FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings to ASAO members and Newsletter readers from the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, where the editor is visiting the Pacific Collection at Hamilton Library. Thanks to our colleagues there for their hospitality. Next stop on the tour is the Melanesian Collection at Geisel Library at University of California, San Diego.

And as long as we are talking about past ASAO annual meeting sites, it is time to start planning for the 2019 meeting of ASAO at the University of Auckland. Unlike past years, the 2019 meeting will be held on a university campus. It will be hosted by Te Wānanga o Waipapa, School of Māori Studies and Pacific Studies with support from the James Henare Research Centre and held on the University of Auckland campus. Further details about accommodation options in Auckland will be available later in the year.

Beginning with this issue, the ASAO Newsletter is available to the public on an open-access basis. Members will continue to receive the digital edition by email. New issues will now also be posted on http://asao.org as they come out (rather than after 12 months). The ASAO Newsletter will no longer be available to institutional subscribers on Flipster by EBSCO. However, institutions and libraries who wish to collect the Newsletter are welcome to acquire each digital issue for their users. In fact, plans are underway to create a permanent digital archive of the complete run of the Newsletter. Please point your colleagues and students to the Newsletter so they can know all about ASAO, and the upcoming and ongoing sessions at the next meeting. And if this is your first time to read about ASAO, please accept our invitation to become a member.

Ryan Schram, Newsletter editor

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

On a hot Auckland evening in late January, I boarded an Air New Zealand flight from Auckland to New Orleans while Cyclone Gita was forming over the Western Pacific. Three movies and thirteen and a half hours later I arrived in Houston. I was then immediately swept along by the mantra ‘Jai guru deva om’ from the Beatles ‘Across the Universe’ song that floated above the airport speakers in my two-hour layover. That mantra carried me all the way to the pancake-like terrain of Louisiana that is raveled by snaking bayous, into a tired and sparse evening at the Louis Armstrong airport. I’ve been making these annual pilgrimages in the last five years since becoming a regular ASAO contributor. Every year, the travel doesn’t get easier, they delay and stretch my being in a way that when I leave home, I never really arrive at my destination, and when I eventually return, I seemed to have not arrived since I never left in the first place - the whole thing seemed like a dream. The more I attend the meetings, the more I have become strangely at home in this existential conundrum. It has made the ASAO annual meeting an uncanny homely affair for me, a moving feast in a strange hotel with a swimming pool and an empty mini-bar, with familiar faces perched around long tables lit by ideas and conversations, washed down with lots of percolated coffees.

The Le Pavillon Hotel was no different. It’s Gilded Age Rococo revival architecture conveyed a sense of history that I heard someone described it as “having being brewed in an Earl Grey cup of tea”. That’s because the Napoleon and Josephine portraits that gazed down from the entablature motifs above the lifts, and many other paintings on the walls, were rendered in different shades of beige and lit by large crystal chandeliers, which gave the place a sense of being permanently saturated in a well brewed cup of tea with a bit of milk for taste. In this historic salubrious environs, we were to spend the next five days while the Big Easy was getting spruced and spiced up for its annual Mardi Gras. I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to Mary Good, our 2018 chair. With steady-hands, Mary guided the conference with a few optional hotels near the meeting site. Anticipate arranging for housing at the university campus of the University of Auckland in Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand from February 13 through February 16. The conference will be hosted by Te Wānanga o Waipapa, School of Māori Studies and Pacific Studies with support from the James Henare Research Centre.

The engine room though of the organization belongs to the youthful and forward-looking ASAO officers, they do the hard work that is often invisible to most of us. On behalf of the Board and members of ASAO, I would like to thank you and congratulate you all on your work to successfully put on our meeting in New Orleans. Jessica Hardin is another steady-hands person that as secretary dutifully records and reminds us where we’ve been and what we should do better next time. Jamon Halvaksz is to be congratulated for successfully organizing the wonderful meeting venue, a difficult task carried out over many phone calls and emails, thanks to him, we experienced a little bit of the Mardi Gras magic.

Thank you Tate LeFevre for organizing another wonderful program, and for convening the Emerging Issues session. Barbara Andersen has done a stellar job as treasurer, an especially tricky task being conducted from Auckland, as well as her role as membership coordinator. Ryan Schram our Newsletter editor, the lifeline that keeps the organization ticking along providing the much-needed continuity for all of us during the year. Fa’afetali tele lava Chelsea Wentworth who as PISF coordinator (in consultation with Alex Mawyer and Lisa Uperesa), have begun the task of fine-tuning the selection process and the naming of future awards, together with the Board, Chelsea continues to look for avenues to increase funding of the PISF.

Continued on page 5

ANNOUNCING THE 2019 MEETING OF ASAO

The 2019 meeting of ASAO will be held on the campus of the University of Auckland in Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand from February 13 through February 16. The conference will be hosted by Te Wānanga o Waipapa, School of Māori Studies and Pacific Studies with support from the James Henare Research Centre.

Registration will be open on http://asao.org/ later this year. Further details about the location and the conference will be published in coming issues of the Newsletter and online later in the year. We anticipate arranging for housing at the university with a few optional hotels near the meeting site.

Jamon Halvaksz, site coordinator
THE PACIFIC ISLANDS SCHOLARS FUND

The Pacific Islands Scholars Fund (PISF) is a competitive award that supports participation by Pacific Islander scholars at ASAO meetings. The PISF Award provides additional financial support to increase Pacific Islander participation in ASAO, to support the educational development of Pacific Island scholars working to advance in the discipline, to provide support for Pacific Island scholars working at Pacific-based institutions that have limited access to funding, and to support early career scholars.

The core PISF objectives are:

- To promote excellent Pacific Islander scholarship and incorporate greater Pacific Islanders perspective and voice in ASAO meetings, primarily in working sessions and symposia.
- To address institutional inequalities by promoting greater diversity and inclusion of Pacific Islander scholars.
- To support and advance the professional development of junior Pacific Islander scholars.
- To increase Pacific Islander membership in the Association.
- To increase Pacific Islander contributions and leadership in the Association.

In most cases PISF travel awards cover the cost of round-trip airfare, meeting registration and ASAO membership, and $200 stipend for meals and incidentals provided at the conference. In order to be eligible, applicants must take an active part in one or more sessions, by serving as an organizer, presenting a paper, or making a presentation in another format. You can access the PISF application instruction and further information online, and more details will be provided in the September ASAO Newsletter. Please consider applying for PISF awards! If you have any questions regarding the process or the application materials, please contact PISF coordinator, Chelsea Wentworth (cwentwor@highpoint.edu).

KEY DATES FOR 2018 AND 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 20, 2018</td>
<td>All session organizers from the 2018 meeting should send reports to the program coordinator, including plans to continue next year or final comments and plans for publication. Those intending to chair a new informal session in 2019, send your announcement to the program coordinator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 20</td>
<td>All session organizers should send to the program coordinator an updated announcement of their session to the program coordinator, including any deadlines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Deadline for all application materials for PISF awards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By late October</td>
<td>Participants in working sessions should send their paper abstracts to the session organizer for pre-circulation to participants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Symposium participants should submit their papers to the session organizer for pre-circulation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Informal session organizers should submit an updated description of their session and list of names of those intending to participate to the program coordinator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>PISF awards announced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 15</td>
<td>Deadline for PISF awardees to accept their awards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 13-16, 2019</td>
<td>Annual meeting to be held in Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The PISF is happy to announce this year’s PISF Committee: Chelsea Wentworth, PISF coordinator; Alex Mawyer, ASAO board member representative; Lisa Uperesa, at-large member; and Ping-Ann Addo, at-large member.

