FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome, ASAO members, to a new year and a new issue of the ASAO Newsletter. The Newsletter aims to tell you all about the business of the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania (ASAO). If you like what you see here, why not sign up for a session at our next annual meeting, taking place from January 30 to February 4, 2018 in New Orleans?

Welcome, also, to readers who are accessing this publication through Flipster, a digital platform for periodicals by EBSCO. On Flipster, institutions pay a subscription price on a sliding scale based on their size. We expect that research and educational institutions of all sizes will find it affordable. If you are a member of ASAO, please recommend that your library buy a subscription to the Newsletter through Flipster. You’d be helping to bring news of ASAO to many more students and researchers.

In this issue, you’ll find officers’ reports from the previous year and organizers’ reports on their sessions at the 2017 meeting. There are also statements from the nominees for two open seats on the ASAO Board.

Ryan Schram, Newsletter editor

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Greetings and respectful acknowledgement to all of you, members of ASAO and friends. I am still carrying the warmth and the academic inspiration from our lively meetings in Kaua‘i in February as we quickly move into what is sure to be an exciting year. The ASAO board and officers saw quite a bit of change this season, and I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the hard work of our outgoing board members and officers. First, I would like to share my gratitude for the leadership of Marama Muru-Lanning, whose thoughtful and good-humored guidance led us through 2016. I would also like to thank Jerry Jacka, outgoing secretary; Alex Mawyer, outgoing program coordinator; Mary McCutcheon, outgoing treasurer; Alan Howard, outgoing membership coordinator; and Lamont Lindstrom, outgoing distinguished lecture coordinator. We have benefited tremendously from your service, and the new officers and board members who will take on these roles will do their best to follow in your capable footsteps. Several other officers and board members are now taking on new roles among the officer positions, and we wish them luck as they begin their new responsibilities!

The 2017 meetings on Kaua‘i, Hawai‘i were a great success, and I wish to thank our site coordinator Jamon Halvaksz for first laying the groundwork, and then working throughout the meetings to smooth over any issues that arose. Likewise, program coordinator Alex Mawyer deserves accolades for deftly choreographing the intricacies of all types of sessions. This year’s program boasted the largest number of sessions to date. At times it was difficult to choose which sessions to participate in! Thanks to all of the session organizers for their hard work in developing such strong themes and managing each session to create lively and productive discussions. Another highlight of the meeting was the special welcome and opening by Ka‘ìmì Na‘auao o Hawai‘i Nei Institute and Sabra Kauka. We continued our recent voyages into the realm of visual media with two film screenings: We, the Voyagers: Matou, Nga Moku Puna o Lata and Moana Rua: The Rising of the Seas. Participants in the Language Documentation and Conservation in Oceania workshop report a stimulating and productive discussion. As one of the co-facilitators of the Emerging Issues session, I can say that, as in prior years, I also enjoyed the camaraderie and support found in the impromptu conversations at tea breaks and receptions. The ways we build up and maintain relationships between new members, regular attendees, and senior scholars is truly what sets the experience of the ASAO meetings apart from other academic conferences.

I also want to briefly make mention of our Distinguished Lecture this year. Special thanks go to Malama Meleisea and Penelope Schoeffel for their entertaining and inspiring lecture on the impact they have had on Pacific Studies through their “50-year duet.” We greatly appreciate their contributions to the meetings and to the field. It is somewhat difficult to balance here between praising the lecture and taking note of the sad circumstances under which it occurred, when Teresia Teaiwa, originally scheduled to give the distinguished lecture, had to cancel at the last minute due to illness. I’d like to note here the passing of our esteemed colleague: Teresia Teaiwa’s light will continue to shine in the students, friends, and colleagues whose lives she touched.

The year ahead promises to strengthen our organization in several ways. We will be electing new Board members soon. I encourage you to read the information in this issue about the nominees. I hope to continue efforts with the board and all of our members to recruit new members to the organization and new participants in our annual meetings. Our members make this organization great. You are all the best advertisements for the competitive Pacific Islander Scholarship Fund to honor the important, strong, critical scholarship of our ever-growing Pacific Islander membership. Finally, we look forward to another great meeting in New Orleans in February 2018.

It is my pleasure to chair this organization for 2017, and I look forward to working with all of you to continue our tradition of scholarly excellence as well as strong bonds of collegiality and mentorship.

With warm regards,

Mary K. Good, chair

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### 2018 MEETING INFORMATION

The annual meeting for 2018 will be held at Le Pavillon Hotel, 833 Poydras Street, New Orleans, Louisiana from January 30 to February 3.

Our conference rate for a single and double occupancy room is $159.00 per night ($179.00 for triple and $199.00 for quad occupancy). As is usual, we are able to secure the conference room rate for a few days before and after the conference.

Bookings must be made by January 9, 2018 to ensure the conference rate. You can start making your arrangements today either online using this link, or by calling the hotel at +1 (800) 535-9095.

More information about the hotel, New Orleans and Mardi Gras will be provided in future issues of the Newsletter.

Jamon Halvaksz, site coordinator
The Pacific Islands Scholars Fund supports attendance and participation by Pacific Islands scholars at ASAO meetings through travel awards and waivers of meeting registration and membership fees. PISF is especially interested in supporting younger scholars and those who have not previously attended ASAO meetings, but we encourage all prospective Pacific Islands participants (from undergrads through senior scholars) to apply!

The core PISF objectives are:

- To incorporate greater Pacific Islander perspective and voice in ASAO meetings, primarily in working sessions and symposia.
- To support and advance the professional development of junior Pacific Islander scholars.
- To increase Pacific Islander membership in the Association.
- To increase Pacific Islander contributions and leadership in the Association.

In most cases PISF travel awards cover the cost of round-trip airfare. Awards also provide meeting registration and a year’s ASAO membership. The ASAO Board, depending on its finances for the year, is also sometimes able to provide travel awardees with partial support toward cost of housing at the conference hotel.

In order to be eligible, applicants must take an active part in one or more sessions, by serving as organizer, presenting a paper, or making a presentation in another format.

You can access the PISF application instructions and further information online now (and in the September issue of the ASAO Newsletter).

Please consider applying for PISF awards! If you have any questions regarding the PISF application process or materials, please contact PISF coordinator Lisa Uperesa <luperesa@auckland.ac.nz>

An Appeal to All ASAO Members: Donate to PISF Today!

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. We encourage all ASAO members to consider contributing whatever they can to support the airfare, partial accommodation, and conference registration fees for colleagues from Oceania who need such support.

Luckily for us, the new ASAO website makes donating to PISF easier than figuring out how to use Twitter! You can now make a secure online donation via PayPal. Simply (1) go to [http://www.asao.org/pisf.html](http://www.asao.org/pisf.html), (2) click the yellow “Donate” button, and (3) follow the prompts. It’s that easy!

Thanks so much, and we hope to see you in New Orleans!

The 2017-2018 PISF Committee: Lisa Uperesa (PISF coordinator), Alexander Mawyer (Board representative), and Ping-Ann Addo (at-large member)

PISF ATTENDEES AT THE 2017 MEETINGS

It was a pleasure meeting and working with the eleven Pacific Island Scholars Fund recipients who were able to attend the Kaua’i meeting.

- Sei O’Brien, Massey University: “Noah’s Ark: Tuvaluan Elders’ Response to the Auckland Museum” (Panel: Pacific Youth)
- Caleb Marsters, University of Auckland: “Young Pacific male athletes and positive mental well-being” (Panel: “Ethnographic Approach to Contemporary Issues in Papua New Guinea”)
- Fele Uperesa, UC Berkeley: A Tale of Two Islands: Examining Trade Autonomy and Public Health in the Samoa Islands (Panel: Sovereignties and Dispossessions)
- Joseph Hala’ufia, University of Hawai’i: “Race, Sport, and Tongans” (Panel: Theorizing Race and Culture in the Pacific)
- Okusitino Mahina, Moana University of Technology, Tongatapu & Vava’u Academy for Critical Inquiry & Applied Research, Auckland: “Fangufangu & Afo Fakafa’ahikehe: Revival of Ancient Tongan Nose-flute & Minor Tune” (Panel: Sounds of the Pacific); “Fonua Cultural Dynamic: A Moana/Pacific Iconic” (Panel: The Iconic: afterlife, new beginnings and the return of the symbolic); “Maui as Great Comedian of Our Moana Nui: Intersection of Absurdity and Normality” (Panel: Mana Moana: We Are Moana, We Are Maui)

Above, the 2017 PISF Awardees, from left to right: Miriam Supuma, Fele Uperesa, Tiara Naputi, Jemaima Tiatia-Seath, Sei O’Brien, Joseph Hala’ufia, Caleb Marsters, Patrick Vakaöti and Okusitino Mahina (not pictured: Kristina Stege and Tu’ifonualava Kaivelata)
• Tiara Naputi, University of Colorado, Boulder: “A Stirring Place: Mapping Indigenous Challenges to Militarization in the Mariana Islands” (Panel: Sovereignties and Dispossessions)

• Jemaima Tiatia-Seath, University of Auckland: “Theorising Pacific Youth Suicide: Diasporic Views” (Panel: Pacific Youth)

• Kristina Stege, International Liaison for the Marshallese Educational Initiative (MEI): “Dynamics of climate change action, Republic of the Marshall Islands” (Panel: Climate change: Experience and action in the Pacific Islands)

• Patrick Vakaoti, University of Otago: “Young People as Citizens—The case of Fiji” (Panel: Pacific Youth)

We thank you for your great contributions to the program and look forward to continuing the conversations!

