I. FROM THE EDITOR

My thanks to all who submitted session announcements and other materials by the September 1 deadline, and a special thanks to our Program Chair, Roger Lohmann, and to Jan Rensel for their extra efforts in preparing or reviewing materials. Michael Rynkiewich, our new Annual Meetings Site Coordinator also deserves special credit for providing information on hotel arrangements in Charlottesville. For those involved in Symposia and Working Sessions, please take note of the deadlines set by your session organizer(s). Some of these are well in advance of November 1.

Please note that all materials to be included in the December Newsletter must be received by December 1.

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II. FROM THE CHAIR

I trust that you all enjoyed a pleasant and productive summer or winter, and that you are invigorated to embark on the season of preparation for the next annual meeting.

It is with great pleasure that I announce the election of Dan Jorgensen and Judith [Modell] Schachter to the ASAO Board. I am confident that Dan and Judith will add tremendous experiences, insights, and energies to the overall governance of the Association over the next several years. I want also to extend my gratitude to 'Okusitino Mahina for his willingness to stand election to the Board. I know that the Association hopes that he will continue to add his important voice to, and support of, ASAO.

Additionally, we should all take pleasure in the announcement of three new Honorary Fellows: William Clarke, Robert Kiste, and Eugene Ogan. All three candidates are without exception deserving of this honor and, in turn, their work, scholarly contributions, and overall presence honors the Association.

Over the past months, many members have tireless worked to hone plans for the upcoming meeting in Charlottesville, VA, USA, on February 20-24 at the Omni Charlottesville Hotel. Many folks have displayed exceptional dedication and effort in this endeavor, and they must be celebrated. They include Kathy Creely (our Treasurer), Judy Flores (former Site Coordinator), Roger Lohmann (Program Coordinator), Ira Bashkow (Site Coordinator ex officio), Lamont Lindstrom (Distinguished Lecture unofficial committee chair), Michael Rynkiewich (Site Coordinator), and Keith Chambers (PISF Committee Chair), and of course Jan Rensel, whose expertise continues to be inadequately subsumed under any one title (although it is currently Archivist). Bradd Shore has kindly accepted our invitation to deliver the Distinguished Lecture. I am sure that the program will prove exciting.

As always, I encourage you to e-mail me with any questions, comments, suggestions about the Association.

See you in February--
Eric Silverman, Chair, ASAO Board

III. 2007 ASAO ANNUAL MEETING: 20-24 FEBRUARY, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

The 2007 ASAO Annual Meeting will be held in Charlottesville, Virginia. The board meeting will convene on Tuesday evening, February 20, and will continue on Wednesday morning, February 21. The general meeting will begin Wednesday evening, February 21, and run through Saturday evening, February 24.

This year’s distinguished lecturer will be Bradd Shore. His lecture, "Samoan Shorelines: What Thirty Eight Years Visiting Samoa Taught me about Doing Anthropology," will be presented Thursday evening, February 22.

**Accommodations**

Accommodations have been arranged for ASAO members at the **Omni Charlottesville Hotel** located at:
Contact information for the Omni Charlottesville Hotel is as follows:
Tel: 434-817-6635 or 1-888-444-6664 (toll-free Charlottesville)
Or 1-800-THE OMNI (toll-free Omni central reservations)
Fax: 434-817-6493

The rates for ASAO members are US$110.00 plus 11% tax. When you make your reservations, be sure to ask for the ASAO special rate by saying “ASAO Social Anthropology guest room block.” Online at www.omnihotels.com you can enter our group account number 11200103714 to also make reservations. The deadline for reservations at the conference rate is Tuesday, January 30, 2007. We strongly encourage ASAO participants to stay at this hotel, since our special rates, complimentary room, and waiver of some meeting room fees are contingent on our filling our expected guest room numbers. Check in time is at 3 p.m. and check out time is by noon.

The Omni Charlottesville Hotel anchors the Historic Downtown Pedestrian Mall, so there are plenty of bars and restaurants within easy walking distance. The Hotel itself has 208 rooms with a number of amenities: complimentary high speed internet, 2 dual phone lines, voice mail, data ports and modem access, cable TV, fully stocked refreshment center, complimentary (aka “mini-bar,” with items for sale), newspaper of your choice (local, USA Today, Wall Street Journal), hairdryer, iron, ironing board and individual climate control. The hotel has a four diamond rating, a fully equipped fitness center, a heated indoor pool, a business center, safe deposit boxes at the front desk, multilingual guest services and an ATM. The hotel features The Pointe for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and The Pointe Bar. The hotel also has wheelchair access, several handicap accessible rooms, and Braille signs, menus and fire alarms.

**Transportation**

The Omni Charlottesville Hotel is 12 miles/20 minutes from the Charlottesville Airport and a taxi will cost approximately $25. There is no hotel shuttle. Alternatively, the Richmond Airport is 75 miles/1 hour and 20 minutes away, and the Washington, D.C. Dulles Airport is 1 hour and 45 minutes away. Further information on local transportation options will be forthcoming in the December ASAO Newsletter.

**Activities of Interest in Charlottesville**

Charlottesville is home to the University of Virginia (www.virginia.edu) where there are six anthropologists who have worked in the Papua New Guinea and Indonesia (http://www.virginia.edu/anthropology/). The university is 8 blocks from the hotel and there is a free trolley on a regular schedule that will take you to the university and back to the hotel. Charlottesville also is home to the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection, situated on beautiful grounds just outside town. We are trying to develop a time to visit both of these institutions. Charlottesville was cited as the best place to live in the United States in 2004 in Bert Sperling and Peter Sander’s book Cities Ranked and Rated. Information about the city can be found at http://www.virginia.edu/exploring.html For those interested in the history and environment of the Charlottesville area, the following sites are nearby:

- **Ashlawn-Highland**, the home of 5th U.S. President, James Monroe (10 miles/15 minutes).
- **Monticello**, the home of Thomas Jefferson, 3rd U.S. President, author of the Declaration of Independence, founder of the University of Virginia (A great site for the archaeology of slavery!)
- **Montpelier**, home of James Madison, 4th U.S. President and father of the U.S. Constitution, and Dolley Madison, America’s first First Lady.
- **Blue Ridge Mountains**, one of the views from the hotel.
Registration Information

Membership renewals and meeting registration forms will be sent in September. Registration fees for the 2007 meetings are $115, with a reduced rate of $60 for students, Pacific Islanders, and retired or unemployed attendees.

