she is doing her best to please everyone even though conflicting demands inevitably make this impossible from time to time. Welcome to David Troolin, who has stepped in as Laura's assistant to handle organizing the book room at our meetings. Mike Rynkiewich has continued to outdo himself as our intrepid meetings site coordinator, though we are actively seeking a replacement for him. If you are interested, please contact Mike or me. Mike is available to help you over a year's transition period.

Judith Schachter continues to serve us all as the chair of the PISF committee, which evaluated and awarded travel funds to numerous deserving scholars to come to the Waikiki meeting, with the added assistance of a one-off extra injection of cash from the board. Everyone knows we couldn't get by without Jan Rensel as ASAO archivist and general know-it-all (in the best possible sense of the term), or Alan Howard as the ever-instantaneously-responding manager of our informative website, and Mike Lieber as the manager of ASAONET, surely one of the most well-used listservs out there. Lamont Lindstrom, continuing as Distinguished Lecture coordinator, continues to bring speakers that highlight our meetings. I am delighted to say that Professor Polly Wiessner of the University of Utah will be distinguished lecture at our February 8-11 2012 meeting, which will take place in the misty presence of Mount Hood, in Portland, Oregon.

In May we will hold our annual election for two new board members in addition to voting on this year's nominees for honorary fellows, David and Dorothy Counts. This year only two candidates were nominated for board: Susanne Kuehling and Paige West. The list of electors will be established on May 1, and only those who have renewed their membership by then will be eligible to vote. In May, members will be sent an e-mail message with a link that will take them to the candidate biographies and a ballot. We will continue to print and mail paper ballots to members who do not have e-mail addresses. Voting will close on June 1st.

So—please renew your membership today, and I look forward to seeing many of you in Portland in February 2012.

*Roger Lohmann*  
*ASAO Chair*

### **III. PACIFIC ISLANDS SCHOLARS FUND**

This year's PISF Committee consisted of Michael Goldsmith and Ping-Ann Addo continuing as members at-large, new member Aletta Biersack representing the Board, and myself as chair. For this year, we started with an account balance of \$8973.00 that could be awarded, a sum later increased by \$5000, thanks to Joshua Bell's "call" to members.

#### Travel Awards

We received 21 applications for travel awards by the November 1, 2010 deadline. I sent electronic copies of all applications to the committee and we agreed upon a rigorous set of criteria. As in previous years, we looked closely at the abstracts, the letters of recommendation, and the scholar's contribution to the proposed session. We also agreed to focus on younger scholars and on those who had not received funds from PISF recently, as well

as to spread awards among sessions, with priority given to working sessions, then symposia, and finally informal sessions.

The following awardees were offered support for the meetings in Honolulu, but not all were able to attend:

Bethany Edmunds – New Zealand (unable to attend)  
Dionne Fonoti – Samoa  
David Gegeo – NZ/Solomon Islands  
Iati Iati – Samoa/NZ  
John Kalolo – NZ/Tokelau (unable to attend)  
Okusitino Mahina – NZ/Tonga  
Kirsten McGavin – NZ/PNG  
Tiara Naputi – US/Chamorro  
Semisi Potauaine – Tonga (unable to attend)  
Teena Brown Pulu – NZ/Tonga  
Albert Refiti – NZ/Samoa  
Belinda Saltiban – Tonga  
Nuhisifa Williams – NZ/Niue  
Tatiana Young – US (Hawai'i)

We were pleased by the number of newcomers to ASAO this year, and we welcomed back both those who missed last year's meeting and those who made it to Alexandria. Besides travel assistance, each of our recipients also received, from ASAO general funds, \$200 toward hotel costs, and all attended the Board hosted luncheon on Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. In addition, nine scholars received mini-grants, with a waiver of meeting registration fee and a complimentary one-year's membership in ASAO.

Total Awards Offered:	\$11,420.54
Total accepted:	\$10,530.54

#### Going Forward

Committee makeup. Aletta Biersack rotated off the committee, and Ping-Ann remains on in two capacities: representative of the Board and member-at-large. We thank Aletta for her hard and conscientious work last year. Michael will remain on the committee, and I will remain as chair.

The committee reviewed the application and award process, and we recommend that the deadline for all applications be moved back from November 1<sup>st</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>. This will enable the committee to make final decisions in time for applicants to apply for further funding, find economical airfares, and make travel plans. We will further clarify instructions for applying for Travel Awards and for mini-grants on the website. We will also post detailed guidelines for session organizers regarding letters of recommendation.

Additionally, we will consider the possibility of multi-year funding (2 years) for session organizers. We will post clarification of VISA requirements on the website. And we will discuss ways of increasing the PISF funds. This year was wonderful, and we hope to be able to be as generous—perhaps even more generous—in the future.

We thank ASAO members for their generous contributions, which support ASAO's travel awards – and we encourage all to donate as this year goes on. These funds make a big difference in the professional lives of our young Pacific Islands colleagues. For those who pay taxes in the USA, donations to the PISF are tax deductible.

*Judith Schachter, PISF Committee Chair*

**IV. FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

For this issue of the newsletter I have gathered reports of the sessions held at the 2011 meeting in Honolulu as well as proposals for new sessions. For all new sessions and sessions that will continue at the 2012 meeting, I ask that the **organizers send updated announcements to me ([lauratamakoshi@yahoo.com](mailto:lauratamakoshi@yahoo.com)) by August 20<sup>th</sup> for their inclusion in the September newsletter. Please mark this and other ASAO deadlines (below) on your calendar now.** I have also included my officer’s report on the 2011 Honolulu meeting along with guidelines, responsibilities, and a timetable for session organizers and participants for your convenience. Regarding the timetable, please note that **there is a new deadline for the submission of PISF grant applications: October 1**, a month earlier than the old deadline. Please remember a policy adopted by ASAO’s Board in 2008: “For session proposals to be entertained, organizers must be ASAO members in good standing at the time the proposals are submitted. For session proposals to be accepted and announced in the *Newsletter* and on the ASAO Web site, organizers must preregister and prepay dues for the year in which the sessions will be held.”

**TIMETABLE FOR SESSION ORGANIZERS AND PARTICIPANTS:**

DEADLINE	INFORMAL SESSION	WORKING SESSION	SYMPOSIUM
<b>March 20</b>	<b>To Program Coordinator:</b> announcement of proposed session.	<b>To Program Coordinating:</b> Report on informal session held at annual meeting; call for papers, deadlines, etc.	<b>To Program Coordinator:</b> Report on working session held at annual meeting; next steps, deadlines, etc.
<b>August 20</b>	<b>To Program Coordinator:</b> Updated description of proposed session.	<b>To Program Coordinator:</b> Updated description of session and call for papers, deadline reminders	<b>To Program Coordinator:</b> Updated descriptions of session, deadline reminders, etc.
<b>October 1</b>	<b>PISF applications due</b>	<b>PISF applications due</b>	<b>PISF applications due</b>
<b>Before November 1</b>		Participants submit abstracts to session organizers and send to other participants	Participants circulate drafts of papers to session organizers and other participants
<b>November 1</b>	<b>To Program Coordinator:</b> Updated description of proposed session; list of people who have expressed interest, total number expected to attend. Last chance to have a room and time scheduled in the program.	<b>To Program Coordinator:</b> Names of participants, titles of papers, order of presentation; all abstracts; which papers will be read in absentia; how much time required.	<b>To Program Coordinator:</b> Names of participants, titles of papers, order of presentation; first and last pages of each paper; which papers will be presented in absentia; how much time required.

**GUIDELINES FOR SESSION ORGANIZERS AND PARTICIPANTS**

ASAO is characterized by social informality and collegial cooperation regardless of rank. At the same time, the rigorous examination of data and ideas in ASAO sessions is designed to lead to high quality, publishable sets of comparative papers on topics of importance in Pacific

anthropology. The format of ASAO sessions differs from those at many scholarly meetings where individual papers are presented. Instead, ASAO sessions feature the ongoing give-and-take required for penetrating intellectual examination of difficult, yet vital, issues. ASAO sessions are of three types:

**A) INFORMAL SESSIONS** involve the informal sharing of ideas to determine whether there is common ground for further inquiry. Anyone who has relevant data is welcome to attend and participate. If such sessions generate enough interest, participants make plans to develop and share lists of bibliographic references, draft and circulate papers, and discuss them (possibly via e-mail) in preparation for the next stage (see below).

Informal Sessions are of two types. Impromptu Informal Sessions can be announced at the Opening Plenary Session of the annual meeting and posted on the bulletin board in the registration area during the meeting. These sessions do not have pre-arranged meeting locations but may meet in available conference rooms, participants' rooms, or local cafes. The second type of Informal Session may be announced at the prior year's meeting, proposed in the *ASAO Newsletter* or on ASAONET, or otherwise pre-arranged. *To appear in the full schedule of the annual meeting, which is published in the December Newsletter, announcements of Informal Sessions must be submitted to the Program Coordinator by **November 1** (see Timetable).*

The level of organization for Informal Sessions varies. Participants are not required to write papers in advance, although it is helpful to session organizers if people advise them of their interest beforehand. If planned with sufficient lead-time, some Informal Sessions may be well organized, with pre-circulated abstracts or papers and, perhaps, be only one or two papers shy of meeting the criteria for a Working Session.

Thus time given to Informal sessions will vary depending on the number of committed participants or people indicating an interest in the topic, and the level of organization of the session. Ordinarily, scheduled Informal Sessions will be given no more than three hours of meeting time, and most will receive only one and a half hours.

**B) WORKING SESSIONS** are based on prepared papers that are briefly summarized (NOT READ) during the session. Abstracts, if not drafts of papers, must be **precirculated** among session organizers and participants. Most of the meeting time during the session is allocated for discussing common themes, with an eye toward finding coherence and preparing for a second round of writing.

Session organizers can be imaginative in how they organize Working Sessions. Participants should respond to and make constructive suggestions on each other's papers. If complete drafts are precirculated, some organizers assign people to read particular papers and prepare commentary ahead of time; some have participants present each other's papers, allowing the authors time afterward to clarify points and respond to questions. One or more invited discussants can be helpful at this stage, but again, only if complete drafts of papers are circulated in advance.

Working Sessions form the heart of ASAO meetings and require considerable time for the discussion of provocative ideas, the analysis of different approaches, and the search for core themes. Accordingly, Working Sessions are ordinarily given first priority when meeting time and space are allocated. Time will be allocated according to the number of participants attending and presenting papers.

**A minimum of seven participants presenting papers in person** at the meeting is required for Working Session status. *A list of participants, paper titles, and copies of their abstracts must be sent to the Program Coordinator by the **November 1** deadline (see Timetable).* Sessions that

do not meet these criteria by the November 1 deadline will appear on the Program of the Annual Meeting as Informal Sessions.

**C) SYMPOSIA** are sessions that normally have met at a lower level of organization at least once before. Papers must be **precirculated** among the session organizers, participants, and any invited discussants. Contributors do not read their papers but discuss the key issues that arise from them. Conversation in the session focuses on those issues and provides a constructive critique that contributes to building a coherent set of papers or book chapters.

