I. FROM THE EDITOR

Dear ASAO Members,

This is the last issue of the Newsletter that I will be sending to you. Effective the next issue, Ryan Schram will be taking over editorial duties... but never fear I will continue to be an officer in the role of the Site Coordinator. Yeah me! Not like anyone is reading this, all the good stuff is inside.

I want to thank many officers, chairs, and board members for their support/guidance in putting together each issue; and thanks to members for their patience and contributions.

Contributions to the next issue should be sent to Ryan Schram (address below) by August 15th at the address below.

Cheers,

Jamon Halvaksz

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Ryan Schram
Anthropology, A 26
University of Sydney
Sydney NSW 2006
Australia
<ryan.schram@sydney.edu.au>
II. FROM THE CHAIR

Hello everyone!

I write to you from Melbourne, which seems a world away from our meeting in Santa Fe. Thanks to the Site Co-ordinator, Ryan Schram, for finding the Hotel Santa Fe, part owned by the Picuris Pueblo and a wonderful place to hold our annual meeting. The thick layer of snow on everything when I arrived was so beautiful – coming from a Melbourne summer I could appreciate it even more than those of you who came from places in the midst of snowstorms and a freezing winter! The meeting ran smoothly thanks to the hard work of the Program Coordinator Alex Mawyer, the hotel staff and of course all the session organisers and others who contributed to tasks such as registration.

The Distinguished Lecture by Professor Holly Barker from the University of Washington drew a large audience. It was a sobering reminder of the impact of nuclear testing and how the cultural imaginary beyond the Pacific has relegated its memory to mere cartoons. Holly’s provocative lecture generated some heated discussion but also some of the thoughtful dialogue that I see as such an intrinsic and vital, even if unsettling, element of anthropology and of scholarship more generally! Lamont Lindstrom, who coordinates the Distinguished Lecture, will be working with Holly towards publication of her lecture in *Oceania*, where hopefully it will spark even wider discussion.

As always there was an excellent book display organised by David Troolin, which this year was in the same room as the PISF fundraiser initiated by Paige West and Ivan Brady. The fundraiser was a great success and there was palpable excitement as people made their final bids just as the deadline approached (and some sneaky ones after the deadline!). Thanks to all who donated the amazing array of books and other items and to Ryojin Tamakoshi who patiently oversaw the bidding process. I’m looking forward to next year’s initiative, which will involve works from Pacific artists and should see another boost to the PISF funds with the added bonus of wider exposure for the artists.

As always there was an inspiring array of sessions and each one I attended had the intense and exciting discussions I’ve come to associate with ASAO since my first meeting in 1997. I love that there is a level of engagement at ASAO that’s very different to conferences where the focus is more on slick Powerpoint presentations and audience members coming and going as they move between timetabled papers. After the conference ASAONET was buzzing with discussions about the potential inclusion of virtual participation in future meetings and this is, of course, an issue the Board will continue to discuss as the options expand and the use of an array of communications technologies becomes more commonplace in academic gatherings. Our challenge is how to embrace this change while ensuring we keep that intensity, excitement and engagement that has long characterised ASAO conferences. The Emerging Issues session, chaired by Nancy Pollock, was a success and it seems as a result at least one new informal session will be in the program for next year.

The other topic of animated discussion on ASAONET was how best to ensure Pacific Islanders can attend the meetings, both through funding and meeting location. The funding issue is being addressed through the renewed efforts around the PISF (see the PISF report later in this newsletter). There were also lots of ideas floated about possible locations for future meetings. Over the years this has been a topic the Board has returned to many times and it always comes down to the logistics and costs of organising a large conference and trying to suit the needs of a diverse and geographically scattered (but US majority) membership. We have already significantly changed the pattern of meetings by deciding to alternate only between the US West Coast and the Pacific, rather than also including East Coast venues, and it will be a topic that remains on the agenda for ongoing discussions as new possibilities emerge.

I was elected to the Board in 2013 and attended my first Board meeting in Kona early in 2014, chaired by Paige West. Lisa Uperesa then took over as Chair and she capably steered the
Board and Officers through virtual meetings throughout the year and the Board meeting in Santa Fe. Both Paige and Lisa have set a very high bar as Chairs of ASAO, with their enthusiasm and the hard work they've put in to keep ASAO a vibrant and dynamic organisation! I'm honoured and somewhat daunted to have taken on this role for 2015 and very relieved Lisa will remain on the Board this year to provide advice and guidance. It is exciting to welcome to the Board Sa’ili Lilomaiava-Doktor and Marama Muru-Lanning. Marama is Chair-Elect and I will hand over the role of Chair to her at the 2016 conference. I very much look forward to working with both of them, and all the other Board members and Officers.

Paige West and Maria Lepowsky will remain on the Board until after the elections for new Board members. The good news is that they will both stay involved even after that; Paige through her work on PISF fundraising and Maria as a member of the PISF Committee. Sadly, Susanne Keuhling has ended her role as an Officer and Co-Chair, with Maria, of the PISF Committee – a role to which she brought great enthusiasm! Her encouragement for members to be more generous in their PISF donations has helped get us to the point where the initiatives of Paige and Ivan are embraced by members and are sure to further replenish this fund. The new co-Chairs of the PISF committee are Carlos Mondragón and Sa’ili Lilomaiava-Doktor, while Ping-Ann Addo will also stay on as a committee member.

I encourage you to take the time to read the information later in the newsletter about the excellent nominees for the Board: Mary Good, Jessica Hardin, Kirsten McGavin, Manuel Rauchholz and David Troolin. After the newsletter has been circulated you will receive an invitation to vote by electronic ballot. We also have one nominee for Honorary Fellow: Jan Rensel, who is known to you all as a long-time member and our association’s archivist.

It’s really impressive to see how much time and effort every Board member and Officer puts into keeping ASAO going, which involves a great deal of behind the scenes work particularly in the lead up to the annual conference. What makes this even more impressive is that it is all done on a voluntary basis, which is why I urge you to consider getting more involved so the work of keeping ASAO thriving is shared around. Two Officers are changing roles: Jamon Halvaksz will be taking over the role of Site Coordinator, seeking the 2017 site, and Ryan Schram will step in as our Newsletter Editor after the next issue, so they’ll be working together on this transition throughout the year. Ryan has already put in many hours during 2014 seeking the perfect venue for our San Diego conference! Others continue to serve as officers: Mary McCutcheon, our long-serving Treasurer, and Jerry Jacka, our Secretary, both do a great deal to keep the organisation functioning, as does the indefatigable Alan Howard who is both membership coordinator and website manager – but will be handing the latter over to Zakea Bolger after a transition period – and Jan Rensel who as ASAO Archivist has kept meticulous records of the organisation. Hopefully the session begun at Santa Fe on ‘ASAO histories’ will lead to a publication drawing on some of those records! Mike Lieber continues to manage ASAONET, my personal favourite email list; Rupert Stasch is our book series editor; and David Troolin will be our book display coordinator once again in San Diego.

Last, but most certainly not least, Alex Mawyer as Program Coordinator is absolutely essential to the smooth running of the 2016 meeting. Please support his efforts, and those of Ryan Schram as Newsletter Editor, by meeting all the deadlines throughout the year for session reports and announcements and providing all the other information needed to prepare for San Diego, which promises to be another exhilarating and productive gathering of anthropologists and other scholars of Oceania. The planning has already begun! Lamont Lindstrom, Kathy Creely and I formed a committee to seek the ideal scholar to present the annual Distinguished Lecture for 2016 and we are delighted to announce that we have had an enthusiastic acceptance from Professor Jonathan Friedman. More about the lecture in later newsletters; meanwhile I wish you all well and encourage you to get in touch with me throughout the year if there are any issues you’d like raised at Board meetings.

Helen Lee, ASAO Chair
III. PACIFIC ISLANDS SCHOLARS FUND

This year’s PISF Committee consisted of Maria Lepowsky as representative of the Board and Carlos Mondragón as co-chairs, with Ping-Ann Addo as member at large. For her part, Susanne Kuehling rotated off the Board after a very committed and productive stint as co-chair, while Sa’ili Lilomaaiaava-Doktor was elected as new Board representative and is incoming co-chair, succeeding Maria, who is rotating off during the course of this year.

In the lead-up to the 2015 Meeting, the fund-raising capacity of the PISF was enhanced as a result of the efforts of Paige West and Ivan Brady, who organized a silent auction as the first among several strategies that have been discussed to try to expand the Fund’s resources, such that we may eventually stop relying on the ASAO general fund to top up our shortfalls. This year the auction concentrated on member-owned items such as books, prints, posters, and sundry materials that are in the public domain. The result was a very successful fund-raising that brought in over USD $500 during the course of three days. For the 2016 Meeting in San Diego the aim is to expand the range of the auction to include Pacific Islands’ art and artefacts, which will be selected according to strict proprietary and ethical standards, for which other Association members, such as Joshua Bell, have offered their expert advice.

This year we awarded seven Travel Awards totaling USD $10,800. Moreover, following decisions taken during the 2014 Meeting in Kona, and the availability of monies in the ASAO general fund for 2015, each awardee also received $200 for accommodation and $200 for meals (a $100 increase from 2014), as well as a meeting registration fee waiver, and an invitation to the Board Luncheon that took place on Thursday, February 5.

PLEASE NOTE: The current deadline for applications for the 2016 San Diego Meeting is October 1. Candidates will be notified by November 15, and awards must be accepted by December 15.

As stated in previous reports, we are dedicated to bringing in as many Pacific scholars as our budget allows, giving preference according to session type (working session, symposium, informal session). It is crucial that the session organizer writes a strong reference and provides assistance if needed – before, during, and after the meeting.

Please remember the Pacific Islands Scholarship Fund ASAO exists because of the generosity of our hosts in Oceania. Many of us are closely connected to our adopted families, friends, and research partners, and we value the participation of our colleagues from Pacific Islands at our annual meetings. During the Santa Fe Meeting, several ASAO members generously contributed whatever they could to support our colleagues from Oceania. The result of all our efforts has been a notable increase in the number of Pacific Island scholars as both general attendees and also as Board Members of the Association. The continuing aim of the Fund is to help strengthen, extend and assist in the active, involved presence of Oceanic colleagues in ASAO.