Membership dues for 2007 are $35 for regular memberships and $20 for students, Pacific Islanders, retirees, and unemployed members.

Registration for the 2007 meetings reflect the increased costs of the conference overall, including a new initiative to fund lodging for PISF travel award recipients.

Pacific Islands Scholars Fund Information

Now is the time for applications for ASAO support for Pacific Islands Scholars to attend the 2007 meetings in Charlottesville, Virginia, in February. The ASAO Web site contains a full description of the program as well as downloadable application forms for travel awards and mini-grants. Travel award applications are due no later than October 1, 2006. Session Organizers, please note that you will be asked to write a letter for any Pacific Islands scholars in your session applying for travel awards. Also, new this year is a short form organizers will need to submit for any scholars in your sessions you are nominating for mini-grants. Let’s do all we can to encourage strong participation in Charlottesville from our Pacific Islands colleagues. PISF info and forms can be found on the ASAO Web site: http://www.asao.org/pacific/pisf.htm

IV. 2007 ASAO PROPOSED SESSIONS

FORMAL SYMPOSIA

After Mining: Anticipations, Aspirations and Memories of Post-Mining Life in PNG
Organizers: Dan Jorgensen (University of Western Ontario) and Glenn Banks (University of New South Wales)

Over the last two decades the mining sector has dominated the economy and much of the politics of Papua New Guinea. For those people living in the vicinity of mining projects life has often changed dramatically, though generally not quite the way they or planners had expected. At the end of this decade, however, a new set of concerns will make themselves felt with the planned closure of two of the country’s largest mining projects, Porgera and Ok Tedi. In this symposium we consider post-mining life from the perspective of local people and others – developers, the state, environmentalists – who claim a stake in mining issues. Much of our focus will be on imagined futures as viewed through local anticipations and apprehensions. These futures may involve new forms of self-fashioning and place-making, and are matters of internal debate, often standing in pointed contrast to corporate planners’ visions. We will also be concerned with shifting geographies of marginalization and (dis)advantage; mining’s social, economic and ecological footprint changes over time, producing reversals of fortune at several scales. Many of the papers will pay close attention to the perennial struggle between developers intent on circumscribing claims and local people keen on extending them – a struggle that takes on a temporal dimension over the termination or continuation of their mutual relationship in mine closure. Temporalities also become important in understanding the interplay between representations of the past and imagined futures, a point that is strongly illuminated in cases where mines such as Misima or Panguna have already closed. Imagined pasts and futures are also implicated in corporate, state and environmentalist representations that deploy various traveling discourses – modernity, development, sustainability, corporate social responsibility, and so on – in constructing their own stances on mine closure. Our aim in this symposium is to explore these themes to shed light on the tensions between
development, conservation, and local hopes in policy and debate surrounding the question of mine closure in PNG.

Our current list of participants includes Nick Bainton, Glenn Banks, Aletta Biersack, Emma Goldthorpe, Alex Golub, Dan Jorgensen, Martha Macintyre, Jill Nash, and Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi. Others wishing to take part should forward a paper prospectus of four to five pages to the organizers by October 1. Participants must complete initial revisions and circulate full drafts to the organizers and other participants by November 1.

Interpreting the Discourse of Intellectual Property Rights in the Pacific
Organizers: Toon van Meijl (University of Nijmegen) and Malia Talakai (University of Nijmegen)

This symposium aims at addressing the debate about the protection and use of Pacific knowledge systems within the context of globalization. Contributions aim specifically at analyzing the tension that exists between, on the one hand, political, legal and economic discourses of Pacific peoples who wish to retain control and who seek protection of the use of their cultural heritage, and, on the other hand, the view of others arguing that it is in the interest of the general public to lift as many embargos as possible in order to stimulate research and to increase economic growth. The papers approach the subject of cultural and intellectual property rights as a discourse, with specific attention for the concepts of property and ownership, particularly in relation to knowledge; the potential benefits of property; appropriate protection mechanisms; the complexities of the discourses about rights, especially property rights; the appropriation of property or its misappropriation, often associated with what is freely available in the public domain; and, finally, the use of intellectual property either as a form of enclosure or as a form of ethnic boundary. Participants must have revised papers prepared for circulation and comment prior to October 31, 2006.

Expected participants include Anne & Keith Chambers, Haidy Geismar, Michael Goldsmith, Sam Kaima, Lamont Lindstrom, Toon van Meijl, Andrew Moutu, James Nason, Joakim Peter, Guido Pigliasco, Jo Recht, Jacob Simet and Malia Talakai.

