FROM THE EDITOR

Happy new year and safe travels for those heading to the 2018 meeting of ASAO in New Orleans. As I write this, the eastern seaboard of North America is being bombed by a cyclone of snow. It almost makes me wish for the relatively mild Snowmageddon that ASAO saw at the Alexandria, Va. meeting several years ago. I went out for a jog and got in a snowball fight after my session! I don’t think that will be an option in early February in New Orleans, but there will be many fascinating conversations among our meeting participants and many other stimulating experiences in the parade season leading up to Mardi Gras.

As you may have noticed, we are proving the old adage true in this issue: Better late than never. Our stalwart program coordinator and Association chair have invested their valuable time and energy to create a wonderful program. You will find a preliminary program of special events and a preliminary schedule of sessions, as well as the session descriptions, in this issue. As some last-minute changes are inevitable, please look for the final program and schedule at the registration desk at the meeting. Included also are important notes on making reservations at the conference hotel, Le Pavillon, and how to get around New Orleans.

This issue is not just a guide to the upcoming meeting, it is a great way to introduce students and junior scholars working on cultures, histories, and peoples of Oceania to this amazing organization. Please let your colleagues know about how rewarding it can be to participate in a freewheeling seminar-style informal session or to receive detailed and erudite feedback on a paper in preparation at a workshop-style working session. Remind them that ASAO always welcomes proposals for new kinds of formats for scholarly exchange. We always welcome new members and new participants in meetings.

I regret that I personally have to miss the meeting this year, but having read all the intriguing session descriptions, I know it will be a great conference. If you have any announcements for inclusion in a future issue of the ASAO Newsletter, please get in touch. I look forward to hearing from you.

Ryan Schram, Newsletter editor

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Warmest seasons’ greetings to all my ASAO colleagues!

I write to you just a few short weeks before our next meeting, to be held in New Orleans, Louisiana. This is sure to be a stimulating and productive gathering, with a number of exciting sessions on the schedule. New Orleans itself is a vibrant, multicultural city, and the available music, food, and art scenes will provide a great backdrop to the intellectual conversations we will have at the meetings. You can register now for the 2018 ASAO meetings and find more information on accommodations by visiting our website at http://www.asao.org.

Our Distinguished Lecture for 2018 will feature Prof. Lynnell L. Thomas, professor of American studies at University of Massachusetts Boston, who will bring an interesting new perspective to the meetings with her focus on race, tourism, and natural disasters in the Gulf Coast region. Prof. Thomas is the author of Desire and Disaster in New Orleans: Tourism, Race, and Historical Memory (Duke University Press, 2014). Prof. Thomas’ talk is sure to draw us all into comparative discussions regarding the parallels and contrasts between the Pacific region and other parts of the world. I’m very much looking forward to this event!

I’d also like to thank all of you who attended the ASAO party at the American Anthropological Association meetings in Washington DC. It was wonderful to see everyone (and we missed all of our colleagues who could not attend). I was especially delighted to meet several graduate students and early-career scholars and hear about their research. Thanks to those of you who encouraged them to come, and we look forward to seeing more new faces at the ASAO meetings. The AAA sessions included a considerable number of fascinating presentations on sites across the Pacific, and I was pleased to see many of our colleagues’ new monographs in the book displays as well.

Finally, the beginning of a new year always brings a time for reflection on what we’ve accomplished and perhaps motivates us to give a little more. As you register for the ASAO meetings, consider making a donation to the Pacific Island Scholars Fund. If you’re interested in giving back to the organization as a whole through service, talk to any of our officers or our board members for ways that you might contribute. Thanks again for your participation in our organization, and I wish you a merry and bright end to the year!

With warm regards,

Mary K. Good, chair

SEE YOU IN NEW ORLEANS!

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 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.

New Orleans has a rather convenient public transport system, including the iconic streetcars. Transportation from Louis Armstrong International Airport to downtown can be arranged via a number of public transport options including express buses that will take you within 5 blocks of our hotel. Taxis, Uber, Lyft and the typical shuttle services are also available.

We are located between the famous French Quarter and Arts District providing ample opportunity for breaks from the conference. I highly recommend the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, and for those with kids, the Audubon Butterfly Garden and Insectarium.

Jamon Halvaksz, site coordinator
The 2018 PISF Travel Award applicant pool was very strong this year. The PISF committee is proud to announce this year’s list of outstanding scholars participating in the ASAO meetings:

- Alphonse Aime
- Desiree Chui
- Dionne Fonoti
- Sei O’Brien
- Yvonne Aitu Suniamafiole

We are excited to welcome these award winners in New Orleans, La. in January!