The 2016-2017 PISF Committee: Tate LeFevre and Kirsten McGavin, co-chairs, and Lisa Uperesa (at large member)

OFFICERS’ REPORTS FOR 2016

CHAIR

Aloha kākou – Kia ora tātou ASAO whānau – Warm Greetings!

Before I report back I’d like to thank our Officers and Board members for supporting and keeping me afloat as Chair this year. We have made multiple adjustments in our planning to accommodate new ideas, our members’ preferences and finances and the desire of some of our champions to retire. Even though the discipline of Anthropology is being confronted, ASAO as an organisation is very much alive in its 50th year and this is something to celebrate!

ASAO Meeting and Venue 2017

Due to budget and participation constraints, the ASAO 2017 Annual Meeting, which was planned for Tahiti was relocated to Līhuʻe on Kauaʻi. Arrangements for our 2018 meeting are underway and I would like to thank Jamon Halvaksz for undertaking this task. The locations have been selected using survey results collected earlier in the year. Jamon will present the options to you.

Changing of the Guards

Sadly a number of long-serving Officers are retiring after this meeting. Fortunately, we have found some excellent replacements. Our outgoing and incoming Officers are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treasurer</th>
<th>Mary McCutcheon</th>
<th>Barbara Andersen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Alan Howard</td>
<td>Barbara Andersen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Jerry Jacka</td>
<td>Jessica Hardin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dist. Lecture</td>
<td>Lamont Lindstrom</td>
<td>Paige West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prog. Coord.</td>
<td>Alex Mawyer</td>
<td>Tate LeFevre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I note the roles of Treasurer and Membership Coordinators are being merged into one on Alan Howard’s recommendation and agreement from Barbara Andersen.

Virtual Board Meeting

A Virtual Meeting was held on 19 April. Jerry Jacka has a copy of the Minutes from the meeting where a number of initiatives were discussed and agreed upon.

Honorary Fellows

We had three nominees for Honorary Fellow, all of whom were successful in the ballot. Our new ASAO Honorary Fellows are – Prof. Richard Feinberg, Assoc Prof. Judith Huntsman and Prof. Malama Meleisea.

Sadly longtime Honorary Fellow Ann Chowning passed away this year.

2017 Board Election

We had four nominees from which Alex Mawyer and Albert Refiti were elected to the ASAO Board.

Membership and Registration Increase

The Board approved the following increases to membership dues and registration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>One-year membership</th>
<th>Three-year membership</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full rate</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced rate</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The meeting registration fee will be $200 or $120 reduced registration.

(Please note these amounts are in US dollars.)

Change to Distinguished Lecture Planned

Unfortunately Dr Teresia Teaiwa’s health prevented her from travelling to Līhuʻe to give the 2017 Distinguished Lecture. Professor Malama Meleisea and Associate Professor Penelope Schoeffel will now give the lecture. The title of their lecture is “50 Years in Pacific Studies: A Duet”
Thanks

Thanks to Tate LeFevre for organising the ASAO party at AAA in Minneapolis. I must also acknowledge the efforts of our PISF organisers Kirsten McGavin, Lisa Upersesa and Tate LeFevre as well as Helen Lee (Chair 2015) who will be rotating off the Board this year.

Marama Muru-Lanning, past chair

TREASURER

The balance as of Dec 31, 2015 was $25,158.80

The balance as of Dec. 31, 2016 was $43,840.52

Revenues

Membership dues that were deposited into the account during 2016 came to $10,925.

The registration income (payments in early 2016 for the 2016 meeting plus payments in late 2016 for the 2017 meeting) came to $13,720.

PISF donations came to $10,352.87. The odd number is due to a royalty check from U. Pittsburgh.

A very large percentage of our payments now come from paypal to whom we pay a small percentage. Net deposits for all three of our accounting categories (dues, registration and PISF) came to $34,180.14.

This amount is still thankfully under the $50,000 threshold for qualifying as a small nonprofit for tax purposes. We still can file the simple postcard tax form this year.

The PISF component

Our PISF budget balance at the beginning of 2016 was $8105.00

The board opted to divert $1050 from PISF to the general funds.

Our four 2016 grant recipients received $5483 from the fund plus the $400 per person (1600) that came out of the general funds.

The $10 per member contribution adds $2170 to the fund.

And there were explicit donations of $10,352.87 thanks to three extremely generous individuals.

So that by the end of 2016, the fund had $14,094.87

The ten grant recipients for 2017 are receiving $7748.80 out of the fund plus the $400/person out of the general funds. This leaves a nice nest egg already for next year.

Expenses

The 2016 meeting in San Diego cost us $20,214.28.

$7000 of this was paid during 2015 as a deposit. The expenses that always catch me off-guard are for internet and A.V. The amount we paid for these items that are over and above our contractual obligations came to $5326.90 at the San Diego meetings.

The 2017 meeting is costing us $18,000 plus the incidentals and the internet and AV extras. A deposit of $18,000 was made in early 2017.

Other 2016 expenses were newsletters, the AAA party, keynote speaker and other honoraria, and occasional other small reimbursements.

Conclusions

Raising the registration rates was a necessary, though unfortunate, decision. I hope this increase has not dissuaded anyone from attending the meetings, but there are few alternatives if we continue to use big conference hotels in desirable locations. The most cost-effective meeting since I became treasurer was, by far, the one in Canberra where we used university facilities.

Raising the membership dues certainly has helped as well.

It may be possible in the future to reduce some of these rates if we can figure out how to economize on AV and locations.

A fond farewell

This is my last annual report. Barbara Andersen has offered to take over as treasurer and she will do a wonderful job. I’ll finish off this meeting’s expenses and will turn over the bank account to Barbara when she can be physically present in a Wells Fargo branch. We are hoping this happens in April. I’ll be sending files bit by bit to Barbara and to Jan for the archives.

Mary McCutcheon, outgoing treasurer

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

The membership count as of January 12, 2017 was as follows. It included individuals whose membership is current through 2016 or beyond.

General Members (full rate)............................ 195 (53%)

Reduced Rate (Students, Retirees, Unemployed Members)............................................. 96 (25%)

Pacific Islanders (No Membership Fee)..........58 (16%)

Honorary Fellows (No Membership Fee).........22 (6%)

Total membership as of January 16, 2017.........371

Please note that last year’s report showed 203 members paying reduced fees whereas this year the number is 96. I cannot account for this difference and have re-tabulated the numbers for both this year and last but the discrepancy remains.
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 were sent out in March 2016 to those who had not yet renewed. In October, as soon as registration fees for the Kaua’i meeting were announced and the preregistration and membership form was uploaded to the ASAO Website, it was brought to the attention of members via personal emails, encouraging them to renew for the following year (unless they were already paid up through 2017).

I have continued to update the online membership directory in its new format. I have very much enjoyed being membership coordinator but am resigning at the conclusion of the Kaua’i meeting (February 12th). I urge all members to check the directory to make sure their information is correct and up-to-date and to notify my successor (Barbara Andersen) if changes are needed.

A breakdown of current membership by region of residence is as follows:

**Australia and New Zealand**

Australia............................................................... 51
New Zealand.......................................................... 34
Total................................................................. 85

**Europe**

Denmark.............................................................. 1
Finland................................................................. 1
France................................................................. 6
Germany............................................................. 10
Ireland................................................................. 2
Netherlands......................................................... 4
Norway................................................................. 4
Switzerland........................................................ 4
United Kingdom.................................................. 4
Total................................................................. 36

**North America**

Canada............................................................... 24
Mexico................................................................. 1
USA.................................................................. 193*
Total................................................................. 218

**Pacific Islands**

Fiji................................................................. 6
Guam............................................................... 5
New Caledonia..................................................... 1
Papua New Guinea............................................. 5
Samoa............................................................... 3
Yap................................................................. 1
Total................................................................. 21

**Other**

Japan................................................................. 7
Taiwan............................................................... 4
Total................................................................. 11

* This figure includes Hawai’i. Interestingly, if the members resident in Hawai’i are counted with those in other Pacific Islands, Australia, and New Zealand, the total for the Pacific region is 162, and the total for the North American continent is also 162.

Alan Howard, outgoing membership coordinator

**ANNUAL MEETING SITE COORDINATOR**

This year provided a number of challenges for site selection. In preparation for 2017, I sought and received 7 separate proposals from New Orleans. However, after much negotiation with the many different hotels three of the proposals were not considered further as due to room rates and costs. One of the challenges in scheduling a meeting in New Orleans is Mardi Gras. As a result, we will be meeting earlier this year (January 30th-February 3rd).

Responding to concerns raised in members’ surveys and discussion, it was decided to start planning two years in advance. This means that in addition to presenting the decision for 2018 at the 2017 meeting, we also announced our intent to meet in New Zealand in 2019. This should help ongoing sessions to plan their use of meeting times.

Jamon Halvaksz, site coordinator

**DISTINGUISHED LECTURE COORDINATOR**

Malama Meleisea and Penelope Schoeffel of the Centre for Samoan Studies, National University of Samoa, presented the 2017 ASAO Distinguished Lecture, “Forty-Five Years of Pacific Island Studies: Some Reflections.” We thank Professors Meleisea and Schoeffel for joining us on Kaua’i and for sharing their career retrospectives and their ongoing work at the Centre for Samoan Studies. We particularly appreciate their willingness to present the Distinguished Lecture, with brief notice, when illness prevented Teresia Teaiwa’s attendance at the meeting. We look forward to their talk’s publication in the November 2017 issue of Oceania, continuing the Association’s agreement with that jour-
nal. Jonathan Friedman’s 2016 Distinguished Lecture, “Weekend Update: Identity, Culture, Politics, and Anthropology since the 1980s,” was published on schedule in Oceania’s November 2016 issue (86(3):344-356). After covering 2016 expenses, the Distinguished Lecture account totaled $6663.51 as of December 31, 2016. Paige West, as of the 2017 annual meeting, has agreed to assume the office of Distinguished Lecture Coordinator and, with the selection committee, is seeking our distinguished 2018 lecturer.