Discussant: Mark Busse (University of Auckland)

For more information or if you are interested in participating, please contact the session organizers:

Toon van Meijl, Centre for Pacific and Asian Studies, University of Nijmegen, P.O. Box 9104, 6500 HE Nijmegen, The Netherlands; e-mail <T.vanMeijl@ru.nl>
Malia Talakai, Centre for Pacific and Asian Studies, University of Nijmegen, P.O. Box 9104, 6500 HE Nijmegen, The Netherlands; e-mail <M.Talakai@maw.ru.nl>

New Perspectives on Adoption and Fostering in Oceania
Organizers: Jeanette Dickerson-Putman (Indiana University-Indianapolis) and Judith Schachter (Carnegie Mellon University)

After a very successful and stimulating working session in 2006 we will go forward as a symposium in 2007. Participants will consider the following common threads and shared issues as they prepare their papers for the symposium.
1) The theme of flexibility—the argument, made in several papers, that the continuum between fosterage and adoption, with the multiple practices along that continuum, give these forms of child-having flexibility. As “relationship-making” practices, transfers of parenthood can serve as responses to crises, such as demographic decline, migration, or a natural disaster.

2) The significance of the state—the importance of state-based institutions and ideologies for the evolution of modes of “having children.” In some instances, there is a direct link between state mandated forms of family (the “normal”) and the movement of children; in other instances, the link is indirect—a matter of changing values and practices as the result of encounters with rules and norms sanctioned by the state.

3) The rise of a global discourse about adoption—as children circulate, so too do ideas about kinship, the value of a child, the identity and personhood of a child who has been transferred to a non-biological parent. Issues of secrecy, and when and how a child learns about the nature of her relationship with primary caretakers, now cross the globe. So, too, do theories of the emotional and affective dimensions of adoption, fosterage, and other forms of fictive kinship. How do these play out, for the individual?

4) The changing value of the child—from an economic asset to a beloved object, from gift to potential member of society, from “blood” relative to “chosen” kin. And linked to this, interpretations of life-stages and acceptable entry into the world of adulthood.

5) The intersection of law and custom—the changes that result from an introduction of a formal, legal system for controlling the transfer of children, into a local, a regional, and a national context. The importance, as well, of international regulations of the passage of children (and persons in general), promulgated by international legislative bodies.

6) Geographical and structural factors—a rural/urban dichotomy in practices of and ideologies about transactions in parenthood; the impact of other variables on the practices and interpretations of child transfer: class, caste, religion, ethnicity, and race.

7) Perceptions of chosen kinship—how do participants perceive, talk about, and respond to the possibilities for and functions of chosen (made) kinship? What do their stories tell about our interpretations, analytic categories, and assumptions about family and relatedness?

Drafts of papers should be sent for comment to the organizers by October 15. Participants will circulate completed drafts to all other participants and discussant(s) by November 15.

Participants: Leslie Butt, Larry Carucci, Jeanette Dickerson-Putman, Christine Hamelin and Christine Solomon, Thorgeir Kolshus, Naomi McPherson, Laurel Monnig, Manuel Rauchholz, and Judith Schachter.
Discussant: Mac Marshall

Jeanette Dickerson-Putman, Department of Anthropology, Indiana University-Indianapolis, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202, U.S.A.; tel (317) 274-2995; e-mail <jdickere@iupui.edu>

Judith Schachter, Department of History, Carnegie Mellon University, Baker Hall 240, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890, U.S.A.; tel (412)268-3239; e-mail <JM1e@andrew.cmu.edu>

Vanuatu Taem: Temporality and Historicity
Organizer: Jean de Lannoy (Linacre College, University of Oxford)
The themes of temporality and historicity emerged as a common thread after a broad informal session and a working session on the presence of the past in Vanuatu and the relation between culture and history. The 11 papers raised a wide but complementary range of theoretical, methodological and ethical questions regarding the anthropology of time and history in Vanuatu. We invite further contributions on aspects of the relationship to time and history. We desire to keep a Vanuatu focus but a couple of relevant contributions on other areas would be welcome for a comparative perspective. Abstracts and full papers should be sent to the organizer by **November 1.**

An important aspect of the discussion regarded the often dramatic impact of earlier anthropological work exploited in local disputes and the potential impact of current research (T. Kolshus, M. Tabani). Related to this were considerations of diverging historical discourses within local communities (J. de Lannoy) as well as between national and international commemorations of Quiros’s 1606 voyage to Big Bay (C. Mondragon). A new history curriculum will teach young people to approach critically anthropological texts and other historical sources (S. Lightner). Ralph Regenvanu also advocates maximum diffusion and transparency of existing and forthcoming texts.

Several papers bridged oral traditions about the pre-colonial past and histories of the missionary encounter (e.g. C. Ballard, J. Taylor). Those papers as well addressed the multiplicity of voices on the past of Vanuatu, from diverging local perspectives on ancient heroes to the views of missionaries, archaeologists and reality TV. Many of these narratives, such as histories of conversion, concern ruptures with the past, but other perspectives reflect continuities, as illustrated by two papers on Tannese concepts of time (L. Lindstrom) and John Frum talk as “synchronic readjustment” (M. Tabani). Rupture and continuity are increasingly embedded in attempts to reinvigorate institutions and practices associated with the pre-Christian past in the context of the state: the Pig Bank (R. Regenvanu), chiefs (M. Patterson) and the return of bark cloth to Erromango (L. Bolton). As a way to tackle practical and theoretical aspects of the relation to time and history, J. de Lannoy proposed to reconsider Lévi-Straussian notions of hot and cold history as well as relating variations between histories and their uses to the social context.

Confirmed participants for Charlottesville are:

**Thorgeir Storesund Kolshus (University of Oslo)** “Histories Returned: The Methodological Challenges of a Cultural Expert.”

**Jean de Lannoy (University of Oxford)** “The Territory of the Vanuatu Historian.”

**Lamont Lindstrom (University of Tulsa)** “Naming and Memory on Tanna, Vanuatu.”

**Marc Tabani (Associated-Researcher at the Centre de recherches et de documentation sur l’Océanie – CNRS Marseille)** “Prophetic Times in Tanna, Vanuatu.”