2018 PISF AWARDEES

This year we honored six scholars with PISF awards and three were able to join us in New Orleans. The six scholars and their papers and sessions are listed below (underlining indicates those scholars in attendance). Please be sure to look for more of their outstanding scholarship.


- Dionne Fonoti, National University of Samoa, “‘It Takes a Village’: Heritage tourism and technology in modern-day Samoa” (Panel: Mapping, GIS, and Social Geography in the Pacific: Problems and Prospects).

- Laneta Fitisemanu, University of Utah, “Moving Beyond Likes and Shares: A more engaging approach to using social media for health promotion among Pacific Islander communities” (Panel: Healthy Islands-Healthy Peoples: Examining Health Promotion Programs and NCDs in the Pacific).


PAST PISF AWARDEE SURVEY

The PISF committee will soon be launching a survey requesting feedback from past PISF awardees. Please look for this survey in your email, and help our PISF work by completing the survey. 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.

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—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 2) click the yellow "donate" button, and 3) Follow the prompts. It's that easy!

Additionally, please consider donating the royalties from scholarly monographs to PISF. Working with your publisher, the process can be simple and straightforward. If you have questions about how to donate royalties, please contact the PISF Committee.

Thank you so much!

PISF Committee: Chelsea Wentworth, Alex Mawyer, Lisa Uperesa, Ping-Ann Addo

Photo opposite page: PISF Awardees enjoy the ASAO opening reception. From left to right, Alphonse Aime, Desiree Chan Chui, and Sei O’Brien (Photo credit: Mary Good).
"Letter from the chair" continued from page 2

Thank you Paige West for your impeccable choice of Professor Lynnell Thomas for a topical and timely Distinguished Lecture in New Orleans. Our web site manager Zakea Boeger continues to do a great job of upgrading and maintaining the web site, another lifeline for many of us; and also thanks to the incomparable Jan Rensel who, as our archivist, is the longest-serving officer and the conscience of ASAO. Kia Ora to you Rupert Stasch (book series editor), Mike Lieber (ASAO-NET), and David Troolin (book display coordinator) who provided valuable service to the organization from afar. Fa’aafetai lava to you all for your care and love.

There were 24 sessions at this years meeting, 11 workshops and 13 informal sessions. The Emerging Issues and Emerging Voices in Pacific Anthropology sessions played essential parts in the future development of our organization. The Emerging Issues convened by Tate LeFevre discussed and stirred up some possible future directions for our scholarships in Oceania and the Pacific, some of the topics in the past have gone on to become critical sessions of ASAO. The Emerging Voices in Pacific Anthropology convened by Paige West and Alex Golub was an excellent forum that brought together young and emerging scholars, to hear and discuss future avenues for their research, a forum that is important for all to attend in future meetings to encourage the spirit of collegiality that ASAO is known for between young scholars and established and senior scholars.

We are in the process of electing new Board members in the coming month, you may read their profiles near the end of this issue, and I encourage you to vote for 2 new members. A message that Mary Good wrote in her report last year as chair is one that I would also like to maintain with my leadership of the organization:

To continue efforts and useful strategies together with the board and all of our members, to recruit new members to the organization and new participants in our annual meetings. Our members make this organization great and are the best advertisements for the advantages of joining ASAO.

Therefore, I ask you all to talk to your colleagues and students and advertise to your networks about becoming a member.

The planning for the next ASAO meeting is well in advance, the venue is the University of Auckland, Te Wānanga o Waipapa, School of Māori Studies and Pacific Studies, from February 13–16, 2019.

Expect a lively and fun atmosphere with excellent people, stunning scenery, great food and excellent coffee when you arrive. So stay tuned.

Until my next report, live well and prosper!

Soifua ma le manuia.

Albert L. Refiti, ASAO chair
OFFICERS’ REPORTS FOR 2017

SECRETARY

I have performed the usual routines of the office. In addition to updating and clarifying the secretary duties list.

Routine tasks

1. Responded to inquiries from members and non-members
2. Prepared minutes from the 2018 meeting and the virtual meetings
3. Distributed draft minutes for review by board members and officers and an approved version for distribution and deposit in archives
4. Maintained file of board discussions and decisions (by email) between 2017 and 2018 meetings
5. Prepared agenda for 2018 board meeting

Jessica Hardin, secretary

TREASURER

ASAO’s financial situation is stable. At the end of 2017 our bank balance was $29,553. This includes a PISF balance of $9906.87 and a Distinguished Speaker fund balance of $4314.71. This amount is still under the $50,000 threshold for qualifying as a small nonprofit for tax purposes. During 2017 we took in total revenues of $18895, most of which came from conference registration fees.

Explicit PISF donations during 2017 came to $2910 (gross). $10/levy per membership purchase adds an additional revenue of $650 from 2017. The PISF balance at end of 2017 was $9906.87

Our total costs at the Kauai Beach Resort totaled $27,686.40. Other expenses incurred during 2017 totaled $4035.03. These expenses included costs for AAA and ASA parties, website and database software fees, the PISF party in Kauai and refunds to subscription services who had overpaid for the ASAO newsletter.

Almost all of our payments now come from Paypal to whom we pay a small percentage. Total fees (bank and Paypal) paid in 2017 came to $342.10.

Barbara Andersen, treasurer

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

At the time of the board meeting in February 2018 we had 287 active members (being those who are paid up/registered through 2017 or beyond). This includes people claiming the Pacific Islander waiver and Honorary Fellows. It is a big decline from Alan’s last report which noted 371 members active through 2016. 142 (49%) paid full fees. 81 members paid reduced (retired, student, or underemployed) fees (28%). There are 43 active members claiming the Pacific Islander waiver (15%). There are 21 Honorary Fellows (7%).

Geographical Breakdown of Active Members (Incl. PIs and Honorary Fellows)

When Hawai‘i is included, people based in Oceania make up 40% of our membership.

Oceania..................................................113
Hawai‘i....................................................36
Australia.................................................33
New Zealand..........................................29
Papua New Guinea.................................6
Guam.....................................................3
French Polynesia....................................2
Samoa....................................................1
American Samoa.................................1
Fiji.......................................................1
Northern Mariana Islands.....................1
North America......................................133
Continental USA.................................113
Canada.................................................19
Mexico................................................1
Europe.................................................31
Germany...............................................7
France..................................................5
Norway..................................................5
Switzerland..........................................4
Netherlands..........................................3
UK.......................................................3
Denmark..............................................1
Finland................................................1
Ireland.................................................1
Italy....................................................1
Asia.....................................................9
Japan...................................................6
Taiwan................................................3

Barbara Andersen, membership coordinator

ANNUAL MEETING SITE COORDINATOR

With respect to the our meeting in New Orleans, while there were some bumps along the way the conference location was well suited to our needs and well located to enjoy dining and adventures in the city. We also exceeded our block and met our contractual obligation.

