ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY
IN OCEANIA

Newsletter #129 December 2007

IN THIS ISSUE

I. From the Editor .................................................. p. 1
II. From the Chair ................................................... p. 2
III. The 2008 ASAO Annual Meetings. ......................... p. 2
IV. Registration and Membership Renewals .................... p. 4
V. PISF: Support of Pacific Scholars ........................ p. 5
VI. From the Program Coordinator. ............................ p. 5
VII. Recent Journals. .............................................. p. 22
VIII. Bibliographic Information ................................. p. 22
IX. Other Conferences and Events ............................. p. 24
X. Member News .................................................... p. 25

I. FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks to each of you who submitted session announcements and other materials by the December 1 deadline, and a special thanks to Roger Lohmann and Jan Rensel for their extra efforts in preparing and reviewing materials. Michael Rynkiewich has also worked overtime on preparations for this year’s meetings in Canberra. As each of you makes plans for the first convening of ASAO on Australian soil please check to see that all of your papers are in order. As noted on page 3, for U. S. residents this includes a visa or electronic travel authorization (instructions provided).

We have a very exciting group of sessions planned for this year’s meetings. I look forward to seeing you in Canberra.

Please note that all materials to be included in the April Newsletter must be received by March 20, 2008.

Larry Carucci
ASAO Newsletter Editor
Dept. of Anthropology and Sociology
Montana State University
Bozeman, MT 59717
E-mail: <lamaca@MONTANA.EDU>
II. FROM THE CHAIR

Your ASAO Board is delighted to announce that we have established a long-term contract with Berghahn Books for a new ASAO monograph series entitled *ASAO Studies in Pacific Anthropology*. In addition to our usual series evolving out of our symposia, we will welcome single author monographs as well. Berghahn Books is an excellent press with a strong reputation for supporting publications about the Pacific. Marion Berghahn is a very forward-thinking publisher, so E-books and various other innovative publishing endeavors are also within the mandate of this press, and we have considerable flexibility to create and design our series to reflect contemporary research agendas in Oceanic studies and beyond.

We are also pleased to announce that we have a new Monograph Series Editorial Board. Rupert Stasch is our new Series Editor, supported by a strong Editorial Board comprised of Bob Tonkinson, Karen Sinclair and Paige West, all of whom bring a diversity of skills and interests to the work. We consider the new Editorial Board to be on the cutting edge of scholarship about the region, and we are looking forward to working with them to move the ASAO series onto a new level in contemporary publishing. Editor Rupert Stasch will be posting further details in the near future on logistics and themes for the series but for now we are happy finally to be able to announce that ASAO Monograph Series has a bright new future.

I had a sneak preview of the sessions organized for Canberra; we are going to have a great bunch of presentations. The Canberra venue promises to be fabulous and as most of us in North America and European are currently experiencing winter and all that entails, the heat of summer in Australia should penetrate to our cold and weary bones. I look forward to seeing you all in the very near future.

I am only as far away as your e-mail; if you have questions, comments or suggestions, please contact me at naomi.mcpherson@ubc.ca

All Best
Naomi McPherson,
Chair, ASAO Board

III. THE 2008 ASAO ANNUAL MEETINGS

The meetings will be held at the Australian National University at Canberra, Australia. The board meeting will convene on Tuesday evening, February 12, and Wednesday morning, February 13. The general meeting will begin Wednesday evening, February 13, and run through Saturday evening, February 16.

ANU: http://www.anu.edu.au/

HOUSING

1. The University House (across from the meeting rooms in Coombs)
   - Basic Twin: Single at A$124; Double at A$133.
   - Queen: Single at A$134; Double at A$143.
   - Two-bedroom apartments with cooking: Single at A$174; Double at A$183; Triple at A$204.
   - Only one room is wheelchair accessible, on the ground floor. All the rest require stairs.
   - Internet access is an additional A$10 (~US$ 8.60) per day.

Online: www.anu.edu.au/unihouse/accomm/reservations.htm
E-mail: UniHouse@anu.edu.au
Phone: Overseas: +61 2 6125 5276
When you call, e-mail or register online, please specify the type of room you want, and indicate that you are registering for the ASAO meetings in order to get the ASAO rate. Rates are good to three weeks prior to the meeting (January 21st); after that, if rooms are available, they will be booked at the regular rate. Individual cancellations are allowed up to the day prior to arrival at no cost. If on the day of arrival, or cancelled for good, then one’s night’s accommodation will be charged.

2. The Rydges Hotel (a 10 minute walk to the meeting rooms in Coombs).
   - Standard (double) rooms at A$175 per night.
   - Elevator.
   - Handicap accessible.
   - Buffet breakfast is A$19 (US$16.50) per person.

*The deadline for reservations at Rydges Hotel (at the ASAO rate) is January 18.

Online:
http://www.rydges.com/hotel/0/RACANB/Rydges-Lakeside-Canberra.htm
Phone: Australia: 1300 857 922
New Zealand: 0800 446 187
Overseas +61 2 9261 4929

MEETING ROOMS
The Department of Anthropology at ANU will be our hosts, along with The Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies. The Coombs Building will be the center of our meetings, including the registration and book display room, the seminar rooms and the plenary sessions. Plenary sessions will be in The Theatre in Coombs.

Meals
The Student Union is an 8 minute walk from University House and the Coombs building, and it has a number of fast food choices. Also within the University House, there is a café/cafeteria and a bar. In addition, there are four other restaurants on campus within 10 minutes walk from Coombs. Also, the University Art Gallery, National Film and Sound Archive, and Australian National Museum have cafes within walking distance.

TRAVEL
Flights
Many airlines fly into Sydney. However, Qantas is the only cross-Pacific provider that also flies to Canberra. www.qantas.com.au/

Local Transport to Conference Venue
1. Those flying into Canberra will have to hire a taxi to University House ANU from Canberra airport for around A$25-30.
2. Alternatively, one can take a bus ("coach") from Sydney International to downtown Canberra at a considerable savings. Greyhound (www.greyhound.com.au) and Murrays (www.murrays.com.au) pick up passengers at Sydney International right outside arrivals and drops them off roughly three hours later in downtown Canberra for only A$40. From there, it is a quick cab ride or 15 minute walk to the University House. Also, if incoming flights do not connect conveniently with the airport pickups, there are many more frequent departures on Greyhound or Murrays from Sydney Central Station to Canberra (in which case you need to take a short, no-hassle train ride from Sydney International to Central Station).
3. From the Sydney airport it is also possible to rent a car for the 3 1/2 hour drive to Canberra. Check the standard rental agencies. NOTE: When booking, ask the agency about one-way trips. Some offer one-way pickup and drop off without one-way extra charges.
*PLEASE NOTE: US citizens do need to apply for a visa to visit Australia! There is an electronic option (ETA) as well as a regular tourist visa. Apparently this can be done online or may be handled by airlines or travel agents, but it does need to be taken care ahead of time.

According to the US Department of State Web site (travel.state.gov): *ENTRY/EXIT REQUIREMENTS: American citizens are required to have a valid U.S. passport to enter Australia. Americans must enter with an Australian visa or, if eligible, through Electronic Travel Authority (ETA). The ETA replaces a visa and allows a stay of up to three months. It may be obtained for a small service fee at http://www.eta.immi.gov.au/. Airlines and many travel agents in the United States are also able to issue ETA’s. Please note that American citizens, who overstay their ETA or visa, even for short periods, may be subject to detention, and removal. More information about the ETA, other visas, and entry requirements may be obtained from the Embassy of Australia at 1601 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036, telephone (202) 797-3000, or via the Australian Embassy home page on the Internet at http://www.austemb.org/. Visa inquiries may be directed to the Australian Visa Information Service at 888-990-8888. Visit the Embassy of Australia Web site at http://www.austemb.org/ for the most current visa information.*

2008 ASAO DISTINGUISHED LECTURE
Of the Same Cloth? Oceanic Anthropologies of Gender, Christianities and Textiles
Margaret Jolly
The Australian National University
In the early 1980s the debate between Annette Weiner and Marilyn Strathern about women and cloth in the Pacific was a regional epicenter in the vortex of global controversies about essentialisms in approaches to gender. Decades later a tidal wave of research, writings and exhibitions has yielded creative new approaches to Oceanic textiles and fibrous arts. In this talk I connect stories across Oceania, comparing how introduced textile traditions were appropriated in waves of Christian conversion and how they were interwoven with indigenous modes of making fabrics from fibers. It explores the variegated fabric of femininities across time and space in Oceania and how this was mediated by rank, region and religion. It views women as passionate creators and consumers of cloth but also suggests how cloth has been central to the changing fabric of masculinities. Through the dazzling materiality of textiles and fibrous arts it pursues some broader problems in the historical anthropology of Oceania.