**Sara Lightner (East West Centre, University of Hawai’i)** “The Vanuatu National History Curriculum Challenge: Creating **Features of Traditional Society.**”

**Mary Patterson (Melbourne University)** “Chiefly Speaking: History and Power in Vanuatu.”


**Lissant Bolton (British Museum)** “Retrieving History as Objects: The Case of Erromango Barkcloth.”

**Sabine Hess (Institut für Ethnologie, Universität Heidelberg)** “Being Allowed to Forget: Vanua Lavan Understandings of Time and History.”

**Jean de Lannoy, Linacre College, University of Oxford, OX1 3JA, United Kingdom; e-mail <jean.delannoy@linacre.ox.ac.uk>**

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To be confirmed/in abstentia: Carlos Mondragon, Chris Ballard, and Sandra Widmer.
WORKING SESSIONS

Articulating Indigenous Anthropology in/of Oceania.
Organizers: Ty P. Kawika Tengan (University of Hawai‘i at Manoa), Rochelle Fonoti (University of Washington, Seattle), and Tevita O. Ka‘ili (Brigham Young University – Hawai‘i)

Building on the success of our working session “Articulating Indigenous Anthropology in/of Oceania” held in 2006 in San Diego, we will follow up with another working session in 2007 that will continue to explore articulations of indigenous anthropology. Our use of the term articulation indexes our interest in the processes by which indigeneity and anthropology are “put together” in theory, practice, identity, politics, and cultural production. It also reflects our desire to find points of articulation among the participants in our session, and thus we intend to pre-circulate and assign a discussant to each paper/contribution.

As much as possible, we encourage participants to draw upon personal/professional experiences at home and in the field. Papers given in San Diego covered Moanan time-space theory, Rotuman epistemology, non-indigenous yet “Native” positionality, Samoan representation through tatau and film, and the different houses of Maori learning. An articulated ‘awa/kava ceremony served as both a medium for and subject of dialogue, and we intend to revisit the theoretical (if not material) convergences that came from that circle. Returning presenters from last year include Ty Tengan, Tevita Ka‘ili, Rochelle Fonoti, Ping-Ann Addo, Victor Narsimulu, Dionne Fonoti and Che Wilson (in absentia). Anticipated participants include Patricia Fifita, Tom Ryan, Des Kahotea and Andrew Williams.

We invite additional participants from all disciplines and communities to participate in this session. We welcome contributions that raise new topics for discussion and utilize a wide range of strategies for articulation. If you are interested, please submit a title and a written abstract to Rochelle Fonoti by October 25. Final papers or contributions will be due January 22.

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Rochelle Fonoti, Anthropology Department, University of Washington, Box 353100 Seattle, WA 98195, U.S.A.; tel (206) 543-5240; fax (206) 543-3285; e-mail <rfonoti@u.washington.edu>

Tevita O. Ka‘ili, International Cultural Studies and World Languages Department, Brigham Young University – Hawai‘i, 55-550 Kulanui Street, La‘ie, HI 96762, U.S.A.; tel. (808) 293-3692; fax (808) 293-3448; e-mail <kailit@byuh.edu>

Engendering Violence in Oceania
Organizers: Dorothy Counts (University of Waterloo/Okanagan University College) and Christine Stewart (Australian National University)

At our first Informal Session in Hawai‘i, 2005, we considered the structuring of gender violence; the many factors, both traditional and modern, which contributed to such violence; and the possibilities of solutions. Those of us who attended our second informal session in 2006 found ourselves engaged in a highly interesting discussion of the scope of our topic. What does “gender violence” mean? There is possibly no universal definition of violence, the social context must always be learned, and can operate to blur the distinction between victim and perpetrator. Gender itself can be multiple and is enacted in particular contexts. We consider that “gender violence” is not limited to domestic violence, nor is it confined to violence enacted
between male and female. It is gender violence, or gendered violence, when the victim of the violence is determined by gender relations; when the perpetrator of the violence is required to do so by gendered considerations; when the violence is legitimated by local configurations of gender relations. Gender can become a cause, an agent, an excuse for violence. Hence our working session in 2007 is directed to examining the ways in which violence in Oceania is gendered and engendered.

Expected participants include: Dorothy Counts, Anna-Karina Hermkens, Fiona Hukula, Abby McLeod, Naomi McPherson, Christine Salomon, Christine Stewart and Jean Zorn. Several others will be submitting papers in absentia. All participants should submit abstracts to the two facilitators by **October 20**, and drafts need to be ready for circulation by the **beginning of January**. Additional contributors are welcome, please contact the organizers.

Dorothy Counts, 15130 Old Mission Rd., Oyama, BC, V4V 2A9 Canada. e-mail <countsd@cablelan.net>

Christine Stewart, Gender Relations Centre, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200 Australia; tel +61 2-6125-9937; e-mail <christine.stewart@anu.edu.au>
Ethnographers working in the Pacific have for decades now investigated the ways in which local understandings of intentionality, motivation, emotion, cognition, dreams, and imagination differentially articulate in the formation of cultural subjectivities. In the process, they have contributed much to the development of culture theory by presenting many of the most trenchant critiques of previously taken-for-granted assumptions regarding personhood, subjectivity, communication, and social action in the context of “Western” academic traditions. This working session will draw from, and contribute to, this body of literature by setting out to explore the problem of “empathy” in the context of Pacific cultures. Key themes to be addressed by contributors include: (1) discussing local theories of empathy in relation to concepts of personhood and emotional exchange; (2) investigating communicative norms for demonstrating, displaying, and recognizing empathy, in particular focusing on what culturally available non-verbal idioms may be utilized in communicating empathy (i.e., transactions in which material goods are exchanged between interlocutors); (3) examining the how empathy is implicated in discourses of suffering, pity, compassion and care; (4) exploring what place empathy has in those communicative contexts wherein which the establishment and maintenance of ambiguity is a valued goal and where there are prevalent strategies for concealing personal knowledge, motives, and intentions; (5) interrogating methodological concerns regarding the role of empathy in ethnographic research and practice; and finally, (6) detailing cultural articulations of empathy in connection to individual differences in personality, gender, and status.

