I. FROM THE EDITOR

Dear members of ASAO,

This issue provides the current schedule of sessions for the 2016 meeting of ASAO coming up in February, along with details about how to reserve a room at the Catamaran Resort, Hotel and Spa in San Diego.

If you have not registered for the meeting, why wait? Go to http://asao.org/ to find out how. Soon you’ll be able to register and renew online on a brand new web site. This will also be announced on ASAONET. See page 25 for more information.

Friends of ASAO, as the US tax year of 2015 draws to a close, please remember the Pacific Islands Scholars Fund and its work to support the travel of Pacific Islands scholars to ASAO meetings. Please also remember that donations to PISF are tax-deductible. See page 3 for a call for donations from PISF co-chairs Tate Le Fevre and Carlos Mondragón.

Augeluwo, yauwedo,

Ryan Schram
II. FROM THE CHAIR

Hello everyone!

We’re getting to the exciting part of the ASAO year as we lead up to the conference in San Diego in February. There’s a lot of work that has to be done before then, especially for our Program Coordinator Alex Mawyer and for Ryan Schram who is still transitioning from Site Coordinator to Newsletter Editor. Many others will be contributing their efforts, all as volunteers, before and during the conference so I thank them in advance and acknowledge how much that means when we’re all so ridiculously busy these days! And Jamon Halvaksz is already scoping sites for 2017, ready for the chosen site to be announced in San Diego.

One of the highlights of the program for our conferences is the Distinguished Lecture and for San Diego Professor Jonathan Friedman will present the lecture. The intriguing title of his paper is: “Weekend update: Identity, culture, politics and anthropology since the 1980’s.” These lectures are published after the conference in Oceania and Holly Barker’s lecture from February this year is very close to publication. Thanks to Lamont Lindstrom for organising the lectures and publications in his role as Distinguished Lecture Coordinator. We are also hoping to have a special event involving the local Indigenous communities, following the practice introduced a couple of years ago at ASAO. Many thanks to Mike Burton for offering to help organise this!

Another important feature of the conference is the nominations for Board members and Honorary Fellows. I can vouch for how enjoyable and interesting it is to be the former, so do consider either being nominated or identifying someone else who would be an ideal Board member (i.e. anyone interested in being more involved in the running of ASAO). You can let a member of the Board know of your suggestion before or during the San Diego meeting, and nominations will also be called for during the Closing Plenary. For Honorary Fellows, please consider nominating people who have been involved with ASAO for some time and have made a valuable contribution the field of anthropology in Oceania. Please let me or one of the other Board members know of your nomination for an Honorary Fellow, preferably before the San Diego meeting. Before members are asked to vote on Honorary Fellows those of you making the nomination will need to provide a statement in support of the nominee, outlining their contribution. Examples can be found on the website via the names of the current Honorary Fellows.

Zakea Boeger has done a fantastic job on the website and we will have an official launch at the conference. We plan to make the new site available on 20 December. (See page 25 for more information.) I urge you all to explore the site and especially to find the conference registration page, with the new PayPal functionality, where you can take advantage of the significant savings you’ll get from the early bird rate. I hope you’ll consider using those savings to donate to the PISF fund – in fact I hope all members, whether they plan to attend the conference or not, will give generously as the PISF fund is extremely depleted. We rely entirely on member (tax-deductible) donations to be able to continue to support this fund, which provides travel grants and registration fee waivers to encourage Pacific Islander members to attend ASAO meetings. The funds are used up every year so they need to be constantly topped up to keep this program going.

I’m looking forward to seeing everyone in San Diego!

Best wishes,

Helen Lee, ASAO Board Chair, h.lee@latrobe.edu.au
III. 2016 ANNUAL MEETING LOCATION

The Catamaran Resort, Hotel and Spa looks forward to hosting the 2016 meeting of ASAO on the beaches of Mission Beach in San Diego, California, from February 9-13. Catamaran offers ASAO attendees a discounted rate of $169 per night for single rooms, and $179 per night for double rooms for the week of the meeting. Attendees should make their reservations directly with the hotel’s reservation department:

**Catamaran Resort, Hotel and Spa**
3999 Mission Boulevard
San Diego, California 92109 USA
Tel: +1 800 422 8386
Fax: +1 858 488 1387
Email: reservations@catamaranresort.com
Online Reservations Page: [https://shop.evanshotels.com/catamaran_groups/3999.html](https://shop.evanshotels.com/catamaran_groups/3999.html)
Hotel Web Site: [http://catamaranresort.com](http://catamaranresort.com)

If you contact the hotel by phone, fax or email, be sure to mention "Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania" to receive the discounted room rate. The deadline to make bookings at the group rate is January 11, 2016.

San Diego is well known to many ASAO members, and has hosted meetings several times before. What are you looking forward to seeing in America’s Finest City? When you’re making plans to attend ASAO, please share your tips for travellers online with #ASAOSanDiego and #ASAO2016.

Questions regarding accommodation should be directed to Jamon Havaksz at jamon.halvaksz@utsa.edu.

IV. THE PACIFIC ISLANDS SCHOLARS FUND

The Pacific Island Scholars Fund has just sent out award letters to five outstanding scholars from all parts of the Pacific. We are looking forward to welcoming them in San Diego next February, and we are very pleased to report that they will be participating in ASAO 2016 sessions, social events, and informal conversations.

Unfortunately, there are also less happy tidings to report. Due to our efforts to bring as many grantees as possible to ASAO 2015 in Santa Fe, PISF currently finds itself very short of funds. This is not the first time our funds have run low. This year, however, we had to turn away more than one very deserving applicant because we simply could not guarantee funds for all those qualified. 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: both through your regular donations as well as by following the extraordinary fundraising efforts that colleagues like Paige West and Joshua Bell (among others) will continue to be making to prior to and during the San Diego meeting.

In addition, and as ever, when you renew your ASAO dues and pre-register for ASAO 2016 in San Diego (or, for those of you who are considering your year-end charitable giving) we urge you to please make a donation to PISF.

Donations can be sent to Mary McCutcheon, ASAO Treasurer, at this address:

Mary McCutcheon
2115 North Rolfe Street Arlington, VA 22209-1029
V. FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

I would like to extend gratitude to all the session organizers, board members, and officers who have worked together to realize our ASAO 2016 San Diego meetings at the Catamaran Resort, Hotel and Spa on Mission Bay. This year’s program includes 4 formal symposia, 10 working sessions, 9 informal sessions, several special sessions, and our distinguished lecture.