Time should be set aside during the Symposium to discuss whether and how to pursue publication. Options include the ASAO Monograph Series (which has an informal right of first refusal for volumes arising from ASAO sessions) or other academic publishers; a special issue of an appropriate journal; or separate publication of individual papers.

Some Symposia may require only an hour and a half to wrap up unfinished business, while others may need as much as six hours to discuss issues, themes, and future plans. Symposium organizers should advise the Program Coordinator of their time requirements. The presence of seven participants with precirculated papers is required for full Symposium status. *A list of participants, paper titles, and copies of the first and last pages of their papers must be sent to the Program Coordinator by the **November 1** deadline (see Timetable).* Sessions that do not meet these criteria by the November 1 deadline will appear on the Program of the Annual Meeting as Informal Sessions or Working Sessions, according to their level of preparedness as judged by the Program Coordinator.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF SESSION ORGANIZERS:**

- 1) Submit the required information about your session to the Program Coordinator by the **March 20, August 20, and November 1 deadlines.**
- 2) Assist any Pacific Islands scholars who are interested in applying for support from the Pacific Islands Scholars Fund.
- 3) Advise the Program Coordinator by **no later than November 1** of any particular scheduling needs (e.g., late arrivals, early departures, or potential conflicts with other sessions).
- 4) Advise the Program Coordinator by **November 1** of any other special needs. The hotels are responsible for providing equipment for those with disabilities. In all other cases, however, the rental of equipment from hotels is quite expensive for ASAO. Session organizers should encourage their participants to make their own arrangements for costly equipment but must inform the program coordinator of such arrangements as each hotel has different policies on what kinds of equipment and set-up must be organized through the hotel or can be done independently.
- 5) Send the Program Coordinator your contact information and advise of any changes during the year.
- 6) Plan to attend both the Opening Plenary and Closing Plenary Sessions at the annual meeting. All session organizers are expected to deliver a Closing Plenary Report on the results of their sessions and future plans. If the organizers cannot be present at the Closing Plenary, they should appoint one of the participants to deliver the report. A written copy of the report must be sent to the Program Coordinator before the **March 20** deadline.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF SESSION PARTICIPANTS:**

1) Please respect the deadlines for your particular session and your session organizer's responsibility for meeting the overall deadlines (see Timetable). Submit and circulate your abstracts and draft papers on time. Advise the organizer well in advance of **the organizer's November 1 deadline** as to whether you will be able to attend the session in person.

2) Members should limit themselves to participation in **no more than two sessions**, preferably at different levels. In the past, problems have sometimes resulted from members participating in multiple sessions. For the ASAO format to work, contributors must give their sessions their undivided attention. Multiple participation creates scheduling conflicts, which often disrupt sessions and distract contributors. If you must be in more than one session, please send the Program Coordinator a note indicating your priority. First priority in case of scheduling conflicts will go to session organizers and discussants. However, since ASAO sessions are lengthy and relatively few in number, there is no guarantee that scheduling conflicts can be avoided.

All program related correspondence should be sent to ASAO Program Coordinator, **Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi**, 338 W. Union Street, West Chester, PA 19382, USA; tel (610) 429-9213, e-mail [lauratamakoshi@yahoo.com](mailto:lauratamakoshi@yahoo.com)

*Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi*  
*Program Coordinator*

## **V. 2011 SESSION REPORTS**

### **FORMAL SYMPOSIA**

#### **Forests of Oceania**

Organizers: Joshua A. Bell and Paige West

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our participants and those who attended our lively all-day session on Friday. Unfortunately Warilea Iamo, Jennifer Gabriel and Michael Wood were unable to attend the meetings, and Edvard Hviding had a concurrent session. Despite their absences, the assembled group productively discussed the updated papers and thought through the various themes that the papers presented and cohered around. The themes that emerged included: value and the scale-making processes by which forests are turned into resources; how logging is intimately tied up with other extractive processes such as mining, oil/gas, and science and how these different processes shape the perception of forests as carbon sinks, money, conservation areas, firewood, and home of the ancestors; violence; memories and histories materialized in forests and their products and finally the intimate place that forests have in communities lives.

The group is proceeding to a publication, and we have decided to submit the collection to the ANU e-press in order to be freely and widely accessible.

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## **Tā-Vā (Time-Space) Theory of Reality: The Birth of an Indigenous Moana Theory**

Organizers: *Hūfanga* 'Okusitino Māhina, *Maui-Tāvā-He-Ako* Tēvita O. Ka'ili, and *Kula-i-Ma'ofanga* Ping-Ann Addo

The symposium entitled “*Tā-Vā* (Time-Space) Theory of Reality: The Birth of an Indigenous Moana Theory” was organised by *Hūfanga* 'Okusitino Māhina (Vava'u Academy for Critical Inquiry and Applied Research [VACIAR]), *Maui-Tāvā-He-Ako* Tēvita O. Ka'ili (Brigham Young University Hawai'i), and *Kula-i-Ma'ofanga* Ping-Ann Addo (University of Massachusetts). This year's symposium, however, all began respectively as informal sessions in Kauai, Hawai'i, 2005, and in San Diego, USA, 2006, followed by a working session in Santa Cruz, USA, 2009. Specifically, the session was initiated as part of a broader intellectual movement involving a new line of theoretical development based on the so-called indigenous Moana / Oceania concepts and practices *tā* and *vā* or, for that matter, *kā* and *uā*, translated into English as “time” and “space.”

The symposium critically examined *tā* time and *vā* space from an indigenous Moana / Oceania perspective. In a temporal sense, *tā* time signifies the marking of time, in terms of tempo, beat, pace, rate, change, rhythm, and social act. For example, in Tonga, *tānafa*, rhythmic beating of drums, and *tāsīpinga*, setting (tempo-marking) examples, are both processes of marking time in space. On the other hand, *vā* space signifies a relational space between time-markers (*tā*). It is a space that is fashioned through the relationship between time-markers such as beats, markings, objects, or people. Furthermore, *vā* space points to the nature or quality of the relationship. For instance, *vāmama'o* indicates a distant physical space between things and *vālelei* signifies a good social space between people.

These indigenous spatiotemporal concepts have given birth to a groundbreaking Moana / Oceania theory known as the *Tā-Vā* (Time-Space) Theory of Reality. Amongst its many specific and general ontological and epistemological tenets are the following:

- That ontologically *tā* time *vā* space are the common medium in which all things are, in a single level of reality, spatio-temporality or four-sided dimensionality;
- That epistemologically *tā* time and *vā* space are social products, involving their varying social arrangements across cultures;
- That *tā* time and *vā* space are the abstract dimensions of *fuo* form and *uho* content, which are, in turn, the concrete dimensions of *tā* time and *vā* space;
- That *tā* time and *vā* space, like *fuo* form and *uho* content, are inseparable in reality, as in nature, mind, and society;
- That all things in reality, that is, nature, mind and society, stand in eternal process of relations of cycle and exchange, giving rise to conflict or order;
- That conflict and order are of the same logical status, in that order is itself a form of conflict; and
- That the symmetrical arrangements of *tā-vā* time-space give rise to *ta'imālie* harmony, while their asymmetrical configurations lead to *tāmaki* disharmony.

One of the main purposes of the session was to both execute and exact a radical shift of the axis of current anthropological investigation from the epistemological to the ontological, thereby combining both utility and quality of knowledge in the development of a realist, *tā-vā* time-space, critical Moana / Oceania anthropology. Another was to advance the Moana / Oceania view that both *tā* time and *vā* space are indivisible in reality, where they must be examined together for gaining a deeper understanding of physical, mental, and sociocultural realities. Herein, it was argued that the separation of *tā* time from *vā* space runs parallel to the severance of history from culture, thereby leaving Moana / Oceania peoples both “timeless” and “history-less.” The same applies to the separation of mind from reality, *tā-vā* time-space, as well as the failure of mind to comprehend formal, substantial, (and functional) conflicts in their transcultural arrangements.

Out of the fifteen possible paper presenters who expressed an interest in attending and participating in the session, there were only twelve who met the deadlines. While that was so, the three who submitted their papers later in the piece were nevertheless pre-circulated amongst the participants, with a view for discussions outside the official time-space for the symposium, and, more importantly, for inclusion in the planned up and coming publication. Here are the twelve papers, with both authors and titles:

- *Hūfanga* 'Okusitino Māhina: "Time, Space and Culture: A New *Tā-Vā* Theory of Moana Anthropology;"
- *Maui-Tāvā-He-Ako* Tēvita O. Ka'ili: "*Tāvani*: The Intertwinedness of *Tā-Vā* in the Tongan Language;"
- *Kula-i-Ma'ofanga* Ping-Ann Addo: "Tongan Textiles in Time and Space: Marking Tongan Temporal and Social Relationships in Tonga and Abroad;"
- Nuhisifa Seve-Williams: "Reading Realities through *Tā-Vā*;"
- *Unasa Leulu* Felise Va'a: "Cultural Perceptions of *Tā* and *Vā*: Samoa;"
- *Leali'ifano* Albert Refiti: "*Teu le vā* and *Tausi le vā* in Samoan Thought;"
- Dianna Georgina: "Circles of Self: Time-Space in Traditional Samoan Dance, Culture and Selfhood;"
- Pamela Rosi: "Concepts of *Tā-Vā* (Time-Space) in the Art Practice of Samoa-Aotearoa artist Shigeyuki Kihara;"
- Kolokesa Uafā Māhina-Tuai: "*Tatau*: Symmetry, Harmony, and Beauty in the Art of Sēmisi Fetokai Potauaine;"
- Sēmisi Fetokai Potauaine: "*Tatau*: Symmetry as Conflict-Mediation of Line-Space Intersection;"
- Victor Narsimulu, Sweeney Windchief, Feleti Matangi, and `Anapesi Kaili: "Toward a Theoretical and Practical Study in Pacific Critical Thought: Entering Cautiously into Shared Spaces in Indigeneity;" and
- *Hūfanga* 'Okusitino Māhina: "*Takohi*: Drawing in Tongan Thinking and Practice."

Apart from three papers, which critiqued issues of some general nature particularly relating to theory and practice, education and research, culture and language, race and ethnicity, and indigeneity and equity connected with Moana / Oceania peoples, both locally and in the diaspora, the other nine papers were specifically situated in Tonga and Samoa, both geographically and ethnographically. Of the nine papers, three delved into the interface of *tā* time and *vā* space and ethnography, in the broader context of the *tā-vā* time-space theory of reality, and the rest dealt with different genres of art, ranging from performance through material to fine arts, informed by the theory of *tāvāism*. As for the pre-circulated papers by Telesia Kalavite, Micah Van der Ryn, and Courtney-Savali L. Andrews, Kalavite addressed education amongst Tongans in Aotearoa New Zealand, and Van der Ryn and Andrews focused largely on various aspects of Samoan material and performing arts respectively, all from a *tāvāist* spectacle.