Confirmed contributions include:

Ilanna Gershon (Indiana University) “The Paradoxes of Representing Others: Maori Democracy, Settler Democracy in New Zealand circa 1900.”
Elfriede Hermann (Universität Göttingen) “Empathy, Ethnicity and the Self among the Banabans in Fiji.”
Roger Ivar Lohmann (Trent University) “Empathy as Perception, Empathy as Imagination: ‘Knowing’ the Other in Melanesia.”
Maria Lepowsky (University of Wisconsin-Madison) “The Boundaries of Personhood, the Problem of Empathy,” and “The Native’s Point of View in the Outer Islands.”
Mike Poltorak (University of Sussex) “Restoring Empathy: Ambiguity, Efficacy and Healing in Vava’u, Tonga.”
Andrew Strathern and Pamela J. Stewart (University of Pittsburgh) “‘Empathy’ as a local construct in Hagen, Papua New Guinea.”
C. Jason Throop (UCLA) “Suffering, Empathy, and Morality in Yap (Waqab), Federated States of Micronesia.”
Jeannette Mageo (Washington State University) “The Shape of Empathy in Samoa.”
Rick Feinberg (Kent State University) “The Role of Empathy in a Polynesian Community: Anuta, Solomon Islands.”

C. Jason Throop, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles, 341 Haines Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90095, U.S.A.; e-mail <jthroop@anthro.ucla.edu>
Douglas W. Hollan, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles, 341 Haines Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90095, U.S.A.; e-mail <dhollan@anthro.ucla.edu>

**Materializing Oceania: Why Things Still Matter**

Organizers: Joshua A. Bell (University of East Anglia), Ludovic Coupaye (University of East Anglia) and Haidy Geismar (New York University)

Engaging with the recent work emerging out of anthropology’s material turn, participants in this session seek to understand the ways in which the objects people make, make them.
Examining communities’ continued engagements with their transforming material worlds, we endeavour not only to understand the diverse processes of materiality in Oceania but also to further illuminate the rich historical legacy of anthropology’s engagement with Pacific objects. Using a range of historic and ethnographic case studies current participants examine trophies (Busse), shell valuables (Gou; Kühling), coffee (West), yams (Coupaye; Gross), fine mats (Sperlich), photographs (Geismar), a feather fan (Krizancic) and heirlooms (Baker; Bell) to focus on materialization in Aotearoa, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tahiti and Vanuatu. In doing so they reveal that objects are much more than what they initially appear to be: they are materializations of relationships, condensations of both knowledge and people’s engagements with their life-worlds. By revealing what strategies communities use to materialize their relations, desires and values, participants show what objects do in social life and why an explicit investigation of materiality and materialization still matters.

While a large session we are accepting new participants. If you are interested please contact the session organizers and send your title and abstract by October 1. Confirmed participants are reminded to send their draft papers for circulation to the organizers by December 1. Session statements and a working bibliography are available at the ASAO forum <http://asao.org/phpBB/index.php>.

Currently the following people are planning to be present at the February meeting:

Jade Baker (Canterbury University), Joshua A. Bell (Sainsbury Research Unit, University of East Anglia), Mark Busse (University of Auckland), Ludovic Coupaye (Musée du Quai Branly) Haidy Geismar (New York University), Pei-yi Gou (Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan), *Claudia Gross (University of Chicago), Susanne Kühling (Institut für Ethnologie, Universität Heidelberg), Knut Mikjel Rio (Bergen Museum, University of Bergen), Tobias Sperlich (University of Regina), and Paige West (Barnard College, Columbia University)

**Mortuary Rites in the Pacific**
Organizers: David Lipset (Minnesota), Eric Silverman (Wheelock College)

The goal of the working session will be to present papers around the several themes that emerged from the informal discussion that developed in San Diego in 2006. Among these themes were: How is death culturally defined to take place? How is it then commemorated? What is the ritual process of death? What is the gender of death and funerary rituals? How are mortuary processes changing and how have they changed? How does death relate to creativity in the cultural contexts of local politics and/or globalization? How is death treated transnationally? And how are mortuary rites related to Pacific prehistory?

Current and future participants should contact one or both of the session organizers by October 1, and plan to submit an abstract by October 15. (November 1 is the ASAO deadline for paper titles and abstracts.) We welcome both participants from last year and new interlocutors.
Parenting and Childhood in the Pacific
Organizer: Eric Silverman (Wheelock College)

Building on our success and lively discussion at the 2006 meeting, “Parenting and Childhood in the Pacific” will reconvene as a working session in 2007. Due to a lax session organizer, it is still unclear exactly how many papers (present or in absentia) will return in 2007. We would be delighted to welcome additional participants.

The conversation in 2006 returned again and again to a core set of questions. What is a parent? (To this, we might add, what is a child?) How should we analytically define parenting? What Western ideas, ideals, and assumptions are challenged by Pacific parenting and by the analysis of Pacific parenting? What is the gender of a parent? How are parenting and child-raisning changing in the Pacific? How does language pertain to contemporary forms of parenting and childhood? And what are the difficulties confronting parents, children, and youth in the Pacific and Pacific diaspora today? Current and future participants should plan on addressing, at some level, one or more of these questions.

As we move forward, we should keep in mind the November 1 ASAO deadline, which necessitates paper titles and abstracts. Consequently, if you are interested in joining the session, please inform the organizer no later than October 1.

