FROM THE EDITOR

My warmest wishes to ASAO members and readers of the ASAO Newsletter. In this issue, you can learn about the many different sessions on variety of topics that people have been planning for the New Orleans meeting. If there's a topic you're working on that's not represented in this group, consider proposing a new informal session (or, if you are very prepared, a working session) by November 1 to the program coordinator, Tate LeFevre. Instructions on how to propose a session are on pages 4 and 5.

Also, if you see a session that might appeal to one of your students or colleagues, please bring it to their attention. ASAO is enriched when new people participate, propose new sessions, and join in one of the many transdisciplinary conversations about Oceania happening in ongoing sessions.

The New Orleans meeting will be a bit earlier than usual, from January 30 to February 3, when the parade season leading up to Mardi Gras will be well underway. If you want the great rate on rooms at Le Pavillon Hotel, you should plan on booking no later than January 9, 2018.

If you are considering applying for travel support from the Pacific Islands Scholars Fund (PISF), the procedures can be found on pages 3 and 4 in this issue. PISF needs our help to bring new voices into the conversations at ASAO meetings, and now you can set up a recurring donation on asao.org (see page 4).

Ryan Schram, Newsletter editor

IN THIS ISSUE

From the editor ........................................................................................................................................ 1
Letter from the chair .................................................................................................................................... 2
#LLBTR: ASAO in NOLA, 2018 ................................................................................................................... 2
Key dates for 2017 and 2018 ....................................................................................................................... 3
The Pacific Islands Scholars Fund ............................................................................................................. 3
Tell your colleagues about ASAO ............................................................................................................. 4
From the program coordinator .................................................................................................................... 5
  Seasonal responsibilities of session organizers ....................................................................................... 5
  Seasonal responsibilities of session participants ...................................................................................... 5
2018 session announcements ..................................................................................................................... 6
  Formal symposia ....................................................................................................................................... 6
  Working sessions ....................................................................................................................................... 6
  Informal sessions ....................................................................................................................................... 11
Announcements .......................................................................................................................................... 15
ASAO Board of Directors ....................................................................................................................... 16
ASAO Officers .......................................................................................................................................... 16
Greetings, ASAO members and friends!

I hope all is well with you. September in the US means the beginning of a new academic year, with all of the optimism and energy that new students and upcoming scholarly events afford. Elsewhere among our membership, I hope you all are continuing to stay strong as the promise of a much-needed break emerges on the horizon.

Since the last newsletter, we held our online election for two new board members. I’d like to take this moment to officially welcome Melani Anae (University of Auckland) and Alex Golub (University of Hawai‘i—Mānoa) as new board members. The board and officers also welcome Chelsea Wentworth, who has taken on the officer position of PISF coordinator that has remained vacant for the past few years. ASAO as an organization is committed to supporting rigorous Pacific scholarship through the competitive PISF awards. Having a full PISF committee to carry out this work is integral to its success, and we look forward to continuing to increase Pacific Islander participation and our record of excellent Pacific research. With this in mind, remember that you can make a donation at any time to PISF on our website.

The board has been busy in the past few months with preparations for the upcoming meetings in New Orleans in 2018. We are already eagerly anticipating all of our events. As you’ll see in this issue of the newsletter, the program of sessions promises a wide range of engaging offerings. Our program coordinator, Tate LeFevre, is always available to assist with your questions as she begins the intricate puzzle of scheduling our sessions and related events.

We are also pleased to announce the distinguished lecture will be given by Lynnell L. Thomas, associate professor at University of Massachusetts Boston. Dr. Thomas is the author of *Desire and Disaster in New Orleans: Tourism, Race, and Historical Memory*, published by Duke University Press (2014), as well as a number of other publications on tourism, race, and historical memory in New Orleans. Her work touches on many themes relevant to our research interests in the Pacific and will provide interesting insight and rich discussion to the meetings.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to spread the word about ASAO and our meetings to your students and colleagues. We always welcome new members that can contribute to our conversations in productive ways. Consider discussing our exciting sessions and unique meeting format with your colleagues that might not have attended an ASAO conference before.

Best wishes for the final months of 2017!

With warm regards,

Mary K. Good, chair

---

**#LLBTR: ASAO IN NOLA, 2018**

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

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. This is the busiest time of year in New Orleans, and so making your hotel reservations is imperative.

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.

The schedule for the Mardi Gras parade season is already available online. In fact, about 20 different krewes will be parading along different routes all over the city during the conference. The big day is February 13 in 2018.

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

Jamon Halvaksz, site coordinator
The Pacific Islands Scholars Fund (PISF) 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 early career 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.

Core PISF Objectives:

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.