Lamont Lindstrom, outgoing distinguished lecture coordinator

BOOK SERIES EDITOR

The book Mortuary Dialogues: Death Ritual and the Reproduction of Moral Community in Pacific Modernities, was published as Volume 7 in our book series in June 2016, under the editorship of David Lipset and Eric Silverman. The next volume will be Mimesis and Pacific Transcultural Encounters: Making Likenesses in Time, Trade, and Ritual Reconfigurations, edited by Jeannette Mageo and Elfriede Hermann, now advertised at the Berghahn website for publication in September 2017. This collection includes chapters by Sarina Pearson, Joyce Hammond, Sergio de la Torre, Roger Lohmann, Larry Carucci, Doug Dalton, Josh Bell, and each of the editors. Additionally, please watch out in 2018 for Jenny Munro’s single-authored monograph Dreams Made Small: The Education of Papuan Highlanders in Indonesia, which will be Volume 9 in the series. And please at any time email the series editor at rs839@cam.ac.edu with queries about possible submission of your work.

Rupert Stasch, book series editor

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 2016 meeting and the 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 2016 and 2017 meetings
8. Prepared agenda for 2017 board meeting
9. Organized electronic ballot and voting for new board members

Special tasks

None.

Jerry Jacka, outgoing secretary

ARCHIVIST

Like many aspects of ASAO, my job as archivist has been changing over time. When I first became involved in 1999 in helping then-archivist Gene Ogan, the major task was organizing and filing the physical archives that had been collected since the organization’s inception in 1967; since 2003 these are housed in the Pacific Collection of Hamilton Library at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. When I succeeded Gene as archivist in 2006, I still perceived the task as primarily involved with locating, obtaining, and filing print and other physical materials. At the same time, board members and officers were increasingly submitting recent minutes, reports, etc. in digital form (which in fact made them easier to keep track of), but I printed them out for the archives in the library.

By 2011, the emphasis shifted to keeping both digital and physical copies of the annually generated materials; an innovation was the creation of the online ASAO Archives to make these readily available for board members and officers. As I wrote in my 2011 report, “As we have new board members each year, and various changes in the officers’ ranks, including splitting of positions and responsibilities, this type of ready access might be helpful for all of us in keeping track of who’s doing what, what decisions were reached previously, and what precedents were established and why.” Besides minutes and officers’ reports, these online archives include ASAO foundational documents (1990 Articles of Incorporation in California, where we are registered as a 501[c]3 nonprofit; 2010 Bylaws) as well as lists of responsibilities for several of the officer positions. Many thanks to all the officers for faithfully submitting the minutes & annual reports that are so essential to documenting and communicating about our association’s history and current policies and procedures.

Jan Rensel, archivist

WEB SITE MANAGER

Site overview and usage

December 2016 marked one year since the redesign and launch of the new ASAO.org. ASAO folks seem to
be using the new features of the site—i.e. the online system for registration and membership—and I’ve gotten generally positive feedback about the site since it launched last year. As an example of ASAO.org’s traffic, over the last month we’ve averaged about 1200 unique visitors per week, as well as about 6,000 pages views per week. Not surprisingly, visitors and page views tend to pick up in the months leading up to the annual meeting, and sometimes taper off in the months following the meeting. Like last year, the most popular pages of the site continue to be those regarding information about the annual meeting, including the meeting schedule, information about the venue, and proposed sessions.

Site maintenance

Once the site was launched last year, site maintenance has been fairly straightforward. As needed, I update ASAO publications, past newsletters, session updates and proposals, meeting photos, and so on. One new feature that has been added to the site this year is a PayPal donation button specifically for donations to GRIKPIC. With this new button, ASAO.org now has donation buttons for both PISF and GRIKPIC donations. This first year of running the new website has been a learning process for me, so I very much appreciate all of the constructive comments that everyone has given regarding the structure of the site, locations of site elements, etc. I take all of this feedback into account as I continually work to try and make the site more user-friendly. Finally, I’ve been working to create a calendar with timely, itemized tasks so that I not only have a working checklist for the Web Manager positions, but so that future Web Managers will have a list to work with as well.

Zakea Boeger, web site manager

GRIKPIC

In 2016 a new GRIKPIC panel was constituted: Helen Lee (Past Chair), Mary Good (Board member) and Chelsea Wentworth (ad hoc member). The panel’s constitution was decided by the Board (i.e. Past Chair, Board member and ad hoc member) and the ASAO website amended to reflect this decision as previously it stated there would be a four member panel.

The grant was advertised on the ASAO website, with a button added for donations through PayPal. A reminder was sent to ASAONet on 3 October 2016, and again before the 10 December deadline.

After the email list reminders three inquiries were received but no applications were submitted as a result. One inquirer was not an ASAO member and said $1000 was not enough for the project being proposed anyway; another did not state ASAO membership and said the $1000 would only allow for ‘limited activities’. Another inquiry, from an ASAO member, seemed a viable project and the person was encouraged to apply, but no application was received.

One application had already been received on 25 September 2016 from Susanne Kuehling, ASAO member. Her project involves returning photographs of kula valuables to the island communities involved in kula exchange in Milne Bay Province, PNG. The elders of the region have asked for this project to return the knowledge Susanne and her team has collected (over 1000 images), to encourage the continuation of kula exchanges by educating younger people about the objects.

Susanne’s own research funding has covered collection of the photographs and preparing the posters. The GRIKPIC grant was requested to print and laminate approximately 100 posters displaying the photos and send the posters by mail to be distributed. Susanne will be able to evaluate the impact during a return journey in 2018. In our communication with Susanne the committee made several suggestions, including having some of the posters printed on fabric for durability and ease of transport; considering long-term viability by storing the posters digitally; and ensuring the posters are also in a library or archive. Susanne responded positively to our suggestions.

The panel considered the sole application and decided it was eligible for funding, as it meets the GRIKPIC criteria very well. We are recommending that the Board approves the full $1000 be awarded to Susanne Kuehling.

Helen Lee, GRIKPIC committee chair

NEWSLETTER

As usual, three issues were published in 2016, on April 18 (#154), September 15 (#155), and December 21 (#156). The April issue was mailed to members who opted for the print edition and to institutional subscribers. The September and December issues were mailed to institutional subscribers and emailed to all members who had provided an email address (with one exception for an especially generous PISF donor).

Two libraries reported through various channels that they had missed some issues. These have finally been replaced. In some cases, it seems as though they expected to receive their copies through a distributor and so overlooked the copies that came directly. I have also checked with the two subscription brokers and have confirmed that no one else has reported missing an issue.

Newsletter production

In 2016, I took complete responsibility for the editing and production of the ASAO Newsletter. Besides collating the annual reports for the April issue from officers, this consists of soliciting contributions from the chair, PISF co-chairs, and especially the program coordinator. This year, a new two-column page design was introduced. After some tweaking, it is now relatively straightforward to copy and paste copy into a template. I then use set formatting rules (called Styles in Microsoft Word) to format the titles and body paragraphs in a
consistent way. I copy edit each issue at least once, seeking to catch any obvious typos or other errors, and observe some semblance of a consistent editorial style (boldface for emphasis, "noon" not "12 p.m.", etc.). Due to constraints of time, I can only really do a superficial pass over the draft, and I am sure that many typos and other errors have slipped by. Please feel free to bring any of these to my attention and I will publish a correction if needed. Comments on any and all aspects of the editorial process are always welcome.

I have also noted that the cover email I write for each mailing of the newsletter has become a kind of additional section of the newsletter itself. I usually just boil down the whole issue into a few key points, reminders of deadlines, etc. In one case, I was able to insert a late announcement. I note that this email itself gets read quite closely and seems to be a very effective way to communicate with members.

**Print production ending for institutional subscribers**

Our transition to digital-only production seems to be going well, although it is still incomplete. So far, no members have had problems receiving the Newsletter issues as PDF attachments, and many have responded positively to the finished product. Institutional subscribers, who had paid for a print edition for the whole year, received all three issues in print.

As of now, several institutions have renewed their subscriptions for 2017. Based on the information I have, we currently have 16 institutions which have paid for 2017. 13 are managed by EBSCO, 2 by Harrissowitz, and 1 (Buchhandelsgesellschaft Hermann Oswald & Co. GmbH) appears to send money directly. (A 2016 subscriber, Universitaetsbibliothek Heidelberg has not paid any money for 2017, and so seems to have lapsed.)

I have been in contact with the two agents who broker subscriptions (Harrissowitz and EBSCO) to inform them of the end of print production. I also indicated that we would be willing to accept paid subscriptions for the digital edition, but it would as of now only be available as a PDF emailed directly to them. EBSCO and Harrissowitz can each communicate with their current subscribers and act as an intermediary for handling refunds, and presumably letting us know where to send the digital file if some choose that option.

My sense is that most will not take this option, as this comes with a workload overhead for them. Libraries prefer to pay to receive access to a third-party repository, like an ejournal. As far as I know, the Board did not consider this as a possibility and I would like to raise it now. I took the liberty of seeking information if this would be feasible. EBSCO is interested in becoming a repository for digital editions, and I have asked them to consider offering subscriptions this way. They are working on this now. They may come back with requirements that ASAO would not accept (for instance, removing the back issues from the ASAO web site, or signing away copyrights to the contents).