There were some rather high costs for AV. Our cost in New Orleans was almost twice that of Kauai (from roughly 3,300.00 to 6,600.00). Members should reserve AV requests for only those things that absolutely can’t be shared electronically.
As announced previously, our next meeting will be in Auckland, New Zealand. Marama Muru-Lanning, Albert Refiti and Lisa Uperesa have been helping with some of the logistics and we have settled on Wednesday 13 February through Saturday 16 February 2019. Rooms for meetings will be on campus and catering will be a mix of vendors. Unlike a hotel, which is a one-stop shop, these sort of arrangements are a bit more complex from a planning perspective.

Because of difficulties in establishing a favorable contract with a hotel (since we are not using them for food and beverage or meeting space), we will rely on a mix of university housing and a generous listing of nearby hotels.

We also decided that our 2020 meeting will take place in Hawai‘i. I am also interested in stepping down and having my replacement shadow me for a year. Let me know if you are interested.

Jamon Halvaksz, annual meeting site coordinator

BOOK SERIES EDITOR

The book Mimesis and Pacific Transcultural Encounters: Making Likenesses in Time, Trade, and Ritual Re-configurations was published as Volume 8 in our book series in October 2017, Jeannette Mageo and Elfriede Hermann. Information about this book and the complete text of the editors' 'Introduction' can be viewed on Berghahn's web site. The next book to be published in the series will be Jenny Munro's single-authored monograph Dreams Made Small: The Education of Papuan Highlanders in Indonesia, which our publisher is announcing for May 2018. The book's cover, contents, and ordering information can also be viewed online. Please feel free at any time to email the series editor at <rs839@cam.ac.edu> with queries about possible submission of your work.

Rupert Stasch, ASAO book series editor

ARCHIVIST

As I have written in previous archivist reports, there are two forms of ASAO Archives: physical and digital.

The physical ASAO archives are housed (since 2003) in the Pacific Collection, Hamilton Library, University of Hawai‘i–Mānoa. These archives comprise materials that have been collected since the organization's inception in 1967, including meeting minutes and officer reports as well as correspondence, membership lists, etc. Access to the minutes and reports is open; access to the correspondence files requires board permission.

In January 2012, with the ASAO Board's approval, I created an online site to archive electronic versions of important ASAO documents, particularly those that ASAO Board members and officers might have need to consult on a regular basis. Because we have new board members each year, and various changes in the officers' ranks, this type of ready access might be helpful for all of us in keeping track of who's doing what, what decisions were reached previously, and what precedents exist.

One long-term archival project is scanning the older minutes and reports so that board members and officers also have ready access to digital versions of these historical documents. Another long-term project is printing all minutes and reports that were submitted electronically and updating the folders and finder lists so that the physical files in the library archive are complete. I look forward to having more time for these projects after I retire from my "day job" at the University of Hawai‘i later this year.

Jan Rensel, archivist

WEB SITE MANAGER

ASAO.org continues to enjoy consistent site traffic throughout the year, especially picking up in the months and weeks leading up to the annual meeting. Within that traffic, the most popular pages on the site are usually session proposals or reports and those related to PISF. There were also a few important updates to the site over the past year. Some ASAO-ers may have previously noticed a glitch where typing “asao.org” (without the preceding “www”) took them to an unknown and unaffiliated site. After working with our web host, Weebly, that issue has been resolved. To avoid further issues in the future, the site's domain host has been switched from iPower to Weebly (meaning that Weebly now serves as both our web and domain host). Site users may have also noticed that I merged the 2018 meeting registration and membership forms into one form (previously two separate forms) as a way to hopefully help streamline the registration and membership renewal process. Any constructive feedback on the usefulness or non-usefulness of this feature or any others on the site is always welcomed and much appreciated.

Zakea Boeger, web site manager

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE COORDINATOR

The ASAO distinguished lecture was a resounding success. Professor Lynnell Thomas (University of Massachusetts, Amherst) gave a lecture focused on her ongoing long-term work on tourism, development, and Black popular culture in the context of African American history and the history of New Orleans. She focused on Black Heritage and Black History tours in New Orleans in the wake of the Katrina disaster and the remaking of the city after the storm and after the neoliberal financial constraints put on the city in its redevelopment. Her talk moved between her ethnographic and interview based materials and an analysis of the political economy of racialized politics in the state and the city from the colonial period to the present.

We were thrilled to host her family and friends from New Orleans as guests at the lecture and to have a lively group of community members who came to the
talk and contributed greatly to the conversation that followed.

Paige West, distinguished lecture coordinator

NEWSLETTER

For the first time this past year, the ASAO Newsletter has only been produced as a digital edition. Also this is the first year that the Newsletter has been available to institutional subscribers through EBSCO on their magazine platform, Flipster. The issues were mailed to members and uploaded to the Flipster cloud server on the following dates, April 24, 2017 (#157), September 20, 2017 (#158), and January 6, 2018 (#159). At the time of this report, no institutions had chosen to subscribe to the Newsletter through Flipster (although I later learned that there is one active subscription for 2018). All in all, I consider the digital transition a qualified success. On the one hand, we are spared the extra work and complications arising from fulfilling subscriptions by mail to institutions and members who prefer print editions. On the other hand, digital subscriptions have not made ASAO more visible or made information about meetings more available than before. Meanwhile, I continue to refine the Newsletter's editorial process, and welcome criticism and suggestions from the Board, officers and readers.

Ryan Schram, Newsletter editor

FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Bozu, kia ora, halo, Hāfa ādai and aloha ASAO! The intellectual vitality—and robust collegiality—of our association was in full evidence at our dynamic New Orleans meetings. This year’s program offered abundant opportunity for productive engagement across a broad range of topics—along with the occasional Mardi Gras beads thrown in! Session reports from New Orleans are collected below, along with a good number of exciting proposals for new sessions at next year’s meetings in Auckland.

Interested in joining us next year? Session organizers and participants alike are encouraged to review the guidelines and timetable here or on the ASAO web site. A condensed version of the timetable for session organizers and participants is included below. Please note an October 1 deadline for all “special” sessions or “special” events proposals in order that the board can review such proposals and select those that fit into and merit inclusion in the overall program. All special session or event proposals can be sent through me as program coordinator and for purposes of coordination with the ASAO chair, the board of directors, and other program officers.

Colleagues considering organizing new sessions are encouraged to be in touch as soon as possible!

GUIDELINES FOR SESSION ORGANIZERS AND PARTICIPANTS

ASAO is characterized by social informality and collegial cooperation. At the same time, the rigorous examination of data and ideas in ASAO sessions is designed to lead to high-quality, publishable sets of comparative papers on topics of importance in Pacific anthropology. The format of ASAO sessions differs from those at many scholarly meetings where individual papers are presented. Instead, ASAO sessions feature the ongoing give-and-take required for penetrating intellectual examination of difficult, yet vital, issues. Generally speaking, ASAO sessions are of three types. Session organizers are free to determine what format would best meet the needs of the their group and its focal issues and publication plans!