PISF Travel Awards Deadlines (for the 2018 ASAO meeting in New Orleans, LA)

October 15, 2017  Applications due
November 15, 2017  Notification of awardees
December 15, 2017  Deadline for accepting
January 5, 2018   Deadline for reimbursement forms

In most cases PISF travel awards cover the cost of round-trip airfare. Awards also provide meeting registration, a year’s ASAO membership, and a $200 stipend for use on meals and incidentals at the conference.

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.

Continued on next page
The process for participating in sessions is as follows:

Contact organizers of sessions for which you feel you can make a contribution and proceed from there (see descriptions of proposed sessions and organizer contact information). Session organizers will guide you through the process of joining their session.

Once you have been accepted into a session, download and review the PISF application form and instructions, and apply by the October 15 deadline.

For a complete application, you need:

- a completed application form (from the ASAO website, [http://www.asao.org](http://www.asao.org)),
- an application letter, explaining who you are and what you are planning to contribute to which session, and if you have received PISF funding before,
- the abstract of your paper, and
- a PDF copy of a quote for the lowest round trip economy airfare.

Student, postdoctoral, and community/non-academic applicants are required to have a letter of support from their session organizer, and a letter of recommendation from an academic advisor, supervisor, or senior colleague, a CV is optional.

Faculty applications are required to have a letter of support from their session organizer and a CV, additional letters of support are optional.

Depending on available funding, PISF gives priority to participants in Working Sessions, then to Symposia, and, if sufficient funds remain, to Informal Sessions.

Please consider applying for PISF awards! If you have any questions regarding the PISF application process or materials, please contact PISF Coordinator Chelsea Wentworth (cwentwor@highpoint.edu)

**Registration Fee Waivers**

In addition to travel awards, Pacific Island scholars are also invited to apply for registration fee waivers. Waiver applications for session participants and session organizers (two different forms) are due no later than January 20th, and should be sent to the ASAO treasurer and membership coordinator, Barbara Andersen (B.Andersen1@massey.ac.nz).

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

The participation of our colleagues from Pacific Islands at the annual meetings is critical to vibrant and productive dialogue in sessions, at plenary talks, and in the development of research publications. Please consider donating to the PISF to help expand the participation of our Pacific Island colleagues. We encourage all ASAO members to consider contributing.

Our new ASAO website makes donating to PISF very easy! 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!

When donating, please consider making a monthly, recurring donation. This is easily done by setting up a secure automatic deduction for a set amount from your bank account or credit card. When you enter your donation amount there is a box to the right you can check labeled “Make This Recurring (Monthly).” Please consider this option to make a sustaining contribution to PISF.

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

*PISF Committee: Chelsea Wentworth, Lisa Uperesa, Ping-Ann Addo, Marama Muru-Lanning, Kirsten McGavin*

---

**TELL YOUR COLLEAGUES ABOUT ASAO!**

ASAO aspires to become a forum for every kind of research on the people, cultures, and histories of Oceania. There are probably many people whose work we could be hearing about, but who don’t know about our meetings. They may be many students and young scholars who have new ideas and new insights about Oceania, but have never even heard of ASAO. Members are the best ambassadors for ASAO, its uniquely convivial, collegial session formats, and its breadth and diversity of perspectives on Oceania.

If you are a current member, why not renew now (for one or three years) and then tell a colleague about how much you’ve gotten out of ASAO in the past? New members can join and current members can renew on this page: [http://www.asao.org/join-asao-or-renew-membership.html](http://www.asao.org/join-asao-or-renew-membership.html).
FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Laissez les bons temps rouler (au ASAO 2018)! This issue of the Newsletter showcases updated session announcements alongside new session proposals for our 2018 meeting in New Orleans. All session organizers and participants should make sure to review the important guidelines and timetable below (also available on the ASAO website).

Please note the following November 1 deadlines, including announcements for the December newsletter in which the program for the 2018 meeting will be presented:

1. All organizers must submit required information about their sessions to me as ASAO Program Coordinator.

2. Organizers must advise me of foreseeable scheduling needs or conflicts, expected audience size, A/V needs, and any special needs.

3. It is also important that session organizers inform me as soon as possible of any participants who will not be able to attend the sessions in person.

4. Participants must attempt to limit themselves to presentations in no more than two sessions in order to minimize scheduling conflicts which may disrupt sessions and distract contributors.

In organizing the program, first priority in case of scheduling conflicts goes to organizers and discussants.

