FROM THE EDITOR

A happy 2016, and welcome to a new issue of the Newsletter. In this issue, I have the pleasure to present you with session reports from the ASAO annual meeting in February, and the annual reports from ASAO’s officers.

It’s never too early to get ready for our 2017 meeting on Kaua‘i. If you’re planning a symposium or just starting to think of a new topic, the dates you need to know are on page 3 of this issue.

ASAO will soon ask members to vote on the nominees to the Board of Directors. The nominees have provided statements. A ballot will be sent by email to all ASAO members shortly.

(Members who receive print copies of the Newsletter will find their ballot enclosed.) Likewise, three scholars have been nominated to become honorary fellows of ASAO. As usual, statements about the nominees come from their students, colleagues and collaborators, and each is a very touching tribute. I hope you enjoy reading them as much as I have.

Readers, you may notice there’s been a few changes, large and small, in our Newsletter. I hope they make for an enjoyable reading experience. Comments and suggestions on how to improve the Newsletter and its processes are always welcome.

Ryan Schram, Newsletter editor

IN THIS ISSUE

From the editor .......................................................................................................................... 1
Letter from the chair .................................................................................................................. 2
Announcing the 2017 meeting .................................................................................................. 2
Key dates for 2016 .................................................................................................................... 3
The Pacific Islands Scholars Fund ............................................................................................ 3
Officers’ reports for 2015 ......................................................................................................... 4
  Annual meeting site coordinator ............................................................................................ 4
  Treasurer ............................................................................................................................... 4
  Membership coordinator ....................................................................................................... 4
  Pacific Islands Scholars Fund ............................................................................................... 5
  Distinguished lecture coordinator ......................................................................................... 5
  Book series editor ................................................................................................................ 5
  Secretary ............................................................................................................................... 6
  Archivist ............................................................................................................................... 6
  Web site manager ................................................................................................................ 6
  Newsletter ............................................................................................................................. 7
From the program coordinator ............................................................................................... 7
2016 session reports ................................................................................................................ 9
  Formal symposia .................................................................................................................. 9
  Working sessions ................................................................................................................ 12
  Informal sessions ................................................................................................................ 15
  New session proposals ........................................................................................................ 17
Nominees for the Board of Directors .................................................................................... 18
Nominees for Honorary Fellow ............................................................................................. 19
Announcements ....................................................................................................................... 21
In memoriam Ann Chowning, 1929—2016 .......................................................................... 21
ASAO Board of Directors ....................................................................................................... 22
ASAO Officers ......................................................................................................................... 22
LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

É ngā tāngata o ngā hau e whā, tēnā koutou katoa
To the people of the four winds, warm greetings from Aotearoa-New Zealand.

It is a pleasure to share my news and give some insights into the planning for 2016–17 of the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania (ASAO) in this newsletter. However, before I do this there a few people that I would like to acknowledge. First, a special thank-you to Helen Lee, our past Chair whose inclusive and considered leadership saw us through 2015. I am also grateful to long-serving treasurer, Mary McCutcheon, and our ever-efficient secretary, Jerry Jacka. I acknowledge these three people especially because this is their last year serving ASAO in these roles.

Let me also acknowledge Ryan Schram for his wonderful work in securing the Catamaran Hotel in San Diego for our 2016 meeting and our diligent program coordinator, Alex Mawyer who organised a flawless schedule. Highlights from the 2016 programme included a Conversation with the Chamorro Optimist Club. This session highlighted the vitality of the Chamorro community in southern California and offered us the opportunity to get some insight into this thriving diaspora. Another success of our meeting’s programme was the special screening of the film Island Soldier. This was followed by a Q&A with the film’s director Nathan Fitch. Also, crucial to the meeting’s success were our session organisers who facilitated great conversations and the members who volunteered their time to tend the registration desk and book display. The book display organised by David Troolin was again fantastic. We were very grateful for the large crop of books that found their way to San Diego even though David and our loyal book guardian, Ryojin Tamakoshi, were unable to attend the meeting. The distinguished lecture by Jonathan Fried from the University of California, San Diego captured a large audience and provoked much discussion and debate from our members. Prof. Friedman’s dialogue reminded us of the work of many of our anthropological ancestors, in particular, those protagonists who have battled out scholarship using tradition and invention debates. Lamont Lindstrom, who coordinated this special address, will be working with Jonathan to publish his lecture in Oceania.

Unfortunately, due to budget constraints, our 2017 annual meeting, which was scheduled for Tahiti has been relocated to Kaua‘i, Hawai‘i. A big thank you to those members who participated in our ASAO meeting survey, the results of which were revealing and will be used to plan future meetings. Thanks to Alan Howard and Jerry Jacka for speedily organising the survey. The arrangements for our 2017 meeting are well underway and I would like to thank Jamon Halvaksz for championing this challenging task. Please remember to donate generously to the Pacific Islands Scholars’ Fund (PISF) so that we may assist emerging Pacific scholars to attend ASAO Kaua‘i in 2017. This initiative is being led by Tate LeFevre, Kirsten McGavin, and Lisa Uperesa. At this time it gives me great pleasure to announce that Dr Teresia Teaiwa from Victoria University of Wellington, will give our 2017 distinguished lecture in Kaua‘i. A brief biography of Teresia and her work will be released in due course. The lecture selection panel included Lamont Lindstrom, Alex Mawyer and myself.

I encourage you all to take the time to read the information later in this newsletter about the nominees we have standing for the upcoming Board election. We have four terrific nominees, they are: Alex Mawyer, Albert Refiti, John Taylor, and Chelsea Wentworth. Members will receive an invitation to vote by electronic ballot. The nominees’ bios will be attached for review. We also have three nominees standing for ASAO honorary fellow status, they are: Richard Feinberg, Judith Huntsman, and Malama Meleisea. These scholars have made outstanding contributions to research and scholarship in the Pacific and together they may help fill the huge gap left by the recent passing of honorary fellow, Ann Chowing.

Reflecting on my short time as chair, let me say that it is great to be involved with such a dynamic group of board members and officers. I note we have been successful in recruiting some new officers for 2017 and their names will be announced at a later date. ASAO is a robust anthropological organisation and as our membership diversifies across boundaries of discipline, ethnicity, geography, and age, I hope we will continue to strive for research excellence in the parts of Oceania that are dear to us.

Lastly, I would like to thank my colleagues from the James Henare Māori Research Centre and the University of Auckland for their administrative assistance and for also giving me time to carry out my ASAO tasks.

Ngā mihi nui kia koutou,
Marama Muru-Lanning

ANNOUNCING THE 2017 MEETING

The 2017 ASAO meeting will be held February 7–12 at the Kaua‘i Beach Resort in Līhu‘e, Hawai‘i on the island of Kaua‘i. We have a room rate of US$175.00 per night (plus taxes and an $11.00 fee per room which covers valet parking, self-parking, shuttle services, wifi and many entertainment options). This rate is good for four days before and after our event. The hotel will provide shuttle service to and from the airport, and scheduled shuttles to local shopping and dining areas, and will increase the frequency of these during the weekend. The hotel also has a rental car agency on-site, so attendees can book a car for a few days without paying airport car rental fees. More information on the hotel and registration will be available in the next newsletter.–Jamon Halvaksz, site coordinator
KEY DATES FOR 2016

February 9-12  2016 annual meeting held in San Diego, California.

March 20  **All session organizers** from the 2016 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 sessions in 2017, send your announcement to the program coordinator.

August 20  **All session organizers** should send to the program coordinator an updated announcement of their session to the program coordinator, including any deadlines.

October 1  Deadline for all application materials for PISF grants.

By late October  Participants in **working sessions** should send their paper abstracts to the session organizer for pre-circulation to participants.

Symposium participants should submit their papers to the session organizer for pre-circulation.

November 1  **Informal session organizers** should submit an updated description of their session and list of names of those intending to participate to the program coordinator.

**Organizers of working sessions and symposia** should submit a final list of presentations in the sessions, including the names of those presenting (noting any *in absentia* papers), titles of papers, and how much time is needed for the whole session to the program coordinator.

November 15  PISF awards announced.

December 15  Deadline for PISF awardees to accept their awards.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS SCHOLARS FUND

The Pacific Islands Scholars Fund supports attendance and participation by Pacific Islands scholars at ASAO meetings. We are particularly interested in supporting younger scholars and those who have not previously attended ASAO meetings, but we encourage all prospective Pacific Islands participants (from undergrads through senior scholars) to apply! See http://www.asao.org/pisf.html for information on how to apply and deadlines, and email the co-chairs with any questions.

An Appeal: Donate to PISF Today!

PISF currently finds itself very short of funds. In 2016, we had to turn away more than one very deserving PISF applicant because we simply could not guarantee minimum funding necessary for all those qualified to travel to the San Diego meetings. Thus, while we remain deeply grateful for the—in many cases outstanding—generosity of the modest individuals who have recently made major contributions, as well as to those of you who regularly contribute smaller amounts, we want to take this opportunity to encourage all ASAO members to take note and do more.

The new ASAO website makes donating to PISF easier than figuring out how to use Twitter! You can now make a secure online donation via PayPal. Simply go to http://www.asao.org/pisf.html and click the yellow "Donate" button, and follow the prompts. It’s that easy! #nosweat #goPISF #winning

Donations can also still be sent by mail to Mary McCutcheon, ASAO treasurer, at this address:

2115 North Rolfe Street
Arlington, VA 22209-1029 USA

ASAO exists because of the generosity of our hosts in Oceania. Many of us are deeply connected to our adopted families, friends, and research collaborators, and we value the participation of our colleagues from Pacific Islands at our annual meetings. So please, during the next year—particularly when you renew your ASAO dues and pre-register for ASAO 2017—make a donation to PISF!