PISF Awardee Survey

The PISF committee will be launching a survey requesting feedback from past PISF awardees. Please look for this survey in your email soon. It will just take a few minutes of your time, and we hope to hear from as many past PISF awardees as possible. The survey is anonymous, and we are looking for sincere feedback on your experiences. We appreciate your feedback, as we work to improve the PISF award and recognition process.

Apply for a PISF Award in 2018

As you prepare for the January/February meetings, keep in mind sessions that you would like to participate in next year. Applications for the 2019 conference will be due on October 15, 2018, with more detailed information about the application forms and procedures coming in future issues of the Newsletter.

Please consider applying for PISF awards! If you have any questions regarding the PISF application process or materials, please contact PISF Coordinator Chelsea Wentworth.
AN APPEAL TO ALL ASAO MEMBERS: DONATE TO PISF TODAY!

The participation of our colleagues from the 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—no donation amount is too small!

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!

A PISF donation can be a great gift!

We are happy to accept donations in honor of a friend or family member. If you would like to make a PISF donation in the name of another individual, we will provide you with a letter to give to your friend or relative. Please put that information in the comments section of the donation, or email Chelsea Wentworth for more information.

When donating, please consider making a monthly, recurring donation. Setting up a secure automatic deduction for a set amount from your bank account or credit card is easy. 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, Ping-Ann Addo, Marama Muru-Lanning, Kirsten McGavin

FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Get ready for ASAO in the Big Easy! Our program this year features 24 sessions, including a veritable bounty of new sessions vastly expanding our range of recent conversations.

A few observations about the emerging program may be warranted. Foremost, room locations may change, especially for breakout and special sessions. **Please consult the final program from the meeting registration table to confirm room locations.** As in recent years, all morning sessions start at 9:00 a.m. Both a.m. and p.m. sessions run for three and a half hours. Since the September issue of the *Newsletter* (#158), several sessions have been cancelled while others have been added. New sessions this year are marked with a bang (!). We are working on additional special events including potential off-site opportunities, so please stay tuned to ASAONET for further news.

In organizing the program, the coordinator’s task is to see that (1) the many participants who will be in more than one session do not find themselves in two sessions at the same time and (2) that there is a good mix of sessions on any one day. These considerations, paired with individual concerns, posed any number of challenges in organizing this year’s program. Hence, there may be people who may have to leave one session to present a paper in another.

Mark your calendars for Prof. Lynnell L. Thomas’ distinguished lecture on Friday. Focusing primarily on New Orleans, Prof. Thomas researches tourism, cultural production, race and racism, climate change, historical memory, and representational politics, issues both resonant and immediately relevant for Pacific studies. In addition, please plan on joining us Thursday evening for the debut screening of *Mobail Goroka* (Mobile Goroka), a new short film resulting from the research of Robert Foster and Heather Horst.* The film—which focuses on the work of air-time vendors and phone repair technicians in Goroka (Eastern Highlands Province) and raises issues about the informal economy of mobile phones in Papua New Guinea—will be followed by a discussion with Foster.

Also, I am glad to remind members of a chance to volunteer to staff the book display and registration desk. Volunteers earn one book for every two hours’ work. We need two people for the registration desk and two people for the book exhibit. Email me indicating which time slots you can fill during the following times:

- Wednesday, 3–6 p.m.
- Thursday and Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Saturday 8 a.m.–noon

I would like to extend gratitude to all the session organizers, board members, and officers who have worked to make this year’s meetings possible. Meanwhile, best wishes for a happy new year, and looking forward to seeing you in N’awlins!

*Tate LeFevre, program coordinator*
ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY IN OCEANIA
2018 ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

SESSION ORGANIZERS’ MEETING

Wednesday, January 31, 4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m., Denechaud

All session organizers are requested to attend this meeting to discuss session organization and management questions. Certain officers of the association will be present to share insights and coordinate with respect to their positions. Light refreshments will be served.

OPENING PLENARY

Wednesday, January 31, 6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m., The Versailles

The Opening Plenary will include meeting announcements and reports from officers, nominations of new board members, announcement of this year’s Pacific Islands Scholars Fund recipients, announcement of the site of next year’s meeting, and introduction of ASAO Honorary Fellows and newcomers.