Please note that there are no guarantees any session will be given a full day. In the past, working sessions have been given priority for all day meetings in case of limited space. Some sessions will be scheduled for half a day (or less, in the case of informal sessions), as necessitated by program structure. With this in mind, it is especially important for session organizers to have participants do much of the session work ahead of the actual meeting. We are also anticipating news of additional special events or any conference or pre-conference film screenings to be available in the December newsletter.

And lastly—it’s not too late to propose a session for next year’s meeting! I encourage anyone who may still be considering organizing a session (whether informal or working) to be in touch with me as soon as possible.

SEASONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF SESSION ORGANIZERS

Submit the required information about your session to the Program Coordinator by the November 1 deadlines.

Assist any Pacific Islands scholars who are interested in applying for support from the Pacific Islands Scholars Fund. (See PISF Guidelines online.) Advise the Program Coordinator by no later than November 1 of any particular scheduling needs (e.g., late arrivals, early departures, or potential conflicts with other sessions).

Advise the Program Coordinator by November 1 of audio-visual or other special needs. The hotels are responsible for providing equipment for those with disabilities. In all other cases, however, the rental of equipment from hotels is a considerable expense for ASAO. For this reason, organizers should carefully think through exactly how audio-visual equipment will be used in their sessions (and why). In other words, please do not request an AV rig “just in case.” We also suggest organizers 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.

SEASONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF SESSION PARTICIPANTS

Please respect the deadlines for your particular session and your session organizer’s responsibility for meeting the overall deadlines (see newsletter section on ‘Key Dates’). 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 not 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 participating in multiple sessions during meetings is not uncommon, 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, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Franklin and Marshall College, P.O. Box 3003, Lancaster, PA 17603-3003

Tate LeFevre, program coordinator
FORMAL SYMPOSIA

Pacific Youth: Pacific Futures
Organizer: Helen Lee

Discussion on any aspect of Pacific childhood and youth, in the islands and the diaspora, is invited for this symposium. A working session was held in 2017 with abstracts circulated 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 in 2018.

The presentations in 2017 were organized 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 made by (in order): Tate LeFevre, Patrick Vakaotii, Aidan Craney, Judith Schachter and Albrecht Funk, Aaron Ferguson, Mary K Good, Rachel Emerine Hicks, Doris Bacalzo, Mary L. Spencer, Caleb Panapa Marsters, Jemaima Tiatia-Seath, Seipua (Sei) O’Brien, Helen Lee, and Melani Anae. 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). New participants are welcome!

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

WORKING SESSIONS

Authenticity and Authoring in Pacific Cultures
Organizers: Jeanette Mageo and Joyce D. Hammond

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

This working session focuses on images and texts from varied contexts: from Pacific islands to Western museums and galleries and from early colonial times to the present. Often, if not always, such renderings have been and continue to be multi-authored by foreigners and indigenes in more or less manifest or latent ways and they were and are generative for foreigners and indigenous cultures alike. Troubled by concerns about voice, its origins, who is speaking and to whom, with what right and with what legitimacy, these renderings and their reception nonetheless represent creative collisions of cultures; their effects were and are to different degrees eroding and procreant. Themes of tribute, gift, appropriation, and trade lace through such productions and their after effects. The session explores all these topics as well as distinctions among different forms of authenticity in actors’ perceptions and how definitions of authenticity may vary over time. Examples may include art forms, photographs, ceremonies and contests, theater and also classic ethnographic accounts where the aim is an authentic rendition of a Pacific culture.


(!) Indicates new session this year
Throughout the 20th century, the concept of “frontier” was used to highlight various aspects of colonial processes and encounters in different parts of the world. It has also been mobilized to describe social and political dynamics in Africa in both precolonial and contemporary contexts (Kopytoff 1987, Chauveau et al. 2004). This initially African perspective is different from – but potentially complementary with – the notion of “tidal frontier” developed by Turner (1921) in relation to the US history; a colonial frontier whose “other side” must also be explored as best illustrated by Reynolds (1981) regarding Australia. As a continuation of a working session held at the 2017 ESfO Conference in Munich and with the goal to end with a collective publication, this panel aims to examine whether the concept of “frontier” can be heuristically used to analyze both the new rush for natural resources and the still-increasing momentum for biodiversity conservation that are taking place in the Pacific Ocean, as well as the effects of these phenomena on the governance of this political space. The expansion of industrial fishing activities, oil and mineral offshore explorations, large-scale marine protected areas and networks of locally managed marine areas in this ocean occurs in a shifting environmental and political context. Here the legacy of late colonialism, the interplay of multi-level powers, indigenous claims, juridification processes, and the conflictual dialectic between extraction and conservation collide to shape the “last conservation frontier on Earth” (Gjerde et al. 2016) simultaneously experienced as an “Ocean in us” (Hau‘ofa 1998). Through its focus on “frontier”, the panel invites participants to propose original, long-term and cross-disciplinary approaches of these current reconfigurations of the Pacific Ocean.