My suggestion is to wait until we hear from EBSCO about the possibility of digital distribution, and the for the Board to decide whether or not to enter into an agreement with EBSCO. At that point we can offer current subscribers a real choice—either to get a refund for their 2017 subscription, or remain as a subscriber and obtain access via an EBSCO online repository.

**The digital future**

Now that future issues of the Newsletter will be digital, there are new possibilities. For instance, graphics and color photographs can be included in an issue at no cost. The current layout was designed to save paper. Length is no longer a constraint from an economic perspective, and a columnar format is more readable on a printed page. It may be worth considering a new page design, similar to the previous one-column version so that people can scroll continuously through pages vertically on screen. A lengthy document is still difficult to navigate, and so it would be good to incorporate more hyperlinks within the issue to help people find what they are looking for (e.g. a specific session description).

A more ambitious proposal would be to produce the newsletter as a web-formatted email message, like a conventional email newsletter. This would combine the convenience of receipt by email with the ease of navigation of a web page.

*Ryan Schram, newsletter editor*

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**FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

I am excited to take the reins this year from long-serving Program Coordinator Alexander Mayyer, whose signature brios and finesse will be hard to match—but I’ll try my best! The Kaua’i meetings, coordinated by Alex, boasted the fullest program in ASAO’s history: 21 scheduled sessions total (two Symposia, six Working Sessions and thirteen Informal Sessions). The intellectual health and breadth of the association is clearly evidenced by the session reports from 2017, collected below along with five early new session proposals for our 2018 meeting in New Orleans!

In the meantime, all session organizers and participants are encouraged to review the guidelines and timetable here or on the ASAO website. A condensed version of the timetable for session organizers and participants is included below. Please note an October 1 deadline for all “special” sessions 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 the ASAO chair, the board of directors, and other program officers.
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. 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. Session organizers are free to determine what format would best meet the needs of their group and its focal issues and publication plans!

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 ASAQNET, 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 "Key dates for 2017," page 3).

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 "Key Dates," page 3). Sessions that do not meet these criteria by the November 1 deadline will appear on the program of the annual meeting as informal sessions.

Symposia 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 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 ASAO Studies in Pacific Anthropology (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 "Key Dates," page 3). Sessions that do not meet these criteria by the November 1
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.

• Assist any Pacific Islands scholars who are interested in applying for support from the Pacific Islands Scholars Fund (see information about and deadlines for PISF on page 3).

• Advise the program coordinator by no later than November 1 of any particular scheduling needs (e.g., late arrivals, early departures, or potential conflicts with other sessions).

• Advise the program coordinator by November 1 of audiovisual 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 program coordinator 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. 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 by email at tlefevre@fandm.edu or by mail to:

Tate LeFevre
Anthropology Department
Franklin & Marshall College
P.O. Box 3003
Lancaster, PA 17603-3003 USA

Tate LeFevre, program coordinator

2017 SESSION REPORTS

FORMAL SYMPOSIA

Theorizing Race and Culture in the Pacific

This symposium session was the final meeting of Theorizing Race and Culture in the Pacific. Participants presented papers addressing the variety of ways “race” has taken on meaning and salience historically and in the contemporary moment. The papers clustered around themes of land, dispossession, racial logics, and culture; sport, racialization, and indigeneity; and the intersection of racialization of Pacific peoples with colonial projects and new configurations of power. The session participants will be moving forward with a publication project.

Participants included:

• Hokulani K. Aikau, University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, aikau@hawaii.edu

• Desiree Barron-Callaci, NYU Anthropology/Culture & Media Program, dlb416@nyu.edu

• Kali Fermantez, BYU-Hawai’i kali.ferman-tez@byuh.edu

• Joseph Hala’uifa, University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, halaufia@hawaii.edu

• Todd Honma, Pitzer College, todd_honma@pitzer.edu

• Ann Iwashita, Columbia University, ami2116@columbia.edu
• Tate LeFevre, Franklin & Marshall College, tlefevre@fandm.edu
• Lisa Uperesa, University of Auckland, l.uperesa@auckland.ac.nz
• Christine Winter, Flinders University, christine.winter@sydney.edu.au
• Forrest Wade Young, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, forresty@hawaii.edu

Lisa Uperesa, University of Auckland, l.uperesa@auckland.ac.nz

Contested Sovereignties in the French (Post)Colonial Pacific

This symposium wrapped up our three-year conversation about sovereignty in the French colonial and postcolonial Pacific. Presenters drew nuanced attention to distinct and divergent historical and contemporary engagements, negotiations, and contestations of sovereignty in French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna, and Vanuatu. As with prior years, the conversation between the papers and presentations highlighted the comparability, diverse experience, and historical trajectories of French colonization across Oceanic contexts. And, papers called into empirical visibility the complicated field of actors engaged in engineering, maintaining, transforming, or seeking to destabilize forms of sovereignty on the ground, within law or governance, or in the normative wilds. At the end of the session, an interesting and unexpected contribution emerged during general discussion when Grant McCall came forward with a potential contribution documenting the influence of French colonial norms and practices, in the absence of a French colonial presence, through the operations and practices of the Chilean state in Rapa Nui. Presenters included Emily Donaldson*, Isabelle Lebillon, Tate LeFevre, Pierre-Yves Le Meur, Lamont Lindstrom, Alexander Mawyer, and Hamid Mokaddem*. The organizers are grateful for potent, insightful, and generous comments and feedback from a number of other colleagues present. With a very coherent group of papers, we are seeking collective publication. (*) in absentia

Pierre-Yves Le Meur, IRD, Nouméa, New Caledonia; <pierre-yves.lemeur@ird.fr>; Alexander Mawyer, CPIS, The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa; <mawyer@hawaii.edu>

WORKING SESSIONS

ASAO Histories

Eleven papers were drafted in advance of this second working session, which involved numerous authors, commentators, both in person and in absentia, as well as a few observers. Some papers are now nearly complete or ready to be shared more widely for additional input; others are still in development; and we have identified additional projects to be undertaken.

One of the major projects currently underway (led by Alex Mawyer and Alan Howard) is compiling a spreadsheet of the more than 700 ASAO sessions that have taken place in the association’s first half century. This can be used to identify and trace the trajectories of session topics over time, reflecting on focuses in the field of anthropology over the same period. In addition, we can use the compilation to answer questions such as how many sessions actually follow the “classic” ASAO three-year model of informal session–working session–symposium? Apparently only a small percentage!

One paper traces the history of the ASAO Monograph (now Book) Series and is authored by six of the series’ editors (Margaret Critchlow, Michèle Dominy, Jeannette Mageo, Andrew Strathern and Pamela Stewart, and Rupert Stasch) with additional input from early series editor Mac Marshall. Another (by Lamont Lindstrom) looks at the former ASAO Special Publications Series and its connection with the Distinguished Lectures, which are now published regularly on the basis of an agreement with the journal Oceania. Mike Rynkiewich recounts the processes and criteria developed and used in meeting site selection over the years. Juliana Flinn writes about the evolution of ASAO membership categories; Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi traces impacts of Jane Goodale’s bringing her undergraduate and graduate students to ASAO meetings; and Rich Scaglion explores the intertwined histories of the what was once the Association for Social Anthropology in Eastern Oceania (ASAEO) and NEWS, the NorthEast Wantok System newsletter for Melanesianists, in light of the gradually increasing involvement of the latter in the broadened ASAO. Alan Howard recaps the history of the development of the ASAO website, and Thorger Kolshus reflects on his introduction to ASAO via ASAONET. Jan Rensel is working on a history of the Pacific Islands Scholars Fund, and Nancy Pollock proposes a number of ideas to encourage increased and ongoing Pacific Islander participation in the association.

Additional projects include writing the histories of ASAONET and the Newsletter; compiling lists of board members and of officers over the past fifty years; and identifying the people in the annual meeting photo “albums” now kept online on the ASAO website. Other ideas—and participants—are welcome!

Not all who are involved in this project/series of sessions can attend every meeting, so we use a blog to post draft papers and comments between meetings. This year we also recorded our three-hour discussion to can be used to identify and trace the trajectories of session topics over time, reflecting on focuses in the field of anthropology over the same period. In addition, we can use the compilation to answer questions such as how many sessions actually follow the “classic” ASAO three-year model of informal session–working session–symposium? Apparently only a small percentage!

Jan Rensel, Center for Pacific Islands Studies, UH Mānoa <rensel@hawaii.edu>; Alan Howard, Anthropology Department, UH Mānoa <ahoward@hawaii.edu>
Authenticity and Authoring in Pacific Cultures

Joyce Hammond convened the session Authenticity and Authoring in Pacific Cultures on Friday afternoon, February 10. Her co-organizer, Jeannette Mageo, was unable to attend. There were five presenters and 10-12 other people who joined into the session. After each presentation, questions were raised and discussion ensued, all of which contributed to clarity and cohesion of the session.