WELCOME PARTY

Wednesday, January 31, 7:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m., 10th Floor Terrace

All are invited to attend this no-host cash bar social gathering, especially to welcome our PISF awardees, new ASAO members, and first-time annual meeting participants.

COCKTAIL RECEPTION HONORING 2018 PISF SCHOLARS

Thursday, February 1, 5:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m. The Gallery

A special PISF cocktail reception honoring the achievements this year’s PISF awardees. Light appetizers provided; as well as gratis drinks for PISF scholars. This is a nice opportunity for PISF awardees past and present to meet each other, and the ASAO board members and officers.

FILM SCREENING OF MOBAIL GOROKA

Thursday, February 1, 7:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m., Napoleon

Debut screening of Mobail Goroka (Mobile Goroka), directed by Jackie Kauli and produced by Verena Thomas at the Center for Social and Creative Media at the University of Goroka and resulting from the Australian Research Council project led by Robert Foster and Heather Horst.* This new short film focuses on the work of airtime vendors and phone repair technicians in Goroka (Eastern Highlands Province) and raises issues about the informal economy of mobile phones in Papua New Guinea. The screening will be followed by a discussion with Robert Foster.

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE: LYNNELL L. THOMAS

Friday, February 2, 7:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m., The Versailles

Dr. Lynnell L. Thomas is an associate professor of American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Her research interests include New Orleans tourism, African American history and culture, and Black popular culture. A native of New Orleans, Lynnell Thomas is part of the post-Katrina diaspora, which informs her teaching and scholarship. Her research is also concerned with the diverse backgrounds and experiences that constitute and contest American identity and values. Her most recent scholarship has examined the distortion of African American history and culture in New Orleans’ tourism narrative, the negative impact of this narrative on policy decisions following Hurricane Katrina, and the ways that African Americans and others have attempted to resist and revise this narrative. Her first book, Desire and Disaster in New Orleans: Tourism, Race, and Historical Memory, was published by Duke University Press in August 2014.

RECEPTION FOR DISTINGUISHED LECTURER

Friday, February 2, 9:00 p.m.–11:00 p.m., 10th Floor Terrace

All are invited to attend this no-host cash bar social gathering, especially to welcome our PISF awardees, new ASAO members, and first-time annual meeting participants.

CLOSING PLENARY

Saturday, February 3, 7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m, The Versailles

Highlights of the Closing Plenary will include session reports and future plans, proposed new sessions for 2019, installation of the new ASAO Board Chair, and other association business.
### 2018 ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, January 31</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
<td>Versailles A</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration and Book Exhibit</td>
<td>Josephine</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Session Organizers Meeting</td>
<td>Denechaud</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Opening Plenary</td>
<td>The Versailles</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 p.m.–10:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Welcome Party (reception and cash bar)</td>
<td>10th Floor Terrace</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, February 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration and Book Exhibit</td>
<td>Josephine</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>ASAO Histories (W)</td>
<td>Denechaud</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Large-Scale International Capital and Local Inequalities (W)</td>
<td>Versailles C</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Mapping, GIS and Social Geography in the Pacific (I)</td>
<td>Gravier Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Woman and Fieldwork (W)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Affect and Place in the Contemporary Pacific (I)</td>
<td>Versailles B</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Stitching New Traditions: Quilting in Polynesia (I)</td>
<td>Bienville Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Anthropologists Facing Decolonization in the Pacific: Actors, Witnesses, or Victims of History? (I)</td>
<td>Versailles C</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Schools in the Pacific (W)</td>
<td>Orleans</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Pacific Ethnography and Controlled Equivocation (W)</td>
<td>Gravier Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>PISF Happy Hour Reception</td>
<td>Le Gallery</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Mobail Goroka (screening and discussion with Robert Foster)</td>
<td>Napoleon</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, February 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration and Book Exhibit</td>
<td>Josephine</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Authenticity and Authoring in Pacific Cultures (W)</td>
<td>Versailles A</td>
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<td>9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>New Voices in Pacific Anthropology (I)</td>
<td>Versailles B</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Healthy Islands/Healthy People: Examining Health Promotion Programs and NCDs in the Pacific (W)</td>
<td>Bienville Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Imaginary Peoples of the Pacific (W)</td>
<td>Gravier Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Special Session: Emerging Issues</td>
<td>Baronne</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Facebook in the Pacific (W)</td>
<td>Orleans</td>
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<td>2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Growing Old in the Pacific (I)</td>
<td>Gravier Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Healthy Islands/Healthy People: Film Screenings</td>
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<td>7:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Distinguished Lecture</td>
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<td>9:00 p.m.–11:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Reception for the Distinguished Lecture</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, February 3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.–noon</td>
<td>Registration and Book Exhibit</td>
<td>Josephine</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Pacific Youth: Pacific Futures (W)</td>
<td>Denechaud</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>&quot;The Apotheosis of Anthropologists&quot;: Ontological, Ethical, Moral, and Methodological Dilemmas in Pacific Ethnography (I)</td>
<td>Gravier Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>The Experiential Routes of Mana (W)</td>
<td>Versailles C</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Framing and Cartooning Oceania (W)</td>
<td>Baronne</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Sounds of the Pacific (W)</td>
<td>Versailles C</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>The Urban Pacific (I)</td>
<td>Orleans</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>The Pacific Ocean as a New Frontier? (I)</td>
<td>Bienville Room</td>
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<td>2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Micronesian Public Health: Social, Cultural, and Political Determinants of Health Status in the Islands and the US Mainland (I)</td>
<td>Versailles A</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Women and Power in Polynesia (W)</td>
<td>Gravier Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Closing Plenary</td>
<td>The Versailles</td>
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WORKING SESSIONS