Please note that session organizers are not in fact beholden to the “traditional” ASAO three-stage formula (i.e. “informal session” → “working session” → “symposia”). New sessions can take whatever shape organizers deem most appropriate—including but not limited to “less-traditional” formats like a workshop on field methods or a screening series of short ethnographic films. The ASAO meetings are your proverbial oyster! Simply let me know what you’re imagining; and we can work to integrate your vision into the Auckland program.
Informal sessions involve the informal sharing of ideas to determine whether there is common ground for further inquiry. Anyone who has relevant data is welcome to attend and participate. If such sessions generate enough interest, participants make plans to develop and share lists of bibliographic references, draft and circulate papers, and discuss them (possibly via e-mail) in preparation for the next stage (see below).

**Informal sessions** are of two types. Impromptu informal sessions can be announced at the opening plenary session of the annual meeting and posted on the bulletin board in the registration area during the meeting. These sessions do not have pre-arranged meeting locations but may meet in available conference rooms, participants’ rooms, or local cafes. The second type of informal session may be announced at the prior year’s meeting, proposed in the ASAO Newsletter or on ASAONET, or otherwise pre-arranged. To appear in the full schedule of the annual meeting, which is published in the December newsletter, announcements of informal sessions must be submitted to the program coordinator by November 1 (see "Key Dates for 2018 and 2019," page 3).

The level of organization for informal sessions varies. Participants are not required to write papers in advance, although it is helpful to session organizers if people advise them of their interest beforehand. If planned with sufficient lead time, some informal sessions may be well organized, with pre-circulated abstracts or papers and, perhaps, be only one or two papers shy of meeting the criteria for a working session. Thus time given to informal sessions will vary depending on the number of committed participants or people indicating an interest in the topic, and the level of organization of the session. Ordinarily, scheduled informal sessions will be given no more than three hours of meeting time, and most will receive only one and a half hours.

**Working sessions** are based on prepared papers that are briefly summarized (not read) during the session. Abstracts, if not drafts of papers, must be pre-circulated among session organizers and participants. Most of the meeting time during the session is allocated for discussing common themes, with an eye toward finding coherence and preparing for a second round of writing.

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

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

A minimum of seven participants presenting papers in person at the meeting is required for working session status. A list of participants, paper titles, and copies of their abstracts must be sent to the program coordinator by the November 1 deadline (see "Key Dates," page 3).

Sessions that do not meet these criteria by the November 1 deadline will appear on the program of the annual meeting as informal sessions.

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

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

Some symposia may require only an hour and a half to wrap up unfinished business, while others may need as much as six hours to discuss issues, themes, and future plans.

Symposium organizers should advise the program coordinator of their time requirements. The presence of seven participants with pre-circulated papers is required for full Symposium status. A list of participants, paper titles, and copies of the first and last pages of their papers must be sent to the program coordinator by the November 1 deadline (see "Key Dates," page 3). Sessions that do not meet these criteria by the November 1 deadline will appear on the program of the annual meeting as informal sessions or working sessions, according to their level of preparedness as judged by the program coordinator.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF SESSION ORGANIZERS**

Submit the required information about your session to the program coordinator by the March 20, August 20, and November 1 deadlines.

Assist any Pacific Islands scholars who are interested in applying for support from the Pacific Islands Scholars Fund (see information about and deadlines for PISF on pages 3 and 4).

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

Advise the program coordinator by November 1 of audiovisual or other special needs. The hotels are responsible for providing equipment for those with disabilities. In all other cases, however, the rental of equipment from hotels is quite expensive for ASAO. Session organizers should encourage their participants to make their own arrangements for costly equipment.

Send the program coordinator your contact information, and advise of any changes during the year.

Plan to attend both the opening plenary and closing plenary sessions at the annual meeting. All session organizers are expected to deliver a closing plenary report on the results of their sessions and future plans. If the organizers cannot be present at the closing plenary, they should appoint one of the participants to deliver the report. A written copy of the report must be sent to the program coordinator before the March 20 deadline.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SESSION PARTICIPANTS

Please respect the deadlines for your particular session and your session organizer’s responsibility for meeting the overall deadlines. Submit and circulate your abstracts and draft papers on time. Advise the organizer well in advance (before the organizer’s November 1 deadline) as to whether you will be able to attend the session in person. Members should limit themselves to participation in no more than two sessions, preferably at different levels. In the past, problems have sometimes resulted from members participating in multiple sessions. For the ASAO format to work, contributors must give their sessions their undivided attention. Multiple participation creates scheduling conflicts, which often disrupt sessions and distract contributors. If you must be in more than one session, please send the program coordinator a note indicating your priority. First priority in case of scheduling conflicts will go to session organizers and discussants. However, since ASAO sessions are lengthy and multiple-participation common, there is no guarantee that scheduling conflicts can be avoided.

All correspondence to the program coordinator should be sent by email to tlefevre@fandm.edu or by snail mail to:

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

Tate LeFevre, program coordinator

2018 SESSION REPORTS

WORKING SESSIONS

Facebook in the Pacific

Organizers: David Lipset and Eric Silverman

We continued our exploration of the relationship between social media and Pacific societies in New Orleans. We had an active and interesting second informal session, although a number of people who had participated in Kaua’i were unable to attend. We remain committed to the project and intend to hold a working session in Auckland at which we expect that drafts of papers will be presented. Topics that were discussed in New Orleans included effects on Samoan language use among Samoan youth living in Auckland, transnational communication among Micronesians on FB, transition from FB to other social media platforms, critical attitudes about FB, youth groups, such as “Planet Tonga,” on FB, the relationship of FB to politics in PNG, stratification and FB in PNG, among others.

Those who attended the session in New Orleans were: John Barker, Maggie Cummings, David Lipset, Mariko Nishitani, Helen Lee, Jordan Prokosch, Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, Juliana Flinn, and Robert Foster.

Those who have expressed interest in Kaua’i and then subsequently include Karen Brison, Steffen Dalsgaard, Courtney Handman, Alan Howard, Dan Jorgensen, Susanne Kuehling, Guido Pigliasco, Kathleen Adams, Barbara Andersen, Christiane Falck, Nancy Lutkehaus, Nicolas Garnier, Kalaniopua “Kalani” Young, Cristela Garcia-Spitz, Adrian Tanner, Paige West, Derek Milnes, Lise Dobrin, Grant McCall, Alex Golub, Allison Jablonko, John Wagner, Miriam Supuma, Tevita Kaili, Willem Church, Wolfgang Kempf, Yuyun Surya, Jan Rensel, Ryan Schram, Sabina Pearson, and Thomas Strong.

If you are inclined to participate next year, please let us know by sending us a paper title by June 1, 2018. Participants must agree to submit a full working draft of their paper by January 1, 2019. By “draft,” we mean at least 10 pages of text (doubled spaced), complete with a thesis or argument.

To assist conversation, we have set up a closed Facebook Group (email Eric if you wish to join) and also a public bibliography at Google Docs.

David Lipset, University of Minnesota lipset001@umn.edu; Eric K. Silverman, Research Professor of Anthropology, Brandeis University eric18@brandeis.edu

Large-Scale International Capital and Local Inequalities

Organizers: Bettina Beer, Tobias Schwoerer, and Doris Bacalzo
This working session focused on how the flow of international capital to Pacific nations in the form of large-scale extractive and development projects shapes and transforms local inequalities. A total of six papers were presented that discussed a wide range of cases, including mining prospects (Willem Church), infrastructure development (Bettina Beer), a hydropower dam (Shu-Yuan Yang), logging and agro-industrial projects (Jason Roberts), large-scale tourism (Yu-Chien Huang) and the conduct of elections as a form of vote and legitimacy extraction (Bruce Knauft). As durable inequalities are relational and thus the product of interactions between different categories of people, attendees paid attention to how inequalities manifest between different entities. We considered differences between gender, age and status groups, between communities that are directly impacted and those that are not, as well as between communities and the state or the corporate forms that are involved. In some of the ethnographic cases local communities were fractured by the diverging desires whereas in others they pulled together to resist these projects. We discussed the role of land as undergirding local livelihoods, issues of displacement and dispossession, the desire for development by local communities that lead to engagement with resource extraction companies, and the importance of the creation of corporate groups among the local communities for the development of inequalities.