A few program observations may be of use. Beginning this year, all morning sessions will start at 9:00 am. In recent years, am sessions have been longer than pm sessions. Since the last newsletter, several sessions have been cancelled while others have been added. New sessions this year are marked with a bang (!). Room locations for breakout and special sessions remain TBD. Please be sure to pick up the latest program from the meeting registration table for final room locations. After the last two years’ success in increasing our collective effervescence, evening events again begin at earlier times than in the deeper past. We are working on the possibility of additional special events, so please stay tuned to ASAONET for further news of conference-enhancing possibilities.

David Troolin has been serving as our Book Exhibit coordinator for a number of years now. If you have a recent publication, please contact David (david_troolin@sil.org), letting him know the title, press name, address, and contact so he can be sure to request a publicity copy from that press.

Also, I would also like to remind members of a chance to volunteer to staff the book display and registration desk. Volunteers earn one book for every two hours’ work. We need two people for the registration desk and two people for the book exhibit. E-mail me (mawyer@hawaii.edu) indicating which time slots you can fill during the following times:

- Wednesday 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- Thursday and Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Saturday 8:00 am – 12:00 noon

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

Alexander Mawyer, Program Coordinator, mawyer@hawaii.edu
ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY IN OCEANIA
2016 ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

Session Organizers’ Meeting

Wednesday, February 10, 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Rousseau Center

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

Opening Plenary

Wednesday, February 10, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm, Macaw/Cockatoo

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

Welcome Party

Wednesday, February 10, 8:00 pm – 10:30 pm, Toucan

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

Distinguished Lecture: Jonathan Friedman

Friday, February 12, 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm, Macaw/Cockatoo

“Weekend update: Identity, culture, politics and anthropology since the 1980s” Professor Friedman will explore identity politics linked to the global by returning to the 80s and looking at what has happened since, in the Pacific and elsewhere. Jonathan Friedman earned his Ph.D. at Columbia University in 1972. He is Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at University of California, San Diego, and Directeur D’études at the École Des Hautes Études En Sciences Sociales as well as one of the main editors of the journal Anthropological Theory, currently published by SAGE Publications. Friedman has done most of his research in Hawai‘i and the Republic of Congo.

Reception for Distinguished Lecturer

Friday, February 12, 9:00 pm – 11:00 pm, Toucan

A no-host cash bar reception will follow Professor Friedman’s Distinguished Lecture to provide further opportunities for discussion.

Closing Plenary

Saturday, February 13, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, Rousseau Center

Highlights of the Closing Plenary will include session reports and future plans, proposed new sessions for 2016, installation of the new ASAO Board Chair, and other association business.
### MEETING SCHEDULE

(S) SYMPOSIUM  (W) WORKING SESSION  (I) INFORMAL SESSION

**Refreshment Breaks in the Rousseau Center on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday**

**10:30 – 11:00 am and 3:30 - 4:00 pm. Lunch on own 12:30 - 2:00 pm**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, February 10</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 am – noon</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
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<td>Book Exhibit</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 pm – 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Session Organizers Meeting</td>
<td>Rousseau Center</td>
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<td>6:30 pm – 8:00 pm</td>
<td>Opening Plenary</td>
<td>Macaw/Cockatoo</td>
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<td>8:00 pm – 10:30 pm</td>
<td>Welcome Party (Reception &amp; Cash Bar)</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, February 11</strong></td>
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<td>Book Exhibit</td>
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<td>9:00 am – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Theorizing Race and Culture in the Pacific (W)</td>
<td>Breakout 1</td>
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<td>9:00 am – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Sounds of the Pacific (W)</td>
<td>Breakout 2</td>
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<td>9:00 am – 12:30 pm</td>
<td>El Nino Drought: Local &amp; Regional Dimensions (I)</td>
<td>Breakout 3</td>
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<td>9:00 am – 12:30 pm</td>
<td>Pacific Islands in the Digital Age (S)</td>
<td>Breakout 4</td>
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<td>12 Noon – 1:15 pm</td>
<td>(special session TBA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 pm – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>AASAO Histories (W)</td>
<td>Breakout 3</td>
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<td>2:00 pm – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Order in Melanesia (S)</td>
<td>Breakout 4</td>
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<td>2:00 pm – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Sexuality and Agency in Oceania (I)</td>
<td>Breakout 5</td>
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<td>7:00 pm – 9:00 pm</td>
<td>Island Soldier Screening and Q&amp;A</td>
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<td><strong>Friday, February 12</strong></td>
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<td>9:00 am – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Constructing Pacific Pedagogies (W)</td>
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<td>9:00 am – 12:30 pm</td>
<td>Sovereignties and Dispossessions (W)</td>
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<td>Avoiding Giving (I)</td>
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<td>9:00 am – 12:30 pm</td>
<td>Experiential Roots of Mana (I)</td>
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<td>1:00 pm – 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Emerging Issues (special session)</td>
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<td>2:00 pm – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Contested Sovereignties in the French Pacific (W)</td>
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<td>2:00 pm – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Tuakana-Teina: Relationships of Power (I)</td>
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<td>2:00 pm – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Indigenous Modernities in the Pacific (I)</td>
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<td>2:00 pm – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Hierarchy and Egalitarianism (W)</td>
<td>Breakout 5</td>
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<td>Distinguished Lecture</td>
<td>Macaw/Cockatoo</td>
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<td>Pacific Spaces (S)</td>
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<td>9:00 am – 12:30 pm</td>
<td>A Grave Matter (S)</td>
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<td>9:00 am – 12:30 pm</td>
<td>Rural Pasifika Diaspora (I)</td>
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<td>9:00 am – 12:30 pm</td>
<td>Chiefs Today (W)</td>
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<td>2:00 pm – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Building Migrant Communities (I)</td>
<td>Breakout 2</td>
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<td>2:00 pm – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Malinowski’s Legacy Redux (W)</td>
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<td>2:00 pm – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Friendship and Peer Relations (W)</td>
<td>Breakout 4</td>
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<td>2:00 pm – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Authenticity and Authoring (I)</td>
<td>Breakout 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 pm – 8:30 pm</td>
<td>Closing Plenary</td>
<td>Rousseau Center</td>
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SESSIONS

* Indicates new session this year.
* Indicates papers to be discussed in absentia.

FORMAL SYMPOSIA


Organizers: Leasiolagi Malama Meleisea and Penelope Schoeffel

Saturday, February 13, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

The papers presented in this session offer descriptions and reflections on traditional and modern burial practices and memorialisation in Pacific Island societies, in contexts of sentiments, cultural borrowings, colonial regulations, migration, claims to social status, and changing settlement patterns and property rights.