On this note, we want to expand on the remark in the last Newsletter (No. 150, November 2014), to the effect that the Fund recently marked its twenty-year anniversary having supported over 100 Pacific Island scholar/participants in ASAO meetings since its inception in 1994. Thanks to the invaluable sleuthing assistance of ASAO archivist Jan Rensel, we are now able to offer an itemised list (below) with the numbers of awardees that were supported by PISF, per year and Meeting site, for the past 22 years. For the next PISF report we will provide a detailed breakdown of the Funds’ finances over that same period. Regarding the present list, it is worth pointing out that while the original aim of the Fund was to hold USD $2,000 in reserve for each Meeting, over time the award totals have ranged from about $500 to $10,500 in a given year, with multiple awardees having become the norm. This explains in part why it has become so important to expand the fund-raising capacity of the PISF, as well as continue to encourage all of you to contribute on an individual basis.
Donations can be sent to Mary McCutcheon, our ASAO treasurer: Mary McCutcheon 2115 North Rolfe St. Arlington, VA 22209-1029 e-mail: mmccutch@gmu.edu

With best wishes,
Sa‘ili Lilomaaiva-Doktor and Carlos Mondragón, PISF co-Chairs, Maria Lepowsky, outgoing co-chair, with Susanne Kuehling and Ping-Ann Addo as members at large

Number of PISF Travel Grants Awarded and Accepted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Meeting Location</th>
<th>Grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Clearwater, FL</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Kona, HI</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Pensacola, FL</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Hilo, HI</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Vancouver, BC</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Miami, FL</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Auckland, NZ</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Vancouver, BC</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Salem, MA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Kaua‘i, HI</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Charlottesville, VA</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Canberra, Australia</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Santa Cruz, CA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Alexandria, VA</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Honolulu, HI</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Portland, OR</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Kona, HI</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Santa Fe, NM</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PISF information and forms are on the ASAO website: http://www.asao.org/pacific/pisf.htm

IV. FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

With the benefit of hindsight, splendid to look back on the 2015 meeting in Santa Fe as again demonstrating the animation, vitality, and succulence of scholarly endeavor by our association’s members. Below, please find collected reports from all of this year’s savory sessions along with updated news in early anticipation of our 2016 San Diego meeting. All session organizers and participants should review guidelines and timetable here or on the ASAO web site. A condensed version of the timetable for session organizers and participants is included below. Please note an October 1 deadline for all “special” session or “special” events proposals in order that the board can review such proposals and select those that fit into and merit inclusion in the overall program. All special session or event proposals can be sent through me as Program Coordinator and for purposes of coordination with ASAO Chair, Board, and other program officers. Symposia organizers are also asked to note that it is no longer necessary to send the program coordinator first and last pages of finished drafts in order to prove that the papers have been written. As the season ripens, session coordinators can “confirm” that they have materially met the criteria for a symposium.

Colleagues considering new sessions (whether informal or working) are encouraged to be in touch as soon as possible!
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:

**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.

**WORKING SESSIONS** are based on prepared papers that are briefly summarized (NOT READ) during the session. Abstracts, if not drafts of papers, must be pre-circulated 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 pre-circulated, 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.

**SYMPOSIAS** are sessions that normally have met at a lower level of organization at least once before. Papers must be pre-circulated 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 pre-circulated 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:**
Submit the required information about your session to the Program Coordinator by the March 20, August 20, and November 1 deadlines. (See Timetable for Session Organizers and Participants.)

- Assist any Pacific Islands scholars who are interested in applying for support from the Pacific Islands Scholars Fund. (See PISF Guidelines.)
- 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).
- Advise the Program Coordinator by November 1 of audio-visual or 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.
- Send the Program Coordinator your contact information, and advise of any changes during the year.
- 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 Newsletter Editor before the March 20 deadline.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF SESSION PARTICIPANTS:**
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 (before the organizer’s November 1 deadline) as to whether you will be able to attend the session in person.
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 multiple-participation common, there is no guarantee that scheduling conflicts can be avoided.

All correspondence to the Program Coordinator should be sent to:

Alexander Mawyer, Assistant Professor, Center for Pacific Islands Studies, The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, 1890 East-West Rd., Honolulu, HI 96822; mawyer@hawaii.edu

**TIMETABLE FOR SESSION ORGANIZERS AND PARTICIPANTS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>INFORMAL SESSION</th>
<th>WORKING SESSION</th>
<th>SYMPOSIUM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>March 20</strong></td>
<td><strong>To Program Coordinator:</strong> announcement of proposed session.</td>
<td><strong>To Program Coordinator:</strong> Report on informal session held at annual meeting; call for papers, deadlines, etc.</td>
<td><strong>To Program Coordinator:</strong> Report on working session held at annual meeting; next steps, deadlines, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>August 20</strong></td>
<td><strong>To Program Coordinator:</strong> Updated description of proposed session.</td>
<td><strong>To Program Coordinator:</strong> Updated description of session and call for papers, deadline reminders</td>
<td><strong>To Program Coordinator:</strong> Updated descriptions of session, deadline reminders, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Before November 1</strong></td>
<td>Participants submit abstracts to session organizers and send to other participants</td>
<td></td>
<td>Participants circulate drafts of papers to session organizers and other participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>November 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>To Program Coordinator:</strong> Updated description of proposed session; list of people who have expressed interest, number expected to attend. Last chance to be scheduled in the program.</td>
<td><strong>To Program Coordinator:</strong> Names of participants, titles of papers, order of presentation; session organizer affirmation of seven abstracts in hand; which papers will be read in absentia; how much time required.</td>
<td><strong>To Program Coordinator:</strong> Names of participants, titles of papers, order of presentation; session organizer affirmation of seven papers in hand; a list of which papers (if any) will be presented in absentia; how much time required.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FORMAL SYMPOSIA

Beyond Kula: Assembling the Contemporary Massim (Malinowski Centennial Symposium)
Organizers: Michelle MacCarthy and Sergio Jarillo de la Torre

Our 2015 Symposium in Santa Fe was attended by twelve participants, with four of them presenting papers. Some of the participants in previous sessions, including co-organizer Michelle MacCarthy, sent regrets despite having provided abstracts. The session served the purpose to refine the final programme of the forthcoming international conference “Malinowski’s Legacy: One Hundred Years of Anthropology in the Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea,” to take place in August 11-14th in Alotau, PNG. Participants in the ASAO session agreed on the final format of the conference, including the possibility of presenting in absentia due to unforeseen circumstances (Michelle MacCarthy and Maria Lepowsky). The Malinowski conference has generated many expectations both in PNG and beyond, with a number of people showing interest in participating. Amid rumours of this being an “invitation only” conference, the organizers clarified that the conference is open to anybody willing to participate in it following the usual channels (call for papers and submission of an abstract). A $5,000 Initiatives Grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation will allow us to pay for the conference venue, with participants in the conference covering their own travel and accommodation expenses. We also specified that in order to make this event as inclusive as possible and facilitate attendance there is no fee to participate in the Malinowski conference. Finally, it was also decided to have a “repeat” of the Alotau conference in the next ASAO meeting in San Diego in 2016, allowing those who were unable to travel to PNG to present their work, as well as giving a chance to those who participated in Alotau to present revised versions of their work (some of the main goals of the conference being bridging the gap between scholars and people in the Milne Bay Province and integrating various forms of research). We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Alotau in a few months time.

Michelle MacCarthy, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Anthropology, University of Bergen; <Michelle.Maccarthy@sosantr.uib.no>
Sergio Jarillo de la Torre, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge, Darwin College, Silver Street CB3 9EU, Cambridge, UK; <sjarillodelatorre@amnh.org>

Circulation of Children in a Global Context
Organizers: Isabelle Leblic and Judith Schachter

We completed our three years on “The circulation of children in a global context” with the symposium held in February. Participants presented and commented on twelve papers. The editors have made recommendations to the authors for revising the papers in preparation for submission as a coherent collection. This included providing a summary of the general organizing theme, as well as offering suggestions of particular themes that can tie the papers together. In addition, to asking each author to submit bibliographic sources, we are constructing a common bibliography for reference. Circulation is the operative word for us, emphasizing the many different aspects of the movement of children; in other words, we are trying not to limit the focus to a type of movement (say, from a biological to a social parent). A central overarching theme, then, is the impact of globalization on the ways in which children move and are moved. While the concept of globalization may be awkward, it reminds us that people are moving more often and further than ever before, and that children are fully a part of these global movements, whether through international adoption or some other route. Specific themes include:
A) The impact of colonial-postcolonial relationships, which brings up the matter of power, of inequalities between “south” and “north” [poor/rich] and the imbalance in the exchange when children are involved.

B) The juxtaposition of law and custom, and the survival of custom under various circumstances of circulation.

C) Kinship and the various interpretations of kinship (“kinning”) that influence decisions about where a child belongs, and what arrangements best serve her/his interests.

D) Approaches to the subject: whose perspective is dominant? What information do we have on the child’s perspective, either stated or displayed in behaviors?

E) Ethnographic data underlies the arguments made in the papers, and should be considered an important unifying approach.

Isabelle Leblic, Ethnologue DR2 au CNRS-LACITO, Paris FRANCE; <leblic@vjf.cnrs.fr>
Judith Schachter, Department of History, Carnegie Mellon University, 5000 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15213-3890, USA; tel. 412-268-2880; <judithm@cmu.edu>

First Fieldwork: 1960-1985:
Organizers: Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi and William Heaney
Discussants: Richard Feinberg and Rena Lederman

The symposium was opened by Bill Heaney followed by brief presentations of ‘new’ papers (Brady, Marksbury, McCutcheon, Sinclair, and Yoshida), Rick Feinberg’s and Rena Lederman’s remarks on the collection (putting the papers in ethnographic and critical contexts; expanding the discussion of fieldwork beyond our individual papers), and Laura’s thoughts on a book proposal and set of guidelines for readying the papers for review. While several participants were unable to attend, those who did decided to put the papers through one more round of revisions before submitting the volume for review. Taking into consideration the historical timeline of participants’ first fieldwork experiences and – for most - the impacts of these experiences on subsequent fieldwork, the new title for the collection is *First Fieldwork: Pacific Anthropology, 1960-1985 and Now*.