We will continue the discussion of the mechanisms leading to durable inequalities and the commonalities and differences between the case studies in a Symposium in Auckland. There is still space for additional case studies, and if anyone is interested in contributing, please contact the session organizers by August 1st, 2018.

Bettina Beer, University of Lucerne
bettina.beer@unilu.ch; Tobias Schwoerer, University of Lucerne tswchoerer@gmail.com; Doris Bacalzo, University of Lucerne dbacalzo@gmail.com

Women and Fieldwork
Organisers: Barbara Andersen, Chelsea Wentworth, Fele Uperesa

Attendees/participants: Barbara Andersen, Chelsea Wentworth, Lila Moosad, Peggy Fairbaim-Dunlop, Veronica Miranda, Maggie Cummings, Makiko Nishitani, Mary Good, Deborah Gewertz, Mary Spencer, Helen Lee, Alexis Tucker Sade

The second year of the Women & Fieldwork session was originally planned to be a working session where papers discussed last year in Kauai would be developed further. However, no papers were received so we decided to have an open-ended discussion about why the session may be needed and where it will go in the future. Participants discussed gendered aspects of fieldwork such as assault and harassment, menstruation, sexual and romantic relationships, pregnancy and childbirth, collaborative research, fictive kinship in the field, mentoring, ethnicity and indigienity, career pressures, and experiences of confinement.

Barbara and Chelsea mentioned that they were not interested in continuing to organise the session next year in Auckland, but encouraged other people who might be interested in building on the discussion to take up the reins. In lieu of a traditional publication, the possibility of a blog or blog post series dedicated to gendered aspects of fieldwork was suggested, and some participants indicated that they would be interested in writing short blog pieces. Fele Uperesa has indicated that she may be interested in organising a blog series some time in the future.

Barbara Andersen, Massey University
<B.Andersen1@massey.ac.nz; Chelsea Wentworth, Highpoint University swenwer@highpoint.edu; and Fele Uperesa, University of California feleuperesa@gmail.com

ASAO Histories
Organizers: Jan Rensel and Alan Howard

This was our fourth gathering and third working session on various aspects of ASAO’s history. There were 11 people present (including the 2 session organizers via one Skype connection), plus 4 authors and numerous commentators contributing in absentia. The focus of our discussion was “What next?” and the goals of the session were to consider a range of possible audiences for the materials we are generating and possible venues whereby to reach them; to provide authors with ideas of how to develop or finalize their papers for particular audiences and venues; and to identify additional topics that would be useful to research. The consensus was that, although some of the papers could be developed to address wider audiences (particularly those interested in the history of anthropology or the history of associations), most of the current papers would be of greatest interest to ASAO members, and some in particular to ASAO officers and board members, and we will be exploring best ways to make them available online once they are all finished. The organizers will be checking with all the participants to see whether we will convene again in person next year in Auckland.

In one core paper, “A History of ASAO Sessions: Formats and Topics,” Alex Mawyer and Alan Howard draw on a massive amount of data that they have assembled from ASAO newsletters about the more than 700 ASAO sessions held since the organization’s inception in the late 1960s, including the organizers, authors, and paper titles in each of those sessions, geographical focuses, topical areas, and whether the sessions gave rise to publications. This data compilation will undoubtedly be useful for further analyses, including for the authors of other papers in this session.

Other papers in the session address the histories of the Distinguished Lectures and the ASAO Monograph/Book series; the processes of annual meeting site selection; the early evolution and significance of membership categories; the importance of mentoring and networking with students as exemplified by Jane Goodale; the origins of the Pacific Islands Scholars Fund and reflections on other ways of encouraging Pacific Islander par-
plication and membership; an account of experiencing ASAO through ASAO-Net; the intertwined histories of the what was once the Association for Social Anthropology in Eastern Oceania (ASAOE) and NEWS, the NorthEast Wantok System newsletter for Melanesianists, in light of the gradually increasing involvement of the latter in the broadened ASAO; and the development of the ASAO website.

Jan Rensel, Center for Pacific Islands Studies, UH Mānoa renssel@hawaii.edu; Alan Howard, Anthropology Department, UH Mānoa ahoward@hawaii.edu

Authenticity and Authoring in Pacific Cultures

Organizers: Jeanette Mageo and Joyce D. Hammond

Jeanette Mageo and Joyce Hammond convened the session Authenticity and Authoring in Pacific Cultures on Friday morning, February 2 for a full day of lively and stimulating presentations and discussion. A total of ten papers were presented and discussed. Several conference attendees joined us in the morning. The session began with Jeanette Mageo presenting an introductory paper entitled “On the Interrelations between Authoring and Appropriation.” Nine other papers followed that included two by Pacific scholars Sei O'Brien and Alphonse Aime Yambisang. Presenters included Doug Dalton whose paper “Authenticity and the Sentiment of Being: The Rawa Song of the Flying Fox as Authentic Tradition” (read in absensia by Jordan Prokosch) examined the origins and development of the concept(s) of authenticity as necessary background for his work on the Rawa song of the flying fox as central to the cultural core. In “Whose Authenticity? Tenues Végétales in Beauty Competitions in Tahiti,” Joyce Hammond discussed reasons islanders are likely to consider the garments created from natural materials used in a segment of Tahitian beauty contests as authentic rather than accquiescence to outsiders’ expectations. From Sei O’Brien’s paper, “Noah’s Ark: Tuvaluan Elders’ Response to the Auckland Museum,” we learned that Tuvaluan elders are overwhelmingly grateful for the museum’s Tuvaluan collections, especially in their desire for younger members of their diasporic community to learn about their ancestral culture. Deborah Waite’s paper “Serembule Past and Present: What is Authentic Serembule?” (read in absensia by Joyce Hammond) focused on the multi-dimensional aspects of authenticity tied to changes over time in regards to shell valuables from the Western Province of the Solomon Islands.