Selected bibliography:


Reynolds H., 1981. The Other Side of the Frontier: Aboriginal Resistance to the European invasion of Australia, Sydney: UNSW.


Pierre-Yves Le Meur, IRD (GRED), Montpellier, France <pierre-yves.lemeur@ird.fr>; Elodie Fache, IRD (GRED), Montpellier, France <elodie.fache@ird.fr>; Estienne Rodary, IRD (GRED), Nouméa, New Caledonia <estienne.rodney@ird.fr>

ASAO Histories

Organizers: Jan Rensel and Alan Howard

We had 11 draft papers for first working session, held in Kaua‘i in 2017. Several of them traced the histories of specific components of ASAO as an organization, including the monograph/book series; the special publications and distinguished lectures; ASAO membership categories; annual meeting site selection; the ASAO website; and the Pacific Islands Scholars Fund to 2005. Other papers focused on aspects of the association’s history from particular points of view, including impacts of Jane Goodale’s practice of bringing her students to ASAO meeting; a personal reflection on imagining ASAO through years of involvement solely through ASAONET; suggestions for supporting increased and ongoing involvement of Pacific Islanders in the organization; and the intertwined histories of what was once the Association for Social Anthropology in Eastern Oceania (ASAOE) and NEWS, the NorthEast Wantok System newsletter for Melanesianists, reflecting the gradual, growing involvement of the latter in the broadened ASAO.

Contributing authors thus far include Margaret Critchlow, Michèle Dominy, Jeannette Mageo, Andrew Strathern and Pamela Stewart, Rupert Stasch, Lamont Lindstrom, Juliana Flinn, Mike Rynkiewich, Alan Howard, Jan Rensel, Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi, Nancy Pollock, and Rick Feinberg. Alex Mawyer and Alan Pearson, “Ethnographic Orientalism and Digital Storytelling in the Pacific.”

The deadline for abstracts is October 16; the deadline for circulating papers is January 16. For more information or to participate in the 2018 working session please contact the organizers.

Jeannette Mageo, Washington State University <jmageo@wsu.edu>; Joyce Hammond, Western Washington University <Joyce.Hammond@wwu.edu>
Hawaii <sfinney@hawaii.edu.

Guido Carlo Pigliasco, University of Hawai'i
Mark Ombrello, Eric Silverman and Marc Tabani.
Quet, Lorenzo Brutti, Vilsoni Hereniko, Ryota Nishino,
Interested participants currently include: Louis Bous
construction of the Pacific and Pacific Islands.
Hugo Pratt's character of Corto Maltese on the Italian
Mortimer adventures on Rapa Nui, and the impact of
the backdrop of the Pacific War, Lefranc and Blake and
series like military flying ace Buck Danny set against
from the United States, several Franco-Belgian comics
Examples we are already including are an examination
including animation.
tributors limiting the session to comics/cartoons and ex
and welcome contributions from a broad range of con
shaped and/or reshaped the South Seas myth. We in
comic strips, animation and other graphic arts, have
indigenous Pacific Island artists, we seek to understand
how cartoons—which we mean to include comics,
comic strips, animation and other graphic arts, have
shaped and/or reshaped the South Seas myth. We in
intend to include historical and contemporary examples
and welcome contributions from a broad range of con
contributors limiting the session to comics/cartoons and ex
clusion animation.
Examples we are already including are an examination
of the comic strip Terry and the Pirates, by Milton Caniff
from the United States, several Franco-Belgian comics
series like military flying ace Buck Danny set against
the backdrop of the Pacific War, Lefranc and Blake and
Mortimer adventures on Rapa Nui, and the impact of
Hugo Pratt's character of Corto Maltese on the Italian
construction of the Pacific and Pacific Islands.

Interested participants currently include: Louis Bous-
quet, Lorenzo Bruttì, Vilsoni Hereniko, Ryota Nishino,
Mark Ombrello, Eric Silverman and Marc Tabani.

Guido Carlo Pigliasco, University of Hawai'i
<sfinney@hawaii.edu>; Suzanne S. Finney, University of
Hawaii <sfinney@hawaii.edu.

Sounds of the Pacific
Organizers: Karen Fox, Andie Palmer, Nancy Lutke-
haus, and Eric Silverman

The Sounds of the Pacific session will continue as a
Working Session in 2018. In 2017, more than a dozen
people gathered to discuss various aspects of sound
and music in the contemporary Pacific, including: musi-
cal responses to change, cultural crisis, and climate
change; sound and place; change and church;
sound/music and various levels of identity (ethnic, reli-
gions, etc.). In 2018, we will pre-circulate papers (which
will be due to the organizers by Jan 15), and each par-
ticipant will offer in-depth comments on 1-2 other sub-
missions. Needless to say, we would be delighted to
welcome newcomers.