The 2009 ASAO meeting will be held on the West Coast of North America. (Specific location to be determined at the 2008 meeting)

IV. MEETING REGISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2008

Membership renewal and meeting registration forms were sent in November to all current members of ASAO.

Registration fees for the February 2008 Canberra meetings are US$60, with a reduced rate of US$30 for students, Pacific Islanders, and retired or unemployed attendees. If you will be attending the 2008 meetings, you may pay the registration fee in advance before December 31, or on-site. On-site payments will be accepted in US dollars (checks strongly preferred), or Australian dollars (cash only) for the equivalent amount at the exchange rate at that time. (Sorry, we cannot accept credit card payments.)

Membership dues for 2008 are at the same level as previous years: US$35 for regular memberships and US$20 for students, Pacific Islanders, retirees, and unemployed members.

-Kathryn Creely, ASAO Membership Coordinator kcreely@ucsd.edu
V. PISF DONATIONS

As you send in your meeting registrations and ASAO membership renewals in the next months, please include a generous donation to the Pacific Islands Scholars Fund. I know of a number of very generous checks that have come in recently, and that some also donate royalties from Pacific-related publications. The other PISF members are Ty Tengan, Ping-Ann Addo and Judith Schacter. ASAO is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, meaning all contributions are tax-deductible in the US.

Thanks,
Keith Chambers
PISF Committee Chair

VI. FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Looking forward to the meeting in Canberra, I’d like to remind all members of an opportunity to get a free book while helping the meeting function smoothly. Each year we depend on volunteers to staff the book display and registration desk. We need two people for the registration desk and one or two people for the book exhibit during the following times: Wednesday 2:00 – 5:00 pm, Thursday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Saturday 8:00 am – 12:00 noon. I shall ask those on duty Saturday morning to begin packing up the book display at 11:00 am. Volunteers receive one book for every two hours worked. Please e-mail me if you are able to help, indicating which time slots you would be available to fill.

Roger Lohmann, Department of Anthropology, Trent University, 2000 Simcoe St. N., Oshawa, Ontario L1H 7L7 Canada; <rogerlohmann@trentu.ca>

2008 ASAO ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

EVENING EVENTS

Session Organizers’ Meeting
Wednesday, February 13, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Seminar Room C
All session organizers are requested to attend this meeting to discuss session organization and management questions. Light refreshments will be served.

Welcome
Wednesday, February 13, 8:00 pm – 8:30 pm, Theatre Courtyard
Ms. Matilda House, Ngambri country representative, will welcome conference participants.

Opening Plenary
Wednesday, February 13, 8:30 pm – 10:00 pm, Theatre
The Opening Plenary will include meeting announcements from the Program Coordinator, reports from officers, nominations of new board members, announcement of this year’s Pacific Islands Scholars’ Fund recipients, and introduction of ASAO Honorary Fellows and newcomers.

Welcome Party
Wednesday, February 13, 10:00 pm – 11:00 pm, Annexe Foyer
All are invited to attend this no-host, open bar social gathering, especially to welcome our PISF awardees, new ASAO members, and first-time annual meeting participants.

Distinguished Lecture
Thursday, February 14, 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Theatre
Margaret Jolly will present this year’s distinguished lecture entitled “Of the Same Cloth?: Oceanic Anthropologies of Gender, Christianities and Textiles.”

Reception following Distinguished Lecture
Thursday, February 14, 9:00 pm – 11 pm, Annexe Foyer
A cash bar reception will follow Margaret Jolly’s Distinguished Lecture to provide further opportunities for discussion.

Closing Plenary
Saturday, February 16, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm, Theatre
Highlights of the Closing Plenary will include session reports and future plans, proposed new sessions for 2009, installation of the new ASAO Board Chair, announcement of the site of next year’s meeting, and other association business.

2008 ASAO ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

(SS) Special Session (S) Symposium (W) Working Session (I) Informal Session

Refreshment Breaks: 10:00 – 10:30 am, 12:00 – 2:00 pm (lunch on own), 3:30 – 4:00 pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday February 12</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 pm – 11:30 pm</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
<td>Seminar Room A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday February 13</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am – 12:00 noon</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
<td>Seminar Room C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 pm – 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Theatre Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 pm – 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Book Exhibit</td>
<td>Seminar Room A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 pm – 8:00 pm</td>
<td>Session Organizers Meeting</td>
<td>Seminar Room C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 pm – 8:30 pm</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Theatre Courtyard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 pm – 10:00 pm</td>
<td>Opening Plenary</td>
<td>Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 pm – 11:00 pm</td>
<td>Welcome Party</td>
<td>Annexe Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday February 14</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am – 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Theatre Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am – 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Book Exhibit</td>
<td>Seminar Room A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Articulating Indigenous Anthropology (S)</td>
<td>Seminar Room B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>En/Gendering Violence (W)</td>
<td>Seminar Room D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Imagination and Innovation (W)</td>
<td>Annexe 1.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Mortuary Rites (W)</td>
<td>Annexe 1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am – 12:00 noon</td>
<td>Community Development (I)</td>
<td>Seminar Room C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 pm – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Identity Issues (I)</td>
<td>Seminar Room C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 pm – 9:00 pm</td>
<td>Distinguished Lecture</td>
<td>Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 pm – 11:00 pm</td>
<td>Reception for Distinguished Lecturer</td>
<td>Annexe Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday February 15</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am – 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Theatre Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am – 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Book Exhibit</td>
<td>Seminar Room A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Constructing Human Difference (W)</td>
<td>Seminar Room B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am – 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Schooling the Nation(s) (W)</td>
<td>Seminar Room C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am – 12:00 noon</td>
<td>From “The Native’s Point of View” (S)</td>
<td>Annexe 1.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am – 12:00 noon</td>
<td>Diaspora, Identity, Incorporation (W)</td>
<td>Annexe 1.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2008 ASAO SESSIONS

*S* Indicates papers to be discussed in absentia.

### SPECIAL SESSION

**Research in West New Britain: Then and Now**

Organizer: Naomi McPherson

**Meeting: Saturday, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm (Annexe 1.04)**

This session brings together researchers from many disciplines who have conducted research in West New Britain Province of Papua New Guinea. The intent is to have completed and precirculated papers by January 2008 focusing on an aspect of research in WNBP, either past or present, in order to create a “picture,” for example, of the place, both historic and prehistoric, its geography, the people and their cultures, contemporary issues and future directions. Participants to date include are listed below. Other WNBP researchers are welcome; please contact Naomi McPherson.

#### Participants

Naomi McPherson (University of British Columbia Okanagan) “Introduction”

Jonathan Friedlaender (Temple University) and Françoise Friedlaender “The Population Structure of Pacific Islanders”

Robin Torrence (Australian Museum), Christina Pavlides (La Trobe University), and Jim Specht (Australian Museum) “A Remarkable Record of Human Persistence: Assession over Thirty Years of Archaeological Research in WNB”

Robin Torrence (Australian Museum) “The Effects of Catastrophic Environmental Changes in the Willaumez Peninsula”

Christina Pavlides (La Trobe University) “Coping with Inland Environments in WNB”

Jim Specht (Australian Museum) “Living Successfully on the South Coast of WNB: An Archaeological Perspective”

Ann Chowning “What Constitutes West New Britain?”