Participants:

- Jan Rensel and Alan Howard (University of Hawai‘i-Manoa) The Culture of Graves on Rotuma
- Sa‘ilemanu Lilomiava-Doktor (University of Hawaii-West O‘ahu) The Changing Morphology of Graves, and Burials in Samoa
- Jerry K. Jacka. (University of Colorado Boulder) Development Conflicts and Changing Mortuary Practices in a New Guinea Mining Area
- Vincent Malcolm Buchanan. (University of Waikato) The ‘Hilton Hotel Row’: NZ Maori and Urupa Memorialisation
- Vilimaina Navila. (University of the South Pacific) Urban Cemeteries in the Greater Suva Area
- Malama Meleisea and Penelope Schoeffel (National University of Samoa) The Politics of Burials, Rank and Land in Samoa

If interested, please contact Penelope Schoeffel, <p.schoeffel@nus.edu.ws>.

Order in Melanesia

Organizer: Alex Golub

Discussant: Lamont Lindstrom

Thursday, February 11, 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm

In the third and final year of this session, we examine 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 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? Will Lamont Lindstrom be able to pull together these many threads by serving as discussant in this session? Come to our panel to find out.

Papers will be pre-circulated amongst members, and we will spend most of our time discussing them. We are hopeful that this work will result in a publication.

Papers include:

- Tobias Schwoerer (University of Zurich), “Mipela makim gavman”: Unofficial Village Courts and Local Perceptions of Order in the Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea
- Alexis Tucker Sade, Orders of Political Participation in the Solomon Islands
- Barbara Andersen, On "Showing Respect"
- Ivo Syndicus, Student Boycotts in Papua New Guinea as Order-Making Projects
- Tate LeFevre, Moral Panics and Discourses of Disorder: Delegitimizing the Political Actions of Kanak Youth

The Pacific Islands in the Digital Age

Organizers: Geoffrey Hobbis and Alan Howard

Discussant: Helen Lee

Thursday, February 11, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

During our working session in Santa Fe we discussed (1) the role of digital technologies as an ethnographic tool, (2) the political implications of digital technology, (3) the adaptations to social media by ethnic groups, and (4) the effects, planned and unanticipated, of digital technology on social processes. Since then the six papers that will be presented at this symposium have developed further. The focus of our session has shifted towards consideration of how digital technologies—online (e.g. Facebook or blogs) and/or offline (e.g. digital photography and e-government)—are reshaping and defining notions of place in a digitalizing Pacific. Papers address digital, localized and globalizing, identity formation and socialization, for heritage projects and political activism, and to foster new global communities in a diaspora and as affective discourse networks. Papers also highlight the complex directionalities of how digital technologies mediate local-global relationships, through social media sites but also on the ground in the form of digital government and governance technologies or as tool for anthropological research.

We are planning to move toward publication after this symposium. Papers have been shared with all participants through a Google group site. Each presenter has been assigned two papers (as first and second reader respectively) as discussant 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 regards 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?

We ask participants to provide written comments in response to these questions in advance (January 15, 2016). The comments will be uploaded to our Google group site to foster further discussion among participants. At the symposium the first reader for each paper will present their comments to all discussion questions, while the second reader will only present on questions two to four (to avoid unnecessary duplication in the summary of the paper).

Confirmed Participants:

- 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

Geoffrey Hobbis, CREDO, École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS);
<geoffreygahobbis@gmail.com>
Alan Howard <ahoward@hawaii.edu>

Pacific Spaces

Organizers: Tina Engels-Schwarzpaul, Albert L. Refiti, and Tevita Ka’ili

Discussants: Malama Meleisea and Paige West

Saturday, February 13, 9:00 am – 5:30 pm

We’re going into the final stage of pulling together all the papers from the Pacific Spaces project; these will be circulated and reviewed for the final time in San Diego. The following papers have been received from all participants and all have been invited to attend the San Diego symposia. We are expecting to have at least 8 participants at the meeting.

Proposed program:

Introduction: A Confluence of Spaces – Albert Refiti & Tina Engels-Schwarzpaul

PART I: Old cosmologies, new ontologies: Transpersonal wayfinding

- Lata at the Entryway: Transpersonal Wayfinding on a Vaka o Lata – Mimi George
- Vaka, fale and kava: Tapu places, tapu structures – Hufanga ‘Okusitino Mahina
- The circulation of mana in centralised spaces, striated territories and shimmering houses in Polynesia – Albert L Refiti
- “Carving costs nothing”: Maori woodcarvers train wage-laborers how to show up to work on time – Jake Culbertson
- Centered space at Kukaniloko - Martha Noyes
- Maunawila heiau: A sacred spatiotemporal site linking Hawaiians, Tahitians, Tongans, and Samoans - Tevita O. Ka’i’i
PART II: Social space and place: Fluidity and control

• Constructing cases, creating Kanaky: Spaces of indigenous sovereignty in Nouméa – Tate LeFevre
• Open architecture – Mike Austin
• Pacific spaces of invisibility – Moana Nepia

PART III: Encounters: Openness and thresholds

• Constructing fale tele (guest house): Constructing va (social-spatial relationships) – Sa’iliemanu Lilomaiava-Doktor
• Maori architecture in Oceania – Deidre Brown
• Travelling houses – Tina Engels-Schwarzpaul
• Zombie architecture: Sacrifice and Polynesian and European architecture – Ross Jenner & Albert Refiti

PART IV: Pacific buildings: Apparatus and materiality

• The 19th Century Whare Maori: The culture of technology – Jeremy Treadwell
• The junction of the tala and the itu – Athol Greentree

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

Sovereignties & Dispossessions (Formerly Cultivated Sovereignties/Agricultural Sovereignties)

Organizer: Jerry Jacka

Friday, February 12, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

The aim of this session is 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 examine a wide suite of disposessions and the ways that sovereignties are being contested across the Pacific. Participants are asked to circulate papers two weeks prior to the ASAO meetings. Participants will be given a short period to outline their main concepts/case studies and then commentators will provide feedback.

• The Displacement of Sovereignty (and the Border) under Australia’s "Operation Sovereign Border" on Manus Island, PNG, J.C. Salyer, Barnard College, Columbia University.
• Troubled Lands: Power, Livelihoods and the Past in the Marquesas Islands, Emily Donaldson, McGill University
• F'ing the Ineffable, Paige West, Barnard College, Columbia University
If anyone is interested in participating please contact the session organizer, Jerry Jacka, at jerry.jacka@colorado.edu.