Presenters included Doug Dalton whose paper “Deconstructing (In)Authenticity “examined the origins and development of the concept(s) of authenticity as necessary background for his work on the Rawa song of the flying fox as central to the cultural core. Drawing upon research done with Christine Schreyer (unable to attend), John Wagner presented “Writing Kala: Language Purity and Cultural Identity in Rural Papua New Guinea.” Questions of authenticity and dialect and an emphasis on exploring how speakers themselves talk about their language were among the salient points of the paper. In “Tenues Végétales in Beauty Competitions in Tahiti,” Joyce Hammond discussed reasons islanders are likely to consider the garments created from natural materials used in a segment of Tahitian beauty contests as authentic to themselves rather than an acquiescence to outsiders’ expectations. From Sei O’Brien’s paper, “Noah’s Ark: Tuvaluan Elders’ Response to the Auckland Museum,” we learned that Tuvaluan elders are overwhelming grateful for the museum’s Tuvaluan collections, especially in their desire for younger members of their diasporic community to learn about their ancestral culture. Deborah Waite’s paper “Barava: What Constitutes Authenticity?” focused on the multi-dimensional aspects of authenticity tied to changes over time in regards to shell valuables from the Western Province of the Solomon Islands. Some present conceptions of authenticity derive from a reconceptualization of the shells as art created by island artists and acquired by individual collectors, museums and galleries.

In addition to building on some of last year’s themes such as the historical rootedness of the concept of authenticity in Western thought and the meaning and usefulness of some variants of authenticity within Pacific societies, other themes emerged as well, including that of creative friction, global connections, authentic identities and sentiments of being. We see the diversity of our subject matter and approaches as a strength. We plan to reconvene as a working session in New Orleans in 2017 and continue to welcome newcomers to our session.

Jeannette Mageo, Washington State University <mageo@wsu.edu>; Joyce Hammond, Washington State University <Joyce.Hammond@wsu.edu>

Pacific Youth: Pacific Futures

Discussion on any aspect of Pacific childhood and youth, in the islands and the diaspora, was invited for this session. It which was originally mooted as an informal session but shifted to a working session due to number of participants who expressed interest and circulated abstracts prior to the conference. In all we had 15 participants as well as others who attended the full day session and contributed to the rich and lively discussion. There were 8 others who expressed interest but were unable to attend the conference; hopefully some will be able to attend next year.

The presentations were organised into several broad thematic areas: youth participation and empowerment; livelihoods/employment; and migration and identity. During the day a number of other key themes emerged, including: definitions of ‘youth’ and the position of youth within family and community; generational issues and temporality; e.g. future facing issues (climate change, events like elections, etc) and past facing issues (eg ‘cultural trauma’ discourse; ideas of ‘culture’ and ‘tradition’); gender – as an overarching theme; negotiating responsibilities vs desires; rural/urban differences; mental health issues and wellbeing; education; and the impact of digital technologies.

Presentations on the day were:

• Tate LeFevre: Moral panics and discourses of disorder: delegitimizing the political actions of Kanak youth;
• Patrick Vakaoti: Young people as citizens - the case of Fiji;
• Aidan Craney: Pasifika youth and civil society: doors closing, doors opening;
• Judith Schachter and Albrecht Funk: At risk—Native Hawaiian youth in an urban setting;
• Aaron Ferguson: Entrepreneurship and social action among youth in American Sāmoa;
• Mary K Good: Flexibility, possibility, and the paradoxes of the present: Tongan youth moving into the workforce;
• Rachel Emerine Hicks: Growing youth and growing migration in the Solomon Islands;
• Doris Bacalzo: Children and young people in the Markham Valley, Papua New Guinea;
• Mary L. Spencer: Portraying circulating Micronesian childhoods by linking home island lives to post-migration experiences;
• Caleb Panapa Marsters: Young Pacific male athletes and positive mental wellbeing;
• Jemaima Tiatia-Seath: Youth development and mental health for Pacific Islanders;
• Seipua (Sei) O’Brien: Te Lau Olive (The Olive Branch): Tuvaluan Youths in New Zealand;
• Helen Lee: Traditional childhood, modern youth? Obstacles to youth ‘development’ in Tonga;
Melani Anae: Pacific youth: acculturation and identity.

Given the wide range of excellent contributions we have decided to move to a symposium for 2018 with papers pre-circulated by early November 2017. Bob Franco has kindly agreed to be a discussant. The intention is to produce an edited volume soon after next year’s conference, to follow up the ASAO monograph Adolescence in Pacific Island Societies (Herdt and Leavitt, eds, 1998). Meanwhile, we are looking into ways to keep up communications during the year, and welcome new participants.

Helen Lee, Department of Social Inquiry, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, La Trobe University, Victoria 3086, AUSTRALIA; <H.Lee@latrobe.edu.au>

Sovereignties & Dispossessions

We wrapped up our third year of meeting about this topic. Our goals were to examine the tensions between sovereignty and dispossession in the contemporary Pacific. One of the fundamental aspects of contemporary neoliberal political economic processes is what David Harvey has called “accumulation by dispossession” and what Saskia Sassen has referred to as “exclusions.” Both of these frameworks extend Marx’s original concept of “so-called primitive accumulation” in which capitalism’s origins are traced to expropriating the subsistence base (i.e., land) from agricultural producers. New understandings of accumulation and exclusion see these as on-going processes and also extend dispossession to something more than just land and capitalist endeavor. In short, dispossession and sovereignty work at both material and immaterial levels. In this session, we examined a wide suite of dispospossessions and the ways that sovereignties are being contested across the Pacific. Participants for 2017 included Emily Donaldson, Jerry Jacka, Fiona McCormack, Tiara Na’puti, Fele Uperesa, Toon van Meijl, and Paige West.

Jerry Jacka, University of Colorado Boulder
<jerry.jacka@colorado.edu>

INFORMAL SESSIONS

Bernard Narokobi and the Melanesian Way

This session was well-attended, with around 20 people listening to the five papers which were presented. We were delighted that Bernard Narokobi’s son, Vergil, was able to Skype in to the entire session. We are planning to publish the papers on line open access and then to publish them in a special issue of a journal, perhaps the Journal of Pacific History.

Alex Golub, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
<golub@hawaii.edu>

Ethnographic Approach to Contemporary Issues in Papua New Guinea

This session was well-attended, with around 25 people listening to discussion and papers. We plan to continue this session next year as an informal session with a new slate of papers. We hope in the future to make this a regular forum in which early-career researchers and people returned from fieldwork can share their experiences and gain some insight from fellow anthropologists.

Alex Golub, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
<golub@hawaii.edu>; Paige West, Barnard College and Columbia University <cw2031@columbia.edu>

The Experiential Roots of Mana

Participants discussed how one describes and frames an experience, of mana—something that is felt or experienced or known, but cannot be seen or heard, quantified, or captured in itself, but is a reality or phenomena with power bigger than that of each of us.

One paper was presented about alternative experiences of mana at a sacred site in Hawai‘i by caretakers versus tourists, the role of ascription, beliefs in intentionally controlling forces, the need to understand the contexts of processes and relationships, possible differences in the experiences of skeptics and believers, issues of authenticity and the advantages of, and problems with, describing the exotic through the familiar.

Goals discussed included establishing if experience of mana is unique to Polynesia or not, and if we can understand the global through the local and the local through the global, and whether spiritual experience supports emotional needs or releases potentialities.

The next session will be a Working Session, and some will participate electronically.

Participants who will write paper:

Heuionalani Wyeth, Julia Morgan, Hadas Ore, Lindsey Wilbur, Aashish Ashok Hemrajani, Karen Fox, Bruma Rios Mendoza, Andie Palmer, Marianne “Mimi” George

Unable to attend in person and may write a paper:

Martha Noyes, Charlie Laughlin, Apolonia Tamata

Marianne (Mimi) George, Vaka Taumaka Project
<George.mimi@gmail.com>

Growing Old in the Pacific

The session on ageing well in the Pacific was a discussion that focussed initially on the increasing number of older Māori within New Zealand and how their needs might differ from a broader non-Māori population. Our aim was to identify issues and approaches for a study that we have proposed within New Zealand which seeks to determine successful indicators of ageing for Māori.
The discussion broadened to include comparison with other Pacific nations and the issues faced by indigenous peoples. The key theme that emerged from the discussion was the impact of globalisation on indigenous communities and how families have spread or become dispersed beyond their traditional homeland or point of origin. This is having an effect on how younger generations are able to support their older family members and how a younger generation can benefit from the familial involvement of their elders. The effects of this diaspora is exacerbated by the structural ageing of the population where older people are becoming a greater proportion of the overall population. We discussed how we might more effectively study the needs of older people within this context and discussed alternative qualitative approaches.

There is clearly recognition, at a societal level, of the value of the ongoing contributions of older people. This will continue to be a focus for us at the next ASAO conference where we will look to run a second informal session on ageing well.

Participants interested in this session are invited to contact the co-organizers with a suggested topic of interest, intention to participate, or any questions that you might have.

Marama Leigh Muru-Lanning
<m.murukening@auckland.ac.nz>; Tia Dawes
<t.dawes@auckland.ac.nz>

Healthy Islands/Healthy People: Examining Health Promotion Programs and NCDs in the Pacific

Twenty two scholars with research experience and interests on various aspects of health promotion and health strategies in American Samoa, Aotearoa, Fiji, Hawai’i, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu attended this initial informal session. Several participants stated they had come to listen and discuss, but would not be continuing as contributing authors, while several other scholars are committed to continuing, but were unable to attend the 2017 session. Session organizer Micah Van der Ryn invited interested participants to join him as co-organizers, and very happily received three willing and talented people. They are Barbara Andersen, Fele Uperesa, and Je-maima Tiatia-Seath.