With many thanks and best wishes,

*Tate LeFevre and Kirsten McGavin, co-chairs, and Lisa Uperesa (at-large member)*
OFFICERS’ REPORTS FOR 2015

ANNUAL MEETING SITE COORDINATOR

This year Ryan Schram and I shared some of the duties as I began to take over the proposals for 2017. Potential sites were identified in Kauaʻi and Honolulu. With Alex Mawyer’s assistants a proposal was also prepared for Tahiti. After much discussion, Kauaʻi was decided upon (see note on page 2). A survey was also conducted to assess ideas for future meetings. The point of the survey was not to poll specific locations, but to get a sense of how receptive members are to different regions of the world (so not all locations were included in that poll). What is clear from the data is that locations with direct flights seem to be favored over more remote locations.

Jamon Halvaksz, annual meeting site coordinator

TREASURER

The balance as of Dec 31, 2014 was US$45,203.24
The balance as of Dec 31, 2015 was $25,158.80

Revenues

For 2014, the revenues from membership dues came to $6718, the meeting registration came to $12,255 and the PISF donations came to $6885. A little bit is lost from these revenues for our paypal fees.

The PISF component

This year we have allocated $10 per membership to go to PISF in addition to the explicit donations.

Our PISF budget balance at the beginning of 2015 $9,691.98. We funded seven applicants and spent $10,800 for their travel. Each recipient got another $400 toward living expenses but this allowance came out of general funds

Expenses

Our biggest expense of 2015 was the Santa Fe meeting which came to $16442.74 for catering plus $2544.56 for audiovisuals. In addition to these basic expenses there were reimbursements for officer’s hotel rooms and some incidentals. As was the case last year, the cost of the meetings exceeded our revenues from registration. We have already made a $7000 downpayment for this meeting in San Diego.

Other expenses were newsletters, the AAA party, our new website, and occasional other small reimbursements.

Policy questions

For several years we have been spending more on meetings than we are recuperating from registration fees. So this year, to keep the hemorrhage down, we have decided to increase the registration as well as decrease the catering. Meanwhile the audiovisual costs continue to rise.

The conference centers we use always have a minimum amount we are expected to spend on catering, so having morning and afternoon breaks and some reception munchies is our part of the bargain. So this means that our registration has to be set to reflect this minimum. Above that, expenses might be either be trimmed or we need to accept the likelihood that registration fees will rise more in future years. This might be a good question to pose to the membership: how high can registration fees go before they discourage attendance? How frugal can we be with audiovisuals and refreshments before we compromise the value and enjoyment of the meeting?

Mary McCutcheon, treasurer

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

The membership count as of January 12, 2016 is as follows. It includes individuals whose membership is current through 2015 or beyond.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Membership Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I have kept both the database and online directory up-to-date as I receive membership forms from both renewals and new members.

Reminders to renew membership were sent out in March 2015 to those who had not yet renewed. In October, as soon as registration fees for the San Diego meeting was announced, a preregistration/membership form was brought to the attention of members via personal emails, encouraging them to renew for the following year.

With the inauguration of our new website, I am continuing to update the online membership directory in its new format. I urge all members to check the directory to make sure their information is correct and up-to-date and to notify me if changes are needed.

A breakdown of current membership by region is as follows:

North America..........................................................267
USA.................................................................228
Canada...............................................................37
PISF attendees at ASAO 2016

It was a pleasure meeting and working with the four Pacific Island Scholars Fund recipients who were able to attend the San Diego meeting.

Aanoalii Rowena Fulufaga, Auckland University of Technology (AUT): Strategies for Teaching (Carmen Borja & Rochelle Fonoti)

Athol Greentree, University of Auckland: Pacific Spaces and Sacred Buildings (Albert Refiti & Tina Engels-Schwarzpaul)

Carmen Villagomez Borja, University of Washington: organized the working session Constructing Pacific Pedagogies: Strategies for Teaching (with Rochelle Fonoti)

Fele Uperesa, University of California, Berkeley: Cultivated Sovereignties (Jerry Jacka)

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

Tate LeFevre and Kirsten McGavin, co-chairs, and Lisa Uperesa (at large member)

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE COORDINATOR

Jonathan Friedman (University of California, San Diego and École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales) presented the 2016 ASAO Distinguished Lecture, “Weekend Update: Identity, Culture, Politics and Anthropology since the 1980s.” We thank Professor Friedman for joining us in San Diego and for sharing his wide-ranging analysis of the emergence of identity, ethnicity, and sovereignty as distinguishing features of modernity in the Pacific and beyond. We look forward to his lecture’s publication in the November 2016 issue of Oceania, continuing the Association’s agreement with that journal. Holly Barker’s 2015 distinguished lecture, “Confronting a Trinity of Institutional Barriers: Denial, Cover-up and Secrecy,” was published on schedule in Oceania’s November issue (85(3):376-389). After covering 2015 expenses, the Distinguished Lectureship account, as of 31 December 2015, totaled $67,679.82.

Lamont Lindstrom, distinguished lecture coordinator

BOOK SERIES EDITOR

Debra McDougall’s monograph Engaging with Strangers: Love and Violence in the Rural Solomon Islands has just been published as Volume 6 in our series with Berghahn, ASAO Studies in Pacific Anthropology. A collection edited by David Lipset and Eric Silverman, entitled Mortuary Dialogues: Death Ritual and the Reproduction of Moral Community in Pacific Modernities, is now advertised on Berghahn’s website as Volume 7, scheduled for publication in June. This book originated as an ASAO session, and contains contributions by Laurence Carucci, Che Wilson, Karen Sinclair, Doug Dalton, Nicholas Bainton, Martha Macintyre, Nancy Lutkehaus, Alexis von Poser, Joshua Bell, Eric Venbrux,
and the editors themselves. Congratulations to Debra, Eric, David, and all of the Mortuary Dialogues authors for your hard work! Another edited collection and a single-authored monograph are currently in peer review. Please feel free to email the series editor at <rs839@cam.ac.edu> with any queries about possible submission of your work.

Rupert Stasch, book series editor

SECRETARY

I have performed the usual routines of the office.

Routine tasks:

1. Responded to inquiries from members and non-members
2. Prepared minutes from the 2015 meeting and the virtual meetings
3. Distributed draft minutes for review by board members and officers and an approved version for distribution and deposit in archives
4. Compiled copies of bylaws and minutes of past board meetings for distribution to new board members and officers
5. Invited and processed submission for recognition of edited volumes/special journal issues resulting from ASAO sessions as ASAO publications
6. Informed contributors to newly recognized ASAO publications of their change of status to fellow
7. Maintained file of board discussions and decisions (by email) between 2015 and 2016 meetings
8. Prepared agenda for 2016 board meeting
9. Organized electronic ballot and voting for new board members

Special tasks: None.

Jerry Jacka, secretary

ARCHIVIST

I have continued to maintain and update the online archive of e-versions of important ASAO documents, particularly those that ASAO board members and officers might have need to consult on a regular basis. These include board meeting agenda and minutes, officers’ reports and lists of responsibilities, and foundational documents such as the articles of incorporation and by-laws.

In addition, I am continuing work on the long-term project of making the physical and online archives congruent by (a) printing the more recent agenda/minutes and reports and updating the associated finder lists and metadata for the physical archive, which is kept in the Pacific Collection of Hamilton Library, University of Hawai‘i–Mānoa; and (b) scanning and OCRing the older board agenda/minutes and officer reports for the online archive.

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

Jan Rensel, archivist

WEB SITE MANAGER

Launching the redesigned ASAO website

Over the last year, I’ve worked to redesign ASAO.org, and the new site officially launched on December 21st, 2015. Upon the launch of the site, I sent announcements out on ASAONet and to all ASAO members, and ASAO.org had nearly 300 unique visitors during the first two days of its launch alone! All of the wonderful features of the old site are still available, including the searchable membership database, and archives of meeting photos, newsletters, publications, etc. One new feature of the site that has been receiving positive reviews is its meeting registration and membership renewal system, which allows users to register for the conference, join ASAO or renew their membership, and pay for any fees all from the site. This system should also make it easy for meeting attendees to register on-site in San Diego, if necessary. A special thanks to all of those who helped to test the new site’s functionality as we prepared for its launch!

Site usage

Since the launch of the site, various pages of the ASAO website have been viewed a combined total of roughly 2000 times. Not surprisingly, the most viewed pages in January were the 2016 annual meeting schedule, the registration and membership renewal page, and the 2016 proposed sessions page(s). Also among the top pages viewed were the PISF page, which hopefully is a positive indicator of donations.

Site maintenance

Now that the site has been launched, site upkeep has been fairly straightforward and standard. In anticipation of the annual meeting, I’ve updated session announcements and reports as needed. I also post announcements, employment opportunities, and designated ASAO publications on the appropriate pages in a timely manner. I am currently working to update the tables of contents and purchasing information for relevant ASAO publications. As membership coordinator, Alan Howard has access to the site so that he can create new entries and update existing entries in the membership database as necessary.
Plans for ASAO.org’s future

Since the site’s launch, I’ve been working with Jan Rensel (as co-organizer of the ASAO Histories session) to see how ASAO.org might be helpful for session organizers and participants. With Jan’s input, I designed a blog site (within ASAO.org) that allowed Histories session participants to post their abstracts and draft papers for other participants to download and comment on (on the site). I gave Jan access to serve as a blog moderator so that she could approve all comments. I was also able to set this section of the site to require a password, so that only Histories participants could gain access to the draft papers. This might require a little more testing, but the use of blogs in this way might provide a useful format for some sessions to circulate, comment, and collaborate on abstracts, papers, etc. I look forward to hearing more about how this session blogging test run went, and to thinking more about how Weebly’s extensive features could be useful to ASAO-ers in the future!

Zakea Boeger, web site manager

NEWSLETTER

With the guidance of outgoing editor Jamon Halvaksz and assistance from membership coordinator Alan Howard, I have been learning the ins and outs of editing the ASAO newsletter. For the first issue of 2015, I shadowed Jamon’s work. I took over his MS Word template and put together the following two issues. These were emailed to all members and fellows who specified a preference for a digital copy. Jamon continued to print and mail out 67 print copies to institutional subscribers (19) and individual members who prefer print editions (48). I will take over the production and mailing of print editions starting with the April 2016 issue.