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

**ASAO Histories**

Co-organizers: Jan Rensel and Alan Howard

*Thursday, February 11, 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm*

This continuing session is focused on documenting the histories of various aspects of ASAO since its beginnings nearly half a century ago. People 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. To allow continued involvement of participants who cannot attend every meeting, and to keep things moving along between meetings, we currently have a Google site and are in the process of establishing a blog where session participants can post their draft papers, comment on each other’s papers, raise and discuss other topics, access archival documents, etc. Twelve abstracts have been submitted to date.

- Alexander Mawyer, University of Hawai’i at Manoa (UHM), and Alan Howard, UHM (retired): “A History of ASAO Sessions: Formats and Topics”
- Margaret Critchlow (Rodman), York University (retired): “The ASAO Monograph Series: Editorial Perspectives”
- Lamont Lindstrom, University of Tulsa: “ASAO Distinguished Lectures and Special Publications”
- Juliana Flinn, University of Arkansas at Little Rock: “Inclusiveness in ASAO”
- Jan Rensel, UHM: “The Origins and Development of the Pacific Islands Scholars Fund”
- *Rich Scaglion (University of Pittsburgh): “ASAO + NEWS = ASAO!”*
- *David Counts, McMaster University (retired): “A Gift to the Future: Unintended Consequences of the Creation of ASAO”*
- *Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi, Truman State University (retired): “The Origins of Including Students in ASAO: Jane Goodale and the Bryn Mawr Mafia”*
- *Mike Rynkiewich, Asbury Seminary (retired): “Place Matters: A History of ASAO Meeting Sites”*
- *Thorgeir Kolshus, University of Oslo: “ASAO: The View from ASAONET”*

* These papers will be presented in absentia by other session participants.

In addition, the following people plan to attend the 2016 session as resource persons: Mac Marshall, Mike Lieber, Dan Jorgensen, Naomi McPherson, Kathy Creely, Rick Feinberg, Carlos Mondragon, and Zakea Boeger (who is designing the blog). Others who will not be at the San Diego meeting but are still involved in this project include Ivan Brady, Judith Schachter, Kirsten McGavin, Susanne Kuehling, and Keith Chambers. For more information, please contact the session organizers.
Chiefs Today

Co-organizers: Apolonia Tamata and Simonne Pauwels

Saturday, February 13, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Chiefs today are faced with the additional task of having to deal with government, politics, church and development agencies apart from their traditional roles of leadership and tending to concerns within their chiefdoms. The results are not always plain sailing but rather these have questioned their legitimacy, knowledge, know-how, even the authority to be chiefs. From there being no chiefs, to chiefs and in the absence of chiefs, panelists representing Micronesia (2), PNG (1), Vanuatu (1), New Caledonia (1) and Fiji (4) observe interesting yet crucial scenarios in how chiefs carry out their responsibilities. There are many conflicts and contradicting issues that chiefs have to find solutions to. There are people who oppose chiefs. There are communities who also see other options to chiefs. There are chiefs who merely let things be. There are things that happen because of chiefs or lack thereof. In most cases, which were presented, it seemed that succession is a real issue even if the rules are apparently clearly stated. The future analysis of the complexity of the tasks of chiefs today will certainly illustrate the difficulty of chiefs to be representatives, to receive the mana needed to take up responsibilities over the land and its people.

Members on the panel of ‘Chiefs Today’ are working towards the first draft of their papers, which they will circulate and get to comment on each other’s papers. The full list of this panel including some new members include David Wakefield, Elfriede Hermann, Glenn Petersen, Hao-Li Lin, Lamont Lindstrom, Isabelle Leblic, Marc Tabani, Ola Gunhildrud Berta, Margaret Critchlow, Manuel Rauchholz, Riet Delsing, Simonne Pauwels, Susan Montague, Stephanie Lawson, Wolfgang Kempf, Alexis Tucker Sade, Apolonia Tamata.

Members are reminded to send their papers to the session organizers in December. A group email address for the group is: chiefstoday_asao@services.cnrs.fr.

Constructing Pacific Pedagogies: Strategies for Teaching (retitled)

Organizers: Carmen Borja and Rochelle Fonoti, University of Washington

Friday, February 12, 9:00 am – 5:30 pm

Building upon the previous session of engaged conversation about the rewards and challenges of teaching about Oceania, particularly in classrooms, this session attempts to understand the various pedagogical approaches practitioners engage across multiple sites. It is imperative to make the distinction between the pedagogical approaches of teaching at home in the Pacific, or abroad in the diaspora.

We invite participants to share and consider the following questions:
• How does one’s positionality (indices such as race, ethnicity, gender, socio-economics, intellectual genealogy) inform the pedagogy of how one teaches about the Pacific?
• What are potential challenges for practitioners teaching in the diaspora versus at home in the Pacific?
• To what extent do practitioners and students engage with elders and community members when indigenous communities are present? How might the lack of community interaction impact classroom learning about the Pacific?
• What are the benefits or challenges of teaching about Oceania to students who are either indigenous or non-indigenous? What are potential challenges for practitioners and students when learning about Oceania?
• What are possible challenges of teaching about Oceania online?
• How does one create a conducive learning space of “community” to ensure that students are engaged in the classroom?

Participants:

• Holly Barker, Thomas Tutogi: The Ethics of Study Abroad; Case Study from French Polynesia
• Carmen Borja: ‘Sea’ing the intricacies of a woven basket: approaching Oceania Studies in the diaspora by zoning into Chamorro knowledge systems
• Rochelle Fonoti: Trajectories of Samoan Students at a U.S. College: Mapping the Roles of Fa’asamoa in their Academic Success and Well Being
• Aanoalii Rowena Fuluifaga: A kitchen called va; A reflective narrative on embodying Samoan socio-relational aspects to teaching spaces within Tertiary environments
• Betty Manuofetoa: Re-defining teaching Pedagogies: Best practices and challenges in a University classroom
• Emerson Odango: Medewe, kalala, wiewia soaramwahu ehu: Pohnpei Studies, a community-based approach to pedagogy in Pohnpei State, Federated States of Micronesia
• Jiokapeci Qalogiolevu: Navigating Oceania on different waves: The challenges faced by non-indigenous Pacific Islanders in teaching and learning about Oceania
• Rosarina Rafai: Guiding Stars, Navigators and Metaphors: Creating a ‘basket’ of Pacific pedagogies, rethinking ‘Pacific island Diaspora’ and decolonizing the classroom in the teaching and learning of Oceania in the UU204 ‘Pacific Worlds’ course
• Lisa Uperesa: Transforming Pacific Places of Learning

For more information, please contact Carmen Borja at borjac@uw.edu and Rochelle Fonoti at rfonoti@uw.edu.