William Heaney; tel. 910-216-9619; <heaneybvd@aol.com>
Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi; tel. 610-429-9213; <lauratamakoshi@yahoo.com>

Law and Custom in Micronesia
Organizer: Manuel Rauchholz and Gonzaga Puas
Discussant: Richard Scaglion

The symposium was attended by the core group of contributing authors, anthropologists and lawyers alike, including one lawyer present via Skype who had a lot to say about his current experiences from working in the Chuuk State Supreme Court. Two participants were unable to attend. We had a fruitful discussion and decided to rework our papers for publication this summer. This has marked the final session of the law and custom series in Micronesia at ASAO.

Manuel Rauchholz, Akademischer Mitarbeiter, Heidelberg University, GERMANY; <rauchholz@eth.uni-heidelberg.de>
Zag Puas, Australian National University; <zag_lewis@yahoo.com>
Mimesis and Transcultural Encounters
Organizers: Jeannette Mageo and Elfriede Hermann

We had a very productive final session in which we discussed theoretical aspects of the future volume and our specific ethnographic analyses of mimetic processes in transcultural interactions. Joshua Bell was present all day via Skype, inspiring us with his valuable comments. Our point of departure was Jeannette Mageo’s introduction in which she defined mimesis to mean imitation or copying and mimetic processing as circulating of copies of an “original,” meaning an earlier moment in a series rather than an original in any essential sense. The following presentations and discussions were grouped according to the three major projected volume themes: mimesis through time; mimesis through trade, mimesis through ritual and religion. Papers on the first theme included imitation in early Australian encounters (Francesca Merlan, in absentia), mimesis in historical photos and artifacts in German Samoa (Jeannette Mageo), and mimesis, playing Indian and touring with “The Vanishing Race” through Australia and New Zealand 1926/27 (Sarina Pearson). Papers on the theme of trade dealt with an entwinement of mimetic practices in traditional Tahitian weddings for tourists (Joyce D. Hammond), tourist art and mimesis in the Trobriand Islands (Sergio Jarillo de la Torre), and failed mimesis when capitalism meets its match among the Asabano of Papua New Guinea (Roger Lohmann). Papers with a ritual theme included one on mimesis, ethnopsychology, and transculturation among the resettled Banabans in Fiji (Elfriede Hermann), a paper on reimagining identity among Marshall Islanders (Laurence Marshall Carucci), and one on Christianity as transcultural mimesis among the Rawu of Papua New Guinea (Doug Dalton). All in all we worked towards the coherence of the volume and made plans for the way forward to publication.

Jeannette Mageo, Anthropology Department 664910, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington 99164-4910, USA; <jmageo@wsu.edu>
Elfriede Hermann, Institut für Ethnologie, Universität Göttingen, Theaterplatz 15, 37073 Göttingen, Germany; <Elfriede.Hermann@sowi.uni-goettingen.de>

Mobilities of Return
Organizers: Helen Lee and John Taylor

We had an excellent Symposium in Santa Fe, and thank the organizers for putting together such a memorable event. Eight strongly developed papers were discussed, traversing themes that stretch across the pacific addressing questions of ‘reverse migration’ and the mobility of people ‘back home’. These range from rural-urban dynamics and international diasporic movements, and focus on an extremely wide range of political, economic, cultural and health-related factors. Across this diversity a coherent set of core themes link the papers together, including especially those relating to the unique disjunctures that emerge between ideas of home and personal or group identity/experience within the context of human mobility. On this basis we are hoping to polish and submit the papers as an edited volume some time later this year.

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>
Value — Objects, Relations, and Emotions
Organizer: Susanne Kuehling

This was the final meeting for the session. We agreed to go for publication and to respect somewhat tight deadlines. Let me take this opportunity to thank all participants and attendants who contributed to this somewhat lengthy journey into the realm of exchange. The session started in 2011 under the title Value in Motion: (E)motions of Exchange as an ever-changing group of scholars (many unable to attend the meetings) who ended up leaving or publishing their material with a different focus. Amongst them: Jenny Peachey (women and pain; Eastern highlands, PNG), Michelle MacCarthy (love magic and dance; Kiriwina), Petra Autio (food and free will; Kiribati), Elise Berman (adoptions; Marshall Islands), Linus digim'Rina (mortuary feast; urban/rural Trobrianders), Martin Orans (gift theory), Anke Tonnaer (Tourist photographs; Central Australia), Gina Knapp (bilum bags; Eastern highlands, PNG), and Naomi MacPherson (firstborn ceremonies; West New Britain), Ping-Ann Addo (textiles; Tonga and NZ); Susan Montague (yams gardens; Trobriands), Katharina Schneider (movement as value; Buka island). We had interesting discussions and yet did not end up meeting at a common denominator. Katharina, as co-organizer, could not come to meetings any longer as she found a job.

As a new session series on Value — objects, relations, and emotions, some of the old participants stayed on and some of the papers in the 2015 symposium are new. The shift from ‘motions’ to ‘relations and emotions’ was one of the results of our discussions. The papers do all have some reference to the way movement (material and/or moral) may be interpreted as value-enhancing (or reducing). So while the motions were not our focus any longer, they do constitute an aspect that could be one of the connecting themes. This year, we presented our semi-finished papers:

Papers focusing on the value of material objects
- Ping-Ann Addo’s paper on Tongan textiles discussed how the somewhat conflicting values of love and worry are part of the material value
- Juliana Flinn focused on how beautiful bodies are created as a display of love and community and how the values of uniformity and the meaning of individual ornaments intersect in interesting ways, as Pollap islanders (Micronesia) aim at creating both matching and personal decorations.
- Susanne Kuehling looked at kula shells (Papua New Guinea), demonstrating how their movements in different exchange spheres create value and how that has so far ensured the continuity of kula.
- Yuping Chen’s paper took the example of Palauan bead valuables and showed how their value is negotiated, reinvented, contested, and perpetuated in various ways.

Papers focusing on moral/immaterial values
Tom Bratrud looked at love/generosity in two case studies based on his recent research in Malekula (Vanuatu). How is this moral value employed in times of conflict or religious rupture? Susan Montague showed that gardening is related to value in complex ways, as Trobriand islanders (PNG) have different categories of gardens and the products are treated accordingly (consumption and various gifts). The value of garden produce is historical, gendered, related to either patri- or matrikin, and most of the work is done by women. It matters where a yams has grown, not just how large and what type of cultivar it is. Heather Young-Leslie provided insightful and theoretically informed comments on the collection, given individually to each author and summarized at the session. Value is linked to authenticity (also branding), display, forgery, and “stories” to cement/argue/negotiate, there are obviously power relations involved. At the same time, value seems to link with fragility, potentiality and insecurity intrinsically.

The 2015 session was inspiring and energizing – it was a real pleasure to be its chair.

Thank you!

Susanne Kuehling, Department of Anthropology, University of Regina, Regina, SK S4S0A2, CANADA; tel. 1 307 569 0730; <Susanne.kuehling@gmail.com>
WORKING SESSIONS

Organizers: Leasiolagi Malama Meleisea and Penelope Schoeffel

Eight presentations were made at the Grave Matters working session. These were:

- Alan Howard and Jan Rensel: The Culture of Graves on Rotuma.
- Sa’iliemanu Lilomaiaava-Doktor: The changing morphology of graveyard, graves, and burials in Samoa.
- Vilimaina Navila: Modern iTaukei burial practices: the Lovonilase and Nasinu urban cemeteries in the Fiji Islands.
- Albert L. Refiti: The Pacific mound and the architecture of gravesites in the diaspora.
- Jerry K. Jacka: Land conflicts and changing burial practices in a PNG mining area.
- Philip Gibbs: Burial practices and the fear of witches in the Eastern Highlands of PNG.
- Leasiolagi Malama Meleisea and Penelope Schoeffel: The Politics of Custom, Rank, Land and Burials in Samoa.

We will accept new papers on this theme if they are submitted as close-to-final drafts, for circulation among participants by November 1, 2015. We plan to go forward to a symposium at the next ASAO meeting in San Diego and we are making plans for publication. Contact: p.schoeffel@nus.edu.ws

Leasiolagi Dr. Malama Meleisea and Dr. Penelope Schoeffel, Centre for Samoan Studies, The National University of Samoa, PO Box 1622, Apia, Samoa, Phone: +685 20072 ext 322; <m.meleisea@nus.edu.ws > and < p.schoeffel@nus.edu.ws>

New Food: Cultural Consequences of Dietary Change in the Pacific
Organizer: Ryan Schram

The New Food group met as a session for the third time in 2015, the second as a working session. Many of the original attendees from San Antonio submitted revised papers while several new participants joined us also. Initially we had paper abstracts and commitments from 11 participants. As we approached the meeting in Santa Fe, several people dropped out. The session consisted of seven papers, five of which were presented in person. The six authors who attended (including one virtual attendance) had a very intense and thorough discussion of each others’ papers. One idea we considered was the usefulness of the concept of a ‘nutritional transition’ in Polynesia. We concluded that more often than not this generic model of change masks the complexity and scale of colonialism in Polynesia, which involves both political and economic aspects. Arguably this transition is not recent at all. The seeds of the so-called ‘change’ lay in the early contact with Western societies, when consumption differences marked racial and cultural boundaries and interfaces. Today we find that both ‘new’ and ‘old’ food are multiply positioned in global and local discourses of health, economy, and (potentially) ecology. Any kind of diet in the Pacific actually has many constituencies, so to speak, whether the diners know it or not. Moreover, many kinds of locally-perceived changes in diet, for instance, concerns over sustainability, are not taken up by ‘transition’ talk. These locally-constructed visions of agricultural decline indicate, moreover, the influence of ideologies about intercultural contact which in some ways differ from contemporary Polynesian concerns. Another important topic was the interface between food and kinship. We found that in many Pacific societies, dietary change and changing perceptions of kinship are articulated and each affects the other. Many societies are increasingly organized as households, and thus the concept of a naturally self-sufficient oikos has become a lens for the evaluation of one’s diet. In the end, though, the participants concluded that although we were all interested in the food, we were interested in it...
for different reasons, and thus the strengths of each paper would be best revealed when each appeared on its own. It seemed rational for us to take what we learned from our working sessions and go our separate ways. We are encouraged, however, by the knowledge that there is an extensive network of people in ASAO who are generally interested in food as a social issue, and we look forward to another opportunity to explore these issues again in a different context.