The session began with an introduction of Healthy Islands, Healthy People as a framework that Pacific Island nation health ministries had adopted several decades ago and a discussion of our focus on the anthropological analysis and evaluation of how various islands have adapted this framework to address their public health concerns, in which the epidemic of obesity and metabolic syndrome (aka, non-communicable diseases) dominates. Each session participant then introduced themselves, their work and interests in relationship to the session focus. This was followed by a stimulating round table discussion of a variety of observed related issues including various environmental, sociocultural, political and economic conditions shaping the determinants of health and policies and approaches is-

land governments are applying to address public health concerns. Additional topics discussed were body size and image, developing class structure as a barrier, the need to not neglect infectious diseases, and syndemic reactions between communicable and non-communicable diseases, cultural classification and political economy of food, spiritual, mental and social dimensions of health, commodification of health, localized definitions of health, and how public health initiatives, strategies and campaigns are framed and targeted within cultural milieus and processes.

We all agreed that we want to use anthropological insights to strengthen efforts by Pacific communities in sustaining and improving their health and well-being, and that there is a need for qualitative ethnographic research to understand the ramifications of and effectiveness (or lack thereof) of health strategies and promotions.

With this shared understanding we have the following goals and guidelines:

- We are moving forward to a working session next year in New Orleans. We are asking those interested to submit abstracts by May 1st, 2017. Drafts of full papers will be circulated in December 2017. We invite additional interested scholars to join, especially those with work in other areas of the Pacific not yet included, such as in Micronesia.

- Ultimately we hope to generate a report or special journal issue in a venue that will be widely accessible across disciplines and to non-academics. We are looking for suggestions for publishing venues that will grant us the widest possible audience.

- Our target audience for these papers is inclusive: we hope to create positive, practical policy recommendations that can be shared with ministries of health and other institutions. These should also have positive implications for practitioners and health workers.

- We want to create bridges between research, policy, and practice. Most policy is informed largely by quantitative data and surveillance; there is a recognized need for more qualitative and contextual analysis and we hope to contribute toward bridging that gap.

- We want qualitative, ethnographically informed and culturally sensitive research that recognizes and affirms Pacific indigenous understandings of health.

- We want to reflexively examine the language, framings, and representations used in talking about Pacific Health and NCDs. A strong shared concern was around how “deficit” model (or mentality) and overemphasis on particular indices of physical health (such as body size or disease status) contributes to the pathologization of Pacific people, communities, and cultures.
Imaginary Peoples of the Pacific

This session's terrific discussions demonstrated that exploring the different meanings and components of “imaginary” and even “people” is an exciting and pressing concern for anthropology. Our challenge is to understand diverse perspectives on these matters, to document their range through comparison, and to explain their causes, nature, and consequences without becoming lost in claims of “alternative facts.” Those who discuss or interact with imaginary people may regard them as human creations, or assume them to have independent origins. Assigning imaginary beings something like personhood implies that they are like humans in some ways, but not necessarily all. Between 13 and 16 apparently ordinary people and an unknown number of menehune and other apparently imaginary people attended the session. Nine participants shared paper plans. These covered a wonderful range, including dwarves and giants from folklore (Chris Ballard), extraterrestrials from fiction (also Chris Ballard), mythical women islanders (Serge Dunis), spirits of deceased people and the Christian god (Christiane Falck), islands supposed to exist between lands and horizons (Wolfgang Kempf and Teweiariki Teaero), Christian angels and deities as colonizers (Roger Lohmann), the conflation of indigenous and exogenous animals, ancestors, and deities (Fraser Macdonald), and the intracultural diversity of belief and imagination (Adrian Tanner). We intend to proceed to a working session for next year, with all previous participants and two additional ones from the audience (Jake Culbertson and Linz Wilber) planning to contribute papers at next year’s meeting in New Orleans. Additional participants are welcome.

Roger Ivar Lohmann <rogerlohmann@trentu.ca>

Local and Regional Dimensions of the 2015 El Niño Drought

This year’s informal session on the impacts of the 2015 El Niño in Oceania built from the informal session that Dan Jorgensen organized in 2014 in San Diego. In this session, we presented research on the differential effects that people experienced during the El Niño Southern Oscillation event in the Pacific.

Jerry Jacka, University of Colorado Boulder, <jerry.jacka@colorado.edu>; Jamon Halvaksz, University of Texas - San Antonio, <jamon.halvaksz@utsa.edu>

Indigenous Modernities

This is the second round of discussion for this panel centred around the theme: Indigenous Modernities of the Pacific. A large crowd gathered and found the theme useful for organizing discussions about labor, migration, homelessness, identity, gender and sexuality. We are looking forward to formalizing connections for next year and are moving out of an informal session and going with a formal session, open to having new participants willing to send abstracts to the co-chairs by November 2017.

Some of the Participants from this session:

- Hadas Ore: her work with Maori Jews and how they negotiate their identities, particularly the way the identity of Jew is perceived as ‘modern’ and Maori as ‘traditional’.
- Aashish Hemrajani: his work on the State’s reproduction of Hawaiians as exotic, and other stereotypes that are implanted on homelessness. Looking at the site of the ‘de-Occupy’ movement.
- I-Chang Kuo: his work using Latour’s critique of modernity to look at mining in PNG; critique of how previous anthropologists have used time/space concepts and previous conceptualisation of indigenous people.
- Kalaniopua Young: Her work on intersection of queerness, dispossession, abandonment. Homefree encampments in Hawai`i and members’ choice of engagement with aspects of modernity. Indigenous subjectivities, i.e. time/space; indigeneity as movement in and out of place.
- Marama Muru-Lanning: ageing well project – people’s reliance on marae and fanau but fanau have obligations of modernity so often one person takes on the responsibility for aged care without support. Conflict, guilt, but kept quiet in the family. Lack of knowledge of the system to access help.

Over the past two meetings, this session has pursued the generative potential of indigenous modernity in our examination and analyses of life in the Pacific, tracing how it interacts with framings of identity, land, art stateformation, resistance, labor, mining. While the study of “indigenous modernities” in the Pacific has been the subject of prior work it remains mired in discussions about the time/space compendium. Over the past two sessions, topics emerged around how indigenous modernities speaks to issues of land, dispossession and how Pacific peoples engage colonial projects and new cognates of power. Some participants decided to continue to develop short papers for a formal session next year; a schedule for submission and circulation is in the works. We have gathered a list of interested participants and have set up a google group around the theme of indigenous modernities of the Pacific and welcome committed interests moving forward.

Kalaniopua Young, University of Washington <youngf1982@gmail.com>; Hadas Ore, Auckland University <Hore003@aucklanduni.ac.nz>
Large-Scale International Capital and Local Inequalities

Our session on large-scale capital-intensive projects and local inequalities had six presentations of planned or ongoing research, all of which were centred in two provinces in mainland Papua New Guinea; it was attended by more than a dozen people. The projects under discussion included a copper/gold and a nickel mine, oil palm plantations, and a eucalyptus biomass project. We discussed inequality in terms of gender, access to labour, control of and access to benefits accruing from these projects, information flows, legal representation and court proceedings regarding landownership. A pressing matter leading to increased inequality is the interplay between urbanization processes and the influx of migrants produced by these projects. The complexities generated by each project and their interaction, in a regional context, pose challenges to interpretation that can only be handled through intensive, ongoing ethnographic investigations.

The lively and wide-ranging discussion pointed out the importance of infrastructure in relation to long-term effects of social and economic outcomes emanating from large-scale projects and the uneven participation of various social groups. In particular, the discussion centered on the exigencies of colonial history and the legal frameworks that condition the engagement of heterogeneous local populations with the projects. While possible futures and local expectations are one investigative angle to be pursued, the need for historical approaches to the emergence of inequalities that can entrench themselves on generational scales were also emphasized.

We will continue with a Working Session next year in New Orleans and would welcome additional participants from other areas of the Pacific working on diverse aspects of inequality connected to capitalist expansion. Please send a revised or updated abstract before August 1st and we will pre-circulate papers for the working session in January 2018.

Those who have expressed interest so far include: Doris Batalzo, Bettina Beer, John Burton, Willem Church, Don Gardner, Jamon Halvaksz, Dan Jorgensen, I-Chang Kuo, Pierre-Yves Le Meur, Tobias Schwoerer, Tuomas Tammisto and Ming-Jen Wu.

Bettina Beer, University of Lucerne, <bettina.beer@unilu.ch>; Tobias Schwoerer, University of Lucerne, <tschwoerer@gmail.com>

Pacific Ethnography and Controlled Equivocation

This was a new session in 2017 and it drew about ten people. “Controlled equivocation” is a concept that features prominently in anthropology’s “ontological turn,” so a fair amount of our conversation was invested in determining just what that turn is and what’s new or different about it. There was some skepticism in the room around those questions, which was to be expected, but generally the conversation focused on the many various ways that we thought we were doing this kind of “ontological anthropology,” whether or not we cared to identify it in that way. Needless to say, this discussion remains open and unsettled. Ultimately the conversation arrived at our original specific intention, which was to imagine and debate practices of comparison that are indigenously to the Pacific and how they might challenge or inspire ethnographic practices of comparison—in other words, we were comparing comparisons. We had some initial conversations in the last month in the hopes of publishing something this year. But we also plan to convene again in New Orleans around this specific question of comparison in the Pacific and as well as the ontological turn in anthropology more generally.

Jake Culbertson, UC Davis <jculbertson@ucdavis.edu>; Albert Refiti, Auckland University of Technology <albert.refiti@aut.ac.nz>

Schools in the Pacific

We had over 14 people participate in our session over the day in Kaua‘i. Along with the people present, a few others who could not attend the Kaua‘i meeting expressed interest in future participation. We had productive and informative conversations discussing current issues related to schooling throughout the Pacific. These themes included but were not limited to schools as sites of socialization, training of children (for work or leadership roles), policy changes and actual implementation, curriculum and teacher preparation and training, structural and global institutional factors affecting schooling, and the role of schooling in communities. These themes are just a sampling of the many conversations we had and further contributions along these lines or connected to other aspects of schooling are welcomed.