Ryan Schram, newsletter editor

FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

I am delighted to note the intellectual health and breadth of the association as evidenced in our program for the San Diego meeting. As is clear in this year’s session reports—including four symposia, nine working sessions, eleven informal session, and three special sessions—our meetings offered timely opportunities for wildly productive conversations across a broad range of topics. Reports from this year’s serendipitous sessions are collected below along with two early new session proposals for our 2017 meeting in Kaua‘i!

In the meantime, all session organizers and participants are encouraged to review guidelines and timetable here or on the ASAO website. A condensed version of the timetable for session organizers and participants is included below. Please note an October 1 deadline for all “special” sessions or “special” events proposals in order that the board can review such proposals and select those that fit into and merit inclusion in the overall program. All special session or event proposals can be sent through me as program coordinator and for purposes of coordination with the ASAO chair, the board of directors, and other program officers. Symposia organizers are also asked to note that it is no longer necessary to send the program coordinator first and last pages of finished drafts in order to prove that the papers have been written. As the season ripens, session coordinators can “confirm” that they have materially met the criteria for a symposium as defined below.

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

Guidelines for session organizers and participants

ASAO is characterized by social informality and collegial cooperation. At the same time, the rigorous examination of data and ideas in ASAO sessions is designed to lead to high-quality, publishable sets of comparative papers on topics of importance in Pacific anthropology. The format of ASAO sessions differs from those at many scholarly meetings where individual papers are presented. Instead, ASAO sessions feature the ongoing give-and-take required for penetrating intellectual examination of difficult, yet vital, issues. ASAO sessions are of three types. Session organizers are free to determine what format would best meet the needs of the their group and its focal issues and publication plans!
Informal sessions involve the informal sharing of ideas to determine whether there is common ground for further inquiry. Anyone who has relevant data is welcome to attend and participate. If such sessions generate enough interest, participants make plans to develop and share lists of bibliographic references, draft and circulate papers, and discuss them (possibly via e-mail) in preparation for the next stage (see below).

Informal sessions are of two types. Impromptu informal sessions can be announced at the opening plenary session of the annual meeting and posted on the bulletin board in the registration area during the meeting. These sessions do not have pre-arranged meeting locations but may meet in available conference rooms, participants’ rooms, or local cafes. The second type of informal session may be announced at the prior year’s meeting, proposed in the ASAO Newsletter or on 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 2016,” 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 any invited discussants. Contributors do not read their papers but discuss the key issues that arise from them. Conversation in the session focuses on those issues and provides a constructive critique that contributes to building a coherent set of papers or book chapters.

Time should be set aside during the symposium to discuss whether and how to pursue publication. Options include 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 page 3).

Advise the program coordinator by no later than November 1 of any particular scheduling needs (e.g., late arrivals, early departures, or potential conflicts with other sessions).
A Grave Matter: Changing Burial Practices in Pacific Island Societies

At our well-attended symposium, five papers were presented on changing burial beliefs and practices in Rotuma, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and New Zealand. Four final papers resulting from the symposium have now been submitted to the *Journal of the Polynesian Society* for a possible special issue. They are:

- Jerry Jacka (University of Colorado-Boulder) and Philip Gibbs (Divine Word University PNG), "Grave Business in Enga Province, Papua New Guinea"
- Jan Rensel and Alan Howard (University of Hawai‘i-Mānoa), "The Culture of Graves on Rotuma"
- Sa’iliemanu Lilomaiava-Doktor (University of Hawai‘i-West Oahu), "Changing Morphology of Graves and Burials in Samoa"
- Malama Meleisea and Penelope Schoeffel (National University of Samoa), "The Work Of the Dead in Samoa: Rank, Status and Property"

Order in Melanesia

In the third and final year of this session, we examined how 'order' broadly conceived is a useful lens for analyzing contemporary life in Melanesia. How do people undertake to create and maintain ordered, institutional life such as village courts, health care, and political participation? What images of disorderly rural Melanesia circulate within the region? How are "disorderly" processes such as student riots and grassroots political activism created and maintained by subaltern populations?

"Introduction: Making Order and Managing Disorder in Contemporary Melanesia," Alex Golub, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (United States)

This essay explores the concept of 'order' and its uses in anthropological theory. Order can refer to the routinized flow of interaction across time and space, as well as the explicit ideas and understandings about order that people have, and use to structure that interaction. Today, order-making projects take unexpected and ironic forms. The state is often a source of disorder, while local peoples adopt state forms as order-making projects. Managing disorder can be a concern. Often, political conflict involves conflicting definitions of order, or even control of the definition of order and disorder themselves.

"'Mipela Makim Gavman': Unofficial Village Courts and Local Perceptions of Order in the Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea," Tobias Schwörer, University of Lucerne (Switzerland)
In this article, I use the concept of the para-state to examine how in settings where there is no state presence, local order is nevertheless articulated by reference to the state. In remote villages of the Eastern Highlands of PNG, where official village courts and other state institutions are absent, local leaders routinely hold unofficial village courts to maintain law and order. They emulate certain elements of state justice and blend them with their own practices in dealing with conflict. I will show how these unofficial judicial institutions historically emerged as a convergence of local patterns of leadership with colonial concepts of order.

"On 'Showing Respect': Order and Disorder in the Papua New Guinea Health Sector," Barbara Anderson, Massey University Auckland (New Zealand)

This essay explores what it means to "show respect for culture" in the Papua New Guinea health sector. The importance of treating rural clients with respect is explicitly inculcated in nursing education. Nurses are taught that "showing respect for the culture" is of key importance; they are also taught that the consequences of failing to show respect can be more serious than the consequences of institutional misconduct. Health workers prefer respectful "shortcuts" to orderly procedural compliance. I argue that this is an explicitly socialized ethical stance towards a population understood as disorderly and outside of state control. I suggest that discourses of "respect" emerge most often in the interface between gavman (government) and hauslain (village), illustrating one of the central tensions in Melanesian state institutions: that between hierarchical, managerial structures and egalitarian, ruralist values.

"Student Boycotts in Papua New Guinea as Order-Making Projects," Ivo Syndicus, Maynooth University (Ireland)

From the institutional perspective of a university, student boycotts mark a time of heightened disorder. In this contribution, I turn the perspective around and analyze student boycotts at the University of Goroka in the Papua New Guinea (PNG) highlands as actual order-making projects instead. Observed student boycotts establish alternative regimes among students, which are moreover reinforced through a sense of having achieved a superior sophistication of order through the effective (and, perhaps, affective) alignment of minds and bodies into a single entity. Discussing these temporary regimes among students in relation to what may appear as specifically Melanesian notions of order, and a broader set of questions deriving from what has been termed the psychology of crowds, I conclude by suggesting that such student boycotts also point to broader processes of emergent national political orders in PNG.

"Moral Panics and Discourses of Disorder: Delegitimizing the Political Actions of Kanak Youth," Tate LeFevre, Franklin and Marshall College (United States)

This paper considers a 2012 conflict spurred by the semi-legal installation of a "traditional Kanak tribal village" in Nouméa, New Caledonia. Now widely referred to as "l'affaire des cases," this conflict revealed the ways in which both Pro-independence and anti-independence effectively work to delegitimize the political actions and aspirations of Kanak youth. Acts of organized political resistance by urban youth—such as the "l'affaire des cases"—are regularly dismissed as "delinquency" or "riots": ideologically empty violence committed by youths without any "real" knowledge of Kanak culture, who refuse to respect both customary or government authority. Ultimately, I suggest that moral panic over urban Kanak youth is deeply entangled with broader struggles over the potential form of post-colonial social order in New Caledonia.

"Orders of Political Participation in the Solomon Islands," Alexis Tucker Sade, University of California San Diego (United States)

As the indigenous political system of Solomon Islands continues to evolve, newly emerging possibilities of ordering people are providing previously non-existent opportunities for political participation. These organizational schemes in many ways appear to defy Western liberal democratic ideologies of 'proper' political order while establishing a logic of organizing people not wholly typical of any existing indigenous socio-political systems. This order establishes is a political obligation which, in turn, may foster the emergence of a grassroots form of platform-based politics that reflects the influence of democratic ideology (or imaginary), local cultural logics obligation, and the socioeconomic realities of life in the Pacific.

"Afterward: In Search of Melanesian Order, Lamont Lindstrom," University of Tulsa (United States)

These collected essays present five analyses of contemporary forms of order in Melanesia: improvised village courts, a nursing school curriculum including village practicums, student boycotts and strikes, a reimagined political constituency, and an urban social movement. My reflections assess these new sorts of order as reflected against classic Melanesian ethnography, which often has taken the region's social groups and lineages, religious and belief systems, and most recently the Melanesian state itself to be weak, messy, and inconsistent. I question how culturally Melanesian are these recent examples of order and disorder. In these essays, I find continuities in underlying Melanesian nostalgia for an imagined, more orderly past, in beliefs about causes of disorder, and in strategies and remedies to order and reorder everyday life.

Papers were pre-circulated amongst members, and we spent most of our time discussing them. We are planning to publish the papers in a special issue of a journal.

Alex Golub, Department of Anthropology, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; <golub@hawaii.edu>
The Pacific Islands in the Digital Age

The focus of our session was on how digital technologies—online (e.g. Facebook or blogs) and offline (e.g. digital photography and e-government)—are reshaping and redefining notions of place and relationships in a digitized Pacific. Papers addressed the use of digital media in local and global contexts, how digital media are affecting cultural identity formation and socialization, their implementation in heritage projects and political activism, and the ways in which they are fostering the development of new global communities in diaspora and as affective discourse networks. Papers also highlighted the complex ways in which digital technologies mediate local-global relationships through social media sites as well as through digital government and governance technologies. The utility of digital technologies as tools for anthropological research was also discussed.

Each participant was assigned two papers other than their own to critique with the following four questions in mind:

- What do you understand to be the main aim of the paper? Briefly describe the project as you see it, the main issues being addressed, the methods used, and the main results.
- What do you see as the main strengths of the paper, and what are some of the points that required further improvement? Be as specific as possible. Especially, give your opinion with regard to the quality of the ethnographic material presented, the organization of the paper, and quality of documentation (bibliography and sources).
- What do you consider to be the manuscript’s contribution to scholarly knowledge?
- In the interest of working toward producing a publishable volume, specify thematic commonalities with other papers in our set. If necessary, how could the paper be modified to more clearly reflect the overarching topic of the intended volume?