Ryan Schram, Anthropology (A26, University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia; <ryan.schram@sydney.edu.au>

Order in Melanesia
Organizer: Alex Golub

This was a lively and well-attended session. The following papers were given:

- Tate LeFevre (Franklin and Marshall), “Schizophrenic’ Youth”
- Alex Golub (University of Hawai'i at Manoa), “Order and Disorder in Melanesia and Elsewhere”
- Lamont Lindstrom (University of Tulsa), “Melanesian Order Cravings”
- Alexis Tucker Sade (University of California San Diego), “Political Loyalties and Fluid Boundaries”
- Ivo Syndicus (Maynooth University), “A Question of Perspective: Order & Disorder in Student Boycotts at the University of Goroka in the Papua New Guinea Highlands”

Three papers were not presented:
- Thorgeir Kolshus (University of Oslo), “A walk in the Banks: movement and mores in northern Vanuatu”
- John Taylor (LaTrobe University), “Structures with Agency: images or organization and community in Vanuatu”
- Tobias Schwoerer (University of Zurich), “Mipela makim gavman’: Unofficial village courts and local perceptions of order in the Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea”

Taylor and Kolshus were unable to present their papers because they were double-booked into another session, which took priority. Schwoerer was unable to travel to the conference and did not give his paper.

Lindstrom and Golub's paper described some generalizations about order in Melanesia made by past anthropologists. The rest of the papers examined continuities between the past and the present, as well the disjunctions. Some papers raised the question of whether there was something particularly 'Melanesian' about the social dynamics involved. Others traced the influence of anthropology on contemporary understandings of Melanesia. One positive aspect of the session was that Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Papua New Guinea were represented. In the future we may look for additional papers from Fiji and Papua to strengthen the truly regional scope of the session.

Overall, the participants were pleased with how things went and we look forward to presenting a formal symposium next year!

Alex Golub, Department of Anthropology, University of Hawai'i - Manoa; <golub@hawaii.edu>
The Pacific Islands in the Digital Age  
Organizers: Alan Howard and Geoffrey Hobbis

This session involved twelve presentations, each author’s paper presented by another participant (including one in absentia). The guidelines for presenters were as follows:

1. What do you understand to be the main aim of the paper? Briefly describe the project as you see it, the main issues being addressed, the methods used, and if appropriate, the main results.
2. What do you see as the main strengths of the paper, including aspects that you think the author would do well to expand on?
3. What advice do you have regarding ways in which the paper could be improved? Be as specific as possible.
4. In the interest of working toward producing a publishable volume, specify, if possible, thematic commonalities with other papers in our set.
5. Do you have any recommendations regarding relevant literature that the author might find it useful to consult?

The papers were divided into four sets (presenters’ names in parentheses):

A. Emphasis on digital methodology to collect data
   1. Chelsea Wentworth - “Good” and “bad” food revealed: Understanding categorizations in child feeding via digital visual methods (Shu-Yuan Yang)
   2. Philip Gibbs - The mobile phone as research assistant in Papua New Guinea (Nancy Sullivan)
   3. Molly Huff - A case for kupuna-moderated online subscription networks to serve diasporic communities: Can culture be transmitted with integrity by digital media? (Guido Pigliasco)

B. Political implications of digital technology
   1. Stephanie and Geoffrey Hobbis (in absentia) - Three and a half perspectives on biometric voter registration in Solomon Islands (Alan Howard)
   2. Alex Golub - “The shooting fields of Porgera”: Anti-mine activism goes online (Philip Gibbs)
   3. Forrest Young - Digitalization and affective politics on Rapa Nui (Alex Golub)

C. Analysis of social media
   1. Clara Pau - SNS (Social networking Samoans): Exploring the ethnic identities of Samoan Facebook users in Aotearoa, New Zealand (Forrest Young)
   2. Alan Howard - Rotumans on Facebook: A Preliminary Analysis (Clara Pau)
   3. Guido Pigliasco - Peeks, pokes, likes, and leaks: The Sawau Project goes social (Chelsea Wentworth)

D. Effects of digital media
   1. Vilimaina Navila - Problems with the transition to digital teaching and learning in Fiji’s schools (Molly Huff)
   2. Nancy Sullivan - What can social media do for Papua New Guinea? Firestorms, social media activism and human rights speak penetrate the popular media of PNG today (Stephanie and Geoffrey Hobbis - in absentia)
   3. Shu-Yuan Yang - Cell Phones, Modernity, and Idolatry among the Bugkalot (Ilongot) of Northern Luzon, Philippines (Vilimaina Navila)

The participants voted unanimously to go on to a symposium next year, with fully developed drafts due by November 1, 2015.

Alan Howard; <ahoward@hawaii.edu>
Geoffrey Hobbis, CREDO, École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS); <geoffreygahobbis@gmail.com>
Pacific Spaces and Sacred Buildings
Organizers: Tina Engels-Schwarzpaul, Albert L. Refiti, and Tevita Ka'ili

Out of a total of 14 submissions received so far, seven papers were presented at this session: Mike Austin: Open architecture; Sa'iliemanu Lilomaiaha-Doktor: Constructing fale tele—constructing va; Spencer Leineweber: Ho'okowa 'Ō'iwii – To separate by an indigenous space; Jake Culbertson: “Carving costs nothing” – Maori woodcarvers train wage-laborers how to show up to work on time; Tina Engels-Schwarzpaul: Travelling houses: Translation, change and ambivalence; Mimi George: Te Haehale ite Vaka o Lata: The wild-shelter of a Polynesian voyaging canoe at the crux of ancient models, natural phenomena and spiritual experience; and Albert L. Refiti: Spatial implications of mavae and tofiga in Samoan architecture.

We had a very useful workshop session, with lively feedback offered from both the participants and the audience. We discussed the main arguments of the papers, the underpinning theoretical frameworks, consistency and coherence, as well as opportunities for development. Some very valuable comments came from the audience, particularly from Malama Meleisea. In a concluding discussion, we identified shared topics around which to structure our papers from now on and accordingly revised the title to “Pacific Spaces – Thresholds and Crossings”.

All participants agreed to go forward to a symposium session in San Diego next year. Contributions will address the overall themes of Openness & Enclosure and Place & Movement with the sub-themes of:
- Openness and thresholds
- Social space and place
- Fluidity and control in social space
- Ecology and creativity
- Cross-cultural global encounters
- Transpersonal wayfinding
- Pathways and crossings

Our schedule is the following:
- August 2015: posting of revised abstract in newsletter
- August 13, 2015: deadline for updated abstracts
- September 14, 2015: deadline for submission for near-final draft of paper
- September 21, 2015: allocate participants into feedback groups, appoint discussant/s
  (Malama Meleisea has already agreed and, depending on numbers, we might look for an additional discussant)
- November 8, 2015: receive final draft papers
- November 15, 2015: send final draft papers to discussant/s

Albert and Tina are also convening a panel at the June 2015 ESfO Conference in Brussels, under the title of “Pacific spaces – performing identities in diasporic networks”, and hope to attract papers from ASAO colleagues for this event.

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Theorizing Race and Culture in the Pacific
Organizer: Lisa Uperesa

Paradigms of culture, ethnicity, and indigeneity dominate analyses of island life, group relations, and identity and belonging in the Pacific. While discussions of race and racialization have been the subject of recent publications, their importance in historical and contemporary life deserves a more sustained conversation across island areas. This panel takes as its task enunciating the generative potential of race in our examination and analyses of life in the Pacific, tracing how it interacts with the more privileged frameworks of culture, ethnicity, and indigeneity. Building on and extending existing work in this area, the working session in Santa...
Fe focused on rights and citizenship, comparative colonialisms, place, and migration/diaspora as shaping formations of race-culture-indigeneity.

We had a lively and wide-ranging session, with fifteen presenters participating and many more throughout the course of the full day. Clustered conversations emerged around land, racial logics, and culture; sport, racialization, and indigeneity; and the intersection of racialization of Pacific peoples with colonial projects and new configurations of power. We will be continuing with another working session in San Diego, where participants will continue to develop article-length papers to present in the session. Depending on continued interest and participant numbers we may propose two sessions next year (new people interested in joining the session, feel free to contact the organizer). We look forward to continuing the extraordinarily rich conversation!

Participants:
Hokulani K. Aikau, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa
Maile Arvin, University of California, Riverside
Domenica Gisella Calabrò, Independent Scholar (Italy) *
Kali Fermantez, BYU-Hawai‘i
Ann M. Iwashita, Columbia University *
David Lakisa, University of Technology Sydney
Tate LeFevre, Franklin & Marshall College
Spencer Leineweber, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa
Laurel Monnig, Wright State University
Kirisitina Sailiata, Independent Scholar (U.S.) *
Laurel Mei Turbin, CUNY Graduate Center
Lisa Uperesa, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa
Christine Winter, University of Sydney
Paige West, Barnard College and Columbia University
Forrest Wade Young, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa
*In absentia

INFORMAL SESSIONS

Agricultural Sovereignty
Organizer: Jerry Jacka

Twenty-one people participated in this informal session that explored the topic of how food and agricultural systems in Oceania are being used to express new forms of sovereignty vis-à-vis the state and multinational agro-corporations. We quickly realized that the singularity of the term sovereignty was problematic, as well as was the limitations of the terrestrial concept of agriculture. We decided to go forward with a working session in 2016 with the new, and still tentative, title, Cultivated Sovereignties. Our goal for the 2016 session is to present informal, short papers on our respective interest in the relationships between local practices of subsistence and livelihood and varying levels of political incorporation in the nation-state.