We request that interested parties kindly submit an ab-
stract to the organizers no later than October 15.
Andie Palmer, Department of Anthropology, University
of Alberta <andie.palmer@ualberta.ca>; Karen Fox,
Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation,
University of Alberta <karen.fox@ualberta.ca>; Eric K.
Silverman, Research Professor of Anthropology,
Wheelock College <esilverman@wheelock.edu>
Nancy Lutkehaus, Professor of Anthropology and
Political Science, University of Southern California, Los
Angeles <lutkehaus@dornsife.usc.edu>

Imaginary Peoples of the Pacific
Organizer: Rogar Ivar Lohmann

Oceania is peopled not only by human beings that any-
one can see, but also by imaginary people whom one
must be enculturated to experience and know. Our
challenge is to understand diverse perspectives on ap-
parently imaginary people, to document their range
through comparison, and to explain their causes, na-
ture, and consequences. This working session builds
on last year’s informal session, but new participants are
welcome. To be included in the session’s schedule,
send your title to the organizer no later than October
30. Then, by January 20, send the organizer a full draft
of your paper for pre-circulation.

Rogar Ivar Lohmann, Trent University
<rogerlohmann@trentu.ca>

Healthy Islands/Healthy People: Examining Health
Promotion Programs and NCDs in the Pacific
Organizers: Micah Van der Ryn, Barbara Andersen,
Fele Uperesa, and Jemaima Tiatia-Seath.

Last year, our session began with an introduction of
Healthy Islands, Healthy People as a framework that
Pacific Island nation health ministries had adopted sev-
eral 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 dis-

Framing and Cartooning Oceania
Organizers Guido Carlo Pigliasco and Suzanne S.
Finney

This session seeks to investigate how the Pacific has
been represented (or objectified) through the visual
medium of cartoons. Using examples from the U.S.,
France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Japan as well from in-
digenous Pacific Island artists, we seek to understand
how cartoons—which we mean to include comics,
comic strips, animation and other graphic arts, have
shaped and/or reshaped the South Seas myth. We in-
tend to include historical and contemporary examples
and welcome contributions from a broad range of con-
tributors limiting the session to comics/cartoons and ex-
cluding animation.

Examples we are already including are an examination
of the comic strip Terry and the Pirates, by Milton Caniff
from the United States, several Franco-Belgian comics
series like military flying ace Buck Danny set against
the backdrop of the Pacific War, Lefranc and Blake and
Mortimer adventures on Rapa Nui, and the impact of
Hugo Pratt's character of Corto Maltese on the Italian
construction of the Pacific and Pacific Islands.

Jan Rensel, Center for Pacific Islands Studies, UH
Manoa <rensel@hawaii.edu>; Alan Howard,
Anthropology Department, UH Manoa
<ahoward@hawaii.edu>
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.

Feoulea’i Micah Van der Ryn, Health Communications Researcher/Media Production Manager, Community & Natural Resources Division, American Samoa Community College <f.m.vanderryn@gmail.com>; Barbara Andersen, Massey University <B.Andersen1@massey.ac.nz>; Fele Uperesa, University of California <feleuperesa@gmail.com>; Jemaima Tiatia-Seath, University of Auckland <j.tiatia-seath@auckland.ac.nz>

The Experiential Roots of Mana

Organizer: Marianne (Mimi) George

At least year’s session, 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 Hawaii 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. This year we will be a Working Session, and some participants may participate electronically

Participants planning to write papers for 2018 include:


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

Women and Fieldwork

Organizers: Barbara Andersen, Chelsea Wentworth and Fele Uperesa

The Women and Fieldwork session will continue in 2018 as a working session. We had a wonderful turnout in 2017 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 Kauai 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 anthro-
polity 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, Massey University
<B.Andersen1@massey.ac.nz; Chelsea Wentworth, Highpoint University <cwentwor@highpoint.edu>; and Fele Uperesa, University of California <feleuperesa@gmail.com>

**Pacific Ethnography and Controlled Equivocation**
Organizers: Jake Culbertson and Albert Refiti

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 indigenous to the Pacific and how they might challenge or inspire ethnographic practices of comparison—in other words, we were comparing comparisons. We have 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
<jhculbertson@ucdavis.edu>; Albert Refiti, Auckland University of Technology <albert.refiti@aut.ac.nz>

**Schools in the Pacific**
Organizer: Rachel Emerine Hicks

We had over 14 people participate in our session in Kauai. Along with the people present, a few others who could not attend the Kauai 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**
Organizers: Melani Anae and Penelope Schoeffel

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/globalization 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 (Phillps 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-Klutz, Saili Dok-
tor, Kalissa Alexeyeff, 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 organizers.