Pacific Youth: Pacific Futures

Organizer: Helen Lee

Saturday, February 3, 9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Denechaud

This year we will continue the discussions begun in 2017 about Pacific childhood and youth, in the islands and the diaspora. The presentations fall into several broad thematic areas: youth participation and empowerment; livelihoods/employment; and migration and identity. A number of other 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.

It should be another lively session in 2018! Confirmed participants are: Doris Bacalzo, Desiree Barron-Callaci, Larry Carucci, Mary K Good, Rachel Emerine Hicks, Tate LeFevre, Helen Lee, Christopher Little, Caleb Panapa Marsters, Veronica Miranda & Lei Wann, Seipua (Sei) O’Brien, Mary L. Spencer, and Jemaima Tiatia-Seath.

Bob Franco has kindly agreed to be the discussant for this session.

Others who have expressed interest in participating but are unable to attend include: Imelda Ambelye, Aidan Craney, Daniel Evans, Aaron Ferguson, and Patrick Vakaotí.

After the session in New Orleans the intention is to produce an edited volume to follow up the ASAO monograph Adolescence in Pacific Island Societies (Herdt and Leavitt, eds, 1998).

Confirmed participants:

- Tate LeFevre—Moral Panics and Discourses of Disorder: Delegitimizing the Political Actions of Kanak Youth
- Mary K Good—Flexibility, Possibility, and the Paradoxes of the Present: Tongan Youth Moving into the Future
- Helen Lee—Traditional childhood, modern youth? Obstacles to youth ‘development’ in Tonga.
- Christopher Little—The Emergence of “Youth” in Papua New Guinea
- Doris Bacalzo—Research among young people in the Markham Valley, Papua New Guinea
- Veronica Miranda and Lei Wann—Native Hawaiian Experiences of Young Motherhood
- Laurence Marshall Carucci—From Drunken Demeanor to Doping: Shifting Parameters of Maturation among Marshall Islanders
- Mary L. Spencer—Portraying Circulating Micronesian Childhoods By Linking Home Island Lives to Post-Migration Experiences
- Jemaima Tiatia-Seath—Youth development and mental health for Pacific Islanders
- Caleb Panapa Marsters—Young Pacific Male Athletes and Positive Mental Wellbeing
- Desiree Barron-Callaci—“Maybe they Just Like the Silver and Black, Cuz”: American Sport and Māori Sporting Aspirations
- Seipua (Sei) O’Brien—Te Lau Olive (The Olive Branch): Tuvaluan Youths in New Zealand

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

Authenticity and Authoring in Pacific Cultures

Organizers: Jeanette Mageo and Joyce D. Hammond

Friday, February 2, 9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Versailles A

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 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, 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. After a successful informal session last year in San Diego, we intend going on to a working session in Hawaii. We are still open to new participants.