The following people have expressed interest in participating in 2016: Hokulani Aikau, Wasang Baiio, Emily Donaldson, Jamon Halvaksz, Wolfgang Kempf, Hao-li Lin, Carlos Mondragon, Marama Muru-Lanning, Patrick Nason, JC Salyer, Marc Tabani, Chelsea Wentworth, and Paige West. Please contact me if you would be interested in joining our working session in 2016.
This half-day session was attended by about 30 participants, including many longtime members and several relative newcomers to the association. Most of those present indicated interest in contributing in some way to the process of documenting the histories of various aspects of ASAO since its beginning nearly half a century ago. Some people will serve as resources and others will contribute components in different formats, such as individually or jointly authored analytical papers, anecdotal accounts, interviews, and handy lists or tables of names, dates, etc, for ready reference. Proposed focuses range from the earliest inception of the association with its comparative purposes and collaborate nature, to the ways various kinds of people became involved (including Melanesianists, graduate students, and especially Pacific Islander scholars—and the impact of the Pacific Islands Scholars Fund), to session structures, meeting formats, meeting sites, session topics, publications, and forms of communication (including the ASAO Newsletter, ASAONET, and the ASAO website).

We currently have a Google site for session participants to access materials, but we may set up another kind of interactive space online to encourage collaboration. If you are interested but haven’t heard from the session organizers since the February 2015 meeting, please contact the organizers to indicate what and how you would like to contribute/participate.

Jan Rensel, Center for Pacific Islands Studies, University of Hawai‘i–Manoa <rensel@hawaii.edu>
Alan Howard, Emeritus, Anthropology Department, UH Manoa <ahoward@hawaii.edu>
Rick Feinberg, Anthropology Department, Kent State University <rfeinber@kent.edu>

Chiefs Today
Co-organizers: Apolonia Tamata and Simonne Pauwels

Chiefs today are faced with the additional task of having to deal with government, politics, church and development agencies apart from their traditional roles of leadership and tending to concerns within their chiefdoms. The results are not always plain sailing but rather these have questioned their legitimacy, knowledge, know how, even the authority to be chiefs. From there being no chiefs, to chiefs and in the absence of chiefs, panelists representing Micronesia (2), PNG (1), Vanuatu (1), New Caledonia (1) and Fiji (4) observe interesting yet crucial scenarios in how chiefs carry out their responsibilities. There are many conflicts and contradicting issues that chiefs have to find solutions to. There are people who oppose chiefs. There are communities who also see other options to chiefs. There are chiefs who merely let things be. There are things that happen because of chiefs or lack thereof. In most cases, which were presented, it seemed that succession is a real issue even if the rules are apparently clearly stated. The future analysis of the complexity of the tasks of chiefs today will certainly illustrate the difficulty of chiefs to be representatives, to receive the mana needed to take up responsibilities over the land and its people.

Participants who are willing to present a paper for next year’s session include Apolonia Tamata, Simonne Pauwels, Ola Gunhildrud Berta, Lin Hao-Li, Isabelle Leblic, Marc Tabani, Stephanie Lawson, Elizabeth Bonshek, Glenn Petersen, David Wakefield, Manuel Rauchholz, Alexis Tucker Sade, and Riet Delsing.
The session will go on next year, probably with an increasing number of papers, which will be circulated before the conference.

Apolonia Tamata ([I Taukei Trust Fund] <apoloniattautaukeitrustfund.com.fj> 
Simonne Pauwels (AMU/CNRS – CREDO) <simonne@pacific-credo.fr>

**Ethnic Tension in Hawai‘i**
Organizers: Joseph Genz and Julianne Walsh

This second Informal Session on ethnic tensions in Hawai‘i included 10 participants, who shared a variety of perspectives that have broadened the scope of the initial 2014 session in Kona. Discussions ranged from i) the historical trajectories that have led to the current diasporic movements of Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrants to Guam, Hawai‘i, and other destinations in the U.S.; ii) the experiences with ethnic tensions of those migrants as well as in their island homelands, and differences among the diasporic communities, from everyday name callings to occasional high school fights to structural discrimination; iii) how social media has exacerbated such tensions; iv) responses from within the Micronesian communities, including political leadership; and v) how our anthropological research can incorporate and expand toward community-based applied projects for more visible educational outreach efforts. With this more expanded concern of the tensions facing recent migrants in Hawai‘i and other locations, we are moving forward with a Working Session in San Diego in 2016. Please contact Joe Genz (genz@hawaii.edu) and Julie Walsh (jwalsh@hawaii.edu) for more information.

Joseph Genz, Department of Anthropology, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, Hilo, HI 96720, USA: tel. 808-974-7472; <genz@hawaii.edu>
Julianne Walsh, Center for Pacific Island Studies, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI 96892, USA: tel. 808-956-2668; <jwalsh@hawaii.edu>

**Friendship and Peer Relationships**
Organizers: Jessica Hardin and Mary Good

Our group kicked off its first informal session with a lively discussion about the nature of friendship and peer relationships and the ways in which they complement, replace, and change other forms of relations such as kinship. We had a variety of participants with research interests across the Pacific. From our conversations, we developed several common themes, including Change/Transformations; Finding “One’s Place;” and Commitment to Friendship. During the Santa Fe meetings, the group discussed moving forward at the next ASAO meetings as a working group. Although we do not plan at this point to collectively publish an edited volume or a special journal issue, we would like to maintain the spirit of the ASAO working sessions by encouraging everyone to deeply engage with the group and work in tandem so as to foster productive cross-citation and shared readership where possible. We plan to exchange manuscripts with session participants as a way to facilitate participation but also eventual publication. With this in mind, we propose sharing manuscript by September 1 and for those interested potentially another exchange of manuscripts in February.

Confirmed Participants going forward include: Ping-Ann Addo, Barbara Andersen, Mary Good, Jessica Hardin, Tate Lefevre, Helen Lee, David Troolin, Christina Kwauk, Mac Marshall, Larry Carucci, Leslie Butt, Ryan Schramm, Chelsea Wentworth-Fournier.

Mary K. Good, Department of Anthropology, Wake Forest University, 1834 Wake Forest Road, Winston Salem, NC, 27109; tel. 336-758-3423; goodmk@wfu.edu
Jessica Hardin, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Pacific University, 2043 College Way, Forest Grove, OR 97116; tel. 503-352-3125; hardin@pacificu.edu
**Hierarchy and Egalitarianism in Austronesia/Oceania**
Organizer: Ku Kun-hui
Discussant: Lamont Lindstrom

Twenty people showed up for the session and we had a very lively discussion on the topic and more importantly, we decided to move forward to the next stage as a working session next year. We discussed some common intellectual ancestors and how the keys terms have been defined. Taking a historical point of view, we think Pacific societies are both hierarchical and egalitarian at the same time, only the particular mix differs (for example, chiefs come and go over time). The issue of land and land tenure were highlighted in some cases, so were age, gender and class/status difference in others. We welcome new submission and the deadline for abstract should be in by 15th Aug. Please contact the organizer for further information.

**Homelessness and Homeland in Contemporary Hawaiʻi: Re-Placing Native Hawaiians and Pacific Peoples, Creating Autonomous Indigenous Spaces and Reviving Puʻuhonua (Zones of the Sacred)**
Organizer: Kalaniopua Young

First, we want to thank each of you for participating in our session tentatively titled: Homelessness and Homeland in Contemporary Hawaiʻi. It was especially empowering to share space with great, supportive minds and we look forward to carrying the spirit of our session into next year’s ASAO conference in San Diego. Following a very vibrant and fluid discussion about a new title and emerging themes for next year’s working session, the organizers would like to propose the following tentative title: *Re-making Home: Unsettling Dispossessions, Re-routing Roots and Displacing Abandonment.*

We hope that this new title opens up ways for re-theorizing resistive homemaking processes, diaspora, dispossession, community empowerment and transformation and creates a S/Pacific rhizomatic space for maximizing our co-creative potential for decolonial vision, theory, methodology and praxis. The new title opens up new limits and possibilities for continuing collaboration, intellectual support and evolving ideas about home, community and well-being. For more information please contact Kalaniopua Young, youngt1982@gmail.com.

**Sovereignties and (Post)Colonialities in the French-Speaking Pacific**
Co-Organizers: Tamatoa Bambridge, Natacha Gagné, Pierre-Yves Le Meur, and Alexander Mawyer

For participants, this lively and free flowing session raised and problematized a conversation about the anthropology of sovereignty in the French-speaking Pacific. Contributions by colleagues localized within the region, within the Americas, and in Europe evidenced an agreement about the emergent vitality and diversity in issues, topics, and approaches in contemporary anthropological research in the overseas territories still "possessed" by the French metropolis in the Pacific, further contextualized by Vanuatu (independent since 1980). Noting heterogeneous colonial and postcolonial histories, participants raised different issues around conceptions and multilayered forms of sovereignty in a (post)colonial world in the making. The collective conversation included: the distinct configuration of autonomies and sovereignties in the region; legal pluralism and the translation of legal regimes across time; the culture of food and food security; embodiment and representations of Pacific embodied
personhood; issues of cultural commensuration; distinct realizations of indigeneity and autochthony across the French speaking Pacific; decolonization and justice systems; the local politics of UNESCO World Heritage projects in the region; issues of performance and politics; and the (un)common destiny of France and New Caledonia and the Pacific, among others. Participants found this broad conversation strikingly stimulating and noted a number of opportunities for a more focused conversation in 2016 centered on ‘sovereignty’ as a point of productive tension between participants’ contributions. For more information please contact one of the organizers.

Participants: Alex Mawyer; Tate LeFevre, Mimi Kahn; Kate Riley; Marc Tabani, Louis Bousquet; Stephanie Lawson (ANU); Nancy Pollock; Kathy Creeley, Riet Diesling, Isabel Leblac, *Natacha Gagné, *Emily Donaldson, * Pierre-Yves Le Meur, *Tamatoa Bambridge (*not present in 2015)

Pierre-Yves Le Meur, IRD, Nouméa, New Caledonia; <pierre-yves.lemeur@ird.fr>
Tamatoa Bambridge, CNRS, CRIOBE, Moorea, French Polynesia; <tamatoa.bambridge@criobe.pf>
Natacha Gagné, Laval University, Québec, Canada; <natacha.gagne@ant.ulaval.ca>
Alexander Mawyer, CPIS, The University of Hawai'i at Manoa; <mawyer@hawaii.edu>

**Pacific Islanders in the Classroom**
Co-organizers: Holly Barker, Kalani Young, and Miriam Kahn

The "Pacific Islanders in the Classroom" session had an engaged conversation about the rewards and challenges of teaching about Oceania, particularly in classrooms with no Pacific Islander students. Participants also discussed ways to bring Oceanic epistemologies into the curriculum, including opportunities to learn from elders and community members. Other subjects of interest included ways to decolonize the classroom, the role of museums in facilitating learning about and respect for Oceania, and the hardships and opportunities linked to scholarships for Pacific Islander athletes.