Some present conceptions of authenticity derive from a reconceptualization of the shells as art created by island artists and acquired by individual collectors, museums and galleries. Bruce Knauff presented “Authorship, Authenticity, and Multiple Authorship in the Rawa Song of the Flying Fox.” In his paper, he examined the ways in which he and the discipline of anthropology have changed over time in regard to the questions of historical construction, authenticity, and author function. In “Mimicry, Authenticity, and Identity in early 20th century American Samoa,” Jeanette Mageo drew upon extensive archival research to examine the evidence for American and Samoan fantasies about identity as revealed in acts of mimicry in American Samoan photographs. Toon van Meijl’s paper, “Authenticity in Analogy between Past and Present: Towards an Anthropology of Cultural Change,” took up the question of whether the question of authenticity emerges in contexts of cultural innovation when people question whether innovation implies discontinuity with the past, drawing upon the Maori Renaissance as a case study. Sarina Pearson presented “Ethnographic Orientalism” and Digital Storytelling in the Pacific.” Her paper queried the politics of a disagreement of what constitutes authentic representation of a group of Polynesians using digital photographs and their voices to tell stories of their lives. Alphonse Aime Yambisang’s paper, “Unwrapping the Social and Cultural Significance of Silt-drums of the Pacific—especially Papua New Guinea,” introduced us to slit drums as a living, generative, and authentic tradition among the Kayan people of Bogia District in Madang Province Papua New Guinea. In this our third session, we continued to examine the historical rootedness of the concept of authenticity in Western thought, as well as the meaning and usefulness of some variants of authenticity within Pacific societies. The interrelationships of authoring and authenticity deepened our discussions as well. Our group agreed that with the diverse ethnographic subject matter and approaches to the topics of authenticity and authoring, a useful and ethnographically rich volume could be produced. Jeanette Mageo and Bruce Knauff will take up editorial tasks to shepherd the project along.

Jeanette Mageo, Washington State University mageo@wsu.edu; Joyce Hammond, Western Washington University joyce.hammond@wwu.edu

Pacific Youth: Pasifika Futures

Organizer: Helen Lee

Pacific childhood and youth, in the islands and the diaspora, were the focus of this excellent session. This year we continued the discussions begun in 2017, with the presentation organized into several broad thematic areas: youth participation and empowerment; livelihoods/employment; and migration, wellbeing and identity. A number of other key themes emerged and our discussant Bob Franco helped draw these out.

Participants included: Desiree Barron-Callaci, Larry Carucci, Mary K Good, Rachel Emerine Hicks, Tate LeFevre, Helen Lee, Veronica Miranda, Lila Moosad, David Oakeshott, Seipua (Sei) O’Brien, and Mary L. Spencer. Others who expressed interest in participating but were unable to attend include: Imelda Ambelye, Doris Bacalzo, Aidan Craney, Daniel Evans, Aaron Ferguson, Christopher Little, Caleb Panapa Marsters, Jemima Tiatia-Seath and Patrick Vakaotii.

The intention is to move towards publication rather than continue the session in 2019. Participants are currently discussing publication options, including the possibility of an edited volume to follow up the ASAO monograph Adolescence in Pacific Island Societies (Herdt and Leavitt, eds, 1998).
The Experiential Root of Mana
Organizer: Marianne (Mimi) George

The Experiential Root of Mana session Was the third and last in a series of sessions exploring the possibility that the concept of manahas its foundations in the direct experience of psychic energy during alternative states of consciousness. In this year’s session we considered 6 papers and 2 abstracts without papers. Most of our presentations were presented by Skype by way of a laptop. On the final evening of the ASAO meeting four of the authors were invited to submit a proposal to publish as a special issue of the peer-reviewed journal Time and Mind.

The titles of the four papers are: 1) MANA: PSYCHIC ENERGY, SPIRITUAL POWER, AND THE EXPERIENCING BRAIN by Charles D Laughlin, 2) MANA, MANA, A MANA PAHA? HO’AILONA A ME HO’IKE (WHAT IS THIS EXPERIENCE? WHO GETS TO SPEAK?) by Karen M Fox, 3) EXPERIENCING MANA AS WIND/WEATHER by Marianne George, and 4) THE CELESTIAL ROOTS OF MANA by Martha Noyes.

The Experiential Roots of Mana session will not be continued as a symposium. But another session may be proposed for 2019, that will center on the more general issue of transpersonal experience and altered states of consciousness in Pacific spiritual traditions.

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

Sounds of the Pacific
Organizers: Karen Fox, Andie Palmer, Nancy Lutkehaus, and Eric Silverman

We had six presentations and another 6 to 8 dedicated and engaged participants who made very useful and enthusiastic comments. Presentations included:

Maria Lepowsky (Wisconsin), “Singing with spirits: Soundscapes, aural histories, and aural modernities in the Louisiade Archipelago”

Hao-Li Lin (National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan) “Songs, Hymns, and the Negotiation of Identities in Waitabu, Fiji”


Lisa Burke, (Framingham), “Feeling the Spirit of the Dance: Kiribati Performance as a Sonic and Physical Expression of Place”

Albert Refiti, (Auckland University of Technology) “Songs from the Inside: Samoan vi’i o pagota”

Nancy Lutkehaus (University of Southern California) From “Crying Songs” to Pacific Pop: Manam Soundscapes, a “Sense of Place” and Cultural Identity

Although the subjects discussed ranged from traditional Sepik region bamboo flute music to Tongan Mormon hip hop hymns performed at kava clubs in Salt Lake City, there were several common themes and topics that began to emerge through the papers, including the concept of changing soundscapes, the nature of sonic or aural memory, the role of affect, identity and place as expressed through song and sound more broadly, and music as a form of “soft diplomacy” or resistance. After having met for several years as a working session with a varying set of participants at previous ASAO meetings, we have decided to advance next year to a symposium in Auckland, where we understand there is a particularly vibrant scene for music and the study of ethnomusicology with which we hope to engage. In Auckland we anticipate an additional two to four presentations, including papers presented at earlier working sessions by Andie Palmer and Eric Silverman, as well as new papers from Christiane Falke and Alphonse Aime. Questions and interest in the session should be sent to the session’s organizers.

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

Women and Power in Polynesia
Organizers: Melani Anae, Penelope Schoeffel

At the informal Session in Kaua’i last year it was agreed that we would not meet in New Orleans in 2018 but that manuscripts would be circulated to encourage cross – citation and shared readership. It was proposed 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 was to present final papers at a formal symposium in 2019 at the ASAO conference in Auckland, as quite a few members were not able to attend the New Orleans meeting. Since this meeting only a few papers have been received and circulated with the general consensus that most final papers will be forthcoming in November 2018.

Fortuitously I was able to attend the New Orleans meeting. Thirteen people attended our Session: Saili Doktor, Micah Van Der Ryn, Alphonse Aime, Albert Refiti, Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, Desiree Chan Chui (PIF Awardee), Makita Nishitani, Mimi George, Helen Lee, Sel O’Brien (PIF Awardee), Kayleigh DeBroyne, Tia Tupuola and myself. Desiree Chan Chui (University of Auckland) talked to her abstract and paper on ‘Violence against females in Samoa: 1970-2000’, and 2 new abstracts were tabled: ‘Multi-generational experiences of
young motherhood amongst native Hawaiian’ by Veron-
ica Miranda (Santa Clara University), and ‘Negotiating
the va: new spaces, hierarchies and boundaries for
women in Samoa’ by A’anoaili Fulufiafaga (Auckland
University of Technology).

There was a very lively discussion during the meeting
on a variety of issues relating to Polynesian women dis-
empowerment and re-empowerment with some inter-
esting perspectives from the 9 new session attendees.
At the session I advised all that I had put in an applica-
tion to chair a session on our topic at the Pacific History
Conference at Cambridge in December, and that this
would be another opportunity to present final papers
before the ASAO Auckland meeting in 2019.