While the diversity of subject matters of investigation by all the authors are both geographically and ethnographically constituted, the *tā-vā* time-space theory of reality provides a common thread that unifies them formally, substantially, (and functionally) into a unified whole. This theoretical unity of diverse topics was developed over the whole of the four sessions, with a view towards a publication where they, by way of form, content, (and function), hang together, commonly interlocked in an integrated theoretical context. By continuing to refine all the papers, we are planning to publish them either as a journal's special issue or a book. Such a publication will add to the already increasing volume of publications on *tāvāism*, in addition to four PhD and two Masters' theses, ranging from Anthropology through Education to Architecture, with six more PhD theses on the way in a variety of fields of studies.

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### **Vernacular and Culturally Based Education in Oceania Today: Articulating Global, National and Local Agendas**

Organizers: Marie Salaün and Christine Jourdan

Discussant: David Gegeo

Eight papers were presented during the session all addressing, from various angles, the socio-political and ideological tensions associated with vernacular and cultural education in colonial, post-colonial and diasporic situations. All papers were pre-circulated and each one was assigned a discussant for in-depth treatment during the session. David Gegeo acted as general discussant. Not only were his comments enlightening, stimulating and generous, but they also opened up avenues for improvement and further research. Papers addressed tensions between State logics and indigenous claims, between the democratic ideal in a Western conception and the recognition of specific collective rights; tensions between "equal opportunity" in school and discrimination based on race or culture; tensions between the various motives of vernacular education: patrimonial, political, pedagogical; tensions between the local, national and international agendas; tensions between cultural relevance and the "utility" of indigenous knowledge in the so-called "Knowledge Society"

#### **Participants**

Nuhisifa Williams (University of Auckland) "Egalitarianism, Merit and Intervention Strategies" 'Okusitino Māhina (VACIAR, Tonga & NZ) "Fuo, Uho, moe 'Aonga: Form, Content, and Function in Moana Education"

Alicia Snyder-Frey (University of California in San Diego) "He Kuleana Kō Kākou : Hawaiian Language Learning and the Construction of (alter)Native Identities among College Students in Honolulu"

Kathleen C. Riley (Queens College, CUNY) "Teaching Language, Teaching Culture: Negotiating the Revival and Transmission of Language and Culture in the Marquesas F.P."

Leslie Vandeputte (Centre de Recherche et de Documentation sur l'Océanie, France) "Bislama in the Educational System? Debate around the Legitimacy of a Pidgin at School"

David Troolin (Summer Institute of Linguistics, PNG) "Initiating a Vernacular Prep School in Buan Village: Local Voices within a Global Context"

Christine Jourdan (Concordia University) "Language, School and the Middle-Class in Urban Solomon Islands"

Marie Salaün (Université Paris Descartes) "Decolonization without a Disconnection? Teaching the Vernaculars in New Caledonia Today"

Discussant: David Gegeo (Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies, New Zealand)

The discussion of these papers was very lively and exciting and it was decided to prepare them for publication in a linguistic anthropology or education journal, most likely, with David Gegeo writing an epilogue for the volume.

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## **Villages and Their Alters in Melanesian Social Worlds**

Organizers: Courtney Handman and Rupert Stasch

This session convened for a rich day of discussions among the authors of six precirculated papers and a half-dozen or more active audience contributors. (Authors of two additional precirculated papers were not able to attend.) The papers were case studies of the cultural and historical specificity of the “village” category in different Melanesian locations, and the political and cultural principles that are enacted in concrete village-making and village-dwelling activities. All of them focused in various ways on the relation between villages and other forms of space. Due mainly to the session organizers’ difficulties in giving the project the time it needs, we are probably going to seek to publish the papers individually rather than together in one place.

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## **WORKING SESSIONS**

### **Austronesian Linkages**

Organizer: Kun-hui Ku

Discussants: Lamont Lindstrom and Robert Tonkinson

There were 40 people signed in the session and fourteen papers were presented including three absentees. We had a very lively discussion and some debates in the end. Collectively, we are not thinking of moving forward as a group next year because the topics covered are quite diverse. There are roughly two sets of papers: broader comparative Austronesian linkages and issues of hierarchy in specific ethnographic settings. Some publication plans are under discussion.

### **Participants**

Toon van Meijl (University of Nijmegen) “Models and Metaphors of Maori Hierarchy”

Thomas Gibson (University of Rochester) “Androgyny in Austronesia”

Cato Berg (University of Bergen) “The Masking of Hierarchy: Austronesian Shrine Names in Vella Lavella, Solomon Islands”

\*Bien Chiang (National Tsing-hua University) “Stranger King(ly Things) and All-Purpose House Among the Paiwan”

Shu-Ling Yeh (Australian National University; Adjunct IOA, NTHU) “The Paternal Age-Set System of the Austronesian-speaking Amis of Taiwan”

Kun-hui Ku (National Tsing-hua University) “‘Ascribed’ and ‘Achieved’ Status in Austronesian Taiwan: With Implications for Wider Austronesian World”

Richard Scaglione (University of Pittsburgh) “Austronesian Speakers and Social Hierarchies in the Pacific”

Glenn Petersen (Bernard Baruch College, CUNY) “When West Met East: Linkages from Eastern Oceania and Their Impacts in Palau and the Marianas”

Nancy Pollock (Victoria, NZ) “Gastronomy as an Austronesian Linkage”

\*Scarlett Chiu (Center for Archaeological Studies, Academia Sinica, Taiwan) “Constructing Social Identities with Materialized Symbols: A Story Told by Lapita Face Motifs”

Serge Dunis (University of French Polynesia) “Austronesian Mythology: A Reappraisal”

David Blundell (National Chengchi University) “Developing a Concept of Austronesia”

\*James J. Fox (RSPAS, Australian National University) “Where Does Oceania Begin?”

Robert Blust (University of Hawai‘i) “Proto-Malayo-Polynesian Social Organization: The Evidence of Language (Once Again)”

Discussants: Lamont Lindstrom (University of Tulsa), Robert Tonkinson (Emeritus, Academy of Social Science in Australia)

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### **Climate Change in Pacific Island Communities**

Organizers: Heather Lazrus and Paul Shankman

After two years of exciting informal sessions on climate change in Oceania, this year we convened as a working session. Our papers reflected the systemic issues, the implications, and the rapidly rising awareness of climate change impacts in Pacific Island communities. Dr. Cheryl Anderson, Director of the Hazards, Climate and Environment Program at the University of Hawai'i, opened the session with an overview of social science research and policy, addressing climate change in the region as well as suggested institutional collaborators and funding sources. Ethnographically rich papers were presented by Julius Reese, Michael Burton, Jaime Bach, Elfriede Hermann, Wolfgang Kempf, and Joeli Veitayaki. Heather Lazrus concluded the session with an overview of research themes on climate change in island communities. About 25 people attended throughout the day, and many who did not formally present engaged in the discussions following each presentation. We hope to gather papers for publication and to continue again at next year's meeting.

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### **Collaborative Research and Training: Cultural Heritage, Local Development, and Pacific Alternatives**

Organizers: Edvard Hviding and Tarcisius Kabutaulaka

Our full-day session included eleven presentations by five Pacific Islanders, five Norwegians and one American. Audio-visuals (including short film screenings) were used for all presentations. With co-organizer Kabutaulaka absent on short notice for a review of RAMSI in the Solomons, Tom Mountjoy and Edvard Hviding provided an introduction. Geoffrey White followed the entire session and acted as closing discussant. On average we had more than thirty participants in the room throughout, and lively discussion. The session was based on presentations from invited speakers, ranging from MA students to full professors, all with connections to the multi-disciplinary project "Pacific Alternatives: Cultural Heritage and Political Innovation in Oceania", funded by the Research Council of Norway. Presentations and discussions revolved around cultural heritage issues, rural and urban social movements, and local development projects in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Cook Islands, New Caledonia and Hawai'i. After this very successful session we intend to move directly towards publication with the new USP Press.

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## **Ends of War: Causes of Peace in the Pacific**

Organizer: Roger Ivar Lohmann

Six participants presented papers at our session; two additional participants were at the meeting but unable to attend, plus two participants' papers were discussed in absentia. Additional audience members numbered from one to four throughout the day, two of whom expressed interest in joining our session next year. We would like to meet again as a Symposium in Portland next year. For greater coherence of the session going forward, all participants should address the following issues in their papers: definitions of and the relationship between peace and war, biological, social, cultural, and agentive causes that generate war and peace, description of cases of transitioning from war to peace or of maintaining peace, and practical lessons or principles that can be generalized from the cases described, on how war is successfully minimized and peace made and maintained. Cato Berg, Cammi Webb Gannon, Iati Iati, Susanne Kuehling, Roger Lohmann, Tiara Naputi, Glenn Petersen, Jim Roscoe, Ryan Schram, Tobias Schwörer, and David Troolin participated in the working session. With the addition of two non-presenting participants in the audience, Manuel Raucholz and Katharina Schneider, we have decided to meet again next year as a Formal Symposium. Additional participants are welcome. Anyone who would like to participate in the symposium session should contact the organizer. All participants, in person and in absentia, must provide full, advanced drafts of their papers to the organizer by **October 20, 2011**.

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## **From Romance to "Reality": Representations of Pacific Islands and Islanders**

Organizers: Judith Schachter and Nancy Lutkehaus

Our working session had fifteen participants including three Pacific Island scholars, as well as scholars from the Solomon Islands, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. Given the large number of papers presented in the session and the diverse media discussed, including film, television, photographs, books, travel literature and other written texts such as websites, and tourist events, there were a variety of themes addressed by the participants. These included:

Representations of Temporality: The theme of temporality had several different dimensions to it: (1) Pacific Islands and Islanders as exemplars of timeless, unchanged worlds' (2) Pacific Island cultures as representations of the past now lost in other parts of the civilized world; (3) or Pacific Islands as literally disappearing as a result of global warming and thus exemplars of the future fate of the world. Another more overtly evolutionary theme was that of Pacific Islanders as children or "child-like" in comparison to westerners.

Pacific Islanders and "the Savage Slot": Closely related to the former theme was that of Pacific Islanders being expected to fill a "Savage Slot" in the way they are represented in film, television and tourist events and in contrast to the images of Westerners. When representations of Pacific Islanders seek to transcend these "primitiveist" stereotypes, Western viewers raise questions of authenticity, even when alternative representations have been produced by Pacific Islanders themselves.

Commercialization of Representations: Discussions of media images raised the theme of the commercialization of representations with regard to audience expectation, whether television or movie viewers or tourists. Do audiences expect certain types of representations of Pacific Islanders, and if so, which images and which audiences?

Origins of Western tropes of Pacific Islanders: As the papers covered a range of different time periods and historical contexts the theme of the origins and perpetuation of various images of Pacific Islanders (as cannibals, as head-hunters, as child-like, etc.) or common tropes such as descriptions of the “King/Queen” or “Princess” of a particular island or society, in travel literature, film, novels, etc. was seen to link a number of the papers.

Other themes included: (1) Change in images over time; (2) Representations of sovereignty and nationhood; (3) Tourism as the translation of culture; and (4) Indigenous agency in creation of representations.

We have decided to go on to a full symposium next year in Portland. Final papers will be due September 30, 2011.