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

Co-Organizers: Tamatoa Bambridge, Pierre-Yves Le Meur, and Alexander Mawyer

Friday, February 12, 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm

This session seeks to build off a lively and free-flowing session in 2015, which raised and problematized the anthropological encounter with “sovereignty” in the French colonies and ex-colonies in the Pacific. For 2016, we invite participants to join us for a working session on the complexity of expression and enactment of various levels and instances of authority (state and
non state, supra-national and infra-national, global and indigenous…) in the (post)colonial French-speaking Pacific. Our goal for this session is to present and exchange concrete feedback on short working papers bearing on the dynamics and complexities of the sovereign and of sovereignties across diverse ethnographically informed contexts. Noting the comparative value of anthropological research in the overseas territories still “possessed” by the French metropolis in the Pacific, and in now (post)colonial Vanuatu, we hope that participants will contribute working papers that bring the range of divergent and distinct configurations of autonomies and sovereignties in the French-speaking islands of the Pacific into crisp view. For instance, work discussed in our informal session in 2015, drew attention to the distinct realizations of indigeneity and autochthony across the French-speaking Pacific; to the constitutions of territorial legal regimes and justice systems; to dimensions of the state’s entanglement in the politics of UNESCO World Heritage projects in the region; issues of performance and politics; and the (un)common destiny of France and New Caledonia and the Pacific. Contributions linking sovereignty with issues of land property/policy, economic emancipation, rent-seeking strategies or resource nationalism will also be welcome.

We welcome new participants and invite participants to e-mail an abstract or brief description (no more than 250 words) of your proposed working paper to us by December 31st, 2015. Please contact one of the organizers for further information.

Pierre-Yves Le Meur, IRD, Nouméa, New Caledonia; <pierre-yves.lemeur@ird.fr>
Tamatoa Bambridge, CNRS, CRIOBE, Moorea, French Polynesia; <tamatoa.bambridge@criobe.pf>
Alexander Mawyer, CPIS, The University of Hawai’i at Manoa; <mawyer@hawaii.edu>

Friendship and Peer Relationships
Organizers: Jessica Hardin and Mary Good
Discussants: Leslie Butt, Deborah Gewertz, Fred Errington
Saturday, February 13, 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Our group kicked off its first informal session with a lively discussion about the nature of friendship and peer relationships and the ways in which they complement, replace, and change other forms of relations such as kinship. We had a variety of participants with research interests across the Pacific. From our conversations, we developed several common themes, including Change/Transformations; Finding “One’s Place”; and Commitment to Friendship. During the Santa Fe meetings, the group discussed moving forward at the next ASAO meetings as a working group. Although we do not plan at this point to collectively publish an edited volume or a special journal issue, we would like to maintain the spirit of the ASAO working sessions by encouraging everyone to deeply engage with the group and work in tandem so as to foster productive cross-citation and shared readership where possible. We plan to exchange manuscripts with session participants as a way to facilitate participation but also eventual publication. With this in mind, we proposed sharing manuscripts by November 1 and for those interested potentially another exchange of manuscripts in February. Our working session in 2016 will also include Deborah Gewertz and Fred Errington as discussants of the submitted papers.

Confirmed participants going forward include Ping-Ann Addo, Barbara Andersen, Mary Good, Jessica Hardin, Tate LeFevre, Helen Lee, David Troolin, Christina Kwauk, Mac Marshall, Larry Carucci, Leslie Butt.
Hierarchy and Egalitarianism in Austronesia/Oceania

Organizer: Ku Kun-hui

Discussant: Lamont Lindstrom

Friday, February 12, 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm

This session concerns the relationship between hierarchy and egalitarianism among societies in Austronesia and Oceania. There is a long tradition on the theme of hierarchy and egalitarianism in this region, and current revived revision of the topic. We intend to reassess these models ethnographically and ask how these models inform our own work and how our ethnographic materials contest or enhance these analytical frameworks. Twenty people showed up for the informal session and we had a very lively discussion on the topic and more importantly we decide to move forward to the next stage as a working session next year. We discussed some common intellectual ancestors and how the keys terms have been defined. Taking a historical point of view, we think Pacific societies are both hierarchical and egalitarian at the same time, only the particular mix differs (for example, chiefs come and go over time). The issues of land and land tenure were highlighted in some cases, as were age, gender, and class/status difference in others.

Participants:

- Thomas Gibson (University of Rochester) From tribal hut to royal palace in Austronesian Southeast Asia
- Richard Scaglion (University of Pittsburgh) Austronesian Speakers and Social Hierarchies in the Pacific
- Keir Martin (University of Oslo) Shifting Hierarchies and cultural difference in East New Britain
- Lin, Ching-hsiu (National Taitung University) Water, Power and Social Relations: An Ethnography of water management in contemporary Bunun society, Taiwan.
- Hsin-Chieh Kao (Xiamen University) Fortune and Glory: Base and Circulation in Yami Society.
- Ku, Kun-hui (NTHU) Hierarchy and Egalitarianism in Austronesian Taiwan.

We welcome new submissions. Please contact the organizer for further information.
This working session marks the culmination of a series of ASAO sessions which led up to the August 2015 Malinowski Legacy Conference in Alotau. Alotau conference participants will assemble for a final presentation of their refined papers in preparation for publication, after having been enriched by input from Milne Bay residents and fellow scholars. The conference was held in Alotau to return something to the place where the research had originated, but also to take advantage of the fact that the Massim is home to local “anthropologists” who are masters at analyzing their own cultural practices and beliefs in reflexive ways. The workshop will also provide an opportunity for participants in prior ASAO sessions, who were unable to travel to PNG, to present their work.

For more information, please contact Allan Durrah as the corresponding session co-organizer.

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

Co-organizers: Karen Fox and Andie Palmer, Nancy Lutkehaus, Eric Silverman

Thursday, February 11, 9:00 am – 5:30 pm

Please note the title change. Building upon the active and exciting discussion during the 2015 informal session, the working session for 2016 is designed to allow participants—and others who may be interested—to present their specific research and scholarship about the “sounds of Oceania”. The group agreed we were interested in the sounds of Oceania as Pacific Peoples express, interpret, comment upon, and challenge the fundamental premises of locally experienced sound, whether categorized as music / noise / silence / instruction / entertainment, or other. The working group welcomes those whose research in the Pacific considers: the acoustemology of places (Feld 1996); cultural conventions for organizing sound, understanding of what is and is not appropriate sound, sounds in intimate spaces and auditory imperialism (Padden and Humphries 1988); instrumental musical and oratorical performance (Bauman 1975, Finnegan and Orbell 1995); song practices including waiata (Ngata 1928, 1990) hymns, and their political uses (Pond 1995); the efficacy of sound (how sounds DO something/doing things with sound) (cf. Austin 1962); sounds as claimed or denied or discounted; ontological security of sound; learning to listen, learning to hear; gendered sound; how we use music to hear the past (sound heritage); semiotics of sound; sound, place and meaning; architecture of sound and acoustic archaeology; singing the land; sharing of sound and the meaning of shared sound; silence, sonic exclusion, and not-hearing; soundscapes (Schafer 1977; cf. Adams 2014); sounds unique to Oceania; disordering sounds and sounds out-of-place (e.g., underwater sounds of deep sea mining); and the ways that the Sounds of the Pacific travel or are taken to resound in other places, transnational spaces.