Participants expressed interest in convening another informal session in San Diego, and to invite Pacific Islander students at both the graduate and undergraduate level, to lead the conversations (Carmen Borja, Kalani Young, Rochelle Fonoti).

Holly Barker, University of Washington, <hmbarker@uw.edu>
Kalani Young, University of Washington, <youngt4@uw.edu>
Miriam Kahn, University of Washington, <mkahn@u.washington.edu>

**Sexuality and Agency in Oceania: Rethinking Pacific Concepts of Ownership, Exchange, and Morality**
Organizers: Manuel Rauchholz

This late-breaking informal session sought to problematize the issue of sexuality and agency in Oceania and place it in the context of a discussion on ownership, exchange and morality in connection with the use and misuse of persons and their bodies. Leading to the session were exchanges at previous ASAO meetings that seem to indicate a high rate of sexual exploitation or what by human rights standards most nations have ascribed to worldwide might be termed as sexual abuse. From the earliest times of colonial contact women and mostly girls sexuality it seems, has to varying degrees been part of island exchange cycles, thus raising the question of agency and ownership over a female’s body. In regards to men, the question of agency and ownership seems to concentrate more around control over a male’s labor activities and acts of warring or other forms of aggression in defense of family and kin that might put a man’s health and life at risk. The session will be continued next year as an informal session and I will post a full call in the next newsletter.
Sounds of the Pacific: Music in Ritual, Liturgy, and Modernity
Co-organizers for San Diego Meetings: Karen Fox and Andie Palmer

What are the sounds of Oceania? How do Pacific Peoples express, interpret, comment upon, and challenge the fundamental premises of locally experienced sound, whether categorized as music/noise/silence/instruction/entertainment, or other? The working group welcomes those whose research in the Pacific considers: the acoustemology of places (Feld 1996); cultural conventions for organizing sound, understandings of what is and is not appropriate sound, sounds in intimate spaces and auditory imperialism (Padden and Humphries 1988); instrumental musical and oratorical performance (Bauman 1975, Finnegan and Orbell 1995); song practices including waiata (Ngata 1928, 1990) hymns, and their political uses (Pond 1995); the efficacy of sound (how sounds DO something/doing things with sound) (cf. Austin 1962); sounds as claimed or denied or discounted; ontological security of sound; learning to listen, learning to hear; gendered sound; how we use music to hear the past (sound heritage); semiotics of sound; sound, place and meaning; architecture of sound and acoustic archaeology; singing the land; sharing of sound and the meaning of shared sound; silence, sonic exclusion, and not-hearing; soundscapes (Schafer 1977; cf. Adams 2014); sounds unique to Oceania; disordering sounds and sounds out-of-place (e.g., underwater sounds of deep sea mining); and the ways that the Sounds of the Pacific travel or are taken to resound in other places, transnational spaces.

With warm acknowledgement of the original impetus offered by Eric Silverman and Nancy Lutkehaus, for a session focussed on Pacific Musics, participants thus far have included: Apolonia Tamata, Hao-Li Lin, David Wakefield, Ivan Brady (who has volunteered his services as one of the discussants), Mimi George, Susanne Kuehling, Jacqueline Hazen, Bill Heaney, Patrick Nason, Charles Laughen, Rosalind Hunter-Anderson, Hal Whitehead, Vincent Malcolm-Buchanan, Juliana Flinn, Roz Hunter-Anderson, Jamon Halvaksz and the co-organizers.

Were these words on the page to sound in your ear, this "call" for papers might be the call of the conch. We look forward to hearing from you. Contact andie.palmer@ualberta.ca and karen.fox@ualberta.ca.

SPECIAL SESSIONS

Second Lives: Archiving Anthropological Field Materials
Co-organizers: Kathryn Creely and David Akin

This special one-time session brought together seven speakers and a lively audience with lots of questions and comments. Although we have no plans to continue next year, we will be creating an online guide with some useful information on the topics covered.
Kathryn Creely outlined what to expect if/when donating field materials to a cultural institution. She touched on basic provisions of copyright, ownership agreements/deeds of gift, creation of inventories and catalog records, and providing access to users.

Eleanor Kleiber’s presentation discussed the physical and intellectual care of an anthropologist’s field materials. She provided some basic guidelines about where and how to store paper, images and audio visual materials. She touched on the importance of organizing the material in a consistent structure, and emphasized that taking the time to fully identify (and correctly label) the context of the material (who/what/where) would greatly increase the value for the next generations of researchers. Finally she provided some basic rules about applying restrictions on material and the importance of making those decisions as soon as possible.

Cristela García-Spitze spoke about recommended practices for the digitization of field materials, as well as management of born-digital materials. She spoke about the need to consider preserving content from social media, email, and other outlets which heretofore have not been well-preserved for future generations of scholars to study. At the end of the session, she gave a brief demonstration of the UC San Diego’s Digital Collections website (library.ucsd.edu/dc), where many digitized materials from the Tuzin Archive are accessible.

The digital stream of the session was continued by Judith Hannoun, who gave an overview of archival practices in France, where many research structures have an active policy of collecting and inventorying the manuscript materials of anthropologists. These institutions have projects of digitization and online dissemination of fieldwork materials, and coordinate their actions and comply with international standards and legal and ethical rules. Ms. Hannoun gave a very interesting demonstration of the capabilities of ODSAS (Online Digital Sources and Annotation System) (www.odsas.net) This is a platform for storing and dissemination of scientific archives, which enables collaborative work, files documentation and annotation, transcriptions, and links between digital documents.

In his talk “The Kwaio Archive, an Ongoing Project,” David Akin gave an overview of the Archive and its history, and described various logistical problems and issues of confidentiality and access the project has wrestled with. He also explained why it was decided to make the Archive largely digital in format, and some of the challenges and opportunities digitization has brought.

We were especially grateful for the participation of Esau Kekeubata (PISF travel grant recipient) and Jackson Waneagea. They both travelled from Malaita, Solomon Islands, in order to participate in the session and attend the meetings. Mr. Kekeubata’s talk, delivered also on behalf of Mr. Waneagea, was “The Kwaio Archive: A Kwaio Perspective.” Mr. Kekeubata described the Kwaio community’s work on the Archive, including their recent construction of a permanent building for it in the Malaitan interior and acquisition of a solar system to power the Archive’s computers. He showed images of the site, explained the significance the project has for Kwaio, and stressed how important archivists’ work with anthropological materials is for communities like theirs.

Please note, the title of this session was adapted from: Leopold, Robert. 2008. The second life of ethnographic fieldnotes. In Ateliers d’anthropologie (32).Http://ateliers.revues.org/3132.

Kathryn Creely <kcreely@ucsd.edu>
David Akin <dwakin@umich.edu>

Emerging Issues
Convener: Nancy Pollock

The Emerging Issues session raised six topics discussed by the participants. The Pacific Solution discussed last year now has been retagged by Australian journalists “Stop the Boats” though Asian boat people are still being detained on Nauru and Manus islands, with considerable disruptive consequences. Friday February 6th being Waitangi Day in New
Zealand, Issues of Maori rights, and the ongoing deliberations of the Waitangi Tribunal were discussed, and referred to the Sovereignty panel for next year. West Papua and South Sea Islander concerns and militarization were issues nominated for further discussion. Selling passports, and thus citizenship, in return for sizable sums of money for governments, was raised with particular reference to Samoa, but may have wider resonance for future panels. This was the third year that a meeting to discuss Emerging Issues has been included in the programme, so it may be time for reconsiderations. With just one hour at Friday lunchtime, for 20 participants in the room, time was too brief to do more than raise these topics and suggest they might be brought forward as Working sessions at next year’s ASAO meeting.

NEW PROPOSED SESSIONS

**The Experiential Roots of Mana: Proposal for an informal session at the 2016 ASAO meetings in San Diego**
Organizers: Mimi George and Charles D. Laughlin

Mimi George and Charles Laughlin have discussed the notion of mana for many years. We have been interested in the experiential aspects of apparently universal elements in human spiritual knowledge and ritual practice. Our explorations have ranged across a number of mana-related issues, including ritual, alternative states of consciousness, shamanic practices, entheogens, lucid dreaming and meditation. One of these features has struck us as an important focus for discussing the phenomenological roots of spiritual knowledge and belief, namely what many Pacific peoples call mana, or cognate terms, and which bears other labels in other places (e.g., barakah in Africa, kundalini in Asia, libido in Jungian psychology).

There has been a renewed interest in the question of mana and related issues in the literature (e.g., August 2005; Marshall 2012; Mondragón 2004; Tomlinson 2007; Zepf 2010). When we called for interested participants at the 2015 meeting, we received 15 responses. We feel that the time is ripe to bring this hypothesis before the best minds in Oceanic ethnography and throw it out for discussion at the next meeting. We also wish to put forth the hypothesis that cultural concepts of an invisible spiritual force that animates objects and persons in the world derives from, and is reinforced by the direct experience of psychic energy in the body (Laughlin 1994; see also Lederman’s 1991 account of her personal experience of anjin during her fieldwork in Malaysia). In doing so, we will share what we know about the neuropsychology of psychic energy, as well as transpersonal studies of such experiences. We wish to find out whether our ASAO colleagues feel a more formal working session of this issue in 2017 might be productive.

References:

Marianne (Mimi) George <George.mimi@gmail.com>
Authenticity and Authoring in Pacific cultures
Jeannette Mageo and Joyce Hammond

While anthropologists tend to be suspect of the category of authenticity, it is frequently on the lips of those commonly found in the Pacific today—Islanders, tourists, and collectors—and it is a key value in the practices of all three groups. As an emic category it deserves consideration. In part the category of authenticity is suspect because of questions of authoring raised by anthropologists and museum curators for the past several decades. Does a certain practice or product, they ask, trace back to pre-contact times or is it traceable to more contemporary times and to foreign places? Questions raised in the invention of tradition literature. Attempts at authentic renderings of Pacific culture by foreigners and locals have persisted ever since first contact and are worthy of study for what these attempts can show about interactive understandings of culture. In all instances the aims of these attempts were mixed and the renderings themselves multi-vocal.