Participants:

- Maria Lepowsky (University of Wisconsin, Madison) “‘Anthropophagi in New York’ and Other Voyagers: Maritime Cultures of Contact and Their Legacies in the Pacific and Beyond”
- Nancy Lutkehaus (University of Southern California) “An Anthropologist Looks at Jack London’s *The Cruise of the Snark* (1911)”
- Terry Brown (Anglican Church of Melanesia) “The Rise and Fall of the Concept of ‘Melanesians as a child race’ in the Melanesian Mission”
- John Taylor (La Trobe University) “Pikinini in Paradise: Photographing the Fantasy ‘Child Native’ in Vanuatu”
- Guido Pigliasco (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa) “Romancing the Stones: the ‘Legendary Tradition’ of the Fijian Firewalkers”
- David Lipset (University of Minnesota) “Representations of Moral Agency in *Mutiny on the Bounty*, *Hawai‘i* and *Whale Rider*”
- Judith Schachter (Carnegie Mellon University) “How ‘New’ are the Images? Representations from the Sovereignty Movement in Hawai‘i”
- Sarina Pearson (University of Auckland) “Performing ‘Pollywood’: *bro’Town*”
- Dionne Fonoti (National University of Samoa/Ivilasi Films) “Racism, Representations, and Indigenous Consciousness in Pacific Film”
- Jocelyn Armstrong (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) “From ‘Romance’ to ‘Reality’: Changing Representations of Maori in the South Island of New Zealand”
- Laurence M. Carucci (Montana State University) “Imagining the Marshall Islands”
- Juliana Flinn (University of Arkansas at Little Rock) “Oh, Those Poor Islanders and the Threats to an Idyllic Life on a Beautiful Island”
- Kirsten McGavin (Queensland Museum, Australia) “Representations of Pacific Islander Identity: Ours and Theirs”
- Belinda Saltiban (University of Utah) “Transforming Representations from the Margins”
- Wolfgang Kempf (University of Göttingen) “Representations of Climate Change on a Pacific Atoll”

Unable to participate:

- Eric Silverman (Wheelock College) “The Rhetoric of Empire and Primitivism: Reading New Guinea Travel Literature and American Newspapers”
- Rolf Hussmann (University of Goettingen) “Old Images Come Back to Kiribati – and New Ones Emerge: Film Documents Archived in Germany and Their Value as Cultural Heritage for a Pacific Atoll Country in an Age of Climate Change”
- Michael Webb (Sydney Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney) “Heavenly Music in an Expanding World: Accounts and Portrayals over the Past Century of Melanesian Hymn and Choral Singing and a Discussion of Its Meanings”

<p>Nancy Lutkehaus, Department of Anthropology, USC, Grace Ford Salvatori 126, Los Angeles CA 90089-1692, USA; &lt;lutkehau@college.usc.edu&gt;</p> <p>Judith Schachter, Department of History, Carnegie Mellon University, Baker Hall 240, Pittsburgh PA 15213-3890, USA; &lt;jm1e@andrew.cmu.edu&gt;</p>
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## **Spatial Orientation**

Organizers: Rick Feinberg and Alex Mawyer

About a dozen and a half participants gathered for a memorable, stimulating, ethnographically robust conversation. Eight participants had well-developed papers which we felt were individually very fine and could be sent off for publication without much revision. However, there was general agreement on the value of re-working them as complementary pieces with a clearly-articulated shared focus that was only latent in our 2011 session. We, therefore, propose to reconvene in Portland for a second Working Session.

Despite a multiplicity of topics, all the papers were concerned in one way or another with issues of fuzziness, interruption, or disruption in spatial orientation—a phenomenon that we might summarize as “ambivalence” in cultural systems. Such themes as way-finding, cognition, frames of reference, wind compasses, spatial symbolism and political structure, spatial metaphysics and cosmology, or space and performance all can be (and to a large extent were) approached from the perspective of “ambivalence.” This, we feel, offers a timely and significant conversation within Pacific anthropology to which our session can contribute. To maximize the value of our 2012 Working Session, we suggest treating it as much like a Formal Symposium as possible. Toward that end we propose that all participants complete and distribute full papers (not abstracts) by the end of August, that we send one another comments on the completed papers in the months following, and that the papers should refer to points of intersection with one another while taking stances on the shared focal issue of ambivalence. Anyone interested in joining the forthcoming Working Session should contact one of the organizers. Those who have expressed an interest in continuing with the session include: Kate Barclay, Brenda Boerger, Rick Feinberg, Joe Genz, Natsuko Higa, Yi-chun Lu, Michelle MacCarthy, Alex Mawyer, Susan Montague, Marston Morgan, Kate Riley, Harri Siikala, Katharina Schneider, Micah Van der Ryn.

<p>Alex Mawyer, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Lake Forest College, 555 N. Sheridan Rd., Lake Forest, IL 60045, U.S.A.; phone 847-735-5239; &lt;mawyer@lakeforest.edu&gt;</p> <p>Richard Feinberg, Department of Anthropology, Kent State University, Kent, OH 44242, USA; phone 330-672-2722; &lt;rfeinber@kent.edu&gt;</p>
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## **INFORMAL SESSIONS**

### **Avoiding Giving**

Organizer: Elise Berman

This informal session included eight participants who spoke for ten minutes about their work followed by ten minutes of discussion. The talks were given by Elise Berman, Simonne Pauwels, Susanne Kuehling, Teena Brown Pulu, Rick Feinberg, Penelope Schoeffel, and Fred Errington and Deborah Gewertz. Jessica Hardin presented in absentia. The topics discussed included how people avoid the extraordinary burdens of modern economic life in Samoa, instant noodles and how they transform the exchange economy in New Guinea, kula as a method of keeping goods as opposed to giving them, changes in economies and pressure on individuals to avoid giving, the role of religion, and children's unique position in Micronesia as people who are permitted to refuse. Altogether our discussion covered Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia and focused on the various methods and reasons by which people avoid giving as well as changes in social life that have forced a need to avoid giving. Our spirited discussion included many participants who did not present their work. 14 people have thus far expressed interest in continuing with the session.

We intend to meet as a working session next year. Interested participants should contact Elise Berman by August.

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### **Engagement with Capitalism**

Organizers: Fiona McCormack and Kate Barclay

This well-attended session explored local engagements with capitalism in the Pacific. Fourteen abstracts were presented. From the discussion two broad themes emerged:

1) *Owning and Transferring* – How property issues (broadly conceived) are implicated in the way people own, hold on to and claim new (or reclaim old) things and how people, things and social relations are reconstituted in this process. In engaging with capitalism new ways of valuing and transacting objects may emerge which may dispossess former owners, create new opportunities for owning or in many other ways have social consequences.

2) *Local capitalisms* – The relationship between capitalist and non-capitalist practices, the impact of this engagement on traditional patterns of social organization and ideas of personhood, whether this negotiation enables a locally appropriate form of development or conversely entrenches people at a disadvantaged position within the world political economy.

For our (final) session next year participants will be asked to develop their paper further with an eye to exploring the interconnections between these two themes in their own particular case studies. In discussion with participants, we have decided to pursue publication in two special issues of a journal, and aim to have the papers ready to submit for publication by mid 2012.

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### **Law and Custom in Micronesia**

Organizer: Manuel Rauchholz

Discussant: Richard Scaglion

The main goal of this informal session was to consider the relationship between laws and custom/tradition from the first colonial administrations that introduced their legal concepts and implemented them in Micronesia up into the present interpretation of law and custom within the present day independent States of Micronesia: The Republic of Palau (RP), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). After a brief introduction by the session organizer the former and first Chief Justice of the FSM, Edward C. King set the stage by sketching the history of transition and integration of received law (from the US) into the newly formed constitutional government of the Federated States of Micronesia ("Law and Custom in the Federated States of Micronesia" pre-circulated paper). Even before independence, these former US Territories of the Pacific Islands along with their judges, King emphasized, have been struggling to reconcile introduced law with customary law, to retain justice, while at the same time retaining ideas of relationship, of group, and mechanisms of resolving disputes which are not available in constitutional approaches to government (i.e. U.S.). Pohnpei State Attorney General Scott Garvey and Madolenihm

Municipal Justice Walberg Hadley (in absentia) took these ideas from the FSM national to be discussed at the state and municipal level based on their experience and practice of law in Pohnpei (“Rule of Relationship or Rule of Law? Pohnpeian Concepts of Justice in the Era of Constitutional Government”). Maxine Burkett, associate professor of law at UH Manoa spoke about climate-induced migration and the legal frontier it poses for potentially submerged island states such as the RMI, Kiribas etc (*Asia Pacific Issues* No.98 January 2011). Patrick Maloney (Pohnpei State) looked at the implications of traditional influence on economic law that seems to hinder economic development, while Manuel Rauchholz (Chuuk State) presented a case study in family law (inheritance case) on the courts struggle for a definition of tradition (Adoption vs. *Achemwir* “adoption as a siblng”).

In the second half of our session, Xavier Maipi, a Chuukese court interpreter for four Micronesian languages spoke about the challenges Micronesians are facing with the U.S. legal and court’s system of procedure. It was discovered that a lack of cross-cultural competence and many cultural barriers are still in place that deny migrants from the Pacific justice in the US and its courts. Craig Severance informed us about a handbook he is putting together to aid policy makers and Micronesians alike to help both parties overcome the misunderstandings often prevalent between them. Unfortunately, Susanne Falgout’s and Yuping Chen’s (in absentia) individual contributions could not be presented as we ran out of time carried by a moving and troubling discussion.

Glenn Petersen, Craig Severance, Mary McCutcheon, Susanne Falgout, Peter Black, Laurence Carucci, Patrick Maloney, Richard Scaglione, Robert Borofsky, Pei-yi Guo and many others contributed to and enhanced the lively discussion with their helpful commentary throughout and after the session. In his closing remarks our discussant Richard Scaglione observed five incongruent cultural differences influencing the relationship between introduced law and traditional notions of justice in Austronesia. 1. In the U.S.A. people are individual entities while Pacific people are enmeshed in social relations and exist as a group. 2. Equality under the law in the U.S. (ideally) versus a hierarchy of persons for which different rules might apply. Precedent does not matter there. 3. Land lubber versus seascape law. 4. Rules of evidence and procedure are much more relaxed in the Pacific. 5. Land law: e.g. it does not figure well with U.S. understanding of how sb. can own a tree on another persons land.

We decided to move forward to a working session in 2012 with the number contributors increasing. Anyone interested in participating with a paper is welcome to submit a title and abstract before November 1, 2011. In the end, the session could very well develop into two independent yet interdependent sessions, the latter concentrating on Pacific Islanders bureaucratic and legal challenges in the U.S. and U.S. policy maker’s and Ngo’s interests in accommodating and catering to Pacific Islanders needs (Applied Anthropology).