David Counts (University of British Columbia Okanagan) and Dorothy Counts (University of British Columbia Okanagan) “The More Things Change: Field Research in West New Britain since 1966”

*Rik Goulden (Okanagan College) and *Bil Thurston (University of British Columbia Okanagan) *“Wising Up: Long Term Linguistic Ethnography”

Gina Koczberski (Curtin University) and George Curry (Curtin University) “On the Move: Migration and Making a Living in the Oil Palm Frontiers of West New Britain”

George Curry (Curtin University) and Gina Koczberski (Curtin University) “The Cultural Ecology of Agrarian Change: A Comparison of Oil Palm Production Strategies of Villagers and Settlers in WNB”

Holger Jebens (Frobenius Institut) “Cultural Perceptions of Other and Self in WNB”
Naomi McPherson (University of British Columbia Okanagan) “The Firstborn in West New Britain”
Chantal Knowles (National Museums Scotland) “Continuity, Objects and Place: Re-photographing Families in the Arawe Region, 2003”
Ali Pomponio (St. Lawrence University) TBA

Naomi McPherson, Ph.D. Anthropology, Associate Professor and Head, Community, Culture and Global Studies, Irving K. Barber School of Arts & Sciences, University of British Columbia Okanagan, 3333 University Way, Kelowna, BC, CANADA, V1V 1V7; tel (250) 807-9325; <naomi.mcpherson@ubc.ca>

FORMAL SYMPOSIA

Articulating the Genealogies of Indigenous Anthropology in/of Oceania
Organizers: Ty P. Kawika Tengan, Tevita O. Ka’ili and Rochelle Tuitagava’a Fonoti
Meeting: Thursday, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm (Seminar Room B)

Following our successful working sessions in San Diego and Charlottesville, it was a unanimous decision to make next year’s session a formal symposium. In Charlottesville, provocative papers and engaging dialogue reflected on the possibilities and limitations of fieldwork methodologies, theoretical frameworks, and ethical guidelines with regard to indigenous anthropology in/of Oceania. In this symposium, the co-organizers are seeking to articulate how genealogies within the discipline of anthropology have shaped and informed indigenous anthropology in/of Oceania. In our last working session, participants felt that it was not only useful to trace their respective “intellectual genealogies” but also to articulate the “interconnectedness” that inevitably positions advocates, anthropologists and cultural practitioners within actual communities.

For many indigenous anthropologists who claim Oceania as their home, the practice/tradition of citing one’s genealogy is critical in gauging what one’s identity is in relation to va or space. Therefore, genealogy as an index of articulation for indigenous anthropology within Oceania allows us to further assess the various ways the native/indigenous anthropologist is bound to her particular field-site or community. Genealogy is also inextricably bound with sense of place; the va or space/place inherently determines or shapes what then becomes manifested in one’s fieldwork and ethnographic data. Through tracing our intellectual development as indigenous anthropologists to Euro-American anthropologists (such as Boas, Mead, Bateson and others), we are inadvertently connected to each other within the discipline. By acknowledging these connections or ties, how does this inevitably affect our respective work as Kanaka Maoli/Moanan/Pacific Islanders?

In lieu of our respective genealogies, how does this shape indigenous anthropology in/of Oceania? What direction does homework/fieldwork take when we continue to articulate our own anthropology? What issues do we choose to address/highlight within our respective communities? For the medical anthropologist in Tonga, what does this entail when traditional medicinal practices are discouraged by the state? For the visual anthropologist in the Samoan diaspora—in Aotearoa or California—what issues emerge in terms of representation for inner city youth? For the museologist/artist, how does the politics of representation manifest itself in exhibits or performances in/of our communities in locales/sites far from home?

Participants
Ty P. Kawika Tengan (University of Hawai‘i at Manoa), Tevita O. Ka’ili (Brigham Young University, Hawai‘i) and Rochelle Tuitagava’a Fonoti (University of Washington) “Articulating the Genealogies of Indigenous Anthropology in/of Oceania”
Katerina Martina Teaiwa (Australian National University) “Citation Wars: Reflections on Genealogy, Anthropology and Pacific Studies”
Fa’anofo L. Uperesa (Columbia University) “Going Home to the ‘Field’: Tension and Promise in Indigenous Anthropology”

Ping-Ann Addo (University of Massachusetts, Boston) “Constructing Genealogies through Pacific Ethnography: ‘Home’ and the Multiple Allegiances of Non-Indigeneity”

Esther Tinirau (Massey University) “Whiria te muka o te taurahere kia matotoru • Taea kore te whawhati The Dense Threads of the Woven Rope Cannot Be Severed”

Che Wilson (Ngati Rangi/Whanganui) He taura tangata, he taura wairua: The Sacred Cord of Life. Access to Tribal Knowledge—the ‘Kehu-Kid’ Knows the Pah is Home”

Fepulea’i Micah Van der Ryn (University of Auckland, American Samoa Community College) “Being an Oxymoron—‘Indigenizing’ the Non-Indigenous Anthropologist and ‘Indigenizing’ Anthropology in Samoa”

Dionne Fonoti (San Francisco State University) “Keepin’ it Hamo: Hip-Hop Culture and Samoan Identity”

Victor Narsimulu (Brigham Young University, Provo) “Nurturing the Moana Embedded within US for in this Lies True Liberation”

Patricia Fifita (University of Hawai’i at Manoa) “Traditional Medicine at the Interface of Modernity: Negotiations of Globalization and Health in Tonga”

Ty Kawika Tengan, Anthropology Department, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, 2424 Maile Way, Saunders 346, Honolulu, HI 96822, U.S.A.; tel (808) 956-7831; fax (808) 956-4893; <ttengan@hawaii.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; <kailit@byuh.edu>

Rochelle Fonoti, Anthropology Department, University of Washington, Box 353100, Seattle, WA 98195, U.S.A.; tel. (206) 517-3086; fax (206) 543-3285; <rfonoti@u.washington.edu>

‘From the Native’s Point of View,’ Revisited: On the Problem of ‘Empathy’ in the Pacific

Organizers: C. Jason Throop (UCLA) and Douglas W. Hollan (UCLA)

Meeting: Friday, 8:30 am – 12:00 noon (Annexe 1.13)

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 symposium 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.
Participants
Anita von Poser “Bosmun Foodways: Emotional Reasoning in a PNG Life-Setting”
Richard Feinberg (Kent State University) “Do Anutans Empathize?”
Roger Lohmann (Trent University) “Mirrors of Empathy: Perception and Imagination in Knowing One Another in Melanesia”
*Jeannette Mageo (Washington State University) “The Shape of Empathy in Samoa”
Elfriede Hermann (Universität Göttingen) “Empathy, Ethnicity, and the Self among Banabans Resettled in Fiji”
*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”
Jason Throop (University of California, Los Angeles) “Suffering, Empathy, and Morality in Yap (Waqab), Federated States of Micronesia”
Douglas Hollan (University of California, Los Angeles) “Vicissitudes of ‘Empathy’ in a Rural Toraja Village”
Alan Rumsey (Australian National University) discussant
Joel Robbins (University of California, San Diego) discussant

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

WORKING SESSIONS

Constructing Human Difference in Oceania, 1500-1900
Organizers: Bronwen Douglas and Chris Ballard
Meeting: Friday, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm (Seminar Room B)

This one-off working session will investigate the mutually constitutive relationship between shifting metropolitan discourses on human difference and an important component of their evidential base: the field materials produced by European travelers, missionaries, naturalists, settlers, administrators, or anthropologists in the context of encounters with indigenous people in Oceania (the Pacific Islands, New Guinea, New Holland, Van Diemen’s Land, New Zealand, and the Malay Archipelago). We shall track particular instances of the production and reproduction of racial knowledge from its metropolitan inceptions, through its disruption or confirmation in the intimacy of encounters, to its reinscription as scientific orthodoxy, and its return to the regional field as received wisdom under renewed empirical challenge. We aim to show how racial representations and collections were generated in personal exchanges between European and indigenous interlocutors and how theorists appropriated such empirical materials to support or qualify their deductions about the nature and extent of human differences. By grounding the history of a ubiquitous but unstable idea in the ethnohistory of embodied interactions, we shall problematize the hoary (but still widely held) stereotype that Europeans controlled both the praxis and the representation of encounters.