This session will focus on images and texts from varied contexts: from Pacific islands to Western museums and galleries and from early colonial times to the present. Often, if not always, such renderings have been and continue to be multiply authored by foreigners and indigenes in more or less manifest or latent ways and they were and are generative for foreigners and indigenous cultures alike. Troubled by concerns about voice, its origins, who is speaking, with what right and with what legitimacy, these renderings and their reception nonetheless represent creative collisions of cultures; their effects were and are to different degrees eroding and creative. Themes of tribute, gift, appropriateness, and trade lace through such productions and their aftereffects. The session will explore all these topics as well as distinctions among different forms of authenticity in actors’ perceptions and how definitions of authenticity may vary over time. Examples may include art forms, photographs, ceremonies and contests, theater and also classic ethnographic accounts where the aim is an authentic rendition of a Pacific culture. For more information or to participate in an informal session for next year’s meetings in San Diego please contact Jeannette Mageo (jmageo@wsu.edu) or Joyce Hammond (Joyce.Hammond@wwu.edu).

Jeannette Mageo <jmageo@wsu.edu>
Joyce Hammond <Joyce.Hammond@wwu.edu>

VI. OFFICER REPORTS

1. PROGRAM COORDINATOR’S ANNUAL REPORT

Program: This year’s program includes seven symposia, six working sessions, and eleven informal sessions. Additionally we had three short program special sessions including our emerging issues session appearing again in its third year with a ‘new and improved’ moderated format, a special session on archiving field materials, and a film screening of the 2011 prize winning documentary Nuclear Savage (Adam Horowitz, director). For our 2015 Santa Fe meetings, this yields a total of 27 sessions. As in past years, we lost several other sessions over the year including at the last minute. Taken as a whole, this compares favorably with recent past meetings. There were 26 sessions in Kona, 20 sessions at San Antonio’s 2013 meeting, 18 sessions in Portland 2012, and 22 sessions in Honolulu in 2011. These numbers remain suggestive of ongoing healthy interest in our association’s meeting.

Special Events: Three special sessions are scheduled for the 2015 meetings including a breakout emerging issues session (following advice from last year’s participants we are working to implement a moderated structure this year), a film screening and Q&A with the director Adam Horowitz (nb our Distinguished Lecturer Holly Barker is featured in the documentary), and a special session chaired by Kathryn Creely and David Akin focusing on archiving field materials. While we do not have an off-site service learning event scheduled this year, there are
numerous museums in reasonably close proximity to the conference hotel and attendees seeking to engage with indigenous or other arts of the region should be encouraged by the number of different opportunities to do so on a free morning or afternoon.

AV Support: A modest number of sessions this year requested AV and internet support for powerpoint and off-site communications needs. Several sessions withdrew their initial request for an AV setup upon reflection.

Session Organizers Meeting: Following recent tradition, we will continue to work to keep this meeting brief and goal specific; seeing this as opportunity to make sure the session organizers know whom to contact should things go bump, reinforcing timeframes for the annual cycle of session organizer duties, and reminding them how to find support for their collective plans with respect to ASAO publications and outcomes, and to touch base on any last minute changes or concerns bearing on sessions (for instance room size for sessions taking place in the “Library”).

Book Display: David Troolin, our book display coordinator, again vigorously contacted publishers to promote our conference and our member’s publications. We anticipate a successful book display comparable to past meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Alexander Mawyer

2. SITE COORDINATOR REPORT
From February 2014 to February 2015, I was responsible for the two main tasks of the site coordinator. I negotiated the contract with Hotel Santa Fe to host the 2015 meeting. I also conducted an extensive search for a site for the 2016 meeting. With the help and support of the program coordinator, I also assisted with preparations for the 2015 meeting, although as I am based in Australia, a lot of this work ultimately fell to other officers. As part of an effort to promote the 2015 meeting, I launched the hashtags #ASAOSantaFe and #ASAO2015. Attendees should feel free to continue using these to post pictures and thoughts from the 2015 meeting. If you feel so moved, give a shout out to @HotelSantaFe on Twitter too. They were great hosts!

Under the board’s direction, I ultimately sought sites in San Diego for the 2016 meeting. San Diego is an attractive and competitive market for professional meetings of ASAO’s size, and particularly well suited for ASAO. ASAO has many ties to the anthropology department of University of California, San Diego and UCSD’s Geisel Library, home of the Tuzin Archive for Melanesian Studies and the Hill Pacific Voyages Collection. West Coast sites are much more accessible and affordable in general, and especially for scholars coming from Australasia and Oceania. As the board has decided, future sites will be sought in and around the Pacific, with a preference for sites that are easy to get to.

The 2016 meeting will be held at the Catamaran Hotel and Resort on Mission Beach in central San Diego. The Catamaran is a former site for ASAO and has hosted many academic conferences, including the meetings of the Society for Psychological Anthropology and the American Ethnological Society. It is also a bit of a local legend in San Diego, with an excellent restaurant. Since we will be mere steps from the beach, I imagine our conversations will continue from our sessions, out onto the boardwalk, to one of the many nearby restaurants, and into the night. More details about the hotel to follow in the next newsletter. For now, I look forward to sharing thoughts and ideas for #ASAO2016 online. See you at #ASAOSanDiego!

Ryan Schram
Site Coordinator
3. **DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES REPORT**
Holly Barker (Dept. of Anthropology, University of Washington) presented the 2015 ASAO Distinguished Lecture “Confronting a Trinity of Institutional Barriers: Denial, Cover-up and Secrecy.” We thank Dr. Barker for joining us in Santa Fe and for sparking animated discussion about the heritage of nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands. We look forward to her lecture’s publication in the November 2015 issue of *Oceania*, continuing the Association’s agreement with that journal. Ty Tengan’s 2014 Distinguished Lecture with illustrations (this came to be co-authored by local activist Lamakū Mikahala Roy who joined us in Kona), was published on schedule in *Oceania’s* November 2014 issue (84:315-330). After covering 2014 expenses, the Distinguished Lectureship account, as of 31 December 2014, totaled $7056.86.

* Lamont Lindstrom

4. **FROM THE SECRETARY**
2014-2015 was my second year in the office of secretary. I have performed the usual routines of the office.

**Routine tasks**
1. Responded to inquiries from members and non-members
2. Prepared minutes from the 2014 meeting and the three virtual meetings
3. Distributed draft minutes for review by board members and officers and an approved version for distribution and deposit in archives
4. Compiled copies of bylaws and minutes of past board meetings for distribution to new board members and officers
5. Invited and processed submission for recognition of edited volumes/special journal issues resulting from ASAO sessions as ASAO publications
6. Informed contributors to newly recognized ASAO publications of their change of status to fellow
7. Maintained file of board discussions and decisions (by email) between 2014 and 2015 meetings
8. Prepared agenda for 2015 board meeting
9. Organized electronic ballot and voting for new board members

**Special tasks**
None.

Respectfully,
Jerry Jacka

5. **FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR**
The membership count as of January 14, 2015 is as follows. It includes individuals whose membership is current through 2014 or beyond.

General Members (full rate) = 186 (38% of total membership)
Reduced Rate (Students, Retirees, Unemployed Members) = 197 (40%)
Pacific Islanders (No Membership Fee) = 83 (17%)
Honorary Fellows (No Membership Fee) = 24 (5%)

**Total Membership = 490**

I have kept both the database and online directory up-to-date as I receive membership forms from both renewals and new members.
Reminders to renew membership are sent personally in late February or March to those who have not yet renewed. In October, as soon as registration fees for the next meeting have been decided on, a preregistration/membership form is brought to the attention of members via personal emails encouraging them to renew for the following year.

*Alan Howard*
*Membership Coordinator*

**6. FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

My thanks to the board and officers for continued support, with special thanks to Alan Howard and Alexander Mawyer in the editing and distribution of each issue.

Below, I have included last year’s data with this year’s for comparison.

Summary of issues sent in 2013 and associated costs

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*April includes 91 lapsed members from 2012*

Summary of issues sent in 2014 and associated costs

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Cost for each issue remains fairly consistent. This past year the postal service standardized international postage, which seems to have benefited us slightly. The higher cost in April is associated with a longer issue, higher postage rates and that is typically when I purchase envelopes.

*Jamon Alex Halvaksz, II*
7. ARCHIVIST’S REPORT

I have continued to maintain and update the online archive of e-versions of important ASAO documents, particularly those that ASAO Board members and officers might have need to consult on a regular basis. These include past board meeting agenda and minutes, officers’ reports and lists of responsibilities, and organizational documents such as the articles of incorporation and bylaws. In addition, I am working on making the physical and online archives congruent by (a) printing the more recent agenda/minutes and reports and updating the associated finder lists and metadata for the physical archive, which is kept in the Pacific Collection of Hamilton Library, University of Hawai‘i–Mānoa; and (b) scanning and OCRing the older board agenda/minutes and officer reports for the online archive.

This year I continued to research and provide information to the ASAO Board and officers when asked for background regarding various procedures and precedents. I hope this support is helpful, especially when we have new officers coming in, and with the continual renewal of the board with two new members each year.

Jan Rensel

8. BOOK SERIES EDITOR’S REPORT

Volume 5 in our series with Berghahn, a monograph by Jeffrey Sissons titled The Polynesian Iconoclasm: Religious Revolution and the Seasonality of Power, was published in September 2014. Debra McDougall’s monograph Engaging with Strangers: Love and Violence in the Rural Solomon Islands is now in the hands of Berghahn’s production team for publication in early 2016 as Volume 6. Now also accepted and under contract is Mortuary Dialogues, edited by David Lipset and Eric Silverman. The publisher’s listings for series titles can be viewed at www.berghahnbooks.com/series.php?pg=asao. Information about publishing in the series can be found at ASAO’s own website (under “Publications” and “Book Series”). Please feel free to email me with queries about possible submission to the series, whatever stage your work is in.

Rupert Stasch

9. TREASURER’S REPORT

Since the end of January 2014, we have had one Wells Fargo Account.

The balance as of Jan 1, 2014 was 59,337.88
The balance as of Dec 31, 2014 45,203.24
The balance as of January 30, 2015 is 52,922.01

Revenues

My worksheet divides revenues up into three categories: membership dues, meeting registration and PISF donations.