As “newcomers” to ASAO, we are delighted to announce that Eric Silverman and Nancy Lutkehaus will be joining the section. You may remember that Andie and Karen agreed to co-chair the 2015 Informal Session when Eric was unable to attend. We look forward to their expert help and moving the section in an inclusive direction.

Participants who have indicated a strong commitment: Andie Palmer, Marianne “Mimi” George, Amy Stillman, Eric Silverman, Nancy Lutkehaus, Mary Burke, and Karen Fox. Other members who attended the 2015 Conference or have indicated interest are Hao-Li Lin, Ivan Brady, Apolonia Tamata, Patrick Nason, Vincent Malcolm-Buchanon, Jacqueline Hazen, Jamon
Theorizing Race and Culture in the Pacific

Organizer: Lisa Uperesa

Thursday, February 11, 9:00 am – 5:30 pm

This panel takes as its task enunciating 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. These latter paradigms have dominated analyses of island life, group relations, and identity and belonging in the Pacific. While recent publications have taken up questions about race and racialization, their importance in historical and contemporary life in the Pacific deserves a more sustained conversation across island areas.

Building on and extending existing work in this area, past sessions focused on rights and citizenship, comparative colonialisms, place, and migration/diaspora as shaping formations of race-culture-indigeneity. In particular, clustered conversations emerged around land, racial logics, and culture; sport, racialization, and indigeneity; and the intersection of racialization of Pacific peoples with colonial projects and new configurations of power. For this upcoming working session, participants will continue to develop article-length papers to pre-circulate and present in San Diego.

Participants:

- Whitening Racial Mixture, Erasing Indigeneity: Sociological Studies of Race in Early Twentieth Century Hawai‘i, Maile Arvin, University of California, Riverside
- (T)racing and (E)racing the Kahuku Red Raiders: Race and Indigeneity on the North Shore of Oahu, Kali Fermantez, BYU-Hawai‘i
- The Field and its Articulations: Geothermal Potentials in Puna, Hawai‘i, Ann M. Iwashita, Columbia University
- “Métissage” as Settler Republican Project in New Caledonia, Tate LeFevre, Franklin & Marshall College
- “Just Chamorro, Full Chamorro, Only Chamorro”: What does Mestizu and Mestizo have to do with Chamorro Decolonization?, Laurel Monnig, Wright State University
- “Finally, we are Fijians too!” Fiji’s common national identity and its impact on young Fijians of various ethnicities, Jiokapeci Qalo-Qiolevu, University of the South Pacific
- Mediated Images and Alternative Framings: Deconstructing the “Natural Samoan Athlete”, Lisa Uperesa, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa
- Nutrition, Nurturance and the (Re)Generation of Human Difference, Sandra Widmer, York University
- Replacing or Stabilising Race? Germanness as a Category of Colonial Ambiguity, Christine Winter, University of Sydney
- “Whiteness and the Bougainville Conflict: A Crisis at Arawa Country Club”, Forrest Wade Young, University of Hawai‘i-Mānoa
INFORMAL SESSIONS

Authenticity and Authoring in Pacific Cultures (!)

Co-organizers: Jeannette Mageo and Joyce Hammond

Saturday, February 13, 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm

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

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

Participants and topics so far include: Amy Stillman (hula and Hawaiian music, academic “discourses of authenticity,” the Hawaiian community’s “discourses of insistence”), Jeannette Mageo (photography, authenticity, and Thomas Andrew’s “Greek” Samoan maidens), Jordan Prokosch (competing sources of authenticity/authority among Marshallese immigrants), Joyce Hammond (robes végétales in Tahitian beauty contests and questions of authenticity), Patrick Molohon (authenticity and the tourist gaze in French Polynesia), Rosarine Rafai (finding Pacific authenticity in an art course at the University of Fiji), Deborah Waite (authenticity and doubt: tridacna clam shell carvings [barava] from Western Solomon Islands), Sei O’Brien (Tuvaluan elders’ response to Tuvaluan artifacts in the Auckland Museum).

For more information or to participate in this session at the San Diego meeting, please contact Jeannette Mageo (jmageo@wsu.edu) or Joyce Hammond (Joyce.Hammond@wwu.edu).
Avoiding Giving (!)

Organizer: Elise Berman

Friday, February 12, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

The gift has been a central topic in anthropological theory and research for more than a century. Data from Oceania informs a large proportion of analyses of the gift. Many of these analyses argue, implicitly or explicitly, that giving is the basic social act that forges bonds between people.

Rather than analyzing giving this session invites participants to examine its opposite: not-giving or avoiding giving. Analyses of giving as prosocial implicitly construct not-giving as anti-social, as an act that rather than creating bonds destroys them. The goal of this session is to challenge this assumption and unpack the nature of not-giving in a place that has been a bastion of research on the gift. The word “avoiding” refers to the fact that giving has been constructed as central in not only anthropological theory but also local ideologies of social life. Through analyzing a broad range of issues, this session will hopefully not only advance ethnographic analyses of Oceania but also challenge and enhance anthropological theory on gift giving and exchange.

This informal session is intended to restart two previous sessions on Avoiding Giving that were very successful. Previous participants wrote about issues as broad as religious conversion, the kula, adoption, Ponzi schemes, and youth romantic relationships. All previous participants are encouraged to join, as are any new participants. Participants are welcome to discuss any aspect of avoiding giving including but not limited to: remittances, linguistic practices, kinship, colonial legacies, globalization, historical practices, and changing religious movements. We are particularly interested in work that re-examines classic ethnographies for examples of avoiding giving as well as analyses of how avoiding giving plays into new social forms in the postcolonial Pacific.

The goal is to run an informal session in 2016 and then jump to a symposium and publication in 2017 (although this is negotiable).

Interested participants include: Kalissa Anna Alexeyeff, Arne Cato Berg, Larry Carucci, Rena Lederman, Ryan Schram, Rick Feinberg, Sei O'Brien, Jessica Hardin, Craig Lind (Skype) and Glenn Peterson (Interested but not attending the meeting)

Building Migrant Communities (!)