Power, Egalitarianism and Hierarchy in Melanesia
Organizers: Paula Brown Glick (New York) and Anton Ploeg (Harfsen)

In the late pre-colonial era Melanesians lived in a wide variety of political systems, most with great diffusion of power. Among especially Austronesian speakers varying forms of chieftainships occurred with hereditary positions of leadership, ritual or otherwise. Among non-Austronesian speakers forms of leadership occurred with a strong, but not exclusive, element of achievement, again in a wide variety. Authors such as Maurice Godelier, Andrew Strathern and Lamont Lindstrom have attempted to perceive some order in this variety. Over time, very few non-Austronesian speakers have adopted the chieftainship of Austronesian speakers in their vicinity. On the contrary, the evidence points in many cases to devolution of power, notwithstanding the agricultural livelihood of the peoples concerned. However, as Paula Brown notes, after colonial incorporation and political independence, a marked concentration of power has been, and still is, occurring. The session participants would like to consider the different ways in which pre-colonial diffusion of power was reproduced, while it diminished after colonial incorporation.
INFORMAL SESSIONS

Anthropology of the Senses in Oceania
Organizer: Bettina Beer (Universität Heidelberg)

Since the early 1990s, interest in the formation, uses and meanings of the senses (as well as relations among them) has grown in anthropology. Talk of a “sensory revolution” (Howes 2006) might, however, be slightly premature given how little substantial empirical work has so far been done. Of the influential publications that have appeared, though, several focused on Melanesia, such as Steven Feld’s Kaluli acoustemology (1990) and David Howes’s comparison between Massim and Middle Sepik ways of sensing the world (2003).

Confirmed participants in this session do research in different regions in Oceania on synaesthesia and various senses. They are interested in topics such as the idea of a “fifth taste” as a culturally constructed combination of tastes and textures (Gene Ammarell), the changing cultural domain of smell, social relations and consumption (Bettina Beer), sensory perceptions of oceanographic phenomena used in navigation in the Marshall Islands (Joseph Genz), and in symbolic connections of water, place and sound in PNG (Alexis von Poser).

The aim of the informal session is to get an overview of current or planned research on the senses in Oceania and to discuss theoretical and methodological problems in sense-centered research. Those interested should contact Bettina Beer.

Diaspora, Identity and Incorporation
Organizers: Michael Lieber (University of Illinois) and Michael Rynkiewich (Asbury Seminary)

We will continue as an informal session so that those who were not able to attend can participate this year. Pacific Islanders continue to migrate to sites elsewhere in the Pacific, and to communities in Australia, New Zealand, England, and the United States. Insofar as the processes of forming persons and structuring communities are rooted in time and place, what happens to these processes when people migrate? How are personal and communal identities constructed and maintained? How are multiple identities negotiated among multiple communities? How can a community be rooted in a memory or a narrative of place that few have seen or that might not even exist anymore? What provides the connectivity, the shared sense of belonging? How are newly arrived people incorporated into community? While the category of “diaspora” can be used as a rubric for our questions, our focus will be on process, on ethnographic description rather than on refining definitions. A variety of activities can serve as sites where identity is shaped and contested. These include ethnic performances, agricultural production that transforms the landscape, the production of objects and the reproduction of religious activities that might serve to shape collective memories while transforming meanings. We will continue to explore these issues.
Imagination and Innovation in Pacific Oceania
Organizer: Roger Ivar Lohmann (Trent University)

The imagination is intimately involved in apprehending, engaging, and altering the material world as well as world-views. In this session we will explore the role of the imagination in cultural innovations of all sorts, including developments in technology and style, belief and ideology, creativity and activism, cosmology and political organization. Questions participants might consider regarding their own ethnographic contexts include: Where do new ideas come from? What are the imaginative and cognitive sources of agency in historical change and the active maintenance of tradition? How does the interface between the real and the imagined world play out in moment-to-moment decisions about what is true, what is desirable, and what to do next? Those interested in participating are asked to send a one or two page statement outlining plans for a paper to be developed for a possible working session next year to Roger Lohmann at the address below before November 1. These statements will be pre-circulated among respondents before the meeting.

Expected participants so far include D. R. Garrett (Trent University), Jamon Halvaksz (University of Canterbury), David M. Lipset (University of Minnesota), Christopher Little (Trent University), Roger Ivar Lohmann (Trent University), and Heather M.-L. Miller (University of Toronto).

Indigenous Struggles and Issues in Oceania
Organizers: Marie Salaün (Université de Paris 5 – Sorbonne) and Natacha Gagné (University of Ottawa)

Peoples of Oceania have been, over the last four decades, publicly fighting for their rights. They have been engaged in indigenous struggles on the world scene, achieving, with varying degrees of success and “visibility,” challenging at different levels their political, economic and cultural domination by the state. Anthropology of Globalization provides renewed theoretical frameworks for the analysis of such struggles, examining how the “local” addresses the “global” on differing scales. But beyond these new tools, over the years, indigenous struggles and movements themselves have considerably changed since their first expressions.

This session intends to look at the heteroglossic and complex ways peoples of Oceania engage in their diverse struggles of indigeneity today. Here are some of the questions that we would like to discuss: How are narratives, discourses, and actions articulated in terms of indigeneity used today to challenge the state, majority populations, regional and transnational organisations and businesses? How does indigeneity create new opportunities for connections with other peoples and nations within and outside Oceania as they pursue their political goals? How do the State and non-indigenous populations react to these narratives, discourses, and actions? How are these indigenous struggles different or similar to previous ones? How are they different or similar to those outside Oceania?

We also intend, with the Indigenous Struggles and Issues in Oceania session, to look at how Oceanian visions and ways of being are maintained and even strengthened through indigenous affirmation. This session will be open to works looking at indigenous leadership as well as “ordinary” indigenous people’s initiatives and narratives. It will also be open to research
dealing with indigenous perspectives as well as non-indigenous reactions or interactions.