For 2014, the revenues from membership dues came to $8335, the meeting registration came to $16,030 and the PISF donations came to $5407.73. A little bit is lost from these revenues for our paypal fees.

The PISF component

Of all memberships, we deducted $8.00 per membership before the 2014 meeting to be added to the PISF fund, and after the 2014 meeting we have begun to put $10 into the PISF fund.

Our PISF budget balance at the beginning of 2014 was $19,643.25. At the end of the year, it was down to $9,691.98.
Expenses

• Our biggest expense of 2014 was the Kona meeting which came to $27,872 including hotel rooms for officers and PISF participants, incidentals, honorarium and chanters, field trip, meeting rooms, a contract with a meeting planning company in Hilo, audiovisual equipment and catering. This expense far exceeded the income from registration.
• Our second biggest expense was our PISF grants. These came to $10,800.
• Other expenses were newsletters and occasional other small reimbursements.
• This year we anticipate having to spend about $19,000 for the meeting. This includes catering, audiovisual equipment, officer’s rooms, and the newly increased PISF lodging allowance.
• Our PISF recipients will receive $10,800 in travel reimbursements.

Mary McCutcheon

10. WEB SITE MANAGER’S REPORT
During the year I updated the website as required to reflect session reports from the 2014 meeting in Kona, Hawai’i; session announcements provided by the Newsletter Editor and Program Coordinator, and information concerning the 2015 meeting in Santa Fe provided by the Program Coordinator and Site Coordinator. The pre-registration form and PISF application form for the Santa Fe meeting were uploaded in PDF format. Employment opportunities relevant to the membership have been posted as they were drawn to my attention.

The archives have also been updated to include all the newsletters in PDF format through the year 2013 and a photo album has been added to the archives with pictures from the Kona meeting.

The average monthly statistics for 2014 are 2,076 unique visitors, 3,703 visits, and 9,112 pages observed. The greatest traffic was for information about the next meeting, including sessions and schedule, followed by information about publications, and membership information.

The website is currently being redesigned by Zakea Boeger, who will be taking over major responsibility for managing the site in 2016.

Alan Howard

VII. RECENT JOURNALS

The Contemporary Pacific, Volume 27 (#1), is now available and contains the following articles, dialogue, and resource pieces:

Vulnerable Islands: Climate Change, Tectonic Change, and Changing Livelihoods in the Western Pacific
  John Connell
Working out What to Wear in Papua New Guinea: The Politics of Fashion in Stella
  Ceridwen Spark
Austronesian Youth Perspectives on Language Reclamation and Maintenance
  Emerson Lopez Odango
Re-Presenting Melanesia: Ignoble Savages and Melanesian Alter-Natives
  Tarcisius Kabutaulaka
A Sea of Warriors: Performing an Identity of Resilience and Empowerment in the Face of Climate Change in the Pacific

Candice Elanna Steiner

Diacritical Marks and the Samoan Language

Eseta Magaai Tu'alaulelei, Fepuleai Lasei John Mayer, and Galumalemana A Hunkin

The issue also features the art of Fata Feu'u, 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. 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/. For those without access through MUSE, back issues through volume 26 (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).

Journal of the Polynesian Society
VOLUME 123, DECEMBER 2014, Number 4

Articles

VALENTIN BOISSONNAS
Beyond the Rim: A Comparative Study of Kava Bowls from Samoa, Tonga and Fiji

JO ANNE VAN TILBURG
Lost and Found: Hoa Hakananai'a and the Orongo “Doorpost”

JEREMY COOTE
A Tongan Tapua in the Pitt Rivers Museum: Historiographical Notes and Curatorial Reflections

Shorter Communication

SIMON CHAPPLE
The Direct Estimation of Māori Vital Rates for Ruapuke Island, 1844-1845 and 1850-1885Volume 122 SEPTEMBER 2013 Number 3

Articles

JEREMY COOTE and JEREMY UDEN
The Rediscovery of a Society Islands Tamau, or Headdress of Human Hair, in the “Cook-Voyage” Forster Collection at the Pitt Rivers Museum—and a Possible Provenance

ANDREW MICALISTER, PETER J. SHEPPARD and MELINDA S. ALLEN
The Identification of a Marquesan Adze in the Cook Islands

ANDREA BENDER
Two Accounts of Traditional Mangarevan Counting… and How to Evaluate Them
VIII. NOMINEES FOR ASAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

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

Mary K. Good is Assistant Professor of Cultural Anthropology at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She earned her PhD in Anthropology from the University of Arizona in 2012, her MA from the University of Chicago, and her BA from the University of Michigan. Good’s research examines the ways in which everyday social practices shape ideas about social relationships, morality, and responsibility among youth in Tonga. Her most recent work has focused on the ways youth engage with new digital media, and she has continuing interest in how food practices reflect social values in the Pacific and the United States.

Jessica Hardin is an assistant professor of anthropology at Pacific University. She conducted fieldwork in Samoa where she examines how the medicalization of food, fat, and fitness are articulated by Pentecostal Christians. Her research also focuses on emerging notions of “healthy” food as well as public health. She is co-editor of the volume: Reconstructing Obesity: The Meaning of Measures and the Measure of Meanings and her articles have appeared (or are forthcoming) in Critical Public Health, Food, Culture, and Society, and Fat Studies. Jessica also served on the American Ethnological Society board from 2011 to 2014.

Kirsten McGavin is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Anthropology at the University of Queensland, Australia. Her research interests include: mixed race and Pacific Islander identity; Indigeneity; place; sense of belonging; representation; and the New Guinea Islands. She is currently working with Professor Farida Fozdar (University of Western Australia) on an edited volume focusing on mixed race identity in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Kirsten is of New Zealand Pakeha and New Guinea Islander descent.

Manuel Rauchholz has been working as a researcher and lecturer at the Institute of Anthropology at Heidelberg University, Germany since 2012. His research focus has been on (Chuuk) Micronesia on questions of law, custom and politics, gender and sexuality, values, religion and kinship studies. Ongoing research projects are dealing with Gender Based Violence and sexual and labor exploitation in Micronesia (EU funded), while a new project is doing comparative work on mind wandering and human intelligence in cross-cultural perspective in conjunction with the department of Psychology at Heidelberg University. Manuel was raised and educated in Micronesia, Japan, the USA and in Germany. He has been attending ASAO meetings regularly since 2005. He has done fieldwork in Chuuk between 2004-2007 and in subsequent years amongst Micronesians residing in the USA and its territories. In 2012 he was elected as one of two German representatives on the board of the European Society for Oceanists (ESfO).

David Troolin: Since 2002, my wife and I have been members of SIL International (a nonprofit faith-based language development organisation), living with our family in Buan, a small village in Papua New Guinea. We advise the local people who speak the Sam language with their community-directed language development needs. These needs are issues they requested help with, starting with alphabet development, and later moving to vernacular literacy, compiling a Sam dictionary, and helping them write things to read in their language. My experiences living with the Sam people have taught me many interesting aspects of Sam culture, and have led me to begin a postgraduate degree in anthropology through the University of Adelaide in 1993. Some of my anthropological interests are conceptual blending, consensus, war and conflict, ritual, cargo cult, and vernacular education.
XI. HONORARY FELLOW NOMINEES
The following has been nominated to be an ASAO Honorary Fellow. 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.

To whom it may concern:

We would like this letter to serve as our formal nomination of Jan Rensel to be appointed as an Honorary Fellow of the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania. Jan has had an outstanding career and many contributions to the field of Social Anthropology in Oceania.

Jan has done research on Rotuma and among Rotumans since 1987; she has coauthored two books (Island Legacy: A History of the Rotuman People [2007] and A New Rotuman Dictionary [1998]); co-edited two collections arising from ASAO sessions (Home in the Islands: Housing and Social Change in the Pacific, with Margaret Rodman [1997] and Pacific Islands Diaspora, Identity, and Incorporation, with Alan Howard [special issue of Pacific Studies (2012)]); and authored or coauthored about 20 articles or book chapters (several of which also were the result of ASAO sessions). She has also been involved with numerous other publication projects including two books written by the late Elisapeti K. Inia, which she and Alan Howard edited: Fäeag ‘es Fuaga: Rotuman Sayings (1998) and Kato’aga: Rotuman Ceremonies (2001). She has found great joy in her continued engagement with Rotuman communities around the world.

She has also contributed to the field through her work editing manuscripts. She has demonstrated her ability to edit and work with authors, specifically when she prepared the contributions for Home in the Islands for submission to UH Press. In 2001 she was hired by the UHM Center for Pacific Islands Studies (CPIS) as their managing editor. She now edits both The Contemporary Pacific and the Pacific Islands Monograph Series, and in the process she has worked closely with hundreds of scholars of the Pacific.

Jan has a long history with ASAO, and has been involved with the organization as an officer for many years. She attended her first ASAO meeting in 1984 as a graduate student and started attending regularly in 1990. Jan became Newsletter Editor in 1994 and held that position for 9 years (until 2002), and also served an overlapping term as Secretary-Treasurer from 1996 to 2005 (also 9 years). As treasurer she was the “membership coordinator”, which tasked her with contacting every member at least once a year. She excelled in this role, referring people to other members with related interests, proofreading the Newsletter (even after she stopped being editor), assisting other officers such as the Site, Program, and Pacific Islands Scholars Fund Coordinators, and in particular looking out for the PISF recipients at the meetings.

In 2002, she worked with Gene Ogan to prepare the physical ASAO archives for deposit in the Pacific Collection of Hamilton Library at the University of Hawai’i and since that time she have served as archivist and provided “institutional memory”.

We believe that Jan’s long involvement with ASAO, along with her contributions to the field of Social Anthropology in Oceania make her an excellent Honorary Fellow and we wholeheartedly nominate her for appointment to the position.

Sincerely,

Mary McCutcheon and Paige West
The ASAO Newsletter is published three times yearly (April, September, December) and is a benefit of ASAO membership. For general members and fellows, membership may be paid annually (US$40) or once every three years (US$110). Student, retired and unemployed membership is US$25 annually or US$65 for three years. Institutional subscriptions are available for US$15 per calendar year. ISSN 1095-3000

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