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>

Large-Scale International Capital and Local Inequalities (!)

Organizers: Bettina Beer, Tobias Schwoerer, and Doris Bacalzo

As international capital inserts itself across the Pacific, its benefits and burdens tend to be unequally distributed among governments, corporations, and different groupings of local people. The emergence of inequality is clear enough in itself—the ongoing conflict and controversy surrounding the distribution of gains from capital-intensive projects speak to this. However, there is more ambiguity surrounding how capital-intensive projects, coupled with the social contexts and pre-existing inequalities they operate in, shape the form, magnitude, and persistence of these inequalities.

In this working session, we will discuss how capital-intensive projects, for example in the mining, oil and gas, logging, agro-industry, construction or tourism sectors, unfold to generate specific inequalities across diverse settings. In last year’s informal session, projects under discussion included a copper/gold and a nickel mine, oil palm plantations, and a eucalyptus biomass project, and 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. We intend to show that 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.

Those who have expressed interest so far include: Doris Bacalzo, 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.

We welcome additional participants from other areas of the Pacific working on diverse aspects of inequality connected to capitalist expansion. Please send an abstract before October 20th and we will pre-circulate papers for the working session by January 10th 2018.

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

Facebook in the Pacific

Organizers: David Lipset and Eric Silverman

For a Working Session in 2018 in New Orleans: we ask interested participants (which most certainly can include new participants) to send us an abstract by 1 October, which we will read and comment upon (this will help us narrow down a set of common questions and topics). We will pre-circulate papers which will be due no later than 15 January 2018; at the Working Session, each person will discuss in depth 1-2 other submissions (which we will assign). To assist with conversation, we have set up a closed Facebook Group (email Eric if you wish to join) and also a public bibliography at Google Docs (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BA6RlxUIaTI42Pm3-86OPazCeJZIt2vHdWALYLIBBQ/edit?usp=sharing).

At the Informal Session in Kauai, our conversations ranged from Papua New Guinea and Rapanui to Tonga, Rotuma, and the Melanesian Archives. Some of the key issues we discussed were: ethics of using FB friends for ‘research’; use of FB to ‘give back’ to the local community; our own identities on FB; FB as a repository of information; so-called “context collapse”; how Pacific Islanders do ‘identity work’ on FB; gender and voice; language use, (mis)communication, literacy; political activism; the political-economy of FB; whether or not US values are encoded in the architecture of FB; the types or categories of postings; audience and subjectivity; how the state is involved; surveillance, violence; and modernity and globalization.

David Lipset, University of Minnesota <lipse001@umn.edu>; Eric K. Silverman, Research Professor of Anthropology, Wheelock College <esilverman@wheelock.edu>

Informal Sessions

Affect and Place in the Contemporary Pacific (!)

Organizers: Paige West and Jamon Halkavsz

In this session we will ask how people become enmeshed 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
Anthropologists Facing Decolonization in the Pacific: Actors, Witnesses, or Victims of History? (!)
Organizers: Marie Salaün and Benoît Trépied

This session aims to explore how Pacific peoples have faced—and continue to face—major political changes towards self-government and/or self-determination in the Pacific, from WWII through the present day. Participants are expected to focus on case studies firmly grounded within a specific time and place, and may either reflect on their own experience and/or draw on the research and life history of a colleague. The session does not intend to rehash well-known debates on anthropology as a colonial science par excellence. It rather aims to address specific questions such as:

How did the political and social transformations of the time actually reshape, or not, the practice of anthropology (objects, fieldwork, methods, writing…) ?

What was the impact of the anthropologist’s involvement in this specific context on his/her political commitment and personal life?

How did new political conditions reframe his/her relations to the late colonial state, the newly independent state, and the local political organizations?

The session wishes to gather contributions which would reflect the wide diversity of both geographical and historical contexts of decolonization in Oceania. Papers might encompass past and present situations (post-WWII colonial reformism, independencies of the 60’s and 70’s, contemporary struggles for self-determination, etc.) as well as formally independent countries and non-autonomous territories.

For more information or express your interest in participating, please contact the organizers.