We send a special invitation to indigenous researchers from Oceania to join us in this session. Those interested are asked to send us a one-page statement outlining plans for a paper to be developed for a possible working session next year before November 1. These statements will be pre-circulated among respondents before the meeting.

Marie Salaün, Université de Paris 5 – Sorbonne and GTMS (EHESS – CNRS), 54, boul. Raspail, 75006 Paris, France; e-mail <marie.salaun@paris5.sorbonne.fr>
Natacha Gagné, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Ottawa, 550 Cumberland (388), Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 6N5 Canada; e-mail <natgagne@uottawa.ca>

Race Ideology: Ideas and Practice
Organizer: Pauline McKenzie Aucoin (Carleton University)

This informal session will explore ideas about race and the use of race categories in the Pacific both historically and in the contemporary Pacific. The goal of our discussion will be to determine what/how race ideologies were constructed and put into practice in various contexts, and whether there were differences among them in terms of their application of the political processes of distinction/differentiation/valorization.

Pauline McKenzie Aucoin, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, ON, K1S 5B6 Canada; e-mail <rpaucoin@aol.com>

Schooling the Nation(s): Pedagogies of Colonization, Decolonization and Vernacularization in the Contemporary Island Pacific
Organizers: John Wagner (University of British Columbia – Okanagan) and Ali Pomponio (St. Lawrence University).

Vernacular languages throughout the Island Pacific are increasingly under threat as the result of the widespread and growing use of English, French and various national and regional lingua francas such as Tok Pisin in Papua New Guinea and Bislama in Vanuatu. The disappearance of vernacular languages and the sweeping changes that accompany their loss are resulting in radical transformations of Pacific Island economies, ecologies and cultures. Colonization, migration, trade, economic development and globalization all contribute to language transformation, but in this session we also assess the role of educators and educational systems as agents of language transformation, loss and/or revival. Of special concern will be the processes of vernacularization that occur when languages are given a written form for the first time and find their way into media, literature and educational systems. The experiences of diverse Pacific Island communities will be considered and compared in relation to processes of decolonization, nation-building and identity transformation in a globalizing world.

John Wagner, Community, Culture and Global Studies, University of British Columbia – Okanagan, 3333 University Way, Kelowna, BC V1V 1V7, Canada; tel.: (250) 807-9318; fax: (250) 807-8001; e-mail <john.wagner@ubc.ca>
Alice Pomponio, Anthropology Department, St. Lawrence University, Canton NY 13617, U.S.A.; tel.: (315) 229-5797 or 229-5106; fax: (315) 229-5803; e-mail <apomponio@stlawu.edu>
V. RECENT JOURNALS

The Contemporary Pacific, Volume 18 (#2) 2006 is a special issue on Melanesian Mining Modernities, guest-edited by Paige West and Martha Macintyre. The issue contains the following articles:

Grass Roots and Deep Holes: Community Responses to Mining in Melanesia
Colin Filer and Martha Macintyre
Hinterland History: The Ok Tedi Mine and Its Cultural Consequences in Telefolmin
Dan Jorgensen
Who is the “Original Affluent Society”? Ipili “Predatory Expansion” and the Porgera Gold Mine, Papua New Guinea
Alex Golub
Environmental Conservation and Mining: Between Experience and Expectation in the Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea
Paige West
Local Laborers in Papua New Guinea Mining: Attracted or Compelled to Work?
Benedict Y Imbun
Cannibalistic Imaginaries: Mining the Natural and Social Body in Papua New Guinea
Jamon Halvaksz
The Ecology and Economy of Indigenous Resistance: Divergent Perspectives on Mining in New Caledonia
Saleem H Ali and Andrew Singh Grewal

The issue, which features the art of Larry Santana, also contains reviews of issues and events in Melanesia during 2005, and seventeen reviews of books and museum exhibits.

For subscriptions to The Contemporary Pacific, contact the Journals Department, University of Hawai‘i Press, 2840 Kolowalu Street, Honolulu HI 96822; tel: 808/956-8833; Web site http://www.uhpress.hawaii.edu/journals/cp/; e-mail <uhpjourn@hawaii.edu> The journal may also be accessed online (if your institution subscribes to Project MUSE): http://muse.jhu.edu/

Journal of the Polynesian Society, Volume 115 (#1) March 2006 contains the following articles:

Fanciful or Genuine? Bases and High Numbers in Polynesian Number Systems
Andrea Bender and Sieghard Beller
A Revised Model of Solomon Islands Culture History
Peter J. Sheppard and Richard Walter
Present-day Consumption of Edible Algae in French Polynesia: A Study of the Survival of pre-European Practices
Eric Conte and Claude Payri

This issue also contains reviews of the following books:

Yali’s Question: Sugar, Culture and History, written by Frederick Errington and Deborah Gewertz
A Polymath Anthropologist: Essays in Honour of Ann Chowning, edited by Claudia Gross, Harriet D. Lyons and Dorothy Counts
Issues in Austronesian Historical Phonology, edited by John Lynch
Happy Isles in Crisis: The Historical Causes for a Failing State in Solomon Islands, 1998-2004, written by Clive Moore
Malinowski: Odyssey of an Anthropologist, 1884-1920, written by Ira Bashkow

VI. BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The *Trukese-English Dictionary*, the first volume of which has been out of print, is now back in print and can be ordered from the American Philosophical Society Publications, 204 S. Fifth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106.

*The Limits of Meaning: Case Studies in the Anthropology of Christianity*, edited by Matthew Engelke (London School of Economics) and Matt Tomlinson (Monash University), features articles of interest to scholars of Oceania including a chapter by Ilana Gershon titled "Converting Meanings and the Meanings of Conversion in Samoan Moral Economies," a chapter by Danilyn Rutherford titled "Nationalism and Millenarianism in West Papua," and a chapter by Matt Tomlinson titled "The Limits of Meaning in Fijian Methodist Sermons."