The following six papers were the focus of our attention:

- Alan Howard – Being Rotuman on the Internet
- Guido Pigliasco – The Sawau Project Goes Social or the Unexpected Dilemmas of the Digital Age of Enlightenment
- Forrest Young – Digitalization and Affective Politics of the Rapa Nui Nation
- Alex Golub – “The Shooting fields of Porgera”: Anti-mine Activism Goes Online
- Stephanie and Geoffrey Hobbis – The Digital Promise as Illusion: Biometric Voter Registration in Solomon Islands
- Chelsea Wentworth – “Good” and “Bad” Food Revealed: Understanding Categorizations in Child Feeding Using Visual-Cognitive Elicitation Methodology

Helen Lee acted as discussant and offered welcome insights on the individual papers and also suggested ways to better integrate the set of papers for publication. Participants promised to send modified abstracts to reflect a more coherent line of argumentation to allow the session organizers to identify appropriate venues for publication. Participants further agreed to submit complete and revised drafts to the session organizers by September 30, 2016.

Geoffrey Hobbis, CREDO, École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS); <geoffreyyahobbis@gmail.com>

Alan Howard; <ahoward@hawaii.edu>

Pacific Spaces

Our final session was productive and the papers presented mostly close to publication. Papers were presented by Albert Refiti & Ross Jenner (“Zombie Architecture: Sacrifice in Polynesian and European buildings”, reading European and Pacific spaces of sacrifice against each other), Mike Austin (Open architecture – about an architectural anthropology of the phenomenon of openness in Pacific architecture), Tina Engels-Schwarzpaul (Travelling houses: Translation, change and ambivalence – about the movements of Pacific buildings through different sites, contexts and epistemic worlds), Athol Greentree (The junction of the tala and the itu – an ethnography of the Samoan fale tele as a building, its construction and crafting, structures and origins, cosmological connections and ontologies), Mimi George (Lata at the Entryway: Transpersonal Wayfinding on a Vaka o Lata – about the relationships between space, technology, movement, experience and affect in Taumako voyaging and wayfinding), Jeremy Treadwell on Skype (The 19th Century Whare Māori: The Culture of Structure – about construction, both technical and cultural, and a little known structural configuration of some 19th century wharenui), and Jake Cuberston via Skype (“Carving costs nothing”: Māori woodcarvers train wage-laborers how to show up to work on time – about the social and affectual space of the House of Knots, workshop and wharenui of sorts in an old shoe factory, in the New Zealand neoliberal economy).

There were shared themes, such as a correspondence between structural and formal elements and a whakapapa or mafa‘aga that grounds and informs technological and socio-aesthetic practices.

Paige West was present during the whole session and acted as our discussant, giving invaluable feedback and identifying overlaps between the papers beyond those we were already aware of. Themes she picked up on were the visible and the invisible parts of a configuration, the value of juxtaposition and the in-between space it creates, the role of affect in many of the mater-
ial-oriented papers, and the productiveness of a mutual rubbing of anthropology and architecture, which leads to new shapes, new spaces and new openings in both disciplines. Her comments are very helpful in constructing our proposal for the Berghahn ASAO series, which we are about to submit. Thank you, Paige!

Deirdre Brown, who was not able to come to the conference, will also contribute a paper: “Māori ‘Architectural Anthropology’” to this edited collection.

*Tina Engels-Schwarzpaul, AUT University, Auckland, New Zealand; <tina.engels@aut.ac.nz>

Albert L. Refiti, AUT University, Auckland, New Zealand; <albert.refiti@aut.ac.nz>*

**WORKING SESSIONS**

**ASAO Histories**

This working session focused 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. Aspects examined in papers presented this time included ASAO session formats and topics over time; the challenges of meeting site selection; distinguished lectures and the Special Publications series; the ASAO Monograph Series 1967–1990; the Pacific Islands Scholars Fund; Pacific Islander membership over time; the early inclusion of students in ASAO through the efforts of Jane Goodale; the content focus and distribution of a regional Melanesianist newsletter (NEWS) and how its purposes were gradually met by the ASAO Newsletter and ASAONET; and the ASAO website. Additional proposed topics: inclusiveness in ASAO; the view from ASAO; and GRIPIC (the Grant to Return Indigenous Knowledge to Pacific Islands Communities).

Session participants and commentators (only about half of whom could attend the 2016 meeting) include Ivan Brady, Keith Chambers, Kathy Creely, Margaret Critchlow, Rick Feinberg, Juliana Flinn, Alan Howard, Dan Jorgensen, Thorgeir Kolshus, Susanne Kuehling, Mike Lieber, Lamont Lindstrom, Mac Marshall, Alexander Mawyer, Kirsten McGavin, Naomi McPherson, Carlos Mondragon, Nancy Pollock, Jan Rensel, Mike Rynkiewich, Judith Schachter, Karen Sinclair, Rich Scaglion, Bob and Myrna Tonkinson, and Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi.

Draft papers are posted on a session blog (thank you, Zakea Boeger!) where participants can comment on each other’s papers, raise and discuss other topics, access archival documents, etc. New topics are welcome! Contributors are continuing to work on their analyses, develop their papers, interview people, etc. We plan to convene another session at the meeting in 2017. If you’d like to contribute, please contact the session organizers.

Jan Rensel, Center for Pacific Islands Studies, University of Hawai‘i–Mānoa; <rensel@hawaii.edu>

Alan Howard; <ahoward@hawaii.edu>*

**Chiefs Today**

The session Chiefs Today had 9 papers presented and was attended by quite a large public. All the participants plus one will send a finalized paper to the session organizers at the end of June. The latter will then decide if they are willing to edit a book or a special issue of a journal or not. There will be no other session organized in 2017.

Apolonia Tamata (I Taukei Trust Fund); <apolonia@itaukeitrustfund.com.fj>*

Simonne Pauwels (AMU/CNRS – CREDO); <simonne@pacific-credo.fr>*

**Constructing Pacific Pedagogies: Strategies for Teaching**

We had a very productive first working session last February in which we discussed many different experiences and approaches to teaching in Pacific classrooms and in the diaspora. Classroom engagement across multiple sites brought a smorgasbord of pedagogical approaches from the Pacific. Some themes and topics shared during this session included potential challenges for practitioners to provide tertiary space for students to name and claim space, ethics of study abroad in the Pacific with both indigenous and non-indigenous students, and creating collaborative educational pillars based on Pacific cultural values. We would like to extend a Fa’aafetai and Si Yu’us ma’aase to all presenters and participants for contributing to the first working session on Constructing Pacific Pedagogies. Moving forward, we welcome any interested participants and papers as we move forward to another working session next year.

Carmen Villagomez Borja, Department of Anthropology, University of Washington, Box 353100, 511 D Condon Hall, Seattle, WA, 98195-3100; <borjac@uw.edu>*

Rochelle Tuitagava’a Fonoti, Department of Anthropology, University of Washington, Box 353100, 511 D Condon Hall, Seattle, WA, 98195-3100; <rfonoti@uw.edu>*

**Contested Sovereignties in the French (Post)Colonial Pacific**

This working session opened up the conversation about sovereignties in the French colonial and postcolonial Pacific, drawing attention to notably distinct and divergent historical and contemporary situations of French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna, and Vanuatu. The discussion of regional sovereignties was grounded as an emergent and contested property in and of specific historical contexts and practices with re-
spect to local actors’ representations and agencies. Our discussions hit on a comparative tune both within French colonial and post-colonial contexts and across the region. The fragmentation and diverse experience of French colonization across the Pacific came into refreshed view. Participants’ contributions highlighted different practical and legal contexts in which sovereignties have been and are being activated, contested, negotiated in the French-speaking Pacific islands. Conversation highlighted the different actors functioning as norm-producers and policy-makers now claiming to ‘hold’ forms of sovereignty in France-entangled islands: indigenous groups, nation-states, supra-national organizations, the global mining sector, UNESCO world heritage apparatus, big international NGOs running large-scale marine protected areas, etc.

Participants have been asked to further develop working drafts of potential contributions moving forward toward a symposium gathering in 2017. Those present in San Diego included Emily Donaldson*, Jonathan Friedman, Joyce Hammond, Matt Lauer, Isabel Leblic, Pierre-Yves Le Meur, Tate Lefevre, Alexander Mawyer, Hamid Mokaddem*, and Simone Pauwels. (*Present virtually).

Pierre-Yves Le Meur, IRD, Nouméa, New Caledonia; <pierre-yves.lemeur@ird.fr>

Alexander Mawyer, CPIS, The University of Hawai’i at Manoa; <mawyer@hawaii.edu>

**Friendship and Peer Relationships**

The Friendships and Peer Relationships working session convened with six participants and three discussants. The session was well attended by other members as well, and we continued the discussion begun last year about the nature of friendship and peer relationships. While participants generally agreed that friendship was a category of social relationship differing from kinship, the exact nature of that difference and the ties that bind friends were a very productive source for conversation. Other themes that emerged over the course of the session included commitments and responsibilities to friends versus others (e.g., kin, non-friends); social change, including processes of global modernity, and the ways in which these affected the nature of Pacific friendships; and the “instrumentality” of friendship, or friendship as channels through which valuables such as exchange goods, knowledge, protection, and support might flow. All involved found the session to be helpful in terms of refining points and engendering new perspectives on our data. We do not plan at this point to move to symposium or collectively publish an edited volume or a special journal issue, but encourage our participants to deeply engage with the group and work in tandem so as to foster productive cross-citation and shared readership where possible.