Organizer: Jordan Prokosch

Saturday, February 13, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

There is a growing body of work in the social sciences studying immigrant populations. This work has progressed beyond the classical assimilation/acculturation paradigm and embraced a variety of theoretical lenses including hybridity, social identity theory, transculturalism, and diaspora studies. This work, however, has primarily focused on large population immigration
into powerful and wealthy nation-states, the kind of nation-states that contribute overwhelmingly to research budgets. Mexican and east-Asian immigration to the United States, or Arabic immigrants in southern Europe, therefore, are well-explored phenomena.

Pacific Island immigrants are less well studied, and in 2012 Michael Rynkiewich challenged social scientists to pay more attention to the contributions the Oceania region can make to our understanding of migration as a whole. Oceanic peoples are notoriously mobile and many groups have migrated from their original islands to other lands in the pacific and around the world. Whether it is Samoans in Fiji, Cook Islanders in New Zealand, Marquesans in Tahiti, Kiribati across Micronesia, Marshallese in Arkansas, or Pohnpeians in Hawaii, pacific immigrant communities have become an increasingly significant group of interest in anthropology. We intend for this session to meet this challenge and grow the body of literature on pacific island migrant communities.

Wage labor, education, healthcare, entertainment, and forced migration are just a few of the reasons an individual leaves his or her homeland. These individuals quickly find or create, and actively maintain, connections to other people with whom they share a cultural background. They form communities in the new land and preserve affiliations to family, lineage, clan, or village across space, frequently in the absence of the original environment and some of the accompanying social institutions, such as land ownership, that fostered those cultural ideals. These communities attract more islanders and form new hybrid social institutions within the host culture, such as native language churches, sports leagues, and linked households. At the same time the new structures, constraints, and ideas of the host culture make their mark on the migrant community.

This session will explore Pacific Islander diaspora communities, in the more encompassing sense of the term. How do these communities begin? By what processes are they maintained? How do Pacific cultures differ in their community building and what role does the home culture play? When islanders construct a new social space, what do they consciously or unconsciously preserve? What do they discard? We are looking for contributions that will help construct a map of pacific immigrant communities and how they vary in leadership, organization, use of geographic space, resource availability, and relationship to the homeland and to the host-land. We are also looking for a variety of theoretical perspectives on migration and migrants in the Pacific.

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

The Experiential Roots of Mana (!)

Organizers: Mimi George and Charles D. Laughlin

Friday, February 12, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Mimi George and Charles Laughlin have discussed the notion of mana for many years. We have been interested in the experiential aspects of apparently universal elements in human spiritual knowledge and ritual practice. Our explorations have ranged across a number of mana-related issues, including ritual, alternative states of consciousness, shamanic practices, entheogens, lucid dreaming and meditation. One of these features has struck us as an important focus for discussing the phenomenological roots of spiritual knowledge and belief, namely what many Pacific peoples call mana, or cognate terms, and which bears other labels in other places (e.g., barakah in Africa, kundalini in Asia, libido in Jungian psychology).

There has been a renewed interest in the question of mana and related issues in the literature (e.g., August 2005; Marshall 2012; Mondragón 2004; Tomlinson 2007; Zepf 2010). When we called for interested participants at the 2015 meeting, we received 15 responses. We feel that the time is ripe to bring this hypothesis before the best minds in Oceanic ethnography and
throw it out for discussion at the next meeting. We also wish to put forth the hypothesis that
cultural concepts of an invisible spiritual force that animates objects and persons in the world
derives from, and is reinforced by the direct experience of psychic energy in the body (Laughlin
1994; see also Lederman’s 1991 account of her personal experience of anjin during her
fieldwork in Malaysia). In doing so, we will share what we know about the neuropsychology of
psychic energy, as well as transpersonal studies of such experiences. We wish to find out
whether our ASAO colleagues feel a more formal working session of this issue in 2017 might be
productive.

References:

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Islands, Vanuatu.” Oceania: 289-308.


Zepf, Siegfried. “Libido and psychic energy–Freud’s concepts reconsidered.” International Forum

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

Indigenous Modernities in the Pacific (!)

Organizer: Kalaniopua Young

Friday, February 12, 2:00 pm - 5:30 pm

This informal session seeks to open up creative space for thinking through ideas about place,
race, class, labor, urbanization and indigeneity while also opening up discussion for examining
what home means to indigenous Pacific peoples in the contemporary moment and the role
of diaspora, dispossession, community empowerment and the co-creative potential for de-
occupation, decolonization, transformative theory, methodology and praxis. The new title opens
up new limits and possibilities for continuing collaboration, intellectual support and evolving
ideas about home, community and wellbeing.

Questions that we want to address:

• What issues does a critical focus on indigenous modernity in the Pacific address?
• How does an understanding of temporality continue to inform, shape and transform
indigenous engagements with development, production and activism?

If you are interested in co-facilitating/participating in this session, please contact Kalaniopua
Young, <younght1982@gmail.com>.
Local and Regional Dimensions of the 2015 El Niño Drought (!)

Organizer: Dan Jorgensen

Thursday, February 11, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

As most ASAO members know, the middle of this year was marked by the onset of an El Nino-related drought in the western Pacific, stretching from Indonesia in the west and as far east as the western Solomons (if not further). Despite forecast warnings, this drought caught many – local people, responsible authorities, and outside observers – off guard, and only emerged into broad public awareness as its effects spread and deepened. This session has two immediate aims: the first is to take informal stock of what we know at present, and the second is to gauge the interest for a working session in 2017 on the drought, its effects, and responses to it. One hoped-for byproduct would be to stimulate interest in conducting timely drought-related research in advance of that date.

A starting list of topics might include:

• Current assessment tools, methods, and ideas, as well as systems for reporting.
• Ground-level impacts on local communities, their responses and predicaments. Documenting and understanding local strategies may be important.
• Larger-scale (regional, provincial, national, transnational) dimensions of the drought. (Here, for example, one might also pay special attention to urban-rural links, remittances, and fosterage, as well as relevant aspects of transportation and communications networks.)
• Efforts of governmental, church, and NGO agencies in addressing the drought.
• Lessons learned on the part of all concerned.

While this is pretty open-ended (as I think it should be), this amounts to a hunting license for those wanting to pursue such matters. My hope is that the session will attract active, engaged, and creative attention to generate helpful ideas – everyone welcome. To indicate interest, offer suggestions, or ask for more information, please contact Dan Jorgensen at <dwj@uwo.ca>.