We plan to move to a working session at the 2018 ASAO meetings with the eventual goal of publication in a journal. Interested participants should send abstracts to Rachel Emerine Hicks (rdhicks@ucsd.edu) by October 1st. The abstracts should include the title of their desired paper and a description of the project/research they would like to write about. We also plan to create a google doc to share references and provide some feedback prior to the February meetings. If you would like to join the dialogue or present a paper, please let Rachel know.

Rachel Hicks, University of California–San Diego <rdhicks@ucsd.edu>

Women and Power in Polynesia

Twenty-one people expressed interest in this informal session that explored historical institutions that protected or empowered women in Polynesian societies, and also the impacts of modernity/globalisation that may have disempowered, or re-empowered women in new ways. At the session, thirteen participants attended the meeting, nine abstracts were circulated, four participants presented their abstracts, and nine more participants joined our group. The abstracts presented and received covered a variety of perspectives. There was
lively discussion and debate on ‘Polynesian woman power’ across Polynesia and its intersections with western feminism and black womanism; Polynesian women at home in the islands and those in transnational spaces who question and reject feminism and warm to the idea of womanism (Phillips 2006); and those who have been debating the uniqueness and viability of Polynesian woman power as a concept in its own right.

The group discussed working and circulating manuscripts with session participants to encourage cross—citation and shared readership. With this in mind we propose to share new abstracts and/or manuscripts with others who are potentially interested in November 2017 and February 2018 with final manuscripts circulated by November 2018. Our aim is to present final papers at a formal symposium in 2019 at the ASAO conference in Auckland, as quite a few members may not be able to attend the New Orleans meeting. We plan to collectively publish, and an expression of interest to publish has been received.

Participants going forward are Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, Phyllis Herda, Penny Schoeffel, Melani Anae, Judith Huntsman, Tanya Samu, Fata Simanu-Klutzh, Sallie Doktor, Kalissa Alexeeyev, Te Kororia Netana, Tarisi Vunidilo, Pua Rossi-Fukino, Chantelle Matagi, Nuhisifa Williams, Angela Franco, Marama Muru-Lanning, Hadas Ore, Rebekah Matagi Walker, Jacinta Forde, Desiree Chan-Chui, Natalie Toevai.

If you are interested in joining our group please contact the organisers.

Melani Anae, University of Auckland  
<m.anae@auckland.ac.nz>; Penelope Schoeffel, Centre for Samoan Studies, National University of Samoa <p.schoeffel@nus.edu.ws>

Women and Fieldwork

The Women and Fieldwork session will continue next year as a working session. We had a wonderful turnout with about 35 people attending, 11 papers were presented, and Paige West served as a discussant for our session. In addition to those who participated in Kaua‘i and via Skype, several people shared their thoughts and comments with us via email and in person, indicating that the session is both timely and important. Participants discussed women as fieldworkers in two realms—women in the field of academic anthropology and women conducting field research. We will work over the next year with participants to develop papers that address both of these realms, and include more robust reflections on intersectionality as race, class, age, body image, indigeneity, and politics play a critical role in how we experience both field research and work in the field of anthropology. The papers offer critical reflections on authority, female bodies, and mentoring young men and women who are entering these various social worlds we inhabit.

As we proceed, we welcome new participants who are interested in contributing papers that address these themes. We hope to offer some feedback and work on development of the papers in advance of the meetings in New Orleans in 2018. If you are interested in joining the session and contributing a paper, please email us.

Barbara Andersen <B.Andersen1@massey.ac.nz>; Chelsea Wentworth <cwentwor@highpoint.edu>; and Fele Uperesa <feleuperesa@gmail.com>

Stitching New Traditions: Quilting in Polynesia

Quilting has been adopted and encompassed into indigenous textile traditions across Polynesia. In some archipelagoes, such as the Hawaiian, Society and Cook Islands, these quilting practices were established over a century ago. Other island nations, such as Tonga, Niue and Fiji, have much more recent traditions.

We planned our session with six strong participants plus an additional four who expressed an interest in attending. The six reported that they were interested in contributing to a volume on quilting in Polynesia. The proposed presentations included historical and contemporary aspects of quilting in the Hawaiian and Cook Islands, Aotearoa/New Zealand, Niue as well as Tahiti and the Society Islands. The depth and breadth of the contributions boded well for an interesting session and, hopefully, a significant volume to follow.

For a variety of reasons, most of the participants who had expressed interest in participating in Stitching New Traditions: Quilting in Polynesia were unable to come to ASAO this year. Joyce Hammond and Phyllis Herda did attend the Kaua‘i meeting and presented their research. Joyce spoke about tifai/afi, tourism and change in Tahiti. Phyllis’s presentation was on the introduction and practice of quilting in Niue and the Niuean diaspora in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Depending on how many participants anticipate they will be able to attend next year’s meeting in New Orleans, we may or may not go forward with another informal session next year.

Phyllis Herda, University of Auckland  
<p.herda@auckland.ac.nz>; Joyce D. Hammond, Western Washington University  
<joyce.hammond@wwu.edu>

Objectifying Conflict: Iconoclasm, Christian Nationalism, and Cultural Preservation in the Pacific

This session stimulated a small but active discussion on the role of museums in Papua New Guinea. Six people attended in person and spoke on their interests in the topic of museums, preservation and the politics of culture in PNG at this moment in its history. Andrew Moutu, the former director of the PNG National Museum and Art Gallery, was able to join the session by Skype and presented a comprehensive overview of the Museum’s history and recent struggles to resist political interference, and reflected on its significance for museums and cultural scholarship generally in PNG. All of the participants expressed interest in continuing the discussion, and we plan at present to recruit other parti-
pants with the intention of proposing either a working session or second informal session for the New Orleans meeting on the themes of this year’s discussion. We invite anyone with an interest in these issues in either PNG or Oceania at large to contact Derek Milne for more information about the session, and to look for an announcement of plans for New Orleans in the next Newsletter.

Derek Milne <dbmilne@pasadena.edu> and Ryan Schram <ryan.schram@sydney.edu.au>

No session reports received for:

Mana Moana: We Are Moana, We Are Maui (Organizers: Nuhisifa Seve-Williams and Tēvita O Ka’ili); Framing and Cartooning Oceania (Organizers: Guido Carlo Pigliasco and Suzanne S. Finney); Facebook in the Pacific (Organizers: David Lipset and Eric Silverman); Climate change: Experience and action in the Pacific Islands (Organizers: Sergio Jarillo de la Torre, Kristina Stege and Jennifer Newell); Sounds of the Pacific (Co-organizers: Nancy Lutkehaus and Eric Silverman)

NEW SESSION PROPOSALS

Affect and Place in the Contemporary Pacific

Organizers: Paige West and Jamon Halkavsz

In this session we will ask how people become emplaced and understand place across the Pacific today. Drawing on conceptual work that argues that experience prior to language and cognition is primary in our feelings and understandings of place (affect theory), we ask how places (e.g. land and sea, forest and reef, neighborhood and settlement, town and country) are affectually or bodily known. We also ask, at the conceptual level, how this notion of the experience of place differs from older phenomenological and materialist notions of place-making. Through all of this we will raise questions about how places become today in the face of climate change, migration to urban centers, and other contemporary processes taking place across the Pacific. Our goals will be threefold. First, we will discuss the methodological issues surrounding our understanding of place through affect theory (e.g. once you ask someone a question about place, they translate affect into language). Second, we will explore new ways of narrating people’s experiences of place that might serve to galvanize social and political action around events that are seen as troubling by Pacific Islanders. Finally, we will collectively imagine new kinds of representational practices, in addition to writing, that might allow us to narrate affectual place (e.g. music, film, sound, images). We invite participants from across the region to this informal session.

Paige West, Columbia University <cw2031@columbia.edu>; Jamon Halkavsz, University of Texas San Antonio <jamon.halkavsz@utsa.edu>

The Urban Pacific

Organizers: Michelle Rooney and Paige West

In this session we will focus on new urban research in the Pacific. We invite papers from across the region to this informal session. The goal of the session is to gain insight into the kinds of research currently being done in the urban Pacific, to discuss topics that we see as crucial to understanding urban lives and processes that we do not think are currently being examined, to think collectively about the usefulness of conceptual and theoretical work developed in other urban settings globally for study in the Pacific (e.g. infrastructure), and to discuss the methodological constraints surrounding urban-based research.

If you are interested in participating, please contact both organizers.

Michelle Rooney, ANU <michelle.rooney@anu.edu.au>; Paige West, Columbia University <cw2031@columbia.edu>

Food Security in the Pacific

Co-organizers: Hī’ilei Julia Hobart and Amanda Friend Shaw

As the effects of climate change increasingly shift the conditions of everyday life within the Pacific region, food security has come to the fore as a pressing concern. Changes in ocean temperature have shifted fish populations, rising water tables have changed soil salinity, and an increasingly globalized food system has created an economies of import dependence.

The organizers of this informal session invite participants working on issues of food security, sovereignty, and indigenous food knowledge, in order to explore how growing, provisioning, and eating are negotiated within Pacific Island communities. We invite these conversations to be wide-ranging, and to engage questions of gendered labor, new technology, epistemology, abundance and scarcity, and changes over time. We are also interested in the historical conditions that make and unmake ways of eating and engaging with the environment, including colonialism, modernity, migration, and trans-Pacific networks. Contributions are welcomed from a range of theoretical perspectives that critically interrogate how food economies, cultures, politics and cultural representations shape lives and livelihoods in the contemporary Pacific.