Participants
Carlos Mondragón (El Colegio de México) “Peasants, Wild Men and South Seas Cannibals: Portuguese and Spanish Constructions of the Pacific, 1507-1607”
Chris Ballard (Australian National University) “Not Very White’: Early European Accounts of Papuans”
Serge Tcherkézoff (CREDO, EHESS) “The French Invention of Polynésie, Océanie, and Mélanesie, 1756-1833”
After informal sessions involving 26 scholars in 2006 and 2007, the Diaspora Communities meetings move to Working Session status for 2008. The following issues appear as those to which ethnographic contributions to the Working Session can be addressed:

* Emphasis on processes over categories: how migrants fit adaptation strategies to local circumstances
* To the extent possible specify the numbers of people living in resettled enclaves and how they are distributed over space. How many does it take to reach a tipping point wherein an enclave coheres into something like a community?
* What are the migration/resettlement narratives current in the enclave? Are they as diverse as the individual people themselves or is there a shared set of models for story construction? Is there a connection between population and narrative diversity in the enclave?
* Are there institutionalized activities forming a locus or loci for personal/group identities? Are these activities analogs for what would be places in the community of origin?
* How are people in the enclaves connected to the home community and to one another? What flows in which directions using what kinds of vehicles?
* Home communities have longed maintained different CLASSES of social contexts, e.g., colonial/indigenous, “things of the office/things of the people.” Are the classes of context in the diaspora enclaves transformations of those of the community of origin, or are new classes of context formed differently?

Papers for the Working Session will be mainly ethnographic with a length of about 25 pages. First drafts of papers are to be precirculated by January 7, 2008.

Participants

Alan Howard (University of Hawai‘i at Manoa) and Jan Rensel (University of Hawai‘i at Manoa) “Issues of Concern to Rotumans Abroad: A View from the Rotuma Web Site”
Prudence Ahrens (University of Queensland) “Langafonua: Documenting the New Lives of Polynesian Groups in Redland Shire”
Mike Lieber (University of Illinois) “Adaptation in Diaspora Communities: What Changes, and What Stays the Same?”
Mike Rynkiewich (Asbury Seminary) “Migration, Diaspora and Identity”
En/Gendering Violence in Oceania
Organizers: Dorothy Counts and Christine Stewart
Meeting: Thursday, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm (Seminar Room D)

Our topic is not limited to domestic violence. We consider that it is gender violence, or gendered violence, when the victim of the violence is determined by gender relations and/or when the perpetrator of the violence is required to do so by gendered considerations. In the ‘En/Gendering Violence in Oceania’ Working Session last February, we further developed these relationships between societal configurations of gender identity and violence. We discovered as we discussed the inter-connections amongst the eight draft papers presented at the Working Session, that one of the sources of violence in the rapidly changing societies of Oceania is the stress put on male identity formation, a stress that often finds its outlet in violent behavior. We refer to this phenomenon as ‘troubled masculine identity’, and our session aims to explore this further.

We have decided to allow opportunity to develop these themes further by conducting a further Working Session at next year’s Canberra meeting. This not only allows current participants to revise and review papers, it also affords an opportunity for new contributors to indicate their interest. So far, participants are mainly women—but we welcome contributions from all those involved in the study of masculinities. We also hope to progress our session by discussing possibilities for future publication in this important field.

Participants
Naomi McPherson (University of British Columbia Okanagan) “Black and Blue: Shades of Violence in West New Britain, PNG”
Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi (Bryn Mawr College) “Troubled Masculinities and Gender Violence in Melanesia”
Anna-Karina Hermkens (Radboud University Nijmegen) “Seeking Solutions: Gender Violence and the Veneration of Mary in Papua New Guinea”
Fiona Hukula (National Research Institute, PNG) “Conversations with Convicted Rapists”
Jean Zorn (Florida International University) “The Jurisprudence of Gender and Violence”
Christine Stewart (Australian National University) “Crime to Be a Woman: Engendering Violence against Sex Workers in Port Moresby, PNG”
Philip Gibbs (Melanesian Institute) “Witch Killing and Engendered Violence in Simbu”
Marta Rohatynskij (University of Guelph) “Gendered Violence and the Negotiation of Cross-Cultural Moralities”

Dorothy Counts, 15130 Old Mission Rd., Oyama, BC, V4V 2A9, CANADA; <countsd@cablelan.net>
Christine Stewart, Gender Relations Centre, Research School of Pacific & Asian Studies, Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200 AUSTRALIA; tel +61 2-6125-9937; <christine.stewart@anu.edu.au>
Imagination and Innovation in Pacific Oceania
Organizer: Roger Ivar Lohmann
Meeting: Thursday, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm (Annexe 1.13)

The imagination is intimately involved in apprehending, engaging, and altering the material world as well as world-views. In this session we 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? Participants should e-mail the organizer a draft of their papers for circulation no later than January 11, 2008.

Participants
Rod Ewins (Tasmanian School of Art, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa) “Re-imagining Identity and Re-configuring Barkcloth in Fiji”
Katie Glaskin (University of Western Australia) “On Dreams, Innovation and the Emerging Genre of the Individual Artist”
Cresantia Frances Koya (University of the South Pacific) “I Am Who I Say I Am: The Pursuit of Self Expression—Emerging Perspectives of Being and Belonging in the 21st Century”
Pierre Lemonnier (CNRS) “Drumming to Imagine: Artefacts as Cultural Resonators among the Ankave-Anga of Papua New Guinea”
Roger Ivar Lohmann (Trent University) “Distinguishing Imaginary from Real in an Intimate Society: More Complicated than One Would Think”
Heather M.-L. Miller (University of Toronto) “Imagining Ritual Connections: Material Culture Innovations as Images of Cultural Affiliation in Durammin Church Services (Papua New Guinea)”
John Taylor (University of Manchester) “Imagination and Innovation in Vanuatu Stringband Music”
Micah Van der Ryn (University of Auckland, American Samoa Community College) “Examining Relationships Between and Dynamics of Innovation, Tradition, and Originality in Samoa, Special Focus on Architecture”
*Laurie Zadnik (University of Toronto) “Imagining the Nation: A Mishmash of ‘Traditional’ Attire in Madang School Celebrations of Independence Day”

Roger Lohmann, Department of Anthropology, Trent University, 2000 Simcoe St. N., Oshawa, Ontario, L1H 7L7, CANADA; <rogerlohmann@trentu.ca>

Indigenous Struggles and Issues
Organizers: Marie Salaün (Université Paris 5 – Sorbonne) and Natacha Gagné (University of Ottawa)
Meeting: Saturday, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm (Annexe 1.13)

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—‘visibility’, challenging at different levels their political, economic, and cultural domination by the state and the majority population.

However, over the years, indigenous struggles and movements themselves have considerably changed since their first expressions. From our experiences of Oceania, new movements, new claims, new expressions of claims in the name of indigeneity and a new generation of activists are emerging today. In this session, we are thus interested in original and recently produced
ethnographies that take into account the historical contexts of such struggles. What do those who claims rights in the name of indigeneity ask for? How do the (new) movements define themselves? What kind of political rights are they demanding: autonomy, full sovereignty, control over resources, royalties from multinational companies? 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?