Participants: Barbara Andersen, Cato Berg, Mike Burton, Deborah Gewertz, Jamon Halvaksz, Aletta Biersack, Carlos Mondragon, Paige West, JC Salyer, Dan Jorgensen, Angela Macmillan (possible)

Dan Jorgensen, <dwj@uwo.ca>

Sexuality and Agency in Oceania: Rethinking Pacific Concepts of Ownership, Exchange, and Morality

Organizer: Manuel Rauchholz

Thursday, February 11, 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm

This late-breaking informal session in 2015 sought to problematize the issue of sexuality and agency in Oceania and place it in the context of a discussion on ownership, exchange and morality in connection with the use and misuse of persons and their bodies. Leading to the session were exchanges at previous ASAO meetings that seem to indicate a high rate of sexual exploitation or what by human rights standards most nations have ascribed to world wide might be termed sexual abuse. From the earliest times of colonial contact, women’s and mostly
The Rural Pasifika Diaspora (!)

Organizer: Helen Lee

Saturday, February 13, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

The aim of this session is to bring together researchers interested in the temporary or permanent migration of Pacific Islanders to rural areas in the diaspora. Seasonal worker schemes for Islanders have been introduced in both New Zealand (since 2007) and Australia (since 2008) and are leading to temporary population flows into rural areas, primarily for horticultural work. In 2015 Australia lifted the cap on its Seasonal Worker Program and expanded it to include even more Pacific nations. However, seasonal workers are not the only Islanders in rural areas as there are also long-term settlers, temporary visitors, and ‘overstayers’ or undocumented migrants. In rural areas of the US Islanders also have various immigration statuses, including temporary workers, although no formalised seasonal worker scheme specifically for Islanders exists.

Some of the questions that could be explored in the session include:

- The implications of seasonal worker schemes for other Islanders in rural areas and for home countries receiving workers’ remittances
- Issues Islanders face in rural areas for mobilising social capital and accessing public services
- Do different immigration statuses affect the socio-economic status and wellbeing of Islanders in rural areas?
- Relationships between Islanders and other ethnic groups in rural areas
- Experiences and aspirations of Islander youth in rural areas in the diaspora
- The trans-local and transnational networks of Islanders in rural areas

Tuakana-Teina: Examining Relationships of Power in Eastern Polynesia (!)

Organisers: Marama Muru-Lanning, Carlos Mondragon and Francisca DelaMaza

Friday, February 12, 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm

The tuakana-teina pairing is an organisational structure used by Eastern Polynesian peoples of the Pacific. It distinguishes the paired relationships of ‘senior’ and ‘junior’ between people and things. Recognising that deep cultural meanings are subtly embedded in language is essential to analysing tuakana-teina. Williams’ basic translations of the terms for New Zealand Maori defines tuakana, as ‘an older brother of a male, an older sister of a female and a cousin of the same sex in an older branch of the family’ (1985 [1844]: 445) and teina ‘as a younger brother of
a male, a younger sister of a female and a cousin of the same sex in a younger branch of the family’ (1985:410). This ordering of people is largely responsible for structuring the reciprocal relationships between kin members of descent groups, tribal groups, and Maori and their environment (Salmond 1991 [1988]: 348). The overall purpose of this new session is to explore how and why tuakana-teina defines, in Eastern Polynesian cultural terms, those things which ‘can be’ controlled and owned and those things which are ‘too senior’ or ‘too great in status’ to be dominated or owned.

This session will investigate how the concept of tuakana-teina frames Polynesian conceptions of relatedness, possession, belonging and ownership. Our informal discussions will contribute understandings of tuakana-teina as a fundamental concept that identifies relationships of power in Eastern Polynesia between tuakana nation states such as Britain, France, the United States, New Zealand and Chile and their less powerful counter-parts (or teina nations) such as Aotearoa/New Zealand, the Cook Islands, Tahiti, Hawaii and Rapanui/Easter Island. Among other things this session will critique and compare the historical relationships of tuakana-teina nations and explore the protections, responsibilities and obligations that tuakana-teina nations have with one another.

Caveat: We have used the New Zealand Maori spelling of tuakana and teina to frame our session. These fundamental words (or concepts) will have different spellings in other parts of Eastern Polynesia.

For more information, please contact Marama Muru-Lanning at <m.murulanning@auckland.ac.nz>.

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VI. NEW PUBLICATIONS, GRANTS RECEIVED, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS


Geoffrey Saxe’s 2014 book *Cultural Development of Mathematical Ideas: Papua New Guinea Studies* (Cambridge University Press) was awarded the 2014 Stirling Prize (psychological anthropology) from the American Anthropological Association and 2015 Maccoby Award (developmental psychology) from the American Psychological Association.

Ryan Schram’s 2015 article entitled “Notes on the Sociology of Wantoks in Papua New Guinea” (published *Anthropological Forum*) was selected for the 2015 Article Prize of the Australian Anthropological Society.

“FROM ROMANCE TO REALITY:” A SPECIAL ISSUE OF PACIFIC STUDIES

Papers from the ASAO session "From Romance to Reality: Representations of Pacific Islands and Pacific Islanders” have been published as a special issue of *Pacific Studies* (volume 38, issue 1-2), edited by Judith Schachter and Nancy Lutkehaus, the session organizers.

- Anthropophagi in New-York and Other Voyagers. Maria Lepowsky.
- Imagining the Marshall Islands. Laurence M. Carucci.
- From Colonial Pomp to Tourism Reality: Commodification and Cannibalization of the Fijian Firewalking Ceremony. Guido Carlo Pigliasco.
- Oh, Those Poor Islanders and Threats to an Idyllic Life on a Beautiful Island! Juliana Flinn.
- Representation as Disaster: Mapping Islands, Climate Change, and Displacement in Oceania. Wolfgang Kempf.

VII. THE NEW ASAO WEB SITE

The ASAO website has been redeveloped and the web site manager, Zakea Boeger, plans to make it available to members from 20th December at the same address, http://asao.org. This includes conference preregistration, membership renewal and PISF donations. You have two options: you can use the form that Alan Howard has used in the past, or you can use the new payment option that takes you directly to PayPal. You select the items you want (preregistration, membership renewal) and these will be added to a ‘cart’ just as with other online purchasing, then you go to the checkout and make your payment securely through PayPal. The PISF donation link will take you directly to PayPal.

Take some time to explore the new site, which will be officially launched in San Diego!
The ASAO Newsletter is published three times yearly (April, September, December) and is a benefit of ASAO membership. For general members and fellows, membership maybe paid annually (US$40) or once every three years (US$110). Student, retired and unemployed membership is US$25 annually or US$65 for three years. Institutional subscriptions are available for US$15 per calendar year. ISSN 1095-3000

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