*Governance Challenges for PNG and the Pacific Islands*, edited by Nancy Sullivan.

Contact <dwupress@dwu.ac.pg> or ANU State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Project <ssgm@coombs.anu.edu.au> for more details regarding this book.

The University of California Press is pleased to announce the publication of the following book:


Holly Wardlow is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Toronto. Full information about the book is available online: [http://go.ucpress.edu/Wardlow](http://go.ucpress.edu/Wardlow)

VII. OTHER CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

The Easter Island Foundation and Gotland University are hosting the VII International Conference on Easter Island and the Pacific Islands: Migration, Identity, and Cultural Heritage. The conference will be held at Gotland University in Visby, Sweden from August 20-25, 2007.

Gotland University and the Easter Island Foundation invite you to attend this special conference. We hope you will join us for an educational and entertaining experience as we celebrate the past achievements of the Pacific islanders, share their present challenges, and look to the future.

For further details, please go to [http://www.hgo.se/archaeology/conference2007](http://www.hgo.se/archaeology/conference2007).

*After 26 years: Collaborative research in Vanuatu since Independence* in Port Vila, November 6-10, 2006. This conference will bring together local and international researchers of Vanuatu society, language and history and will primarily focus around the activities of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre (VKS), with its unique and highly innovative Film and Sound Unit and fieldworkers program.

The past few years have seen an increasing number of conference sessions and workshops dedicated to scholarly work on Vanuatu. This conference will be an important opportunity to
bring the discussion of this research back to Vanuatu, and in doing so engage the following questions:

What is the significance of collaboration between international and indigenous researchers in Vanuatu?
How does social, linguistic, archeological and historical research on Vanuatu impact upon or benefit local communities, and how might the benefits be enhanced?
How might research on Vanuatu be more effectively communicated to local audiences (in publications, film, exhibitions, school curricula or otherwise)?
What new initiatives, strategies and institutional linkages might be developed to further enhance research that is both effective and socially relevant?
Retrospective on research; contrasting pre/post independence constructions of research in Vanuatu
Applied anthropology and advocacy and the role of academic researchers (e.g., the Youth Project)
Heritage surveys
Outcomes of linguistic research, recording oral traditions

The organizing committee of the Vanuatu conference includes Jack Taylor, Nick Thieberger and Stephen Zagala. The registration fee for the conference is 8000 vatu. Registration forms will be available in September.

Information regarding the conference 'Pacific Transnationalism: tracing ties to the homeland' at La Trobe University, Australia from November 20-22, 2006 can be found at the following Web page: http://www.latrobe.edu.au/anthropology/pacifictrans/index.html

The Pacific History Association is hosting its biennial conference in Otago, New Zealand in December 2006. Details about the conference can be found at the Pacific History Association’s Web site: http://www.pacifichistoryassociation.com/

VIII. MEMBER NEWS

From Ku Kumu ‘Ike, the newsletter of the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, Spring 2006 (10 [1]: 16):

**Wing of Music Complex to be named in Honor of Barbara Smith**

The UH Board of Regents approved naming the ethnomusicology wing of the music complex in honor of world-renowned ethnomusicologist, and beloved professor emerita, Barbara Smith.

Smith, who began her career in the Department of Music in 1949, has served the department with unparalleled dedication for 57 years, not letting retirement in 1982 get in her way.

An integral part of life at the music complex, Smith goes to her office each day to work with students, consult with faculty, participate in conferences, attend performances, and conduct research.

The international stature enjoyed by the ethnomusicology program is largely attributed to Smith’s leadership, vision, and vast knowledge. She has an impressive record of research and a reputation as an inspiring and devoted educator. With Dorothy Kahananui Gillett, Smith introduced curriculum performance classes in Hawaiian chant and hula. She spearheaded the establishment of the ethnomusicology master’s program in 1962, one of the earliest in the nation.

In 2000, the Eastman School of Music awarded her the prestigious George Eastman medal. She also completed and published Dorothy Kahananui Gillett’s magnum opus, *The Queen’s Songbook*, a collection of Queen Lili‘uokalani’s songs. She received the Commission on Culture and the Arts Award from the City and County of Honolulu and is the only non-dancer to receive an award from the Hawai‘i State Dance Council. In 2001, the University of Sydney published a festschrift in her honor at her retirement as chair of the Study Group on Music of
Oceania, part of the International Council for Traditional Music. Pomona College awarded Smith an honorary doctorate degree. In 2002, the East Asia volume of the monumental *Garland Encyclopedia of World Music* that Smith helped edit was published. “Dr. Smith’s seminal contributions to the field of ethnomusicology are world renowned, and her contribution to the revitalization of ethnic and indigenous cultures through recognition of their unique forms of music is an inspiration to us all. This recognition is most appropriate,” said UH President David McClain.
The ASAO Newsletter is published three times yearly (April, September, December) and is a benefit of ASAO membership. Annual dues are US$35 general members and fellows, US$20 indigenous Pacific Islanders, students, and unemployed members. Institutional subscriptions are available for US$15 per calendar year. ISSN 1095-3000

ASAONET
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Errata (ASAO Newsletter #125):

Please note that participants in the Mining session include Emma Gilberthorpe, not Emma Goldthorpe: (sorry Emma).

For contact information in Mike Rynkiewich's & Mike Lieber's Diaspora session please correct Mike Lieber's e-mail address: <mdlieber@uic.edu>

Please note that the ASAO List of Officers should reflect a viable e-mail address for Naomi McPherson: <naomi.mcpherson@ubc.ca>