Mary K. Good, Department of Anthropology, Wake Forest University, 1834 Wake Forest Road, Winston Salem, NC, 27109; tel. 336-758-3423; <goodmk@wfu.edu>

Jessica Hardin, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Pacific University, 2043 College Way, Forest Grove, OR 97116; tel. 503-352-3125; <hardin@pacificu.edu>

**“Malinowski’s Legacy Redux”**

This session tried to convey some of the themes of the pioneering 2015 Malinowski Centennial Conference that took place in Alotau (PNG) last year. The session saw the participation of twelve people, with presentations from four of the original speakers in the PNG conference (Allan Darrah, Mark Mosko, Fred Damon and Sergio Jarillo de la Torre). The original conference took four years in preparing and was supported by the Wenner-Gren Foundation and the Massim Cultural Foundation, as well as by the many people who attended it from all over the Milne Bay Province and elsewhere in PNG. The papers presented benefited from the discussions that took place in Alotau between speakers and conference attendants, highlighting the fruitfulness of these debates and calling for more such collaborations between scholars and the residents of the communities where our research takes place. During the ASAO session plans for the publication of the conference proceedings were discussed with participants.

Allan Darrah; <darrahac@gmail.com>

Linus Digim’Rina; <kwebila@gmail.com>

Sergio Jarillo de la Torre, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge, Darwin College, Silver Street CB3 9EU, Cambridge, UK; <sjarillodelatorre@amnh.org>

**Sounds of the Pacific**

The Sounds of the Pacific met for the second time in 2016. This year we had some individuals from the original informal session with a number of new participants. After hearing several prepared papers and discussions, the group discussed various options for the session. There was a general consensus to move the focus of the session to focus on music inclusive of chorale popular music, traditional and religious and ritual genres. The session decided that we would continue as a working session, requiring full papers at the next ASAO conference. Please contact one of the organizers for more information.

Andie Palmer, Department of Anthropology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB T6G 2H4; <andie.palmer@ualberta.ca>

Karen Fox, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB T6G 2H4; <Karen.fox@ualberta.ca>

Eric K. Silverman, Prof. American Studies and Chair, Psych/ Human Development, Wheelock College; <esilverman@wheelock.edu>

Nancy Lutkehaus; <lutkehau@dornsife.usc.edu>
The following papers were presented:

- Maile Arvin, “Whitening Racial Mixture, Erasing Indigeneity: Sociological Studies of Race in Early Twentieth Century Hawai‘i”

- Kali Fernmantez, “(T)racing and (E)racing the Kahuku Red Raiders: Race and Indigeneity on the North Shore of Oahu”

- Tate LeFevre, ““Métissage’ as Settler Republican Project in New Caledonia”

- Lisa Uperesa, “Mediated Images and Alternative Framings: Deconstructing the ‘Natural Samoan Athlete’”

- Christine Winter, “Replacing or Stabilising Race? Germanness as a Category of Colonial Ambiguity”

- Forrest Wade Young, “Whiteness and the Bougainville Conflict: A Crisis at Arawa Country Club”

The following papers were not presented due to travel difficulties:

- Rochelle Tuitagava’a Fonoti, “Mapping Fa’asamoan and the Trajectories of Samoan Students at a U.S. College”

- Ann M. Iwashita, “The Field and Its Articulations: Geothermal Potentials in Puna, Hawai‘i”

- Laurel Monnig, “‘Just Chamorro, Full Chamorro, Only Chamorro': What does Mestizo and Mestizo have to do with Chamorro Decolonization?”

- Sandra Widmer, “Nutrition, Nurturance and the (Re)Generation of Human Difference”

Over the past three meetings, this session has pursued the generative potential of race in our examination and analyses of life in the Pacific, tracing how it interacts with the more privileged frameworks of culture, ethnicity, and indigeneity. While the study of “race” in the Pacific has been the subject of prior work it has often been eschewed in favor of studies of culture and cultural identities. The salience and meaning of “race” varies quite a bit across the Pacific, but remains an important social marker historically and in the contemporary moment. Over the past two sessions, clustered conversations emerged around land, dispossession, racial logics, and culture; sport, racialization, and indigeneity; and the intersection of racialization of Pacific peoples with colonial projects and new configurations of power. Papers were pre-circulated and participants received comments and feedback on their working drafts from assigned discussants and the audience. The participants decided to continue to develop article-length papers for a symposium next year; a schedule for submission and circulation is in the works.

Lisa Uperesa, Departments of Sociology and Ethnic Studies, University of Hawai‘i-Manoa, 2560 Campus Road, George Hall 304, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A.; tel. (917) 684-7707; fax (808) 956-9494; <lisa.uperesa@hawaii.edu>

The Sovereignties & Dispossessions session was to examine the tensions between sovereignty and dispossession in the contemporary Pacific. One of the fundamental aspects of contemporary neoliberal political economic processes is what David Harvey has called “accumulation by dispossession” and what Saskia Sassen has referred to as “exclusions.” Both of these frameworks extend Marx’s original concept of “so-called primitive accumulation” in which capitalism’s origins are traced to expropriating the subsistence base (i.e., land) from agricultural producers. New understandings of accumulation and exclusion see these as on-going processes and also extend dispossession to something more than just land and capitalist endeavor. In this session, we examined a wide suite of possessions and the ways that sovereignties are being contested across the Pacific.

JC Salyer started us off by examining the displacement of sovereignty on Manus Island through Australia’s Manus Regional Processing Centre where political asylum seekers are currently being sent. Emily Donaldson contributed a fascinating paper on land tenure, agricultural livelihoods, and political regimes in the Marquesas. Next, Paige West examined varying mechanisms of dispossession through representation in a globally covered news story in which two British hikers were attacked by “cannibals” on the Kokoda Trail. The brilliant Berkeley undergrad, Fele Uperesa, explored the interplay of sovereignty and public health by examining political systems, trade autonomy, and dietary health between American and Western Samoa. Finally, Jerry Jacka investigated the phenomenon of what happens when people dispossess themselves of development through conflict and the ways that they relinquish their sovereignty in hopes to regain development initiatives. We were joined by many helpful and enthusiastic participants/onlookers who provided scintillating comments and penetrating questions to the presenters. In 2017, we are moving forward to a symposium in order to publish our papers.

If anyone is interested in participating in 2017 please contact the session organizer.

Jerry Jacka, Department of Anthropology, University of Texas at San Antonio; <jerry.jacka@colorado.edu>

The Theorizing Race and Culture session met for the third time in 2016, the second time as a working session.

The following papers were presented:

- Sandra Widmer, “Nutrition, Nurturance and the (Re)Generation of Human Difference”

- Rochelle Tuitagava’a Fonoti, “Mapping Fa’asamoan and the Trajectories of Samoan Students at a U.S. College”

- Ann M. Iwashita, “The Field and Its Articulations: Geothermal Potentials in Puna, Hawai‘i”

- Laurel Monnig, “‘Just Chamorro, Full Chamorro, Only Chamorro’: What does Mestizo and Mestizo have to do with Chamorro Decolonization?”

- Tate LeFevre, ““Métissage’ as Settler Republican Project in New Caledonia”

- Lisa Uperesa, “Mediated Images and Alternative Framings: Deconstructing the ‘Natural Samoan Athlete’”

- Christine Winter, “Replacing or Stabilising Race? Germanness as a Category of Colonial Ambiguity”

- Forrest Wade Young, “Whiteness and the Bougainville Conflict: A Crisis at Arawa Country Club”

The following papers were not presented due to travel difficulties:

- Rochelle Tuitagava’a Fonoti, “Mapping Fa’asamoan and the Trajectories of Samoan Students at a U.S. College”

- Ann M. Iwashita, “The Field and Its Articulations: Geothermal Potentials in Puna, Hawai‘i”

- Laurel Monnig, “‘Just Chamorro, Full Chamorro, Only Chamorro’: What does Mestizo and Mestizo have to do with Chamorro Decolonization?”

- Sandra Widmer, “Nutrition, Nurturance and the (Re)Generation of Human Difference”

Over the past three meetings, this session has pursued the generative potential of race in our examination and analyses of life in the Pacific, tracing how it interacts with the more privileged frameworks of culture, ethnicity, and indigeneity. While the study of “race” in the Pacific has been the subject of prior work it has often been eschewed in favor of studies of culture and cultural identities. The salience and meaning of “race” varies quite a bit across the Pacific, but remains an important social marker historically and in the contemporary moment. Over the past two sessions, clustered conversations emerged around land, dispossession, racial logics, and culture; sport, racialization, and indigeneity; and the intersection of racialization of Pacific peoples with colonial projects and new configurations of power. Papers were pre-circulated and participants received comments and feedback on their working drafts from assigned discussants and the audience. The participants decided to continue to develop article-length papers for a symposium next year; a schedule for submission and circulation is in the works.

Lisa Uperesa, Departments of Sociology and Ethnic Studies, University of Hawai‘i-Manoa, 2560 Campus Road, George Hall 304, Honolulu, HI, U.S.A.; tel. (917) 684-7707; fax (808) 956-9494; <lisa.uperesa@hawaii.edu>
INFORMAL SESSIONS

Authenticity and Authoring in Pacific Cultures

Co-organizers Jeannette Mageo and Joyce Hammond convened the session on Saturday afternoon, February 13. There were 11 people in attendance. Joyce and Jeannette presented some framing ideas for the session. Jeannette’s presentation was entitled, “On the Dichotomy between Authoring and Appropriation”; Joyce’s was entitled “Re-Visiting the Concept of Authenticity.” Five session members also presented informal papers on our ethnographic data. Presenters included Amy Stillman, who spoke of academic “discourses of authenticity” and the Hawaiian community’s “discourses of insistence” to undermine imposed Western notions of what constitutes authenticity. Doug Dalton spoke of authenticity as cultural core ideas among the Rawa of PNG. He used a Rawo song about the flying fox sung on numerous occasions as an example. Jeannette Mageo discussed some early 20th century photographs of Samoan women created by Thomas Andrews as possible examples of European concepts of authenticity “translated” into Samoan faces. Joyce Hammond discussed a set of photographs of robes végétales (clothing made from flowers, leaves, and other natural materials) in French Polynesian beauty contests as distinctive expressions within a global and Pacific regional context. Jordan Prokosh discussed the negotiation of authenticity among within the diasporic Marshallese community of Spokane, Washington, sharing an episode he witnessed in which one Marshallese elder sought to undermine the authority of other Marshallese elders.