Marie Salaün, L’Université Paris Descartes <marie.salaun@parisdescartes.fr>; Benoît Trépied, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales - EHESS <benoit.trepied@ehess.fr>

Race and Incarceration (!)
Organizer: Christine Winter

This new informal session explores the role of racialized identities in processes that incarcerate people, and the effect of racializing practices in incarcerations on individuals and communities. Much research has focused on incarceration of Afro-Americans. In Australia a Royal Commission investigated ‘Black deaths in custody’. Racializing practices influence incarceration rates, prison culture and effect families and wider communities.

This session’s main question is: How do racializing perceptions and practices affect incarceration rates, life in prisons, cultural and group formations of Pacific Islanders in the Pacific and the Diasporas in the USA, Australia and New Zealand?

The main focus is on today’s total institutions (Goffman) such as prisons, mental institutions or internment/refugee camps, but can also expand to religious and educational institutions of the past.

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 racialized communities. The session will focus on Pacific Islanders in the pacific and significant diasporas, especially the USA, Australia and New Zealand. Contributions analyzing wider problems of racializing individuals and groups are also welcome.

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

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 in to 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 or 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: Hiʻilei 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
- Changing practices of food provisioning in relation to reproductive work, intra-household inequalities, time burdens and time poverty
- Informal food exchange and trading networks and the continued importance of subsistence livelihood practices for Pacific food security
- Changing food security practices and food cultures in relation to diaspora, migration, displacement and environmental degradation of foodsheds
- Reflections on the changing meanings, uses and uptake of Pacific staple foods, including the promotion of particular crops for food security and nutrition (e.g. breadfruit)
- Relationships between cash crop economies, food exports and household food production/security

- Critical perspectives on nutrition discourses and food, health, development interventions and biopolitics in Pacific contexts
- 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, Northwestern University
<hiilei.hobart@northwestern.edu>; Amanda Friend Shaw, London School of Economics and Political Science <a.f.shaw@lse.ac.uk>

‘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 these 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 an-
Stitching New Traditions: Quilting in Polynesia

Organizers: Phyllis Herda and Joyce D. Hammond

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.

For our proposed informal session we invite anyone with an interest in Polynesian quilts—their creation, their history, their uses, etc.—to join us for discussions about research into the past, present and future of Polynesian quilts and quilters. Topics might include but are not limited to: motivations for islanders to make quilts, Polynesian diaspora and its impact on quilt-making, the continued influence of other quilt traditions on Polynesian quilting and vice versa, Polynesian quilts in worldwide exhibitions and contests, Polynesian quilts as part of the gift-giving economies of Polynesia, and Polynesian quilts as markers of identity. For more information or to participate in the informal session in 2018, please contact the co-organizers to express interest or ask questions.

Growing Old in the Pacific

Organizers: Marama Muru-Lanning and Tia Dawes

Last year’s session initially focused 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 2018 ASAO conference where we will be running 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.

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

New Voices in Pacific Anthropology (!)

Organizers: Alex Golub and Paige West

This informal session is designed as a roundtable for Ph.D. candidates who are back from their dissertation field work to discuss their research and field experiences. Our goal is to create a forum in which junior scholars can discuss emerging issues and their own experiences in a supportive environment with more senior scholars on hand to offer mentoring and suggestions for additional directions their projects might take. Participants will give informal talks which will be followed by discussion of their issues in the best tradition of the ASAO ‘informal session’ format.

Alex Golub, University of Hawaii Manoa<br>golub@hawaii.edu; Paige West, Columbia University<br>cw2031@columbia.edu

Imagining Deep Sea Mining in the Pacific (!)

Organizers: Lindsey Wilbur and Alex Golub

Deep sea mining (DSM) — the mining of the seabed for minerals using autonomous and remote operated vehicles — is a rapidly approaching event horizon. With operations set to begin in 2019, the Pacific is the site for several mining exploration contracts in both International Waters and several countries’ Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ). Centuries of curiosity for the deep sea gives way to this new industry and the concomitant political, legal and ecological consequences. DSM is a potent and multivalent enterprise evolving, among other things: the advance of science and technical progress, the next stages of humanity’s exploitation of the planet’s resources, the spirit of exploration in an era of human responsibility scientists label the Anthropocene.
This informal session asks: what are our diverse human relationships to the deep sea? While the deep sea is a key to understanding “deep time” (millions of years of Earth’s story), what are possible futures (short, mid and long term) for the deep sea? What legal regimes and contexts does DSM create, and what international relation paradigms govern the high seas? Who is accountable for creating and enforcing regulations for DSM operations in the High Seas, and how are the operations monitored? When there are trillions of dollars (NOAA) in gold, copper, zinc and other minerals in the deep sea, what does it mean that the United Nations claims the High Seas for the “the Common Heritage of Mankind”? How do we understand DSM alongside more established forms of exploration and resource extraction, or future extractive industries, such as extraterrestrial mining?