Current paper titles and participants include: Dichotomies between Authoring and Appropriation (Jeanette Mageo—Washington State University), Whose Authenticity? Tenues Végétales in Beauty Competitions in Tahiti (Joyce D. Hammond, Western Washington University), Authenticity in Analogy between Past and Present: Towards an Anthropology of Cultural Change (Toon van Meijl, Radboud University), What is Authentic Authorship?: Critical reflections across four decades with Gebusi (Bruce Knauff, Emory University), Mimicry, Authenticity, and Authoring in early 20th century American Samoa, (Jeanette Mageo—Washington State University), Serembule and Barava, Solomon Islands (Deborah Waite, University of Hawai’i), Noah’s Ark: Tuvaluan Elders’ Response to the Auckland Museum (Sei O’Brien, Massey University), Unwrapping the social and cultural significance of slit-drums of the Pacific—especially Papua New Guinea (Alphonse Aime Yambisang, University of Queensland), “Ethnographic Orientalism” and Digital Storytelling in the Pacific (Sarina Pearson, University of Auckland), Authenticity and the Sentiment of Being: The Rawa Song of the Flying Fox as Authentic Tradition (Doug Dalton, Longwood University).

Jeanette Mageo, Washington State University <jmageo@wsu.edu>; Joyce Hammond, Western Washington University <Joyce.Hammond@wwu.edu>

The Pacific Ocean as a New Frontier? (!)

Organizers: Pierre-Yves Le Meur, Elodie Fache and Estienne Rodary

Saturday, February 3, 2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m., Bienville Room

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 pre-colonial and contemporary contexts (Kopytoff 1987, Chauveau et al. 2004). This initially African perspective is different from – but potentially complementary to – 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 collude 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, aiming at grasping the tensions at work between potentially conflicting processes of grabbing and commoning in the Pacific.
Selected bibliography:


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


Current paper titles and participants include:

- Frontier commoning, frontier grabbing: living or invading the Pacific Ocean? (Elodie Fache, Pierre-Yves Le Meur, Estienne Rodary)
- Governing the Pacific marine environments: gaps or overlaps? (Marlène Dégremont)
- Discombobulated actor-networks in the maritime frontier (Colin Filer)
- The Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary and Iwi Settlement Quota: a frontier collusion (Fiona McCormack)
- Foreshores, Nearshores, and Other Sandy Frontiers (Alex Mawyer)

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.rodary@ird.fr>

ASAO Histories

Organizers: Jan Rensel and Alan Howard

Thursday, February 1, 9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Denechaud

This second working session will continue to focus on documenting the histories of various aspects of ASAO since its beginnings nearly half a century ago. Participants are writing papers from a personal or an institutional perspective, pulling together and organizing data, serving as resources for others, or a combination of these tasks. Draft papers to be discussed at the 2018 meeting are listed below (* = in absentia). New topics are welcome! For instance, we hope one or more people will contribute essays about the evolution of the ASAO Newsletter. We will also discuss audiences and venues for sharing these histories.

- Mike Rynkiewich, “Place Matters”
- Juliana Flinn, “Inclusiveness and ASAO Membership Categories”
- Jan Rensel, “The Origins and Development of the Pacific Islands Scholars Fund”
- Alan Howard, “The ASAO Website: A Brief History”
- Thorgeir Kolshus, “Virtually Initiated: Imagining a Community through the Prism of the ASAONET listserv”
- Lamont Lindstrom, “ASAO Distinguished Lectures and Special Publications”
- *Richard Scaglion, “ASAEO + NEWS = ASAO”
• “Nancy Pollock, “ASAO Membership with Pacific Colleagues”

Other session participants serving as resource people include Zakea Boeger, Rick Feinberg, Bob Franco, Mike Lieber, and (in absentia this time) Ivan Brady, Kathy Creely, Dan Jorgensen, Susanne Kuehling, Mac Marshall, Kirsten McGavin, Naomi McPherson, Judith Schachter, and Bob and Myrna Tonkinson. If you’d like to participate, please contact the session organizers.

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

Framing and Cartooning Oceania

Organizers: Guido Carlo Pigliasco and Suzanne S. Finney

Saturday, February 3, 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Baronne

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 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 intend to include historical and contemporary examples and welcome contributions from a broad range of contributors limiting the session to comics/cartoons and excluding 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 Bousquet, Lorenzo Bruttì, Vilsoni Hereniko, Ryota Nishino, Mark Ombrello, Eric Silverman and Marc Tabani.

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

Sounds of the Pacific

Organizers: Karen Fox, Andie Palmer, Nancy Lutkehau, and Eric Silverman

Saturday, February 3, 2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m., Versailles C

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: musical responses to change, cultural crisis, and climate change; sound and place; change and church; sound/music and various levels of identity (ethnic, religions, etc.). In 2018, we will pre-circulate papers (which will be due to the organizers by Jan 15), and each participant will offer in-depth comments on 1-2 other submissions. Needless to say, we would be delighted to welcome newcomers.