Following the discussions during our 2007 informal session, here are the three more specific themes and questions that we propose for our working session in February 2008:

1) Ongoing changes in struggles: new objects, new expressions? How have the struggles changed in recent years in terms of meanings, claims, expressions, and leadership? What have framed the changes? What kind of sociological analysis can we make of the new forms and expressions of the struggles? What about the politics of representation? Who is talking in the name of indigeneity and in the name of the indigenous people? When? How? How do they legitimate themselves? Some sovereignty movements (in Hawai‘i, New Zealand or Australia, for instance) are experiencing a growing conservative counter movement. How does this recent backlash affect their claims? How do indigenous peoples react to the increasing number of legal challenges against them? How do they react to the changes in public (i.e. majority) opinion?

2) The articulation between the local, the national and the global: During the session, we agreed on the importance of taking into account the fact that struggles occur at various levels, from micro-local to national, regional as well as international levels. The questions are then the following: how does each level influence the others in the struggles for indigenous rights? For example, how do international debates surrounding indigenous rights and indigenous struggles in diverse parts of the world impact on local and regional struggles? How do regional contexts frame local struggles in terms of indigeneity?

3) Indigeneity/residence: What does it mean to be an indigenous person or group away from home or in the absence of native land? How does the identification as an “indigenous” person or group articulate with claims to locality? How is “rootedness” claimed by people who are actually living away from their ancestral land?

The participants are expected to send their paper at least one month before the conference in Canberra for pre-circulation among participants.

Participants
Diane Austin-Broos (University of Sydney) “Structural Violence and Social Suffering: Some Examples from Ntaria in Central Australia”
Natacha Gagné (University of Ottawa) and Marie Salaün (Université de Paris 5-Sorbonne) “The Diverse Appeals to Indigeneity: A Look at the Category and Its Local Significances in Oceania”
Lily George (Massey University) “Being Native, Going Native”
Alan Howard (University of Hawai‘i) and Jan Rensel (University of Hawai‘i) “Ethnicity, Nationality, and the Rights of Indigeneity: The Case of Rotumans in Fiji”
Carlos Mondragón (El Colegio de México) “The Uneasy Relationship between Indigenous Struggles and the State: Theorising Resistance and Alterity in Melanesia”
Jeffrey Sissons (Victoria University of Wellington) “Maori Tribalism Reconsidered”
Marc Tabani (CREDO, CNRS) “Western Islands Kings and Melanesian Cargo Cultists: To Juggle with Indigeneity in Colonial and Post-colonial Tanna (Vanuatu)”
Benoît Trepied (EHESS Paris) “Customary Authorities versus Political Leaders: Contemporary Indigenous Struggles in the Kone Area, New Caledonia”

Eric Wittersheim (East-West Center, Hawai‘i) “Islandism vs. State-Building? The New Forms of Identity Politics in Contemporary Vanuatu”

Marie Salaün, Université Paris 5 – Sorbonne and IRIS (EHESS – CNRS), 54 boul. Raspail, 75006 Paris, FRANCE; <marie.salaun@paris5.sorbonne.fr>
Natacha Gagné, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Ottawa, 55 Laurier E. (8107), Ottawa (Ontario) K1N 6N5, CANADA; <natgagne@uottawa.ca>

**Mortuary Rites in the Pacific**
Organizers: Eric Silverman and David Lipset

**Meeting: Thursday, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm (Annexe 1.04)**

We will be moving forward to a full Working Session. We aim to continue discussing the variety of topical interests, spanning several locations in PNG as well as Tonga, New Zealand, Samoa, and elsewhere, including: syncretism, memory, identity, nationalism, politics, objects, gender, land, the body, modernity, globalization and postcolonialism, fear, morality, and, as Doug Dalton so nicely put it, “the struggle for meaning.”

**Participants**
Alexis von Poser (Universität Heidelberg) “Tuning in and out of Kayan Personhood: Male Initiation and Mortuary Rites in N. Papua New Guinea”
Naomi McPherson (University of British Columbia Okanagan) “Dying, Death Rites, and Mortuary Ceremonies in Bariai, PNG”
Joshua Bell “Everything Will Come Up Like TV, Everything Will Be Revealed’: Death in Uncertain Times in the Purari Delta”
Nick Bainton (Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining, The University of Queensland) “Mortuary Ritual and Mining Riches in a New Guinea Society”
Eric Venbrux (Radboud University Nijmegen) “Telling Spirits: Communicating by Means of the Dead in Local Arenas”
Karen Sinclair and Che Wilson “Maori Mortuary Rituals: Gender, Continuity, and the Clergy”
Doug Dalton (Longwood University) “Equivalence and Power: Changing Mortuary Rites and Moral and Existential Paradoxes in a Pacific Island Culture”
Verena Keck (Universität Heidelberg) and J. Wassmann (Universität Heidelberg) “Aging, Death, and Remembrance among the Yupno, Papua New Guinea”
Kaisa Maria Kouri (Queen’s University Belfast) “Mortality and the Spirits in Samoa”
Eric Silverman (Wheelock College) “The Aesthetics of Death”
David Lipset (University of Minnesota) “Dialogics of Death in the Murik Lakes”

**Eric K. Silverman, American Studies and Human Development, 200 The Riverway, Wheelock College, Boston, MA 02215, USA; tel (617) 879-2423; <esilverman@wheelock.edu>**

**David Lipset, Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota, 395 HHH Center, 301-19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455, U.S.A.; tel (612) 626-8627; fax (612) 625-3095; <lipse001@umn.edu>**
Schooling the Nation(s): Vernacular Education, Nation Building and Cultural Identity in Oceania
Organizers: John Wagner and Ali Pomponio
Meeting: Friday, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm (Seminar Room C)

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 linguae francae 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 focus on the role of educators and educational programs as agents of language transformation, loss and/or revival. During our first informal ASAO session in 2007, it became clear that vernacular education programs emerge for very different reasons in different Pacific Island settings. In some settings, for instance, they represent a move towards decolonization, while in other settings they are used to enhance the capacity of students to learn a ‘national’ language introduced during the colonial era. Participants agreed that, taken as a whole, vernacular education programs are not characterized by a common set of values or meanings in relation to nation building and cultural identity but rather constitute a field of contestation within which new and often unpredictable forms of identity are being constructed. In order to pursue this line of enquiry further, participants agreed to reconvene as a working session in 2008 and to focus more explicitly on the contested nature of vernacular education throughout the Pacific. Papers will cover a broad range of language issues, focusing on the use of vernacular languages in educational settings, but will also include papers on language loss and, more broadly, on the meaning of language choices in relation to nation building and cultural identity. Anyone who is interested in this session and who expects to attend the conference in Australia is invited to submit an abstract to the organizers. Although this will be a working session with pre-circulated papers, we also welcome the contributions of individuals who would like to participate on a more informal basis. Time will be provided during the session for both formal and informal presentations and discussion.

Participants
Philip Gibbs (Melanesian Institute) “Constructing Cultural Identity through Language in Enga Elementary Schools”
Trisha Shipman (University of Hawai’i at Manoa) “Ples Blong Lanwis: Considering Vernacular Education from a Community Perspective”
John Wagner (University of British Columbia – Okanagan) “Patterns of Language Use among Kala Speakers of Papua New Guinea”
Christine Jourdan (Concordia University) “Language, School and the Middle-Class in Urban Solomon Islands”
Marie Salaün (Université Paris 5 – Sorbonne and IRIS [EHESS – CNRS]) “Towards a Common Destiny? Race Relations, Plurilingualism and Decolonization in the New Caledonian School System”
Ryan Schram (University of California, San Diego) “Language Ideologies of the New Vernacular Education in PNG”
Salantieta Bakalevu (University of the South Pacific) “Whose Language? Whose Interest Does It Serve?: Discourse Narratives on Language in Fiji”
David Troolin (Summer Institute of Linguistics) “Reframing Literacy: A Conceptual Blending Approach”
Ali Pomponio (St. Lawrence University) “Whose Language Is It? The Paradoxical Nature of Dictionary Projects”

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; <john.wagner@ubc.ca>
Translations and Transformations of Sensual Experiences in Oceania: CANCELED
Organizer: Bettina Beer

I am sorry to have to inform colleagues that the above working session, proposed for Canberra, 2008, must be postponed till the 2009 ASAO meeting. This is purely due to the difficulties that I and a critical number of other participants have had in finding the time and/or funding to travel to Australia next February. However, we look forward to holding an exciting session at the meeting in 2009.