Existing participants with abstracts received and pend-
ing are Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, Phyllis Herda, Penny
Schoeffel, Melani Anae, Judith Huntsman, Tanya Samu,
Fata Simanu-Klutz, Saili 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 To-
evai, Veronica Miranda, A’anoaili Fulufiafaga, Ceridwyn
Spark, Sili Pita.

If any of the Session attendees at the New Orleans
meeting wish to send in an abstract for inclusion in our
publication, please contact the organisers.

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

INFORMAL SESSIONS
Mapping, GIS and Social Geography in the Pacific,
Problems and Prospects
Organizers: Joshua Bell and David Lipset

We had an encouraging informal session in New Or-
lace on a variety of topics associated with maps and
mapping practices in Pacific societies. Topics that were
raised included local meanings of maps in song,
chants, etc., locally drawn maps, the significance of
maps for local sovereignty and property claims, particu-
larly in the contexts of extractive industry, mapping
practices in relationship to pre-existing local-level poli-
tics, structural divisions and rivalry, the gender of maps,
the meaning of boundaries, and, not least, mapping and
fieldwork ethics. We intend to follow up in Auckland by
holding a working session. Please contact one of the
session organizers by 1 June with a paper title, if you
are interested in participating.

Attendees in New Orleans included: Alphonse Aime,
Josh Bell, Kali Fermantez, Jamon Halvakisz, Grant
Hayes, Jerry Jacka, David Lipset, Harley Manner, Joran
Prokosch, Ryuju Satomi, and Micah Vander Ryn.

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

The Urban Pacific
Organizers: Michelle Rooney and Paige West

We had eleven participants in the Urban Pacific session
with papers focusing on how people imagine urban
lives, trans local communities, surburbanization, urban
infrastructure, migration, the role of the state in the
management of the urban, new media and urban be-
longing, the relationship between international aid and
Pacific urban communities, settler colonialism and race
in cities, rural to urban social ties, on climate change
and urban migration. The conversation was lively and
we plan to come together again in 2019 with 8000 word
papers.

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

New Voices in Pacific Anthropology
Organizers: Alex Golub and Paige West

This session went very well, with about seventeen par-
ticipants in total. The goal of the session was to have
first-time ASAO attendees come and get to know each
other and talk about current issues. In the first half of
the session we introduced ourselves and our interests.
Did a quick collaborative exercise to identify key
themes which were interesting to participants. These
ended up being youth, education, environment, and
knowledge production (among others). We then broke
into small groups to discuss the themes. We look for-
ward to repeating this session again with a new group
of first-time ASAO attendees in Auckland.

Anyone who wants to attend ASAO for the first time and
wants to participate in a low-stress, welcoming environ-
ment and meet new people should contact us so they
can come to our session.

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

Affect and Place in the Contemporary Pacific
Organizers: Paige West and Jamon Halvakisz

We had a productive and exciting session with thirty-six
participants, seventeen of whom have committed to
writing 8000 word papers for the continuation of the
session next year in Auckland. Our group consisted of
scholars working across the full Pacific region, with both
urban and rural based projects. All of the participants
talked about their on-going work focused on affect,
space, place, and subjectivity. Specific topics included
 taboo, climate change, soundscapes, labor and gender,
commemoration, landscapes and social relations, cus-
Reports were not received for the following sessions:

- The Pacific Ocean as a New Frontier? (I)
- Micronesian Public Health: Social, Cultural, and Political Determinants in Islands and US Mainland (I)
- Anthropologists Facing Decolonization in the Pacific: Actors, Witnesses, or Victims of History? (I)
- Schools in the Pacific (W)
- Healthy Islands/Healthy People: Examining Health Promotion Programs and NCDs in the Pacific (W)
- Imaginary Peoples of the Pacific (W)

NEW SESSION PROPOSALS

Kava: A global phenomenon? (W)

Organizer: Apo Aporosa

Two decades ago Lebot, Merlin & Lindstrom (1992) predicted a time when kava would become a “world drug”. Since then, there has been a rapid growth of kava bars in the USA, venues that mimic small nightclubs and licenced cafes, which attract customers seeking to de-stress with an alternative to alcohol. Likewise, there have recently been pop-culture and online claims that kava is “officially trending”. However, such reports fail to include the growth of private kava venues in previously unimagined places like France, China, India and the UK, where diasporic Pacific communities embrace their traditional substance as part of cultural continuance, or as a means of engaging with their local (host) communities. This working session seeks contributions that address contemporary kava themes, ranging from its use in the Pacific today, to kava’s diverse manifestations in ever-changing contexts around the world.

The call for abstracts is now open and will close on 1 August 2018. Please send your abstract (of no more than 300 words) or enquiries to apo.aporosa@waikato.ac.nz

Stitching New Traditions: Quilting in Polynesia (I)

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 2019, 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

‘The apotheosis of anthropologists’ – ontological, ethical, moral, and methodological dilemmas in Pacific ethnography (I)

Organizers: Fraser MacDonald and Christiane Falck

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

In this informal session, we would like to address a topic that anthropologists have yet to fully explore and, furthermore, think about what analytical value it might bear. We call for abstracts that address the consequences that this kind of ‘othering’ might have on anthropological fieldwork. What ontological, ethical, moral, psychological, or methodological problems arise when the anthropologist is understood as a being with ‘spiritual’ agency and knowledge? What chances or problems arise from a dissolving boundary between ‘self’ and ‘other’ when the anthropologist is appropriated as being ‘one of them’?
Interested participants are asked to send the organizers an abstract of 250 words.

Fraser Macdonald (University of Waikato, New Zealand) fraser.macdonald@waikato.ac.nz; Christiane Falck (University of Goettingen, Germany) christiane.falck@uni-goettingen.de

Growing Old in the Pacific (I)
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 2019 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

Dreaming in the Pacific (I)
Organizers: Marianne “Mimi” George and Charles D. Laughlin

Mimi George and Charles Laughlin have been interested in how people in different cultures experience and interpret their dreams. We are both “lucid dreamers” and are very aware of how realistic (perhaps hyper-realistic) dreams can be. Dreaming is a human universal. Humans dream along with other big-brained animals. Thus, every society features a “dream culture” which informs members about the significance of their dreams (Laughlin 2011). In technocratic cultures, the value of dreaming is typically negligible. However, among most of the planet’s non-technocratic peoples, dreaming is considered an extension of reality. What happens in dreams is significant, and in some cases vital. Indeed, dreaming is commonly integral to a people’s world view, their spiritual life and their understanding of healing/reconciliation, time, place, and causation.

So it is with the peoples of the Pacific. Regardless of the focus of their research, Western ethnographers almost inevitably encounter a society’s dream culture during their fieldwork experience (e.g., George 1995a, 1995b; Lohmann 2003; Mimica 2013; Storlie 2012; Tonkinson 2013). Of course, First Nations scholars have been raised in this kind of culture and can speak to dreaming from direct experience. There has been an increased interest among anthropologists in the transpersonal aspects of culture, including dreaming. We want to find out whether there is sufficient interest in the topic of Pacific dream cultures among our ASAO colleagues to plan a more formal working session of this issue in 2020.