Some overall themes that emerged from our discussions included the linkage of power with authenticity and authoring; connections between authenticity, authoring, and Western models of self and of property; the historical rootedness of the concept of authenticity in Western thought; the controversial character of a Western concept of authenticity for peoples of Pacific cultures; and the meaning and usefulness of some variant(s) of authenticity within Pacific societies. Everyone in the group had the opportunity to share their interests in the concepts of authenticity and authoring. This made the session lively and productive. Depending on ASAO’s decision about the location of the 2017 meetings, we plan to reconvene as a working session if meetings are to be held in Tahiti.

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

Avoiding Giving

We had a successful meeting in San Diego, thanks to our many participants. There were two main ways of thinking about the topic of avoiding giving: 1) as a way of rethinking the obligatory nature of the gift; 2) as a practice that has risen as a result of social change. Our goal is, if people are willing, to create a volume focused around the first issue, as a way of rethinking the obligatory nature of the gift. We would like participants, if they are interested, to send an abstract that shows how they would focus/refocus their paper around two questions: 1) Is giving, receiving, or returning (of goods, people, or signs) actually obligatory and, if not, what does this mean for analyses of giving and of social life? 2) How do values/norms of giving relate to practices and actions? Our goal is to move relatively quickly on this.

We would like people who are interested to send an abstract to us by April 1st. We are also planning on organizing a 2016 AAA session to get additional participants, so please let us know if you would like to participate in that session. We would like participants (whether or not you would like to participate in the AAA session) to commit to producing a polished, potentially publishable paper by December 2016. We then plan to get together via the Internet around the time of the ASAO meetings (or half at the meetings, half on the Internet) to discuss the papers. Ideally, we would submit the issue shortly after the 2017 ASAO meetings.

Elise Berman, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Anthropology, UNC Charlotte | 249 Barnard 9201 University City Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28223, Phone: 704-687-5099; <eberman@uncc.edu>

Building Migrant Communities

Building Migrant Communities was a productive conversation about the composition of Pacific migrant social networks and the migrant experience. We discussed the nature of transnational family networks. We discussed the role of social networks in generating migration opportunities and the role of the host culture in encouraging, constraining, and altering migration patterns and migrant lifestyles. We also talked about culture change in migratory contexts. The session was too sparsely attended to compare the development of migrant communities and migrant leadership in a variety of contexts. We plan to continue as a second informal session and hope that we can have more perspectives.

Jordan Michael Prokosch; <jordan.prokosch@wsu.edu>

The Experiential Roots of Mana

Seven people from a variety of disciplines participated. Five who intended to participate were not able to attend the ASAO conference. Four had scheduling conflicts during the conference. We discussed a number of issues, including: What it means to have an experience, or to describe an experience, of mana. Various ways to frame the subject were explored. How to describe something that is felt or experienced or known. How to experience something that cannot be seen or heard, quantified, or captured like a physical entity, and yet which is experienced as real, or that is a phenomena with power greater than that of an individual. How to make descriptions of mana experiences scientifically useful. One paper was presented about alternative experiences of mana by caretakers of and visitors to a
sacred site in Hawai‘i. The paper stimulated a lively discussion of the role of ascription, beliefs in intentionally controlling forces, the need to understand the contexts of processes and relationships involved in such experiences, possible differences in the experiences of skeptics and believers, issues of authenticity and the advantages of, and problems with, describing the exotic by way of the familiar. Each participant discussed what they wanted to write about. All agreed that collating experiences would be useful, and questioned whether it might be useful to harvest anecdotal accounts from the literature. Goals discussed included: Establishing if the experience of mana is unique to Polynesia or whether it is more widespread, perhaps even universal. If we can understand the global through the local and the local through the global. Whether spiritual experiences support emotional needs or releases potentialities. Six participants who were present, and three who were not, stated their intention to write about their own experiences or experiences that they have observed closely. Three others asked for information about the session. The next session will be a Working Session, which should be well attended if the participants can afford to attend.

Marianne (Mimi) George <George.mimi@gmail.com>

Fieldnotes

For more information about this late-breaking session, please contact the organizer, Eric Silverman.

Eric K. Silverman, Prof. American Studies and Chair, Psych/ Human Development, Wheelock College, <esilverman@wheelock.edu>

Hierarchy and Egalitarianism in Austronesia/Oceania

Seventeen people signed up for the session, and the discussion went smoothly even though there were some disagreement on the basic terms we adopted. It became clear the regional differences also affect how panelists approach the topic on hierarchy and egalitarianism. Once again we assert that the deep history of Austronesian expansion serves as a background for the scope of the group and the contemporary comparative ethnography should be the focus for our next step. We call for the participation of Micronesia and Polynesia specialists to join our effort. Please do get in touch if you are interested. Draft papers should be in by early December.

Ku Kun-hui, National Tsing Hua University, No. 101, Sec.II, Kuang-fu Rd. Hsin-chu, 30013 Taiwan; tel. 886-3-5742827, <kunhui.ku@gmail.com>

Indigenous Modernities in the Pacific

Please contact the organizer, Kalaniopua Young, for more information!

Kalaniopua Young, Department of Anthropology, Box 353100, University of Washington, Seattle, WA98195; <young1982@gmail.com>

Islander Views on Climate Change

First of all, we would like to thank the conference organizers for allotting us enough time for this session on such short notice (thumbs up to Alex!).

Our short - about one hour - informal session in San Diego drew a lot more interest than we had expected. It was extremely well attended with over 20 participants - plus a couple more who couldn’t make it but indicated they would like to join further discussions in the future. Within the limited time available, participants managed to express their own views on the session’s theme, displaying a vast array of experiences on the topic gathered in their respective field sites. Several outcomes were considered instead of a purely academic one, should the session go ahead in next year’s meeting. After the meeting we e-mailed participants, stating that we particularly like the idea of aiming at a document/publication more understandable immediately by all audiences, and - if possible - something that can be “applied” directly across the Pacific with few modifications. Participants’ suggestions included bringing in a contribution/collaboration with a Pacific Islander or a group of Islanders for each session participant; working on curriculum materials (perhaps in partnership with PCEP Pacific islands Climate Education Partnership: http://pcep.prel.org/resources/); and assisting with the creation of documents for policy makers and aid workers so as to create a resource that provides summaries of the current state of play about perceptions of climate change in each major island/island group (a ready reference for an authoritative, easily-accessible summary).

With all that in mind, we would like to move on to a working session next year provided we have the right numbers.

Sergio Jarillo de la Torre, PhD, Kalbfleisch Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Division of Anthropology American Museum of Natural History <jarillodelatorre@gmail.com>

Jennifer Newell curator, Pacific ethnography, Anthropology Division, American Museum of Natural History, <jnewell@amnh.org>

Local and Regional Dimensions of the 2015 El Niño Drought

As per the session’s mandate, discussion of the 2015 drought in the western Pacific brought local situations into a regional focus. The session went for the full allotted time, and we had 18 participants in person plus an added contribution from Mike Bourke via Skype from Port Moresby to tie things together at the end. Geographical scope ranged from the Rajah Ampat area of (Indonesian) Papua to the Solomon Islands in the east, with a particularly valuable contribution by Jerry Jacka
on the drought’s impact in the Kandep area of PNG. Discussion moved from what was known about early and current situations to a look at relief efforts of varying degrees of success. Issues taken up included the various roles of national governments, NGOs, multilateral (e.g. UNDP, WFP), and church organizations; another was whether and how anthropologists can contribute in ways that have some material effect on the predicament of those caught up in El Nino’s effects.

A working session for the 2017 meetings will be in the works, jointly organized by Jamon Halvaksz and Jerry Jacka. The preliminary roster includes about a dozen people converging from Australia, Switzerland, and points in between. If interested in taking part, please contact Jamon (jamon.halvaksz@utsa.edu) or Jerry (jerry.jacka@colorado.edu) for further details.

Dan Jorgensen; <dwj@uwo.ca>

The Rural Pasifika Diaspora

The aim of this session was to bring together researchers interested in the temporary or permanent migration of Pacific Islanders to rural areas in the diaspora. The session generated some interesting discussion around problems facing migrant labourers – e.g. Marshallese in meat packing plants – and the precarity of their employment. A common theme of the Islanders’ invisibility emerged, and their lack of knowledge of ‘the system’, particularly for undocumented migrants. As with all Pacific Islander migrants, whether in rural or urban areas, the importance of kinship ties, both local and transnational, was also a common theme. Research with Marshallese, Indonesians, migrants from Chuuk and Yap, and ‘Pacific Islanders’ as an imposed category was discussed. Although there were many interesting threads, it was decided that these were not sufficient to weave together for a working session in 2017.

Helen Lee, Sociology and Anthropology, School of Social Sciences, La Trobe University, Victoria 3086, Australia; <H.Lee@latrobe.edu.au>

Tuakana-Teina: Examining Relationships of Power in Eastern Polynesia

This informal session was attended by a core group and an exciting and fruitful conversation was had. By the end of the session all participants agreed that we should take the learnings provided in the fundamental concept of tuakana-teina and apply them in a session planned for 2017 which will investigate Women and Leadership in the Pacific. It is likely that Melanie Anae will lead this informal session.

Marama Muru-Lanning; <m.muruLanning@auckland.ac.nz>

Carlos Mondragon; <cmondragon@colmex.mx>

Francisca de la Maza; <fcadelamaza@uc.cl>

NEW SESSION PROPOSALS

Facebook in the Pacific

We are interested in the mutual relationship between modernity, social media and society. We thus do not assume that modernity and technology are necessarily or singularly transformative, giving rise to a particular or ‘Westernized’ subjectivity, or used in a uniform way. In other words, we think that what is engendered by the space-time compression enabled by social media is an open question rather than a new networked individualism. We therefore propose to start the process for a session on Facebook use among Pacific Islander. We want to begin to approach this topic by soliciting an expression of participants’ interest in one of the following issues (or some other one not listed). First of all, we would like to focus on practices. How do Pacific peoples use Facebook? What is Facebook discourse, language use, and photography like? Secondly, we are interested in concepts of community that are taken-for-granted in Facebook groups of various kinds, public and private. Thirdly, we want to focus on how Facebook use varies by gender, age, class, and region (by which we mean tribal/ethnic background, village ties, country of origin and/or residence, and ‘roots’). Fourthly, we are also interested in how Facebook use has been shifting since it began to be used in the region. For the first meeting next year, which we would propose as an informal session, we ask that all participants have a look at Daniel Miller’s book, Tales From Facebook.