Bettina Beer, Institut für Ethnologie, Universität Heidelberg, Sandgasse 7, 69117 Heidelberg, GERMANY; <Beer.Fischer@t-online.de>

INFORMAL SESSIONS

Agency of the Past in Melanesia: Relating the Past to the Present
Organizers: Lissant Bolton and Liz Bonshek
Meeting: POSTPONED UNTIL 2009 ASAO MEETINGS

This informal session considers how people use the past in contemporary Melanesia. How are ideas about the past deployed in arenas such as politics, religion, ritual formations, heritage and education and in relation to the environment? We invite people to consider this question from a number of locations (from town, from rural areas, as well as in museums, archives and other institutions). We are also interested to address how people negotiate ideas about the past in the changing contexts of the present, especially in the post-colonial era. If you are interested in participating, please contact Dr. Liz Bonshek at the e-mail address below. Interested participants include Joshua Bell (University of East Anglia), Eric Hirsch (Brunel University), Jean Mitchell (University of Prince Edward Island), Deborah Waite, and Marion Struck-Garbe (University of Hamburg).

Lissant Bolton, The British Museum, Africa, Oceania and the Americas, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG, UNITED KINGDOM; tel +44 (0) 207 323 8047; fax.+44 (0) 207 323 8013
Liz Bonshek, The British Museum, Africa, Oceania and the Americas, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG, UNITED KINGDOM; <lbonshek@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk>

Christian Politics
Organizer: Matt Tomlinson
Meeting: Saturday, 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm (Seminar Room C)

Religious and political forms of authority intertwine in many societies. However, in many indigenous societies, the dense and interwoven connections between traditional forms of religious and political authority and those configured with the adoption of Christianity may be significantly and consequentially different. This informal session will bring together anthropologists who are interested in analyzing the cultural force of Christianity in Oceanic politics. Analyses are welcome at local, national, and transnational levels, especially as they address such topics as: the practical effects of reflexive discourse concerning Christianity’s “proper” place in society; competition between denominations for political influence, and the effects of ongoing evangelical work within Christian societies; Christianity’s use as an emblem uniting multiple social categories, such as the triad of ethnicity-religion-citizenship seen in Fiji; the impact of religious educational institutions; the impact of internationally famous preachers and faith healers and their “crusades,” such as those of Benny Hinn and Reinhard Bonnke.
Expressions of interest should be sent to Matt Tomlinson. Philip Gibbs, Mary Good, Courtney Handman, Marion Maddox, Mark Mosko, *Ken Nehrbass, and Lynda Newland will be participating.

**Community Development as Fantasy?**
Organizer: Penelope Schoeffel
**Meeting: Thursday, 8:30 am – 12:00 noon (Seminar Room C)**

This session will critically examine the way in which tropes of “community” and derived notions of “community development” are conceptualized, constructed and imposed by patron organizations such as aid donors, social welfare agencies, mining companies; and by client groups such as those representing landowners, indigenous minorities, women, development NGOs, and local level organizations.

**Participants**
Penelope Schoeffel (UNESCO) “Notions of Community-Based Development in Solomon Islands and East Timor”
Toon Van Meijl (University of Nijmegen) “Tainui Notions of Community and Development”
Nicholas Bainton (University of Queensland) “Issues of Community and Participation at Lihir Gold Mine”
Emily Esau (Tonga Community Development Trust) “Community Empowerment and NGO Programs in Tonga”
Ryan Schram (University of California, San Diego) “Community and Church-Based Programs in Normanby Island”
Nancy Sullivan topic pending
Mike Reitz “Community Projects in Tonga and Hawai’i”
Martha Macintyre (University of Melbourne) topic pending
Judith Huntsman (University of Auckland) topic pending
Hilary Haldane “Workers’ Perspectives on Culture and Care in Aotearoa/New Zealand”
James Leach (Cambridge University) “Modes of Accountability”
Kate Barclay (University of Technology Sydney) “Fisheries Development in Coastal Communities”

**Dumont in the Pacific**
Organizers: Serge Tcherkézoff and Joel Robbins
**Meeting: Friday, 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm (Annexe 1.13)**

Over the years, there have been a number of efforts to apply various of Dumont’s ideas to the study of Pacific societies. But those making these efforts rarely address one another’s work, and there has been no sustained debate about how Dumont’s theoretical perspective, or its various parts, might contribute to the analysis of societies in the region. Earlier discussions have touched on such important themes in Dumont’s work as hierarchy, value, and holism. We hope to further take up these and others issues in an informal session at the 2008 ASAO meeting. Our goal will be to identify those aspects of Dumont’s work that prove most relevant in the Pacific and to plan for future sessions that will include formal papers. We are open to people who want to explore any parts of Dumont’s work, but ask that everyone who participates be thinking of how they can use Dumont’s ideas in ethnographic analysis. Our goal is not simply to engage in theoretical critique, but to improve theoretical work through deploying it in concrete analyses.
Those who have signed up to take part in the session are, along with the organizers, James Pile, Ku Kun Hui, Mark Mosko, Thorgeir Kolshus, Jukka Siiikala, Knut Rio, and Penny Schoeffel.

Joel Robbins, Department of Anthropology – 0532, University of California, San Diego, 9500 Gilman Dr., La Jolla, CA 92093-0532, U.S.A.; <jrobbins@weber.ucsd.edu>
Serge Tcherkézoff, Maison Asie-Pacifique, Campus Universitaire St. Charles, 3 place Victor Hugo, Marseille 13003, FRANCE; <serge@pacific-credo.fr>

**History and Movement in the Southern Lowlands of New Guinea**
Organizers: Mark Busse and Joshua A. Bell

**Meeting: Saturday, 8:30 am – 12:00 noon (Seminar Room B)**

We are organizing this informal session to provide an opportunity for people who have worked in the Southern Lowlands of New Guinea to meet and discuss their work in terms of how it addresses the issue of comparison and the conceptualization of a region. After a dearth of anthropological research in the Southern Lowlands after World War II, since the early 1980s more and more researchers are working in this vast area. In 1993, Bruce Knauft published one of the very few existing comparative works on New Guinea, *South Coast New Guinea Cultures*, which is a landmark for the study of the South Coast with implications for the whole Southern Lowlands. The book is a twofold project: in its introduction it is a reflection on the project of comparison and regional anthropology, and in its body an attempt at outlining some defining characteristics of the Southern Lowlands as a region. For our session, we wish to keep in view this dual project of theoretical reflection and substantive engagement with the lives and cultural practices of the peoples of the Southern Lowlands. For this reason two foci of Knauft’s treatment are foregrounded in this session: history and movement. History and movement provide a frame within which to explore the historical connections between the different peoples of the Southern Lowlands through the movement of people, ideas, practices, things, and stories. By focusing on movement in concrete relationships, communications and interactions between communities as manifestations of historical processes, we wish to initiate discussions and debates among participants that lead to a reconsideration of the sense of the Southern Lowlands as a “region.” Region here can be understood both as a cultural perspective and as an analytic notion, both of which are linked to ideas about similarity and difference. The themes of connectedness, borrowing, circulation and concrete relationships are critical to this discussion. As this is an informal session, we ask at present that people interested in participating send us a brief statement of interest, outlining their ideas for a paper, if possible. The following people have indicated that they will attend: Florence Brunois (Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris), Alison Dundon (Australian National University), Peter Dwyer (University of Melbourne), Sebastian Haraha (Papua New Guinea National Museum), Garrick Hitchcock (Arafura Consulting), Bruce Knauft (Emory University), Erna Lilje (The Australian Museum), Grahame Martin (Independent Scholar), Monica Minnegal (University of Melbourne), Kevin Murphy (Australian National University), Jude Philp (Macleay Museum, University of Sydney), Sylvia Schaffarczyk (Australian National University), Justin Shafner (Cambridge University), Jim Specht (The Australian Museum), Rupert Stasch (Reed College), Ron Vanderwal (Museum Victoria), Jimmy Weiner (Australian National University), Charles Wilde (Australian National University), and Mike Wood (James Cook University)

Mark Busse, Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142, NEW ZEALAND; <m.busse@auckland.ac.nz>
Joshua A. Bell, Sainsbury Research Unit for the Arts of Africa, Oceania and the Americas, University of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TJ, UNITED KINGDOM; <joshua.bell@uea.ac.uk>

19
Identity Issues and Ethno-Racial Categorization in the Pacific
Organizer: Pauline McKenzie Aucoin; Chair: Mike Goldsmith
Meeting: Thursday, 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm (Seminar Room C)

This informal session will continue the 2007 working session "Race Ideology: Ideas and Practice" during which participants introduced their research and discussed race ideologies in various historical and contemporary contexts in the Pacific. During this session a shared interest emerged in the cultural construction and use of race categories, and we are keen to explore further the interplay of ethnic, racial and cultural identity factors in the formation and/or imposition of self and collective identity.