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## **Madang**

Organizer: Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi

This informal session was well attended in spite of being held in the afternoon only and in the smallest of rooms. Participants and actively engaged audience members included Anita and Alexis Poser, Nancy Lutkehaus, Kate Barclay, David Troolin, Deborah Gewertz and Fred Errington, Colin Filer, Nancy Sullivan, Martha Macintyre, James Slotta, and myself. Others in attendance included Steven Winduo, Conrad and Carol Zimmer, and Barbara Andersen (if I left anyone out, please forgive me). Those who were interested in participating but who could not attend the Honolulu meeting or who were in a concurrent session include: Catherine Benson,

John Burton, James, Leach, Stephen Oppenheimer, Verena Keck, Jürg Wassmann, Franziska Herbst, and Elfriede Hermann.

Discussion and presentation covered a variety of topics from the anthropologies of emotion, aging and climate change to the suburbanization of Madang, changing social relations, land grabs, political delinkage and dysfunctional bureaucracies, interpersonal corruption, James Yali, a new sense of elitism, new versions of state capitalism, and more. Attention was also given to groups and individuals directly involved in (or likely to be affected by) recent mining and other economic developments as well as those left out of such development plans.

In my introduction, I emphasized that “Madang” is more than a town or province. “Madang” (or shall I say “greater Madang”?) is a region with a long history of change and engagement in the global economy and geopolitical sphere (belying its “sleepy” characterization) as well as a long history of ethnographic and scholarly interest in many topics, not the least of which are inequality and reactions to inequality ranging from cargo cults to court cases. Madang Province itself is also an area of great cultural diversity. Taking all of this into consideration, I suggested (and it was agreed) that “Madang” would make a great case study of a region and its peoples responding to and negotiating global and local forces.

Those interested in participating in a working session on “Madang” at next year’s meeting in Portland should send detailed expressions of interest or abstracts to me by **August 1**. While some participants may analyze their particular data within the context of “Madang” as a regional case study or historical model of resource extraction, others may choose to look at their data in the context of historical anthropology (or both). One case that would benefit from using both frameworks is Nancy Sullivan’s applied work and radical involvement in issues and organizations concerned with Ramu Nickel and Deep Seat Tailings Disposal (DSTD). Yet others may wish to focus on changing conceptualizations - local, global, and anthropological - of place and person. I, for one, would like to dump the anthropological designation of the Gende as “fringe Highlanders” as a designation as misleading as calling Madang a “sleepy” little town or suggestions that villagers and urban dwellers are distinct populations versus borderless communities striving to deal with their internal inequalities as much as outside challenges.

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### **Obesity and Health in the Pacific**

Organizers: Aunchalee Palmquist and Nancy Pollock

Our informal session included 8 presentations reflecting diverse interests and approaches to the study of obesity and health throughout Oceania. We also had several visitors who contributed to our discussion, including two who have indicated interest in joining our group. Participants have been circulating reference materials related to their work since our February 2011 meeting. Topics covered during the session included: assessing the causes, consequences, and pathways for obesity intervention among children and adolescents in New Zealand (O. Dewes); the intersection of public health and evangelical Christian concerns with health by comparing how body idioms and fasting are articulated in these distinct institutional contexts in Samoa (J. Hardin); critical approaches to understanding food, body (dis)satisfaction, identity and representation among adolescent Pacific Islanders (M. Mackenzie); tobacco and the global obesity pandemic (M. Marshall); obesity: which is the best approach to alleviate obesity in the Pacific and New Zealand - education or regulation - and who determines which approach should be used? (N. Pollock); the social and cultural contexts of formative eating behaviors and body image perceptions among Pacific Islander children in Hawai'i and California (A. Palmquist); studying under-nutrition and obesity as syndemics in Port Vila, Vanuatu (C. Wentworth); food, body image, and ethnicity among Samoans and Tongans in

Hawai'i (S. Wurtzburg). Two of the session guests have since proposed contributions for the 2012 session through work related to: Ni-Vanuatu understandings of diabetes and locally perceived connections between diabetes and obesity (A. Vaughn) and food pathways, health, and connections to land (P. Fifita). Given the formative nature of the work presented at the session, we have agreed to continue discussion of our research through a second informal session at the meeting in Portland, OR. We hope to expand participation in our session to include more participation by Pacific Island Scholars as well as those who have interests that complement current session participants' work. Ongoing participants as well as anyone interested in joining the group for the first time are encouraged to submit a draft concept paper by 3 October 2011 to the session co-organizers, who will compile and circulate materials to the entire group.

Our current list of participants for 2012: Ofa Dewes, Patricia Fifita, Jessica Hardin, Margaret Mackenzie, Aunchalee Palmquist, Nancy Pollock, Ashley Vaughan, Chelsea Wentworth, Susan Wurtzburg.

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Nancy Pollock, Depts of Anthropology and Development Studies (retired), Victoria University of Wellington, NEW ZEALAND; <nancy\_pollock@paradise.net.nz>

### **The Pacific and Judaism**

Organizers: Terry Brown and Lynda Newland

The 2011 informal session on "The Pacific and Judaism" drew about a dozen active participants, with others dropping in for shorter periods. There were a variety of informal presentations, from comparison of Jewish and Pacific musical traditions to Pacific perceptions of contemporary Rabbinic Judaism to descriptions of current Pacific religious and political movements that have appropriated in one way or another what they perceive as Jewish beliefs and practices (e.g., Hebrew Scripture/Old Testament narratives and genealogies, Zionism, relations with the State of Israel, etc.) for their identity, worship and political aims. There were presentations on the various Lost Tribes of Israel- and Government of Israel-related movements in Malaita, Solomon Islands; the West Papuan independence movement and Zionism; a variety of Papua New Guinea movements using their new Jewish identities both to critique and affirm traditional and modern cultural practices; the significance of Jerusalem (or Bethlehem) as not just a spiritual vision but a real geographical reality; and Mormonism's view of Polynesian peoples as a Lost Tribe of Israel. Pacific Christianity's often heavy reliance on the Old Testament was also noted, both historically and today.

The 2012 working group will continue the discussion of these areas and any other aspect of the Pacific and Judaism. Participants are asked to prepare 10-page papers submitted to the organizers before 31 December 2011. They will then be circulated to session participants and discussed at the session.

Current participants or those expressing an interest: Chris Ballard, John Barker, Wendy Cowling, Lise Dobrin, Annelin Eriksen, Frederick Errington, David Gegeo, Deborah Gewertz, Alex Golub, Courtney Handman, Dan Jorgensen, Christine Jourdan, Mette Ramstad, Eric Silverman, Jaap Timmer, Alexis Tucker and Camellia Webb-Gannon.

Terry Brown, Provincial Archivist, Anglican Church of Melanesia, Honiara, P.O. Box 1846, Honiara SOLOMON ISLANDS; <terrymalaita@yahoo.com>  
Lynda Newland, Senior Lecturer, School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Law, University of the South Pacific, Suva FIJI; <newland\_l@usp.ac.fj>

### **Photographing Pacific Islanders**

Organizers: Kathryn Creely (in absentia) and Eric Silverman

This informal session, now in its second year at the 2011 meeting, continued to explore photography and Pacific Islanders. We focused on photographs taken and/or used in the context of anthropological research and the historical and contemporary interpretation/uses of those photographs. Twelve presentations (one in absentia) and extended discussions took place, a full schedule that filled an entire day. Emerging themes include colonial conventions of early photographs, intended/unintended aesthetics and content, ethical/moral aspects of making anthropological photographs available to global/local audiences, and the ways photographs are used by anthropologists and local people today. Next year we will meet as a Working Session. Participants will be asked to develop their papers by moving beyond purely descriptive or ethnographic levels in order to engage explicitly with wider and more theoretical approaches and a relevant body of scholarly literature.

Eric Silverman, Department of American Studies, Wheelock College, 200 The Riverway, Boston MA 02215, USA; <esilverman@wheelock.edu>  
Kathryn Creely, Melanesian Archive, Geisel Library 0175-R, 9500 Gilman Drive, University of California San Diego, La Jolla CA 92093-0175, USA; <kcreely@ucsd.edu>

### **Refashioning the Body: Building Critical Theory across the Pacific**

Organizers: Lisa Uperesa, Bethany Matai Edmunds, and Paige West

Historically, people across the Pacific Islands have altered their physical appearance in order to express personal and familial identities, community belonging, and their own subjectivities. They have also produced material objects that when worn adorn the body, express identity, and materialize selves. Since its beginnings, anthropology has been concerned with personal adornment and body modification. In this session, we return to, and draw on, historic conversations about bodies and adornment in anthropology, but we do so with the goal of using contemporary discussions about materiality, indigenous politics, authenticity, and decolonizing methodologies to inform the development of a new way of looking at physicality and materiality in the Pacific. At the same time we wish to hold in tension the critique of the role of anthropology in the formulation of an external gaze of the Pacific and the ways in which it has manifested through clothing, views of Pacific bodies, and commodification of Pacific island adornment for non-indigenous consumers.

We had a lively session with twenty participants. The session began with everyone speaking for five minutes about their current research interests in bodies and adornment. Half of the participants are working on the refashioning of actual, physical indigenous bodies and the other half are working on images, icons, and material objects that are meant to index indigenous culture. These two threads were brought together in a discussion of tattoo. Our participants included Pacific island scholars, contemporary arts practitioners, and scholars whose interests lie in the Pacific, who sparked debate around ideas of living indigenous Pacific island culture and identity as expressed through personal adornment, dress, and the body.

Next year we will continue with another informal session.

### **Participants**

Tom Mountjoy (University of Bergen)  
Naomi M. McPherson (University of British Columbia Okanagan)  
Carol S. Ivory (Washington State University)  
Joshua A. Bell (Natural History Museum, Smithsonian Institution)  
Barbara Andersen (New York University)

Tēvita O. Ka'ili (Brigham Young University Hawai'i)  
Julien Clément (Fondation Fyssen - Paris) Post-Doctoral Fellow, UCSD  
Pamela Rosi (Bridgewater State University)  
Tricia Allen (Artist Practitioner and Independent Scholar)  
Kalaniopua Tatiana Young (University of Texas-Austin)  
Eilin Torgersen (University of Bergen)  
Paige West (Barnard College)  
Lisa Uperesa (Columbia University)  
Bethany Matai Edmunds (Independent Scholar, Auckland NZ)

Lisa Uperesa, Anthropology Department, Columbia University, 452 Schermerhorn Extension, 1200 Amsterdam Avenue MC 5523, New York, NY 10027, USA; tel. (917) 684-7707; fax (212) 854-7347; <flu2101@columbia.edu>  
Bethany Matai Edmunds, Independent Scholar, 8/20 Poynton Tce, Auckland Central, Auckland, NEW ZEALAND 1010; <rauru05@gmail.com>  
Paige West, Department of Anthropology, Barnard College, 3009 Broadway, New York City, NY 10027 USA; tel. 212-854-9389; fax (212) 854-3332; <cw2031@columbia.edu>

### **Reverse Mobilities**

Organizers: Helen Lee and John Taylor

This informal session had 10 presentations at different stages of development, and several others indicated their interest in joining the session in future. The presentations all fitted well with the theme of reverse mobility, with some looking at movement from the diaspora to the homeland and others movement from urban to rural areas within the Pacific. There was also an excellent representation of regional geographic spread across the papers. Several topic clusters emerged: the forced movement of people through deportation and family decision making; the movement of older people back to their home villages; and the circular mobility of people between the diaspora and homeland. A number of common themes emerged which promise to link the papers together well as we move to a working session in 2012. These included the linguistic and cultural disconnect often experienced with reverse mobility, questions of forced vs. voluntary movement, reflexivity about 'culture' and ideas of 'home', the importance of kinship obligations and family support, gender differences in experiences of mobility, and class mobility.