We seek expressions of interest from anthropologists and Pacific Islands studies scholars, as well as artists, activists, and scientists. Our goal is to bring many perspectives into dialogue in order to explore humanity’s relationship to the deep sea and its implications; and to curate a collection of media and articles to present a multidisciplinary inquiry into DSM.

**NEW ISSUE OF THE CONTEMPORARY PACIFIC**

The Contemporary Pacific, volume 29 (issue 2), is now available and contains the following articles:

- “Climate Change and the Imagining of Migration: Emerging Discourses on Kiribati’s Land Purchase in Fiji,” by Elfriede Hermann and Wolfgang Kempf
- “Charting Pacific (Studies) Waters: Evidence of Teaching and Learning,” by Teresia K Teaiwa
- “Losing Oceania to the Pacific and the World,” by David Hanlon

The issue also features the art of Selwyn Muru, political reviews of Melanesia and the region as a whole, and eleven book and media reviews.

**NEW AND NOTEWORTHY PUBLICATIONS**


**ANNOUNCEMENTS**


**NEW BOOK ON FIJI**

Geraldine Triffitt and Onisimo Nayato have just published a book on Fiji entitled *Soso Village, Naviti Island, Fiji*. It is published by Naviti Documentation, Mawson, ACT, Australia (2017). The book presents the everyday story of Soso, a remote village of about 450 people on Naviti Island, one of the islands of the Yasawa archipelago in Fiji. The author, Geraldine Triffitt, has been associated with the village of Soso for over 40 years, since the family first visited in 1977. Onisimo Nayato is a resident of Soso, who has shared his culture with his good friend, Geraldine. If you are interested in learning more about the book and/or ordering a copy, please contact Geraldine at navitidoc@gmail.com.

Alex Golub, University of Hawaii Manoa <golub@Hawaii.edu>; Lindsey Wilbur, University of Hawaii <harrislm@hawaii.edu>

Mapping, GIS and Social Geography in the Pacific, Problems and Prospects (!)

Organizers: Joshua Bell and David Lipset

For several years, largely beginning with the pioneering work of John Burton, mapping projects have been undertaken for various purposes, that can be called “social geography,” the representation of an owned environment by means of property claims in it, as well as in terms of the cosmological and historical background. Such projects have taken place in Papua New Guinea, but elsewhere in the contemporary Pacific. In addition to yielding valuable data, this work has raised tricky and compelling methodological and ethical questions about fieldwork, knowledge and collaboration. In this brand new, informal session, we want to survey the geography, anthropology and GIS-based literature, and invite interested parties to come and discuss projects that they have undertaken and/or expect to undertake.

Joshua Bell, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution <BellJA@si.edu>; David Lipset, University of Minnesota <lipse001@umn.edu>
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

**ASAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Past Chair  Marama Muru-Lanning (University of Auckland), m.murulanning@auckland.ac.nz
Chair  Mary K. Good (Wake Forest University), goodmk@wfu.edu
Chair-elect  Albert L. Refiti (Auckland University of Technology), albert.refiti@aut.ac.nz
Directors  Kirsten McGavin* (University of Queensland), k.mcgavin@uq.edu.au
Alex Mawyer* (University of Hawai‘i—Mānoa), mawyer@hawaii.edu
Alex Golub (University of Hawai‘i—Mānoa), golub@hawaii.edu
Melani Anae (University of Auckland), m.anae@auckland.ac.nz

* PISF Co-chairs

**ASAO OFFICERS**

**Newsletter Editor**
Ryan Schram
ryan.schram@sydney.edu.au

**Secretary**
Jessica Hardin
asaosec@gmail.com

**Treasurer and Membership Coordinator**
Barbara Andersen
asaotreasurer@gmail.com

**Program Coordinator**
Tate LeFevre
tlefevre@fandm.edu

**PISF Coordinator**
Chelsea Wentworth
cwentwor@highpoint.edu

**Annual Meetings Site Coordinator**
Jamon Alex Halvaksz, II
jamon.halvaksz@utsa.edu

**ASAO Archivist**
Jan Rensel
rensel@hawaii.edu

**Distinguished Lecture Coordinator**
Paige West
cw2031@columbia.edu

**Book Series Editor**
Rupert Stasch
rs839@cam.ac.uk

**Web Site Manager**
Zakea Boeger
zakea@hawaii.edu

**ASAONET List Manager**
Mike Lieber
mdlieber@uic.edu

**Book Display Coordinator**
David Troolin
david_troolin@sil.org