References:


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

Considering Lata: Hero of a Thousand Faces (I)
Organizers: Heuionalani Wyeth and Marianne “Mimi” George

Lata, Laka, La’a, Rata, Ata, etc. are variations on the name of an Indo-Pacific culture hero. Today, the people of Taumako, SE Solomon Islands, describe Lata as the first person to build and navigate a voyaging canoe. They tell episodes of the story and assume the identity
of characters in the story during the process of building a voyaging canoe and sailing to other islands. Maori of Aotearoa tell of Rata launching a voyaging vessel in a flood (Te Puke). Hawaiians honor Laka, Goddess of the Forest, and remember the story of cutting down a tree to make a voyaging canoe, and every night it became a tree again…and how little people (menehune) helped Laka build the voyaging canoe by doing the work. Amis of Taiwan honor Lakaa, a God of the seashore. Is Lata north of the equator a more feminine character? Is Lata a story of Austronesian origin? What peoples of the western, north Pacific told, or tell, this story? In this session we aim to locate, and consider relationships between episodes and stories of Lata as they are told or recorded throughout Oceania. By comparing and contrasting themes and presentations we aim to understand more about oral traditions about Lata, and how they may be lived experiences today, and may serve as archetypes for the future.

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Four members have been nominated for (two vacancies) to the ASAO Board of Directors. Voting will be conducted via electronic survey, with paper ballots sent to former hard-copy subscribers of the Newsletter. Active members will receive an invitation to participate and vote.

Kali Fermantez, Bingham Young University, La‘ie Hawai‘i

Dr Fermantez is currently Associate Professor at the Jonathan Napela Center for Hawaiian and Pacific Islands Studies at Brigham Young University Hawaii. Before coming to BYU-Hawaii, Dr. Fermantez was Assistant Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Hawaii at Hilo (2007-2009). A Native Hawaiian, he grew on Oahu’s North Shore and received his undergraduate degree from BYU-Hawaii in History and Pacific Studies and his PhD in Geography from the University of Hawaii at Manoa (2007). He also received graduate certificates in Pacific Island Studies and International Cultural Studies from UH. Returning to Laie has enabled Dr. Fermantez to teach and research at home in the indigenous context. His research focuses on the ways place, culture, and identity are meaningfully linked in the contemporary Pacific. He is particularly interested in the way cultural revitalization can empower island peoples as they draw from the past and navigate into the future. His recent work has examined the ways in which contemporary Pacific culture is integrated within his home community on the North Shore. He has published on contemporary Native Hawaiian sense of place and identity as well as on the indigenous, local, and global articulations of surfing. His current research focuses on the ways American Football (a sport in which the North Shore community has had success and gained notoriety) can be a lens through which issues of Pacific Islander migration, race, class, and masculinity can be viewed.

Victoria Stead, Deakin University, Melbourne

I am a sociocultural anthropologist based at Deakin University, Melbourne, whose work also has an interdisciplinary bent (drawing on my training in politics and history). I currently have two ongoing research projects that are slowly unfolding into books: the first explores war memory and postcolonial politics of recognition in the context of the growing war tourism industry in Oro Province, Papua New Guinea (currently funded through a Discovery Indigenous grant from the Australian Research Council, 2018-2021). The second project is ethnographically centered on a horticultural region in central Victoria, Australia, and the landscapes of belonging that are created through the labor of Pacific Islanders and other migrants. Indigenous people and settler farmers (supported through an Australian Research Council Early Career Research Fellowship, 2018-2021). My previous book, Becoming Landowners: Entanglements of Custom and Modernity in Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste, was published by University of Hawai‘i Press in 2017, and I’ve also recently co-edited two special editions, of Anthropological Forum (‘Moral Horizons of Land and Place’, with Michèle Dominy), and of Post-colonial Studies (‘Beyond Recognition’, with Samantha Balaton-Chrimes). I’m on the Executive of the Australian Association for Pacific Studies, and the editor of the AAP’S’ new Book Series. I was a participant at the 2017 ASAO meeting in Hawai‘i, missing the 2018 meeting because of pregnancy, but excited about being back at Auckland in 2019 and contributing to building and supporting rich, vibrant scholarship in and of Oceania.

J.C. Salyer, Barnard College, Columbia University NYC

Dr Salyer is an anthropologist and a lawyer whose work focuses on law and society, migration, climate change, and social justice. He is an assistant professor of practice at Barnard College, Columbia University in the Anthropology department and in the Human Rights program. He is also the staff attorney for the Arab-American Family Support Center, a community-based organization in Brooklyn, where he runs the organization’s immigration clinic. J.C. has regularly attended ASAO meetings since 2015. He is a co-organizer of Pacific Climate Circuits, a three-year symposium at the Columbia University Center for the Study of Social Difference, which considers issues relating to climate change in the Pacific through the lens of indigenous scholarship, the social sciences, and the humanities. His current research is on issues of migration, human rights, and sovereignty relating to the Australian government’s policy of placing asylum seekers in a detention center on Manus Island, Papua New Guinea.

Sa‘iliemanu Lilomaiava-Doktor, University of Hawai‘i, West O‘ahu Hawai‘i

Sa‘iliemanu Lilomaiava-Doktor (Sa‘ili) is associate professor of Hawaiian and Pacific Studies at the University of Hawai‘i-West Oahu (UHWO). I have a BA in Geography from the University of Newcastle, NSW; MA in Pacific Islands Studies and PhD in Geography both from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I teach courses on human and cultural geography, tourism, development, migration and diaspora examining the local and global dialectics, and discourses of development and the sustainability of these processes in Hawaii and the Pacific. I am interested in theorizing what transnationalism means for the conceptions of territory, place, and the nation state. I also focus on locating the indigenous reference explicitly in Pacific ways of knowing. Some of my community advocacy groups include being a board member of directors of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii, and faculty advisor to the Hawaiian-Pacific studies club. I am a member of Ethnic Specialty/Indigenous Specialty/Cultural Geography Specialty Groups in American Association of Geographers, AAG. I am honored to be nominated to the board of ASAO, if elected I hope to continue expanding its membership, promoting diversity, enhancing its Pacific regional and global reach, and seeking ways to promote greater engagement by all of ASAO membership especially for more vulnerable but exceptionally valuable Pacific Islander students work and junior faculty members to enhance professional and intellectual experiences of all attendees at the annual meetings.
The Contemporary Pacific, volume 30 (issue 1), is now available and contains the following pieces:

“‘What Now, Fishgate?’ Scandal, Marae Moana, and Nation Making in the Cook Islands,” by Trevor J Durbin

“Living Other-wise’: The Bushmen Farming Network as an Example of ‘Alter-native’ Counter Practices to Agriculture and Development,” by Michael Spann

“Repackaging Tradition in Tahiti? Mono’i and Labels of Origin in French Polynesia,” by Kate Stevens

“Making Pacific Languages Discoverable: A Project to Catalog the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa Library Pacific Collection by Indigenous Languages,” by Eleanor Kleiber, Andrea L Berez-Kroecker, Michael Chopey, Danielle Yarbrough, and Ryan Shelby

The issue also features the art of Maika’i Tubbs, political reviews of Micronesia and Polynesia, a film review forum about Disney’s Moana, and ten other book and media reviews.
The ASAO Newsletter is published three times yearly (April, September, December). Members and fellows of ASAO receive issues as a benefit of their membership in ASAO. To become a member of ASAO, contact the membership coordinator. In 2018, 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. Current and past issues of the Newsletter are also available from http://asao.org as an open-access publication. ISSN 1095-3000

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