In preparation for next year's session we have agreed to develop a set of basic questions for those who will be undertaking further research and to be considered in writing papers, to set up a Google group to share drafts of papers, develop a bibliography and generally maintain momentum for the session.

Session participants included Rachana Agarwal, Joe Esser, David Gegeo, Helen Lee, Mac Marshall, Natalie Pereira (in absentia), John Taylor, Micah van der Ryn, Susan Wurtzburg and Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi. Also expressing interest in participation were Penelope Schoeffel, Alan Howard and Jan Rensel, Ping-Ann Addo, and Anne Tietjen. Others interested in joining the session should contact the session convenors; we welcome papers that explore diverse forms of reverse mobility, including return migration, educational or labor-related movements, the (often forced) "return" movements of children and youth or women, or home-comings to or from such short-term visits as family reunions, church events, weddings and funerals.

Helen Lee, Sociology and Anthropology, School of Social Sciences, La Trobe University, Victoria 3086, AUSTRALIA; <H.Lee@latrobe.edu.au>  
John Taylor, Sociology and Anthropology, School of Social Sciences, La Trobe University, Victoria 3086, AUSTRALIA; <John.Taylor@latrobe.edu.au>

### **Sisters and Brothers: New Perspectives on Contemporary Siblingship in the Pacific**

Organizers: Mary K. Good and Simonne Pauwels

Our session kicked off with three people who had prepared short presentations of their research and continued with a roundtable discussion about possible future directions and additional participation among the total of fifteen people in attendance. Four others had initially expressed interest in participating, but could not attend the 2011 meetings. Our session was intended to build on the foundation of the original work done on siblingship in Oceania in the 1970s and 1980s, augmenting these perspectives with new research and theory that incorporates the ever-increasing degree of transnational movement and contact with other global sites through people, products, and ideas. The three projects discussed have a significant degree of overlapping themes, with an intriguing continuum of engagement with processes of modernity and circular migration. Several others expressed keen interest in participating in the session in the coming years, and so we have decided to move to a working session for the 2012 meetings with the possibility of submitting material for a special journal issue or an edited volume in the future.

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<mkgood@email.arizona.edu>  
Simonne Pauwels, CREDO, Maison Asie Pacifique, 3 Place Victor Hugo, 13003  
Marseille, FRANCE; tel. 00 33(0) 4 91 10 61 19; <simonne@pacific-credo.fr>

### **The State of Contemporary Maoli Arts in Hawai'i: Visual and Cinematic Insights**

Organizers: Marata Tamaira, Carl F K Pao, Ann Marie Nālani Kirk

This informal session—which was conducted in “talk story” style—explored the state of contemporary Maoli arts in Hawai'i, with particular emphasis on the visual and cinematic arts. The panel consisted of six Native Hawaiians from various sectors of the arts community: Carl F K Pao (visual artist), Ann Marie Nālani Kirk (filmmaker), Imakalani Kalāhele (visual artist), Maile Meyer (entrepreneur/art liaison), Anne Ke'ala Kelly (filmmaker), and Solomon Enos (visual artist); Pao and Kirk served as lead discussants. The session was in four parts: 1) introduction of participants, (2) consideration of what it means to be a Native Hawaiian artist, (3) consideration of what the state of Maoli visual and cinematic arts is in Hawai'i, and (4) consideration of the future of Maoli arts. During introductions, Pao provided a Powerpoint presentation of his artwork, Kirk showed a promotional reel of the 'Ōiwi Film Festival that she organized in 2010, and Kelly showed an excerpt of her documentary *Noho Hewa*.

Many of the discussants raised the issue of the lack of support for Maoli arts in Hawai'i and the struggle of Maoli artists to find viable spaces to tell their stories through their chosen mediums. Some talked about the practice of adopting western art forms on Hawaiian terms, thereby underscoring indigenous agency, while others highlighted the importance of subverting American hegemony in Hawai'i through the creative force of Maoli visual and cinematic narratives. For example, Anne Ke'ala Kelly referred to her film *Noho Hewa* as a guerilla documentary (the film explores the illegal occupation of Hawai'i by the United States), and Maile Meyer described temporary exhibition spaces that showcase Maoli art as sites that bear witness to the presence of Maoli in the islands. What the session revealed was that the state of Maoli arts in Hawai'i is rooted in the political landscape of the islands and is inextricably linked to the affects of American colonialism. As many of the participants attested, Maoli arts constitute a cultural and political movement, rather than an isolated moment. The session stirred strong emotional responses from many of the participants who shared their experience of struggling to find and then artistically express their Maoli identity in a land that has been (and, indeed, remains) colonized.

Because this session was exclusively made up of Kanaka Maoli and featured their voices and critical insights, it was disappointing that so few people were present: there were a total of eight audience members, one of whom left halfway through. Despite the glaring paucity of people, the session nevertheless provided a platform for Maoli to articulate their critical perspectives and concerns not only to the few audience members that did attend, but to each other as well.

Although the session opened up points of discussion that will continue to be explored by the organizers, after careful consideration we have decided not to proceed to a working session next year.

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Carl F K Pao, Kamehameha Schools, Honolulu, 1634 B Leilehua Lane, Honolulu,  
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Ann Marie Nālani Kirk, Center for Pacific Islands Studies, University of Hawai'i at  
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### **Value in Motion: (E)motions of Exchange**

Organizers: Susanne Kuehling and Katharina Schneider

The 2011 informal session focused on seeking common ground between a wide range of value-related themes. As only half of the participants could make it we want to continue with another informal session, focusing our attention on the dynamic political, emotional and often highly emotional processes of value negotiation, generation and transformation. Contributions so far address the values of personal independence, of children, of mortuary festivals and remittances, of objects as they move between different spheres of exchange, of magical formulas, of sea turtles, of peoples' movements and of images in the context of cross-cultural encounters.

We are interested in how people prioritize certain aspects of the material and immaterial world, and how they define what they deem worth striving for as well as what they regard as less relevant. We invite our colleagues to contribute to this session by thinking about the ethnographically specific factors that characterize value negotiation in their field sites. Those may include movements, emotions or rhetorical devices, for instance. Looking at value negotiation in interactions between people used to different value regimes may provide further insights. Precious objects and animals, empowering actions of give-and-take and discourses and counter-discourses on moral and economic value may serve as doors into the field of local priorities and, perhaps ultimately, towards a better understanding of more general principles of economic and political actions.

Participants include so far:

Petra M. Autio (Åbo Akademi, Helsinki): The Value of 'independence/freedom' and Refusing Food in Tabiteuea, Southern Kiribati

Elise Berman (University of Chicago): On (not) Feeling Emotional about Giving one's Child Away: Adoption in the Marshall Islands

Linus S. Digim'Rina (University of Papua New Guinea): An Edict on Trobriand Funerary Rites and Sagali

Susanne Kuehling (University of Regina): Kula: Motions and Emotions of Exchange

Michelle MacCarthy (University of Auckland): Directing Emotion: The Use of Love Magic in the Trobriand Islands

Alexis Scott Antram (University of Texas at San Antonio): Sea Turtles as Actants in (E)motional Encounters

Katharina Schneider (University of Aberdeen): Value Creation on Shifting Ground  
Anke Tonnaer (Radboud University Nijmegen): Shooting Value: Photography as a Shared  
Performance in Touristic Encounters in Indigenous Australia

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Katharina Schneider, Department of Anthropology, University of Aberdeen,  
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## VI. NEW SESSION PROPOSALS

### WORKING SESSIONS

#### **Men, Masculinities, and Violence**

Organizers: Aletta Biersack, Margaret Jolly, Martha Macintyre

This working session will explore the terrain of men, masculinities, and violence in the contemporary Pacific, albeit approached historically, with an eye toward continuity and change as well as generational differences. In what ways is the category “man” changing, and are there any significant continuities? Does this differ generationally, and, if so, what generational tensions are created because of it? How have activities characteristic of men changed and why? What implications have followed for male prestige and the arenas in which it is sought? Are warfare and payback still important activities for pursuing name and fame? Do older men still exercise authority over younger men, and, if not, what are the emerging authority structures, or is control now decentralized, and, if so, how? What is the role of Christianity in promoting altered masculinities? What is the range of male sexual and marital practices today, and how do these differ from the past? How do STIs and HIV/AIDS affect men, and how do they deal with these diseases? What are the causes of violence against women, and do the frequency and purposes or causes of violence against women differ from the past? What are the politics of this violence? How, more generally, do men exercise control over women today? In an era of monetization, how do men acquire money, and what do they do with it once they have it? How are men today stratified, and what accounts for this stratification? What kinds of criminality do men participate in, and toward what ends? Participants should write a short paper (7pages or so double spaced) for the session, and come to the session prepared to summarize its main points and indicate how the paper would be expanded to book chapter length.

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Margaret Jolly, Laureate Professor, School of Culture, History and Language, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT, Australia; <[margaret.jolly@anu.edu.au](mailto:margaret.jolly@anu.edu.au)>  
Martha Macintyre, Associate Professor, Honorary Fellow, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria, Australia;  
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### INFORMAL SESSIONS

#### **Naturalist Histories: Making Nature in Oceania**

Organizers: Jamon Halvaksz and Joshua Bell

From early explorers to contemporary scientists, naturalists have examined island flora and fauna of Oceania. Sometimes focusing attention on the discovery of new species, but also

carefully documenting the lives of animals, their work has been central to the wider image of Oceania (consider recent discoveries in the Foja Mountains of New Guinea). These ‘discoveries’ and exploratory moves have had profound local and global impacts. But often, local knowledge and communities are silent in the ethologies and histories that naturalists produce. This session will examine the ways that indigenous and non-indigenous naturalists have made island natures visible to a wider audience, their relationship with the communities where they work, as well as the unique natures that they explore and help make.

In staking out an area of naturalists histories, we invite contributors from a range of disciplines whose work might address the following questions: What is the relationship between naturalists and Oceanic communities? How have naturalists’ histories shaped place and practices in the past and present? How have their works influenced communities, conservations, and development projects? What is the relationship between scientific and indigenous knowledge? Whose natures are revealed, and alternatively concealed, in the final work?

Individuals interested in the session should contact the organizers by email with a one-page statement of interest, which we will circulate prior to the meeting.