Parties should send a note stating intention to participate and a topic to either of the session organizers by 1 November 2016.

David Lipset; <lipse001@umn.edu>

Eric Silverman; <esilverman@wheelock.edu>

Women and Power in Polynesia

We propose this informal session for 2017 at the next ASAO meeting in February 2017. It will examine the historical institutions that protected or empowered women in Polynesian societies, and also the impacts of modernity/globalisation that may have disempowered, or re-empowered women in new ways. Considerable interest in this new session has already been indicated. To participate in an informal session for next year’s meeting, please contact either of the session organizers.

Melani Anae, Pacific Studies, University of Auckland; <m.anae@auckland.ac.nz>

Penelope Schoeffel, Centre for Samoan Studies, National University of Samoa; <p.schoeffel@nus.edu.ws>
ALBERT L. REFITI

Talofa lava, tulou i le fa’aalaloalo I am Albert L. Refiti. I was born and raised in Fasito’oua, Samoa until I relocated to Auckland, New Zealand at the age of 13 where I’ve lived since. I hail from the following clans: the Sā Aionō of Fasito’oua, Sā Leali’ifano of Vaovai and Sā Atoā of Vaialima. I carry the ancestral matai title Leali’ifano from Vaovai.

I am a researcher and lecturer in Art and Design ethnography and material culture with a particular focus on Pacific spaces, arts and architecture. After graduating with an architectural degree with a minor in anthropology and art history, I worked in architectural practice in Auckland and London from 1990-2000. I am currently a senior lecturer at Auckland University of Technology School of Art and Design, New Zealand, where I was Head of Department of the Spatial Design Department from 2005-2010. I have written for a number of journals and books on indigenous knowledge and identity formation in architecture and art of the Asia Pacific region. After I completed a PhD on the anthropology of Samoan architecture and cosmogony in 2014, I am now researching the links between traditional Pacific thought and contemporary art and architecture in the Pacific diaspora.

I attended my first ASAO meeting in 2011 in Honolulu and I was so impressed with the paper development system that I invited my colleague Tina Engel-Schwarzpaul and fellow ASAO member Tēvita Ka’ili to propose a session on Pacific Spaces, which debuted in Kona (2014), followed by a workshop session in Santa Fe (2015) and finally a symposium in San Diego (2016). Berghahn is currently reviewing our edited book proposal. I am involved in the ‘Sounds of the Pacific’ session in 2017 and I am also co-organising a new session with my colleague Tina Engel-Schwarzpaul in 2017 titled ‘The Iconic: Afterlife, New Beginnings, and the Return of the Symbolic.’

You can find some of my research on the following links:

- https://aut.academia.edu/AlbertRefiti
- http://www.pacificspaces.com/

If I am elected to the board, first, I intend to maintain and develop the unique ASAO paper development system; secondly, continue to help cultivate and develop research by emerging Pacific scholars. Fa’afetai tele lava.

ALEXANDER MAWYER

Alexander Mawyer is an Assistant Professor at the Center for Pacific Islands Studies, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. His fieldwork with the Mangarevan community in the Gambier and Society Islands of French Polynesia and with Chuukese and Mortlock communities in the Federated States of Micronesia focuses on language at the intersection of culture and history. He was a co-editor of Varua Tupu: New Writing from French Polynesia, the first anthology of Ma’ohi literature to appear in English and winner of the 2007 Hawai‘i Book Publishers Award for Excellence in Literature. Recently, with Rick Feinberg, he co-edited a special issue of Ethos: Journal for the Society for Psychological Anthropology devoted to culture and spatial cognition in Oceania. He was recently appointed Editor for The Contemporary Pacific: A Journal of Island Affairs.

CHELSEA WENTWORTH

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

JOHN TAYLOR

John Taylor is a Senior Lecturer in Anthropology at La Trobe University. He is the author two books, Consuming Identity: Modernity and Tourism in New Zealand, and The Other Side: Ways of Being and Place in Vanuatu, and co-editor of Working Together in Vanuatu: Research Histories, Collaborations and Reflections (with Nicholas Thieberger) and the forthcoming Touring Pacific Cultures (with Kalissa Alexeyeff). His is currently conducting research on the relationship between spirituality and healthcare issues in Vanuatu, funded by the Australian Research Council.

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

ALBERT L. REFITI

Talofa lava, tulou i le fa’aalaloalo I am Albert L. Refiti. I was born and raised in Fasito’oua, Samoa until I relocated to Auckland, New Zealand at the age of 13 where I’ve lived since. I hail from the following clans: the Sā Aionō of Fasito’oua, Sā Leali’ifano of Vaovai and Sā Atoā of Vaialima. I carry the ancestral matai title Leali’ifano from Vaovai.

I am a researcher and lecturer in Art and Design ethnography and material culture with a particular focus on Pacific spaces, art and architecture. After graduating with an architectural degree with a minor in anthropology and art history, I worked in architectural practice in Auckland and London from 1990-2000. I am currently a senior lecturer at Auckland University of Technology School of Art and Design, New Zealand, where I was Head of Department of the Spatial Design Department from 2005-2010. I have written for a number of journals and books on indigenous knowledge and identity formation in architecture and art of the Asia Pacific region. After I completed a PhD on the anthropology of Samoan architecture and cosmogony in 2014, I am now researching the links between traditional Pacific thought and contemporary art and architecture in the Pacific diaspora.

I attended my first ASAO meeting in 2011 in Honolulu and I was so impressed with the paper development system that I invited my colleague Tina Engel-Schwarzpaul and fellow ASAO member Tēvita Ka’ili to propose a session on Pacific Spaces, which debuted in Kona (2014), followed by a workshop session in Santa Fe (2015) and finally a symposium in San Diego (2016). Berghahn is currently reviewing our edited book proposal. I am involved in the ‘Sounds of the Pacific’ session in 2017 and I am also co-organising a new session with my colleague Tina Engel-Schwarzpaul in 2017 titled ‘The Iconic: Afterlife, New Beginnings, and the Return of the Symbolic.’

You can find some of my research on the following links:

- https://aut.academia.edu/AlbertRefiti
- http://www.pacificspaces.com/

If I am elected to the board, first, I intend to maintain and develop the unique ASAO paper development system; secondly, continue to help cultivate and develop research by emerging Pacific scholars. Fa’afetai tele lava.
Three scholars have been nominated to be ASAO Honorary Fellows. Voting will be conducted via electronic survey, with paper ballots sent to hard copy subscribers. Active members will receive an invitation vote.

**RICHARD FEINBERG**

It is with great enthusiasm that we nominate Richard (“Rick”) Feinberg to be considered as an Honorary Fellow of ASAO. He is among the top dozen active scholars conducting anthropological research in the Pacific Islands. Over the past 44 years Rick has carried out nearly four years of ethnographic field research in five different field sites (Anuta, Bougainville, Nukumanu, Tau-mako and Tokelau). Based upon these endeavors he has sole authored six books, co-authored another, edited one volume, and co-edited three more. In addition, he has co-edited two special issues of journals. Along with this remarkable output Rick has published well over forty refereed journal articles in leading periodicals such as the American Anthropologist, *American Ethnologist*, Anthropological Forum, Current Anthropology, Ethnology, *Journal of Anthropological Research*, *Journal of the Polynesian Society*, *Man, Pacific Studies*, and *Social Science & Medicine*. Added to this are a couple dozen book chapters, twenty book reviews, and a host of non-refereed articles and comments, many of which concern Oceania. The breadth of his scholarship is truly remarkable, covering such topics as language, kinship and social organization, seafaring, music, naming practices, disease, oral traditions, cognition, religion and political leadership. He is the leading researcher of Polynesian outliers, and has contributed mightily to our understanding of traditional voyaging and navigation.

Rick Feinberg has held significant leadership positions in anthropological societies. Most notably, as a long standing and dedicated member of ASAO, Rick has served the organization in numerous capacities over the years. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors, and was the Chair of ASAO during 2005-2006. Equally, Dr. Feinberg was a member of the Monograph Series Editorial Board, and served in the central, time-intensive, activities of editor of the ASAO Newsletter and Program Chair for the association. Rick has also held the office of President of the Central States Anthropological Society (CSAS) and subsequently was a member of the CSAS Executive Board. Currently, he is the Section Assembly Convenor for the American Anthropological Association.

In addition to his service to ASAO as an officer and member of the Board of Directors, Rick’s scholarly output and his consistent, long-term, involvement in ASAO provide added support to his consideration as an ASAO Honorary Fellow. Rick has organized sessions, presented papers, and served as a lively and insightful discussant at ASAO Annual Meetings since 1976. He is generous in sharing ideas and offering helpful critiques, and is one of the most gregarious members of ASAO, making new members feel welcomed, included, and at ease.

For his manifold contributions to anthropological scholarship, to our ethnographic understanding of the Pacific Islands, and for his numerous and ongoing contributions to the health and vitality of ASAO, we respectfully request that Rick Feinberg be made an ASAO Honorary Fellow.

*Mac Marshall and Larry Carucci*

**JUDITH HUNTSMAN**

It is our great pleasure to nominate Judith Huntsman as an Honorary Fellow of ASAO. Spanning a period of nearly 50 years, her contributions to Pacific anthropology have been outstanding in several respects: as a researcher whose publications are of the highest standard, as a teacher and mentor to students, many of whom are from the Pacific and who have gone on to make substantial contributions of their own, as a long-standing member of ASAO and as the facilitator of publications that have greatly enhanced the corpus of literature in Pacific studies.