Interested participants currently include: Karen Fox, Andie Palmer, Nancy Lutkehau, Eric Silverman, Maria Lepowski, Albert Refiti, Fraser MacDonald, David Hernandez, Hao-li Lin

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 Lutkehau, Professor of Anthropology and Political Science, University of Southern California, Los Angeles <lutkehau@dornsife.usc.edu>

Imaginary Peoples of the Pacific

Organizer: Rogar Ivar Lohmann

Friday, February 2, 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Gravier Room

Oceania is peopled not only by human beings that anyone can see, but also by imaginary people whom one must be enculturated to experience and know. Our challenge is to understand diverse perspectives on apparently imaginary people, to document their range through comparison, and to explain their causes, nature, and consequences. New participants are welcome. All participants should send the organizer their papers by January 20 for pre-circulation. The current lineup is:

*Chris Ballard – “Refractions of the Self: Cannibal Giants and Trickster Dwarfs in Huli Narrative and Historicity”
Healthy Islands/Healthy People: Examining Health Promotion Programs and NCDs in the Pacific (And Viewing of Oceanic Health Promotion Videos and Campaign Materials)

Organizers: Micah Van der Ryn and Barbara Andersen

Friday, February 2, 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Bienville Room (session), 2:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Napoleon (video screenings)

Last year, our 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, socio-cultural, political and economic conditions shaping the determinants of health and policies and approaches island 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 as soon as possible. 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.

• The morning session will be followed by an optional afternoon screening of oceanic health promotion videos and campaign materials (starting at 2:00 p.m. in Napoleon). It is hoped that as many of the participants of the morning session will attend this afternoon session, but others who wish to attend are also invited.

The two films so far planned to be screened and discussed in the session include:

1. The Placemat/Le Pepa Laulau Mea’ai, 12 minutes, (produced by Micah Van der Ryn), which promotes the use of a health promotion placemat to reduce/prevent childhood obesity in American Samoa, by following an American Samoan family in their daily life trying to live healthier within an environment of change that now encourages less healthy choices, and demonstrates how they use the placemat at meal time to remind and teach about healthy choices. This film is currently being used in conjunction with an intervention study we have implemented in partnership with the Department of Human and Social Services "Women, Infant and Children" (WIC) Program in American Samoa.

2. Gestational Diabetes Mo Lou Lumana’i Manuia, 36 minutes (produced by Micah Van der Ryn), a scripted narrative film following the life of a pregnant American Samoan woman as she learns about gestational diabetes, and then faces obstacles at home from her in-laws about getting herself tested for GDM. The film is being used in the American Samoa's Hospital Prenatal clinic waiting room in conjunction with a study to see if it improves knowledge and testing for GDM in American Samoa.

Participants of the Healthy Islands/Healthy People session are any others attending the ASAO meetings, are invited to also show any audio/visual material (of any kind) that helps illustrate/demonstrate anything related to their research related to health promotion in their studies, and which they think would be useful for discussion. Please contact Fepulea’i Micah Van der Ryn if you wish to participate in this session, especially if you have media materials on subject matter related to the healthy islands/healthy people session subject matter that you believe would be helpful for you and others to be screened and discussed.

Fepulea’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>

The Experiential Roots of Mana

Organizer: Marianne (Mimi) George

Saturday, February 3. 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Versailles C

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 potentials. 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

Thursday, February 1, 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Bienville Room

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 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, 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

Thursday, February 1, 2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m., Gravier Room

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

Schools in the Pacific

Organizer: Rachel Emerine Hicks

Thursday, February 1, 2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m., Orleans

This session seeks to renew the conversation on schooling systems within the Pacific Islands, particularly at the primary and secondary levels (although tertiary level contributions are also welcome). Whether from personal experience at schools or from research about the schooling systems, in this session, we plan to discuss how schools throughout the Pacific become sites of both cultural preservation and cultural change. Some of the questions we will explore are: How does schooling prepare (or not) students for entering the workplace or returning to their village? How does schooling change students’ understanding of their home cultures, languages, and villages? How is the access to technology in urban centers and schools changing the way students learn and interact with their traditional values?

Along with discussing the general role of schools in their communities, this session will look at some of the school policy changes throughout the Pacific over the past decade. Some of these changes include: “fee free” education, switch from outcome based to standard based education, beginning or ending schooling in local languages, and the introduction of technology into the classrooms. In this session, I hope to examine the effects of these changes in places where they have been implemented.