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Jamon Halvaksz, Department of Anthropology, University of Texas at San Antonio, One UTSA Circle, San Antonio, TX 78249, USA; <jamon.halvaksz@utsa.edu

## **VII. OFFICER REPORTS**

### **1. PROGRAM COORDINATOR’S ANNUAL REPORT**

This year’s program included four symposia, six working sessions, and twelve informal sessions for a total of 22 sessions. All four symposia have plans for publication and will not continue at next year’s meeting in Portland. Among the six working sessions, two will not continue, another will continue as a working session and three will move on to formal status. One of the two working sessions that will not continue plans to move directly to publication. Of the twelve informal sessions, one will not continue, three will continue at the informal level, and eight will move on to the working session level in 2012. In addition to the fifteen sessions that will continue on into 2012 there are two new session proposals - one working, one informal. With such a lineup in place – three formal sessions (possibly four if one of the informal sessions chooses to go straight to formal status v. working), 10 working sessions, and four informal sessions - it would be wise for anyone considering proposing a new session to do so by the August 20 deadline for the September newsletter.

The book display was well attended given its location outside several of the meeting rooms and in the foyer where the coffee breaks were held each day. As a result of my inviting over 44 presses to send books, journals, and flyers for the book display and contributions from individual authors, there was also a surfeit of books and other printed materials for the meeting attendees to browse through. Given the many responsibilities of the program coordinator’s position, I was pleased to have David Troolin (SIL, Papua New Guinea, david\_troolin@sil.org) inform me that he would be happy to take over the book display duties beginning with the upcoming meeting in Portland. There will be a transition period beginning in December as I turn over the duties of writing requests, responding to press queries, and organizing volunteers for both the book display and registration tables. To make that transition easier for David it would be best if ASAO members send any correspondence about the book display to both David and me in the meantime.

Old and new session organizers are reminded that the next deadline for getting updated session proposals to me is August 20.

*Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi*  
*Program Coordinator*

## **2. SITE COORDINATOR REPORT**

### 2010 ASAO Annual Meeting

The 2010 annual meeting was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, on February 10-13. A major snowstorm crippled the East Coast on the weekend of February 6-7, and again on Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup>. There were 25 people at the opening plenary. By Saturday, we had risen to about 100. Fortunately, the hotel declared *force majeure*, and the staff was very helpful restructuring meeting plans and catering orders. The Board will shy away from meetings in the Northeast for a while.

### 2011 ASAO Annual Meeting

We met at the Hilton Waikiki Prince Kuhio Hotel from February 9-12, and there was no snow. The site was right, the meetings were tight. Registration and attendance was high, and the consensus held that the meetings ran smoothly and productively.

### 2012 ASAO Annual Meeting

We are scheduled to meet on the West Coast of the U.S., and the site is the Benson Hotel in Portland, Oregon during the week of February 7-12, 2012. The Benson is a classic, old-style hotel in downtown Portland (309 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97205) within easy walking distance of a number of bars and restaurants ([www.bensonhotel.com](http://www.bensonhotel.com)). The Benson has 287 guest rooms and 16,000 square feet of meeting space as well as sustainability and green policies and practices. Our guest room rate will be: King or Double room at \$129.00 plus tax (free wifi in guest rooms). Information concerning registration will follow in subsequent newsletters.

### 2013 ASAO Annual Meeting

This meeting will be on the East Coast of the U.S., and I solicit recommendations.

*Mike Rynkiewich*  
*Site Coordinator*

## **3. DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES REPORT**

In 2009, the ASAO Board negotiated an agreement with *Oceania* to publish our annual Distinguished Lecture in its November issue. The previous Special Publication series was discontinued. Distinguished Lecturer Adrienne Kaeppler's 2010 presentation, "Interpreting Ritual as Performance and Theory," was published in vol. 80(3):263-271. This is the second such ASAO Distinguished Lecture to be featured in *Oceania*, creating a new series that we hope will continue. Jon Osorio, Professor in the Hawai'i nui ākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge at the University of Hawai'i, delivered the 2011 Distinguished Lecture at the Honolulu meetings, a stylish presentation entitled "All Things Depending: The Future of Interdependence in Oceania" that he also enlivened with song and chant.

No expenditures were made this year from the Special Publications account and just over \$7764.00 remains available to support future publication and also future Distinguished Lecturers. ASAO may cover travel expenses for Distinguished Lecturers, as needed, in addition to the modest honorarium that each currently receives.

*Lamont Lindstrom*

#### **4. FROM THE SECRETARY**

2010-2011 was my first year in the office of secretary and has hence been a year of training under the generous guidance of past secretary Jocelyn Armstrong. I have had to learn routine tasks, such as keeping notes of virtual meetings and preparing a summary of these. I must stress that the out-going secretary, due to some urgency and my inexperience at that stage, handled many of the routine tasks (below). These are marked by an asterisk (\*).

##### Routine tasks

1. Responded to inquiries from members and non-members
2. Sent letters of appreciation to major donors to Pacific Island Scholars Fund\*
3. Prepared minutes from the 2010 meeting and opening and closing plenaries\*
4. Prepared draft minutes for review by board members and officers and an approved version for distribution and deposit in archives\*
5. Compiled copies of bylaws and minutes of past board meetings for distribution to new board members and officers\*
6. Prepared certificate for presentation/ mailing to newly elected honorary fellow\*
7. Invited and processed submission for recognition of edited volumes/ special journal issues resulting from ASAO sessions as ASAO publications
8. Informed contributors to newly recognised ASAO publications of their change of status to fellow\*
9. Maintained file of board discussions and decisions (by email) between 2010 and 2011 meetings
10. Prepared draft summaries for review by board members and and approved version for distribution and deposit in archives
11. Prepared agenda for 2011 board meeting

I will give my thanks to Chair Joshua Bell, Past Chair Toon Van Meijl, and Chair Elect Roger Lohman for advice and support in this rookie year and to other members of the board and officers who helped me with my inquiries. I give special and heartfelt thanks to out-going secretary Jocelyn Armstrong who was always able to kindly guide and assist me in the various tasks under this office, and who has prepared me for fully taking over from 2011.

*Respectfully,  
Cato Berg*

#### **5. FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR**

In 2010, the organization had 291 paid members and we had 19 institutional memberships from:. The 2010 membership was essentially equal to 2009 (289 members).

The regional representation of the paid membership in 2010 consisted of:

- 197 North America
- 38 Europe
- 18 Pacific Islands
- 33 Australia/New Zealand
- 4 Other (2 Japan, 1 China)

The 2010 annual meeting was held in Alexandria, Virginia—immediately following, you will recall, a snowstorm, which hindered the arrival of many members. Nonetheless, 71 members were registered for the 2010 meeting.

Registrants for the 2010 Annual Meeting came from:

North America 46  
Europe 12  
Pacific Islands 8  
Australia/New Zealand 5

In addition to the time-consuming task of keeping up the membership database, which includes sending and receiving registration forms, I also discussed several matters with the Treasurer, May McCutcheon, and the previous coordinator, Kathy Creely. We looked into having an on-line credit card payment option for dues, which the cost was prohibitive. However, we did implement a multi-year payment. Additionally, there continues to be a time-lag in that sometimes forms/payments come to me first, and I send them to Mary, and vice versa; we should probably formalize this procedure. Last, I note that as of this date (Jan 27), I have received less than 100 membership renewals/applications for 2011, and about 70 registrations for the 2011 meeting. This may be the result of the fact that I did not automatically send personalized renewal forms to each and every member this Fall, since I frankly lacked the time.

*Eric Silverman*

## **6. FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

My thanks to the board and officers for continued support, with special thanks to Kathy Creely Jan Rensel, Eric Silverman and Laura Tamakoshi in the editing and distribution of each issue.

The newsletter was produced with few problems this year. The combined process of getting the necessary materials in and ensuring that we had a complete membership list caused some delays. But in general things went out in a timely fashion.

Content-wise, there was a great deal of satisfaction with the New Research section, with a number of members commenting on how they appreciated knowing that students were still working in the Pacific. We also included a report by Jan Rensel and Kathy Creely on memberships and meetings in the April 2010 issue that should be quite helpful in future planning, and policy statements on Greening the Meetings and the use of new media in the September 2010 issue.

The total number of print copies continues to decline, with substantial increases in electronic copies as we prepared for our meeting in Honolulu. However, price also fluctuated with longer issues. Thus, the April costs were higher as officer and meeting reports increased both photocopy costs and postage. September prices decreased further as there were sufficient envelopes to cover the mailing.

### *Summary of issues sent this year and associated costs*

	<i>April</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>December</i>
Pages	35 pages	27 pages	30 pages
Print copies made	80	70	75
Electronic copies	190	261	294

### Costs

Photocopies and supplies	198.88	145.70	195.62
Postage	130.40	103.55	104.62
<b>Total costs</b>	<b>329.28</b>	<b>249.25</b>	<b>300.57</b>

We are considering options to get information about the annual meeting and the December newsletter out quicker. As the meetings occur less than two months later, it is hoped that an earlier distribution might make it easier for everyone to make travel plans. Laura Tamakoshi and I will be working on this during the year. But this will also require a good deal of coordination on the part of session organizers and other contributors.

I am pleased to continue serving in this position and do not anticipate needing to step down anytime during the next few years.

*Jamon Halvaksz*

## **7. ARCHIVIST'S REPORT**

As explained in previous reports, Gene Ogan and I deposited the ASAO archives in the Pacific Collection of Hamilton Library, University of Hawai'i–Manoa, in January 2003. The archives date back to the 1960s and largely consist of official association records, such as annual meeting agenda, minutes, schedules, and programs; officers' annual reports; lists of officers' responsibilities; and several other types of records. Each type of material is filed with a "finder list" identifying and describing each document. Also included in the archives are correspondence files, which are considered "closed" files and require ASAO Board approval for access. For more information about access, see the ASAO website at <http://www.asao.org/pacific/archives.htm>

Since the initial deposit of materials, I have been collecting and organizing the various annual official reports as noted above, plus some additional historical documents mailed to me by long-term ASAO members as they discovered them in their personal files. Prior to submitting the next batch of materials, the finder lists for each type of material, and for the collection as a whole, must be updated; this is a time-consuming task. On the library's side, accepting new archival material is also laborious; for instance, all materials must be frozen (to kill any bugs!) and all metal staples or paper clips must be removed (to prevent rust) before they can be added to the collection. Therefore I will probably wait another year or so before depositing the next batch.

In the meantime, the ASAO board has given me the go-ahead to create an online group where ASAO board members and officers can easily retrieve recent officer reports, meeting minutes, summary reports published in the ASAO Newsletter, etc. This should be helpful as we have new board members each year, and periodic changes in the officers' ranks, including some redistribution of responsibilities.

*Jan Rensel*

## **8. BOOK SERIES EDITOR'S REPORT**

The ASAO *Studies in Pacific Anthropology* book series is expecting in 2011 to see the arrival of The first volume in the reincarnated ASAO *Studies in Pacific Anthropology* is scheduled to appear in July 2011, under the title *The Anthropology Of Empathy: Experiencing the Lives of Others in Pacific Societies*, edited by Doug Hollan and Jason Throop. Berghahn is advertising the series at [www.berghahnbooks.com/series.php?pg=asao](http://www.berghahnbooks.com/series.php?pg=asao) and in their paper catalogs. Two further books are now also under contract and should appear in 2012: Ping-Ann Addo's *Crafting a Nation with Cloth: Women, Wealth, and Tradition in the Tongan Diaspora*, and Keir Martin's *Big Men and Big Shots: Reciprocity, Disaster, and Conflicts about "Custom" in New Britain*. Several other manuscripts are currently under review, or are being revised by authors

in response to peer reviews or to the series editor's initial assessment prior to peer review. Authors or volume editors are highly encouraged to write the series editor at any stage about their possible submissions.