Judith’s research in Tokelau and among Tokelauans in New Zealand has been a model of commitment to an indigenous population, as well as rigorous and innovative anthropological research. She has written extensively about multiple aspects of Tokelau culture, including its history, culminating in *Tokelau: A Historical Ethnography* (with Anthony Hooper) in 1996, and *The Future of Tokelau: Decolonising Agendas 1975-2006* (with Kelihiano Kalolo) in 2007, as well as papers on Tokelau sociopolitical organisation, language, health, art, folklore, music, cuisine, and migration, among others. Her relationships within the Tokelauan population, both on the home island and among migrants in New Zealand, is all that one can ask for. She has been actively involved with and supportive of Tokelauans who are in the throes of adapting to changing conditions and she has done whatever she could to assist them both in Tokelau and among the diasporic community in Aotearoa-New Zealand.

As a teacher, Judith has spent most of her career at the University of Auckland, where she was first appointed senior lecturer in anthropology in 1973, and after promotion to associate professor in 1988 served until her retirement in 2001, when she was given the title of Honorary Professorial Research Fellow in the Department of Anthropology. Judith was instrumental in the establishment and maintenance of the Pacific Studies programme at the University of Auckland. She persistently lobbied the University management for its rightful inclusion at a tertiary institution in the largest Polynesian city in the world. She also actively supported the establishment of similar programmes at other institutions throughout the country. Throughout her teaching career and beyond she has mentored many young scholars, several who have gone on to have distinguished careers, including Fuli Pereira, Kelihiano Kalolo, Wilkie Rasmussen, Marama Muru-Lanning, Melanie Anae, Phyllis Herda, Judith Macdonald, and Tom Ryan.
Malama Meleisea

It is my distinct pleasure to nominate Leasiolagi Malama Meleisea to Honorary Fellow with the Association for Social Anthropology of Oceania. Dr. Meleisea’s professional work has spanned many roles in his distinguished career: researcher, writer, teacher, cultural expert, diplomat, and judge. As such, his influence has been felt keenly especially in the fields of Samoan history and anthropology of Samoa, but also encompasses leadership in Pacific Islands Studies programs and through his work with UNESCO, extends far beyond the Pacific. Dr. Meleisea’s body of work on Samoa and the wider Pacific has provided an important foundation for a generation of scholars following him, and I urge the ASAO Board to honor his contribution to our field with Honorary Fellow status.

Dr. Meleisea’s early publication *The Making of Modern Samoa: Traditional Authority and Colonial Administration* remains a seminal piece in modern Samoan history. Together with the edited collection *Lagaga: A Short History of Western Samoa*, and many other articles and book chapters, his work has contributed to scholarly understandings of governance, sources of authority, land and titles, and politics in Samoa and the wider Pacific.

On a personal note, *The Making of Modern Samoa* was a foundational text for me during my graduate training and it raised historical anthropological questions about the interface of western legal democratic systems with the indigenous sociopolitical organization of *matai*, the legacy of modern colonialism, and comparative history that continue to inspire my work today, and will no doubt, continue to far in to the future.

Moving beyond his historical and political studies of Samoa, Dr. Meleisea has helped to develop the field of Pacific Studies through his teaching and institutional service. In his positions with the University of the South Pacific, the Macmillan Brown Center for Pacific Studies, and the University of Auckland, he has helped to build programs and train students in vanguard centers for Pacific scholarship. In his current position at the National University of Samoa, he is doing significant work directing the Centre for Samoan Studies and growing a program in Samoa that is serving the students of Samoa. Building institutional capacity in this way is an important contribution not only for opening access to the study of Samoan language and customs, archaeology and cultural heritage, and development studies locally, but for countering unequal investment of resources whereby students’ scholarly development and faculty research depends on outmigration to metropolitan nations. In addition to his scholarly research and service to studies of the Pacific, Dr. Meleisea’s prestigious appointments with UNESCO are noteworthy. For more than a decade he worked on a wide variety of social initiatives, including programs on human rights, culture, communication and information, social science, and education in Thailand, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh. This regional and global view he brings back to his work in the Pacific.

As an early-career faculty member trained in anthropology and working in the Pacific, and also as a Pacific Islander academic in a field where Pacific scholars are still somewhat of an anomaly, I see Dr. Meleisea’s lifetime of work as inspiring in many ways. His research has provided a foundation for scholars interested in Samoan history and futures, as well as for those who are engaging issues of importance across the Pacific like judicial and customary authority, land, and governance. At a deeper level he has modeled the kind of critical inquiry that is sensitive but not subservient to culture, politics, power, and historical considerations. His work examines issues of significance to Samoans and to scholars of the Pacific, not sacrificing one in the interest of the other. As a Samoan scholar working in Samoa and keenly aware of the problematic legacy of research generally and anthropology in particular in our communities, I see that deft negotiation in Dr. Meleisea’s scholarship and ongoing service and have the utmost respect and admiration for it. His recognition at home and abroad is well deserved. Finally, as an active member of ASAO he continues to shape scholarly conversations and influence peers and colleagues. In recognition of his scholarship, teaching, and service that has enriched the anthropological study of the Pacific, I nominate Dr. Leasiolagi Malama Meleisea for ASAO Honorary Fellow.

Lisa Uperesa
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Helen Lee, past chair of ASAO, invites everyone to consider applying for funding from ASAO’s Grant to Return Indigenous Knowledge to Pacific Islands Countries (GRIKPIC). As always, GRIKPIC supports the repatriation of research materials and information to the communities which first gave it. Grants of up to US$1000 can be funded. More information, and links to previously funded projects can be found here: http://www.asao.org/grikpic.html.

If you would like to propose a project for transmitting ethnographic, cultural or other materials related to research in Pacific Islands communities who you have studied, please send your ideas to the GRIKPIC committee chair, the past chair of ASAO, Helen Lee.

The spring (vol. 28, #1) issue of the Contemporary Pacific contains the following articles and dialogue pieces: “Local Norms and Truth Telling: Examining Experienced Incompatibilities within Truth Commissions of Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste” by Holly Guthrey “Multidimensional, Gender-Sensitive Poverty Measurement: Perspectives from Fiji” by Priya Chattier “Musical Melanesianism: Imagining and Expressing Regional Identity and Solidarity in Popular Song and Video” by Michael Webb and Camellia Webb-Gannon “Cartooning History: Lai’s Fiji and the Misadventures of a Scrawny Black Cat” by Sudesh Mishra “Berths and Anchorages: Pacific Cultural Studies from Oceania” by Lea Lani Kauvaka “Rethinking Pacific Studies Twenty Years On” by Terence Wesley-Smith The issue also features the work of theater director Lemi Ponifasio, political reviews of Micronesia and Polynesia, and eleven book and media reviews.

Leviathans at the Gold Mine (Duke University Press, 2014) by Alex Golub was selected for the annual book award of the Association for Political and Legal Anthropology at the American Anthropological Association meeting in 2015.

IN MEMORIAM ANN CHOWNING, 1929—2016

The 2005 Festschrift for Ann Chowning was entitled A Polymath Anthropologist, referring primarily to the breadth of her anthropological studies. She was initially hooked on the archaeology of Mesoamerica, but abandoned it because she discovered that while doing it was engaging, writing up was tedious. She then turned to ethnography, eventually conducting fieldwork in four Papua New Guinea (PNG) societies, including her PhD research in Lakalai in New Britain. In each place, she always "learned their language," and her interest eventually turned to linguistics. Her last publication was a Lakalai dictionary.

Ann’s academic career began in the Philadelphia area, taking a BA at Bryn Mawr College. She completed an MA and PhD at the University of Pennsylvania, after which she shifted to Columbia University in New York City, then to Australian National University in Canberra (in its early years), then to the newly-created University of Papua New Guinea, and finally to New Zealand (at Victoria University of Wellington and University of Auckland). Her research career (after her early archaeological forays) focused on PNG (Lakalai, Kove and Sengseng in New Britain, and Molima in Fergusson Island of the Massim).

The breadth of Ann’s interests and knowledge went in many directions: in music, opera and Broadway musicals, and films of all kinds. Her personal library was testimony to her many areas of expertise and interest. Bookshelves covered every available wall. Those in the hallways housed anthropology and linguistics. In the living room were history and prehistory, Irish literature and volumes on theatre and film. Fiction found its place in her bedroom and two substantial bookcases were even in the small dining room. She could readily lay her hand on any volume to answer a question or press upon someone who showed an interest in one of the many subjects that interested her.

She will be most widely remembered for her attendance at and participation in conferences and seminars. Rarely did she have nothing to say when the speaker had finished. More often, her hand shot up immediately to correct or add information to what had been said. Ann was a fount of knowledge on the most diverse topics and loved to share what she knew. She may not have known exactly where she was going when she departed Little Rock, Arkansas in 1946, but she certainly got around. Indeed, she got around the world, twice. We were indeed fortunate to have her as a founding member and Honorary Fellow of the ASAO.


Judith Huntsman and Marama Muru-Lanning
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 to register. The annual dues for members are US$40. You can also register for a three-year membership at the rate of US$110. The membership fee for students, retirees and independent (unemployed) scholars is US$25 annually or US$65 for three years. Institutional subscriptions are available for US$15 per calendar year. ISSN 1095-3000

**ASAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Past Chair  
Helen Lee (La Trobe University), h.lee@latrobe.edu.au

Chair  
Marama Muru-Lanning (University of Auckland), m.murulanning@auckland.ac.nz

Chair-elect  
Mary K. Good (Wake Forest University), goodmk@wfu.edu

Directors  
Tate LeFevre* (Franklin and Marshall College), tlefevre@fandm.edu
Kirsten McGavin* (University of Queensland), k.mcgavin@uq.edu.au

* PISF Co-chairs

**ASAO OFFICERS**

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

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

**Secretary**
Jerry Jacka  
asaosec@gmail.com

**Distinguished Lecture Coordinator**
Lamont Lindstrom  
lamont-lindstrom@utulsa.edu

**Treasurer**
Mary McCutcheon  
mccutch@gmu.edu

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

**Membership Coordinator**
Alan Howard  
alanhoward@hawaii.rr.com

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

**Program Coordinator**
Alex Mawyer  
mawyer@hawaii.edu

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

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