For our proposed session, we are especially concerned with articulating what race ideologies have existed in the Pacific and how have they been put into practice in various contexts; in particular, how are these conceptualized and applied as part of a wider political process of distinction, differentiation, and valorization.

Questions that participants in our proposed session will consider include the following: In what ways does race differ from other systems of ethno-cultural distinction? How do various practices of categorization "order humans" in everyday life? How do political systems vary in terms of their practices of categorization? In what ways have ethno-racial legal categories informed residence patterns as well as citizenship rights in colonies across the Pacific? How are notions of whiteness represented in discourses on race? And finally, how do we comprehend differences between self imposed identity constructs and externally imposed identity categories?

Participants in our 2007 session agreed to widen our discussion to encompass identity issues and ethno-racial categorization so as to better understand and compare identity factors in colonial and contemporary contexts in the Pacific. People who have expressed an interest in this session include Mike Goldsmith (Waikato), Matori Yamamoto (Hosei), Jacqui Leckie (Otago), and Laurel Monnig (Illinois).

Pauline McKenzie Aucoin, Ph.D. Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, ON, K1S 5B6, CANADA; <rpaucoin@aol.com>
Michael Goldsmith, Department of Societies and Cultures, University of Waikato, Private Bag 3105, Hamilton, New Zealand. <mikegold@waikato.ac.nz>

Kava in Australasia
Organizers: Grant McCall and Shane G. Aporosa
Meeting: Friday, 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm (Annexe 1.04)

It has been near two decades since Grant McCall convened a one-day symposium on kava at The University of New South Wales, which resulted in a joint publication with the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre of that same Institution (edited with John Prescott): Kava: Use and Abuse in Australia and the South Pacific. Monograph Nº 5. Kensington, National Drug & Alcohol Research Centre, 1989. ISBN 0947 229 04 3. The perspective of “Australasia,” an old term that includes all the -nesias (Micro-, Poly-, Mela- and Mega-) indicates how widespread kava has become, from a still sacred accompaniment to village ritual to an easy social lubricant and, for a time, neustraceutical in urban worlds desperate for calm in their busy lives. What are some of the major issues involved in Kava today across this broad spectrum? What is the clinical data on kava use of various types? How do “sea of island” Oceanic migrants use their home drink in foreign contexts? Has kava become in Gustav Schenk’s (“Book of Poisons”) a “foreign poison,” torn from its small-scale context to be added to the modern pharmacopeia? The session will grow organically based on participant interests and expertise. Those interested, please contact the organizers.
Obesity and Oceania
Organizer: Margaret Mackenzie

Meeting: Friday, 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm (Seminar Room D)

Obesity appears self-evidently and incontrovertibly to be an extremely dangerous health risk for heart disease, high blood pressure, cancer, and diabetes. Almost always it is attributed to poor diet and lack of physical activity or shortcomings of lifestyle for which individuals are held responsible. They are believed able to reverse obesity by using self-discipline to restrict how much they eat and to increase how much they exercise: apparently simple decisions which any intelligent person would implement for themselves and their children. Obesity would seem evidence of failure through self-indulgence, both to justify perceiving the obese as not fully responsible individuals, and to require responsible medical authorities to exhort them to exert self-control, especially because they are a disproportionate drain on the expenses of healthcare. Mostly in the medical mainstream, and in public health education, the roles of differences in genetics and hormonal processes have been regarded as peripheral. In a World Health Organization 2005 database reported in 2007 which prompted a lively thread on ASAONET, eight of the ten countries with the highest percentage of obesity are located in the island Pacific. High rates of diabetes are reported. Within the subsequent six months, at least two further discoveries relevant to genetic aspects of diabetes in the Pacific have been reported, in addition to the—sometimes controversial—existing literature on genetics and obesity. This informal session will discuss the issues of genetics and hormonal processes in the context of anthropological aspects of body fat, physical activity, eating, food availability and nutrition education in socioeconomic situations of Pacific urbanization and migration. Among the issues at stake are the export of stigma and shaming that impugn the obese because of moral values unnoticed in the certainties about disease and danger that pervade the idealistic intentions of obesity treatment in metropolitan countries. So far Mac Marshall has expressed interest in participating in the session.

Remembering Donald Tuzin
Organizers: Kathy Creely and Joel Robbins

Meeting: Saturday, 8:30 am – 12:00 noon (Seminar Room C)

We plan to organize for the upcoming meeting a memorial session for Donald Tuzin, a great scholar and important colleague to so many of us in ASAO who passed away in 2007. Rather than have people give formal papers, we would like to have an open-ended discussion of Don’s life and work. In order to facilitate planning and scheduling, it would be useful if people who want to participate can sign up for this session as they would for other informal sessions. The
following people have indicated they would like to participate: Rich Scaglion, Nancy Lutkehaus, Borut Telban, Daniela Vavrova, and Mark Busse.

Kathy Creely, Melanesian Studies Resource Center, Geisel Library, 0175-R, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla CA 92093 U.S.A.; tel (858) 534-2029; fax (858) 534-7548; <kcreely@ucsd.edu>
Joel Robbins, Department of Anthropology – 0532, University of California, San Diego, 9500 Gilman Dr., La Jolla, CA 92093-0532, U.S.A.; <jrobbins@weber.ucsd.edu>

VII. RECENT JOURNALS

The December 2007 Oceania Newsletter, Volume 48 was put on the web at the site of the Centre for Pacific and Asian Studies at the Radboud University in Nijmegen, The Netherlands. This volume features the following:

Obituary: Albert A. Trouwborst
Albert A. Trouwborst Award
New Zealand Society Fellow in New Zealand Studies Conference
New Zealand and the Mediterranean Exhibitions
Pacific Exhibition on Tour in Europe
Asmat Sculptures in Amsterdam Review
Curiosities from the Pacific Ocean

The June 2007 issue of the Journal of the Polynesian Society (volume 116, number 2) is a special issue, titled Polynesian Art: Histories and Meanings in Cultural Contexts, guest-edited by Steven Hooper. Besides Hooper’s introduction, this issue includes the following articles:

Containers of Divinity, by Adrienne L. Kaeppler
Embodying Divinity: The Life of A’a, by Steven Hooper
Tahitian Fau: Unveiling an Enigma, by Karen Stevenson and Steven Hooper
Tongan Figures: From Goddesses to Missionary Trophies to Masterpieces, by Roger Neich

The September 2007 issue (116 [2]) features an article by Michael P. J. Reilly titled “Gifts from the Sea: The Two Iron Axes of Mangaia,” and the following shorter communications:

Paphurihia, Pukerenga, Te Atua Wera and Te Nakahi: How Many Prophets? by Judith Binney
A New Reading of Tupaia’s Chart, by Anne di Piazza and Eric Peartree
Tabua Business: Re-circulation of Whale Teeth and Bone Valuables in the Central Pacific, by Paul van der Grijp

VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION


Micronesian often liken the Pacific War to a typhoon that swept away their former lives and brought dramatic changes to their understandings of the world and their places in it. Whether they spent the war in bomb shelters, in sweet potato fields under the guns of Japanese soldiers, or in their homes on atolls sheltered from the war, Micronesians who survived those years know that their peoples passed through a major historical transformation. Yet Pacific War histories scarcely mention the Islanders across whose lands and seas the fighting waged. Memories of War sets out to fill that historical gap by presenting the missing voices of Micronesians and by viewing those years from their perspectives. The focus is on Micronesian remembrances—the ritual commemorations, features of the landscape, stories, dances, and songs that keep their memories of the conflict alive.