We met as an informal session in 2017 and had a lively discussion exploring these issues. In 2018, we plan to give specific feedback on paper ideas and abstracts and ideally move to a formal symposium in 2019. We currently have contributions from research in the Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Papua New Guinea. We would love to have others join the conversation and share the research they are doing on schooling in the Pacific.

The current lineup is:
- When Schooling Fails: Return Migration and Identity Formation Among Youth in the Solomon Islands (Rachel Emerine-Hicks)
- The Socialization of Globalization: Reading Pacific Literature and Creating National Identity at ’Eua High School in Tonga (Mary K. Good)
- Schooling the diaspora: overseas born Tongans attending high school in ‘the homeland’ (Helen Lee)
- Schooling and the depoliticization of identity in Solomon Islands (David Oakeshott)
- Title t.b.a. (Jordan Prokosch)

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

Women and Power in Polynesia

Organizers: Melani Anae and Penelope Schoeffel
Saturday, February 3. 2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m., Gravier Room

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 (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. 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, Sali Doktor, 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
Thursday, February 1, 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Versailles C

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. 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.

- Jason Roberts (University of Texas – San Antonio): ‘We Live Like This’: Local Inequalities and Disproportionate Risk in the Context of Large-Scale Logging and Agricultural Development on New Hanover Island, Papua New Guinea
- Tobias Schwoerer (University of Lucerne / ANU): Oil Palm and Eucalyptus Plantations, Incorporated Land Groups, and Emerging Inequalities among the Wampar in Papua New Guinea
- Doris Bacalzo (University of Lucerne): Shifting Land Use, Labour Arrangements, and
Social Inequalities with the Entry of Agro-Industrial and Mining Projects among the Wambar in Papua New Guinea

• Yu-chien Huang (University of Virginia / Academica Sinaica): The Politics of Presenting and Persuading of Pulwelwol (Yapese Elderly Women) in a Tourism Investment Controversy

• Bettina Beer (University of Lucerne): Gender and Inequalities in a Postcolonial Context of Large-Scale Capitalist Projects: Mining in the Markham Valley, Papua New Guinea

• Willem Church (University of Lucerne): Landowner, President, Chairman, Grand Chief? Understanding Emerging Political and Economic Inequalities near a Prospective Mine in Papua New Guinea

• Bruce Knauft (Emory University): Electing Capitalism: The National Election in Papua New Guinea as a Capital-Intensive Project of Inequity

We welcome additional participants from other areas of the Pacific working on diverse aspects of inequality connected to capitalist expansion. Please contact the session organizers and 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 <dbacalzo@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/1BA6RLtxULaT142Pm3-86OPazCejZt2vHdWALYiLiBBQ/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

Thursday February 1, 2:00 p.m.—5:30 p.m., Versailles B

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 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.
Anthropologists Facing Decolonization in the Pacific: Actors, Witnesses, or Victims of History? (!)

Organizers: Marie Salaün and Benoît Trépied

Thursday February 1, 2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m., Versailles C

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.

Those who have expressed interest so far include: Bastian Bosa and Angela Santamaria, Natacha Gagné, Alex Golub, Alan Howard and Jan Rensel, Benoît Trépied, Geoffrey White.

Micronesian Public Health: Social, Cultural, and Political Determinants of Health Status in the Islands and the US Mainland (!)

Organizers: Eve Pinsker and Carla Dionne

Saturday, February 3. 2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m., Versailles A

As economic development and job opportunities in the Freely Associated States of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands have stagnated, Micronesians continue to take advantage of the non-immigrant status they have under the Compacts of Free Association (COFA) to live and work in Hawaii, Guam, and the US mainland. Estimates of the out-migrated population vary, since their non-immigrant status makes tracking the numbers difficult, but the Marshallese alone may number 40,000 in the US (McElfish, Hallgren, and Yamada 2015). Under the original COFA agreements, Micronesians in the US were eligible for Medicaid and other social safety net programs. However, when the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (welfare reform) was passed in 1996, Micronesian migrants were excluded from benefits. Individual states have the option to put them back, and as a result, access to health care is not uniform for Micronesians on the mainland. It has been argued that this is a human rights issue, in that the US has treaty obligations to protect the health of Micronesians, especially considering the effect of US policies in the home islands (most obviously, the atomic testing in the Marshall, but policies affecting food sources and cash income reliance can also contribute to declines in health). There has been more attention to Micronesian health and access to health care in the larger and better-known communities on the US mainland, e.g. Arkansas and Oregon, as well as in Guam and Hawaii, which received Compact Impact funds to mitigate the economic burden of social and health services for migrant Micronesians when the Compact was renegotiated in 2003. However, there are pockets of Micronesians in other places on the mainland (e.g. Ashland, North Carolina, and Enid, Oklahoma), which are also part of this larger picture. Policies surrounding health care access, of course, are only one of many factors affecting health outcomes. Others include factors shared by marginalized US communities in general, such as living conditions, access to healthy food and exer-
cise, and unhealthy working conditions, as well as social, cultural, and provider barriers to Micronesians being able to effectively access resources that are theoretically available to them. Current efforts at improving the situation include local and state level coalitions, but there has been little US-wide discussion of public health issues affecting Micronesians.