*Rupert Stasch*

## **9. TREASURER'S REPORT**

### Bank Accounts

We have two accounts in Wells Fargo Bank plus Lamont Lindstrom's account in the Tulsa Credit Union. As of December 31, 2010 our balances were:

Wells Fargo Checking	\$19948.07
Wells Fargo Savings	\$26169.74
Tulsa Credit Union	\$ 7764.11

The Wells Fargo savings account earns 0.36% interest while the Tulsa Credit Union gives 1.9%. Our savings account might earn slightly more in a CD, but Wells Fargo cannot match Tulsa's interest rate in any of its accounts. Should we consider a more lucrative investment, or is the security of Wells Fargo worth the loss of revenue?

### Pacific Island Scholar's Fund

A component of our Wells Fargo Account is designated for the Pacific Island Scholars Fund enabling Pacific islanders to attend our meetings. The money that makes up this component comes from: a) intentional donations, b) an \$8.00 per membership allocation, and, this year c) a special allocation voted on by the board.

At the end of 2009, the PISF fund had a balance of	\$8815.58
Over the course of 2010, members donated	\$3300.00
The 229 memberships over the course of 2010 yielded	\$1832.00
<u>And the board voted to make a special allocation of</u>	<u>\$5000.00</u>
	\$18947.58

The PISF recipients for the Alexandria meetings in 2010 cost the fund \$4050. \$5300 had been awarded, but two of the recipients never managed to leave home because of the snowstorms.

*So the balance for PISF at the beginning of 2011 was \$14897.58.*

Grants that have been awarded for 2011 amount to \$9430.54.

### Big Expenses 2010

Over the course of 2010, our biggest expense was the Alexandria meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. We had paid a deposit for the hotel during 2009, and paid the difference of \$11,232.01 in February. Because of the reduction in rooms used (due to the snow storms), the hotel refunded us \$2313.22.

During 2010, we also paid \$9300 toward the 2011 meetings at the Hilton Kukio Waikiki Hotel.

Because so many people who had preregistered for the 2010 meeting could not come, we refunded \$2100 to them.

The newsletter during 2010 cost \$957.20

Lila San Roque won the GRIKPIC grant for 2010 and was reimbursed \$933.28.

Hotel room reimbursements for officers and PISF recipients in Alexandria and in L.A. where a PISF recipient was stranded, amounted to \$1373.96.

#### The 2010 Meeting: Did We Lose A Lot?

Two snow storms struck the mid Atlantic before and during the February 2010 meetings in Alexandria, VA. Many people who had hoped to come, were unable to leave home or were stranded along the way. We refunded 19 preregistered people, but at least got a refund from the hotel. In the end, the meeting cost us \$10118.79. And, after all refunds, the attendees paid \$6390 in registration fees. So we lost \$3728.79.

#### Bad News From The Bank

Wells Fargo bank used to accept foreign checks happily and deducted a \$5.00 service charge. They have decided not to accept foreign checks at all from now on. We should encourage people who do not have US bank accounts to pay us using paypal.

#### Paypal

Paypal is becoming the choice of most members now. It is efficient, timely, and permits good accounting. Paypal does deduct a service charge from transactions, but it is not onerous.

*Mary McCutcheon*

### **10. WEB SITE MANAGER'S REPORT**

During the year I updated the website as required to reflect session reports from the 2010 meeting in Alexandria, session announcements provided by the Newsletter Editor and Program Coordinator, and information concerning the 2011 meeting in Honolulu provided by the Program Coordinator and Site Coordinator. The PISF application forms for the Honolulu meeting were uploaded in PDF format. Employment opportunities relevant to the membership have been posted as they were drawn to my attention.

The archives on the website have been updated to include all the newsletters in PDF format through December 2009 (in compliance with the plan to add newsletters one year after their publication so that members maintain the benefit of having current newsletters that are unavailable to non-members). A photo album has been added to the archives with pictures from the Alexandria meeting.

During the month of January 2011 the website received an average of 100.9 visits per day (up from 78.3 per day for January 2010), with an average of 281.9 pages observed. The average monthly statistics for 2010 are 2,566 visits and 7,407 pages observed.

As always, I would be happy to hear from members of the Association regarding ways to improve the website, and would appreciate being informed of any errors, misspellings, or bizarre experiences you might have when visiting the site.

*Alan Howard*

## VIII. RECENT JOURNALS

*The Contemporary Pacific*, Volume 23 (#1), is now available and contains the following articles and dialogue pieces:

Joseph Genz

Navigating the Revival of Voyaging in the Marshall Islands: Predicaments of Preservation and Possibilities of Collaboration

Nicole George

Pacific Women Building Peace: A Regional Perspective

Diana Looser

“Our Ancestors that We Carry on Our Backs”: Restaging Hawai‘i’s History in the Plays of Victoria Nalani Kneubuhl

Margaret Jolly

Becoming a “New” Museum? Contesting Oceanic Visions at Musée du Quai Branly

David W Kupferman

On Location at a Nonentity: Reading Hollywood’s “Micronesia”

The issue also features the art of Niki Hastings-McFall, political reviews of Micronesia and Polynesia, and nine book and media reviews.

To purchase any issue, or for subscriptions to *The Contemporary Pacific*, contact the Journals Department, University of Hawai‘i Press, 2840 Kolowalu Street, Honolulu HI 96822; tel 808/956-8833; <http://www.uhpress.hawaii.edu/journals/cp/>; e-mail [uhpjourn@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhpjourn@hawaii.edu). TCP issues from 2000 to present (volume 12 on) may also be accessed online (if your institution subscribes to Project MUSE): <http://muse.jhu.edu/>. Back issues through volume 22 (1) are freely available on ScholarSpace, the University of Hawai‘i Hamilton Library’s open-source institutional digital repository (<http://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/handle/10125/2828>).

## IX. BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Besnier, Niko

2011 *On the Edge of the Global: Modern Anxieties in a Pacific Island Nation*. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.

Iteanu, André, ed.

2010 *La Cohérence des sociétés: Mélanges en hommage à Daniel de Coppet*. Paris: Editions de la Maison des sciences de l’homme.

Kahn, Miriam

2011 *Tahiti Beyond the Post Card: Power, Place, and Everyday life*. Seattle: University of Washington Press. URL: <http://www.washington.edu/uwpress/search/books/KAHTAH.html>

Wolffram, Paul, (director)

2011 *Rubber’s Kastom*. DVD. Handmade productions Aotearoa.  
To order contact: [Films@Handmade.net.nz](mailto:Films@Handmade.net.nz)

## **X. MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HONORS**

Congratulations to Joel Robbins who won the 2011 Staley Prize for his monograph, *Becoming Sinners*. <http://www.ucpress.edu/blog/12948/>

## **XI. NOMINEES FOR ASAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES**

The following have been nominated for the ASAO Board of Directors. Voting will be conducted via electronic survey, with paper ballots sent to hard copy subscribers. Brief biographic statements will be available through the balloting process. Active members will receive an invitation to participate and vote.

- Susanne Kuehling
- Paige West

## **XII. HONORARY FELLOW NOMINEES**

The following have been nominated to be ASAO Honorary Fellows. Voting will be conducted via electronic survey, with paper ballots sent to hard copy subscribers. Active members will receive an invitation to participate in the vote.

### **David R. Counts and Dorothy E. A. Counts**

It is my great privilege to nominate Distinguished Professors Emeriti David R. Counts (McMaster University) and Dorothy E. A. Counts (University of Waterloo) to the roll of ASAO Honorary Fellows.

David and Dorothy have always been a team: they were married with small children during their doctoral studies; they both won a US National Science Foundation pre-doctoral award in support of their field research among the coastal Kaliai, in West New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea; and they both graduated with their Ph.D.s from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, in 1968. Immediately after graduation, they both took up university appointments teaching anthropology; Dorothy at University of Waterloo and David at McMaster University. They spent their academic careers at these universities teaching anthropology and conducting on-going field research in West New Britain, PNG, from 1966 to 2003. They turned out a long line of graduate students, most of whom also worked in West New Britain and elsewhere in PNG. For those of us at McMaster University who worked in WNB, we benefited greatly from having both David *and* Dorothy as supervisors and mentors.

David and Dorothy attended their first ASAO annual meeting (the third annual ASAO meeting) held at Orcas Island in 1973 where they presented in a symposium on Colonialism and Political Change in the Pacific. This meeting was the first of the “Melanesianist invasion” of what was originally ASAEO (Association for Social Anthropology in Eastern Oceania) and primarily concerned with research in Polynesia. From that point on, they have been a major source of energy in the Association, presenting papers, organizing symposia, acting as discussants, either contributing chapters to or editing ASAO monographs (numbers 9 and 10), sitting on the board of directors and as Association officers (seven years for Dorothy). With the assistance of Margy Rodman, Dorothy designed the “informal,” “working,” and “symposium” guidelines for session organizers so familiar to us, and which work so well. David and Dorothy both contributed to the PISF as officers, and were on the committee that initiated and implemented the Grant to Return Indigenous Knowledge to Pacific Islands Communities (GRIKPIC) in 2006. They also developed and maintain the West New Britain web site.

Together, David and Dorothy have published more than 15 chapters and 11 articles; Dorothy herself published an additional 15 chapters and 15 articles. As joint authors they have published three books which describe the scope of their scholarship from mythology in Kaliai, *Tales of Laupu* (1982; 2e 2004); to North American retirees in *Over the Next Hill* (1996; 2e 2001), to death and dying in *Coping with the Final Tragedy* (1991), this latter arising from ASAO symposia and their editorial work in the 1985 ASAO monograph #10, *Aging and Its Transformations*. Dorothy has also edited, with others, 5 books, including, with B. Rodman, *Middlemen and Brokers*, (ASAO Monograph #9, 1982) and with J. Brown and J. Campbell *Sanctions and Sanctuaries* (1992) and its revised edition, *To Have and to Hit* (1999). These texts are still cited as seminal works in studies of domestic abuse and gendered violence. Both David and Dorothy have contributed to our discipline as reviewers of colleagues' manuscripts and monographs. Since retirement they have been adjunct professors at the University of British Columbia Okanagan campus, giving guest lectures and mentoring graduate students; indeed, David sat on a Master student's committee, said Master student being a graduate student of his own student, Naomi McPherson. They continue to contribute to education as members and frequent lecturers in the Society for Learning in Retirement, where David also sits on the board of directors as co-president.

David and Dorothy have contributed over forty years to the study of Melanesian societies and to teaching and mentoring scholars of Melanesian. I recommend them most highly to the ranks of ASAO Honorary Fellows.

—Naomi M. McPherson

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