The focus is primarily on the experiences of house-girls working for English, French, and Chinese speaking employers prior to independence in 1980. Two final chapters address concerns of contemporary house-girls working for indigenous as well as expatriate employers.


This volume originated in a session in honor of Ken Burridge held during the 2002 ASAO meetings in Vancouver.

Introduction: The Anthropological Study of Morality in Melanesia John Barker
Not Managing in Melanesia: On the Moral Lessons of the Failed Big Man Joel Robbins
When Is It Moral to Be a Sorcerer? Morality and Modernity in a Melanesian Global Context Doug Dalton
From Moral Exchange to Exchanging Morals: A Comparison of Gebusi and Tangu in Papua New Guinea Bruce Knauft
All Sides Now: The Postcolonial Triangle in Uiaku John Barker
Building a ‘New Earth’ at Ramu Sugar Limited Frederick Errington and Deborah Gewertz
Changing Minds: History and Hysteria in Telefol Spirit Possession Dan Jorgensen
The Origins of Missionary Morality: Diyos Among the Asabano Roger Lohmann
Modernity and the Missionary Calling in Melanesia: The ‘New Woman’ as Catholic Nun Nancy Lutkehaus
Burridge’s Homo Anthropologic us: Rational Objectivity, Participatory Values and the Underpinnings of an Ethical and Moral Stance

*Robert Tonkinson*

Reaching for the Absolute

*F.G. Bailey*

Epilogue

*Kenelm Burridge*


According to Archbishop Desmond Tutu, “The people of West Papua have been denied their basic human rights, including their right to self-determination. Their cry for justice and freedom has fallen largely on deaf ears.” Editor Charles Farhadian and photojournalist Stephan Babuljak give outsiders direct access to Papuan life stories unobstructed by the interpretive schemes of researchers, policy makers, and eco-tourist enthusiasts, letting Papuans speak for themselves.

All profits are donated to Papuan causes.

*Anthropological Forum* Special Issue, Volume 17, number 3 (November 2007), edited by Karen Sykes:

**Interrogating Individuals: The Critique of Possessive Individualism in the Western Pacific**

Interrogating Individuals: The Theory of Possessive Individualism in the Western Pacific

*Karen Sykes*

Looking Like a Culture

*Eric Hirsch*

Fashioning Belief: The Case of the Baha’i Faith in Northern New Ireland

*Graeme Were*

The Moral Grounds of Critique: Between Possessive Individuals, Entrepreneurs and Big Men in New Ireland

*Karen Sykes*

Making and Unmaking Possessive Individuals: “Xavier Borrowing” at a Catholic Mission

Pacific Islands Secondary School

*John Wendel*

Your Own Buai You Must Buy: The Ideology of Possessive Individualism in Papua New Guinea

*Keir Martin*

Possessive Individualism and Cultural Change in the Western Pacific

*Joel Robbins*

You may order this Special Issue at a special single issue price by filling in the form located at: http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/spissue/canf-si.asp

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST:**


**Intelligence, Coalitional Killing, and the Antecedents of War**, by Paul Roscoe, p. 485-495.

**IX. OTHER CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

7th Conference of the European Society for Oceanists

**“Putting People First”: Intercultural Dialogue and Imagining the Future in Oceania**

Verona, Italy, from 10 to 12 July 2008

Dipartimento di Psicologia e Antropologia Culturale

Università degli Studi di Verona
X. MEMBER NEWS
As many of you know, Oro was badly devastated by flash floods and heavy rains. Donations in cash or other kind are appreciated. To make a donation, please contact Nick Araho, Chief Curator of Prehistory, PNG National Museum.

ASAO Publications Announcement
An edited volume or special issue of a journal that resulted from ASAO sessions may be submitted to the ASAO Board for designation as an ASAO Publication, and thereafter listed on the Association’s website. Any contributor who is not yet an ASAO fellow is eligible to become one.

The editor(s) of the publication need to send the complete publication details, table of contents, and years of the ASAO sessions that contributed to development of the publication to ASAO Secretary Jocelyn Armstrong for presentation to the Board at its meeting at the annual meeting in February. The same information should be sent to ASAO Webmaster Alan Howard for posting on the website, pending the Board’s approval.

In February, Dr. Bettina Beer and Jürg Helbling will take up chairs in a new department of socio-cultural anthropology, one that will have a strong focus on Melanesia and Southeast Asia. The new department, part of an exciting new university in Luzern/Lucerne, is both keen and able to invite colleagues travelling nearby to visit and present a seminar or lecture.
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

**ASAO Board**
Past Chair  Eric Silverman (DePauw University) <eric@depauw.edu>
Chair  Naomi McPherson (UBC, Okanagan) <naomi.mcpherson@ubc.ca>
Chair-elect  Dan Jorgensen (University of Western Ontario) <dwj@uwo.ca>
Directors  Leslie Butt (University of Victoria) <lbutt@uvic.ca>
   Judith [Modell] Schachter (Carnegie Mellon University) <JM1e@andrew.cmu.edu>
   Tevia Ka'ili (BYU-Hawai'i) <tkaili@gmail.com>
   Toon van Meijl (Nijmegen) <T.vanMeijl@ru.nl>

**ASAO Officers**
Newsletter Editor
Larry Carucci <lamaca@montana.edu>

Newsletter Editorial Assistant
Samantha Brockman**

Secretary
Jocelyn Armstrong
Department of Community Health
University of Illinois MC-588
1206 South Fourth Street
Champaign IL 61820
<jocelyn@uiuc.edu>

Treasurer
Mary McCutcheon
2115 North Rolfe St.
Arlington VA 22209
<mccutche@mu.edu>

Membership Coordinator
Kathy Creely
Melanesian Studies Resource Center
Geisel Library, 0175-R
9500 Gilman Drive
University of California, San Diego
La Jolla CA 92-93-0175
<kathylibrary.ucsd.edu>

Program Coordinator (see p. 2)
Roger Lohmann <rogerloehmann@trentu.ca>

ASAO Web site Manager
Alan Howard <alanhoward@hawaii.rr.com>

ASAO Archivist
Jan Rensel
Center for Pacific Islands Studies
University of Hawai‘i – Manoa
1890 East-West Road, Moore 210
Honolulu HI 96822
<rensek@hawaii.edu>

Monograph Series Editor
Rupert Stasch
Department of Anthropology
Reed College
3203 SE Woodstock Blvd.
Portland OR 97202
<rupert.stasch@reed.edu>

Special Publications Editor
Lamont Lindstrom
Department of Anthropology
University of Tulsa
Tulsa OK 74104
<lamont-lindstrom@utulsa.edu>

Annual Meetings Site Coordinator
Michael Rynkiewich <Michael_rynkiewich@asburyseminary.edu>

Pacific Islands Scholars Fund
Keith Chambers
715 Pennslyvania Ave
Ashland OR 97520
<anekiti2004@yahoo.com>

**ASAO Web site:  http://www.asao.org**

**funding for editorial assistance with the ASAO Newsletter is provided by the College of Letters and Science, Montana State University.**

Larry Carucci
ASAO Newsletter Editor
Dept. of Anthropology and Sociology
Montana State University
Bozeman, Montana, 591715
E-mail <lamaca@montana.edu>