Themes could include, but are not limited to, critical consideration of:

- Frameworks of food security, food self-sufficiency and food sovereignty within Pacific contexts
- Analysis of contemporary and historical food politics, including different food and farming movements and campaigns, particular land and resource struggles and other considerations of the political economy of food
The status of ocean resources, fisheries and marine management in Pacific Oceania
• Food aesthetics, practices and economies of desire in relation to militarization and tourism in the Pacific
• The status of ocean resources, fisheries and marine management in Pacific Oceania
• Representations of food in indigenous Pacific knowledge production and cultural representations, as well as in Western production of knowledge about the Pacific

Participants interested in this session are invited to contact the co-organizers with a suggested topic of interest, intention to participate, or any questions that you might have.

Hiʻilei Julia Hobart <hiilei.hobart@northwestern.edu>; Amanda Friend Shaw <a.f.shaw@lse.ac.uk>

Race and Incarceration
Organizer: Christine Winter

A first interest session will be open to interested scholars. The session is interdisciplinary, ranging for example from anthropology to history, and sociology. Themes can be the role of race constructions in the formation of incarceration institutions, such as prisons, refugee camps, or mental institutions; incarceration rates and race perceptions; cultural practices within prisons and racial belongings; experiences of incarcerations and their wider impact on racialised communities. The session will focus on Pacific Islanders in the Pacific and significant diasporas, especially the USA, Australia and New Zealand. Contributions analysing additional racialised groups, individuals and experiences are also welcome.

Christine Winter (Flinders University, Adelaide) <Christine.Winter@flinders.edu.au>

‘The Apotheosis Of Anthropologists’: Ontological, Ethical, Moral, and Methodological Dilemmas in Pacific Ethnography
Organizers: Fraser MacDonald and Christiane Falck

Since early European incursions into the Pacific, it has repeatedly been reported how locals interpreted white people as being returning spirits of the dead, ancestral beings, or deities. The literature on cargo cults in Melanesia perhaps most vividly expressed those interpretations, but was criticized as exoticizing the ‘other’ and their lifeworlds. The prominent Sahlins-Obeysekere debate begged the question as to whether ‘the apotheosis of Captain Cook’ described by Sahlins was a genuine local perception or was more the result of European aggrandizement and myth making. More broadly, it questioned Westerners’ ability to comprehend and represent non-Western lifeworlds. However, anthropologists, too, have experienced fieldwork situations in which they have come to be interpreted as being dead relatives returning in white bodies or in which they were suspected of being able to communicate with the dead. Yet, only a few anthropologists have addressed being interpreted in this way within their writings. Less have written about what this incorporation into local cosmologies has meant for their fieldwork situation and for their data collection. However awkward, perplexing, or uncomfortable ‘the apotheosis of anthropologists’ might leave ‘us’, it is a vital part of the process through which the people we work with handle our appearance in their lives; just as we interpret their lives in terms of our interpretive schemes, so too do they evaluate us in terms of theirs.

In this informal session, we would like to address a topic that anthropologists have yet to fully explore and, furthermore, think about what analytical value it might bear. We call for abstracts that address the consequences that this kind of ‘othering’ might have on anthropological fieldwork. What ontological, ethical, moral, psychological, or methodological problems arise when the anthropologist is understood as a being with ‘spiritual’ agency and knowledge? What chances or problems arise from a dissolving boundary between ‘self’ and ‘other’ when the anthropologist is appropriated as being ‘one of them’?

Interested participants are asked to send the organizers an abstract of 250 words.

Fraser Macdonald (University of Waikato, New Zealand) <fraser.macdonald@waikato.ac.nz>; Christiane Falck (University of Goettingen, Germany) <christiane.falck@uni-goettingen.de>
I am pleased to present to our membership the four current nominees for the Board of Directors. Voting will begin in early May for the two seats on the Board. In early May, you will receive an invitation via email to cast your electronic ballot. Please read the short biographical sketches of our candidates below, and don’t forget to vote!

Mary K. Good, chair

**MELANI ANAE**

Dr. Melani Anae, is Senior Lecturer in Anthropology within the interdisciplinary programme of Pacific Studies, in Te Wānanga o Waipapa, University of Auckland. Dr Anae has been a former Director of the Centre for Pacific Studies (2002-2007), where she was instrumental in developing Pacific Studies from a small language-based programme into a collaborative hub for studying Pacific culture, history, identity, art, language, performing arts and literature, centred on a modern Fale Pasifika complex. She has been recipient of the Fulbright New Zealand Senior Scholar Award, and is currently a recipient of a Marsden Grant from the Royal Society of New Zealand for her project on the Samoan transnational faamatai (chiefly system). Focussing on issues of ethnic identity for 1st/2nd-generation Pacific peoples born in the diaspora, her transformational work has successfully developed strategies for improving research outcomes for Pacific peoples/families and communities across the sectors of education, health and wellbeing to improve well-being for Pacific peoples, families and communities in New Zealand. She has published in her specialty areas of ethnicity, mental health, education, Pacific research methodologies and Pacific approaches to a broad range of social issues. Her research interests include regional processes of migration, urbanization, ethnicity, and the politics of identity, more specifically focusing on more finely nuanced understandings of transnational identity construction of Pacific peoples and communities in the diaspora. Melani is currently Co-organiser of the ASAO 2017 Session ‘Women and Power in Polynesia’ and looks forward to serving on the ASAO board for optimal research and publishing outcomes for students and scholars of Oceania.

**CHELSEA WENTWORTH**

Chelsea Wentworth is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at High Point University. She studies sustainable food systems in Vanuatu, and how women, children, and families cope with food insecurity. Chelsea has been involved with ASAO since 2009, where she regularly attends the annual meetings, participates in sessions, and contributes to the community through service on the GRIKPIIC committee. Chelsea is excited about the opportunity to give back to Pacific Islanders and scholars of Oceania through service on the ASAO board. Her research and teaching interests include the anthropology of food and nutrition, critical medical anthropology, gender studies, sustainability and natural resource management, feminist political ecology, and Pacific Island studies. Beginning in 2010, she has been engaged in research in Port Vila, Vanuatu, and the peri-urban areas around the city, where she works with public health practitioners and families on issues of infant and young child feeding practice, urban gardening and land use change, sustainability, and childhood malnutrition. She received her Ph.D. in Anthropology with a dissertation titled “Feasting and Food Security: Negotiating infant and child feeding in urban and peri-urban Vanuatu” from the University of Pittsburgh where she also earned a Master of Public Health, and a certificate in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies.

**ALEX GOLUB**

Aloha! I’m Alex Golub. For those of you who don’t know me, I’m an associate professor of anthropology at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, where I’m also affiliated with the Center for Pacific Island Studies. I focus on Papua New Guinea. I am a political anthropologist with a focus on the Porgera gold mine, although I’ve also done research on business executives in Port Moresby and what they think of ‘the grassroots’. I’m also interested in the history of independence era PNG and the thought of Bernard Narokobi. My first book (not peer-reviewed), "Gold Positive" was a history of the Porgera valley and was written and published in Papua New Guinea for Porgerans. My second book, "Leviathans at the Gold Mine", was published by Duke University Press and won the 2015 book prize of the Association for Political and Legal Anthropology. My third book was "A Practice of Anthropology", an edited volume of essays in honor of my teacher Marshall Sahlins. I’m ready, willing, and able to do the work of the association if you all want me to!

**THORGEIR KOLSHUS**

Thorgeir Kolshus is associate professor at the Department of International Studies, Oslo University College, and professor II at the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Oslo. Since 1996, he has been engaged in ethnographic research, frequently with a historic angle, on the island of Mota in northern Vanuatu. He has been a keen follower of the ASAO-net listserv since 1997 and a frequent attender of the annual meetings since 2005. Most of his writings deal with the relation between religion and power. This topic also informs his sideshow as a public anthropologist and columnist with the largest Norwegian daily *Aftenposten*, using every opportunity to introduce Pacific issues and perspectives to a much wider audience. This has made him even more convinced of the value of a less restricted comparative approach – for Pacific research, anthropology in general, and anthropology’s role in the public sphere.
NEW PUBLICATIONS


NEW ISSUE OF THE CONTEMPORARY PACIFIC

*The Contemporary Pacific*, volume 29 (issue 1), is now available and contains the following articles:

Walls of Empowerment: Reading Public Murals in a Kanaka Maoli Context by A Mārata Ketekiri Tamaira.

Traveling Houses: Performing Diasporic Relationships in Europe by A-Chr (Tina) Engels-Schwarzpau.

CEDAW Smokescreens: Gender Politics in Contemporary Tonga by Helen Lee.

The issue also features the art of Lisa Reihana, political reviews of Micronesia and Polynesia, and twelve book and media reviews.
The ASAO Newsletter is published three times yearly (April, September, December). Members and fellows of ASAO receive issues as a benefit of their membership in ASAO. To become a member of ASAO, contact the membership coordinator. In 2017, the annual dues for members are US$80. You can also register for a three-year membership at the rate of US$220. The membership fee for students, retirees and independent (unemployed) scholars is US$50 annually or US$130 for three years. Libraries and research institutions can subscribe to the Newsletter through Flipster by EBSCO. (The annual rate is determined by the institution’s size, and starts at US$10 per year for small institutions.) ISSN 1095-3000

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