We (Eve Pinsker, with Carla Dionne, a former regional administrator of the state health dept in Oklahoma) would like to call an informal session to discuss this for several reasons:

- Health, as a concrete issue affecting the quality of life of Micronesians, is entangled with the general community and personal, social and cultural life of people originating in the islands, and has broad ramifications for what happens to these populations in the future (including the relationship to the possible pressure for permanent out-migration resulting from climate change). Many ASAO members who have worked in the Micronesian Islands have also had contact with Micronesian communities on the mainland and there has been some formal research in those migrant communities, (e.g., Linda Allen, Enid “Atoll”: a Marshallese Migrant Community in the Midwestern United States, University of Iowa 1997; Elise Berman, after conducting research on children in the Marshall islands, is planning to conduct research with migrant Marshallese in Arkansas this summer). Considering the problems in adequate information on Micronesians in the mainland US due to their unique migrant status and the limited resources of the consulates (and possibly, the desire in the current political climate to stay under-the-wire), ASAO members and other interested researchers could provide a valuable service by pooling their knowledge. Furthermore, there may be opportunities for funding for a collaborative effort going forward, providing opportunities for students as well as faculty.

- I (Eve Pinsker, PhD, cultural anthropology, University of Chicago 1997) currently teach in the DrPH (doctorate of public health) program at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health. This is a distance-based leadership focused program for mid-career public health professionals, many of whom already hold positions of influence. I have several current students or graduates who have connections with public health programs or projects serving Micronesians. So, we are in a position possibly to leverage information in a way that might make a positive difference in public health policy that affects Micronesians.

Eve Pinsker, University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health <epinsker@uic.edu>; Carla Dionne <cdionn2@uic.edu>

The Urban Pacific (!)
Organizers: Michelle Rooney and Paige West
Saturday, February 3. 2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m., Orleans

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 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.

Those who have expressed interest so far include: JC Salyer, Take LeFevre, Barbra Andersen, Ceridwen Spark, Siobhan McDonnell, Shu-Ling Yeh, Patrick Nason

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>

"The Apotheosis of Anthropologists": Ontological, Ethical, Moral, and Methodological Dilemmas in Pacific Ethnography (!)
Organizers: Fraser MacDonald and Christiane Falck
Saturday, February 3. 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Gravier Room

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 West-
erners’ 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>

New Voices in Pacific Anthropology (!)

Organizers: Alex Golub and Paige West

Friday, February 2, 9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Versailles B

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 experience. 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.

Those who have expressed interest so far include: Patrick Nason, Makiko Nishitani, Veronica Miranda and Lei Wenn, Rachel Hicks, Wendy Magea, David Troolin, Michelle Rooney, Matt Robinson, Daniel Hernandez, and Mark Love

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

Stitching New Traditions: Quilting in Polynesia

Organizers: Phyllis Herda and Joyce D. Hammond

Thursday, February 1st, 2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m., Biemville Room

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.

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

Growing Old in the Pacific

Organizers: Marama Muru-Lanning and Tia Dawes

Friday, February 2nd, 2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m., Gravier Room

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 suc-
cessful 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.

Marama Leigh Muru-Lanning, University of Auckland <m.murulanning@auckland.ac.nz>; Tia Dawes, University of Auckland <t.dawes@auckland.ac.nz>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW PUBLICATIONS


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

Organizers: Joshua Bell and David Lipset

Thursday, February 3, 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Gravier Room

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>


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* Correction, pages 4 and 5: Earlier versions of the program coordinator's notes and the preliminary program of events incorrectly described the role of Heather Horst and Robert Foster in the making of the film Mobail Goroka (Mobile Goroka). They are the primary investigators of a research project which led to the film. It was directed by Jackie Kauli and produced by Verena Thomas of the University of Goroka.