ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY IN OCEANIA

Newsletter #130  April 2008

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I. FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the Newsletter contains a review of our very successful 2008 Meetings in Canberra including session and officers’ reports. Equally, preliminary information on the 2009 Meetings in Santa Cruz, California with a note on our 2009 Distinguished Lecturer can be found within. My thanks to all of you who submitted materials for this issue of the Newsletter in a timely manner and, as always, special thanks to our Program Chair, Roger Lohmann, and to Jan Rensel for allowing us to benefit from their experience and expertise in fashioning and reviewing critical components of the Newsletter. I would also like to thank the Dean of Letters and Science at Montana State University, Dr. Paula Lutz, for her agreement to continue the funding for an Editorial Assistant to help with the preparation of the Newsletter. Samantha Brockman has served admirably this year as Editorial Assistant, assembling the many elements contributors have submitted into a sensible form.

Please remember that all materials for the September Newsletter must be received by August 20, 2008. Thank you in advance for adhering to the submission deadline.

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

I am very happy to have the opportunity to serve as Chair this year, and am even happier to report that ASAO is in good shape. The 2008 meetings were very successful and drew participants from across the Pacific, with a significant European presence in addition to many North American members. The Antipodean contingent showed up in force, and this helped make Canberra an especially fruitful meeting ground for Pacific anthropology. The site itself was great, thanks largely to ANU’s hospitality, Mark Mosko’s wizardry, and late afternoon conversations in the Uni House garden...

An able and energetic Board is developing an agenda for the coming year, and a mix of continuing and new officers will help us look after the Association’s affairs. Last year saw a number of positive changes, the most important of which was the conclusion of a new publishing arrangement for the Monograph Series with Berghahn. Much of this year’s work will carry forward last year’s momentum, and we will turn our attention to the Special Publications Series as well as more routine matters.

Elections will be conducted by electronic ballot in the same way as last year. Nominees for the Board are:

- Joshua Bell (Sainsbury Research Unit)
- Rochelle Fonoti (University of Washington)
- Elfriede Hermann (University of Göttingen)

In addition, we will be considering Ben Finney’s nomination as an Honorary Fellow.

The voters’ list for these elections will be closed on May 1st, and only those who have renewed their memberships by then will be able to vote. (Hint: that means you should ensure that your membership is up to date by then.) Members will be sent an e-mail in May with a link that will take them to the ballot on a secure server housed at the University of Western Ontario. We will continue to print and mail paper ballots to members who do not have e-mail addresses. Voting will close on June 1st.

Next year’s meeting will be in Santa Cruz, and James Clifford has accepted our invitation to give the Distinguished Lecture – more details on his talk will be available from Lamont Lindstrom in a forthcoming Newsletter, along with further information about registration and travel to and from the meeting site. Session organizers for Santa Cruz should please note revised procedures concerning membership and preregistration as explained in Roger Lohmann’s report below.

Thanks to all who took part in Canberra – I think we have a good year ahead of us, and I look forward seeing you again in Santa Cruz.

Dan Jorgensen

III. PACIFIC ISLANDS SCHOLARS FUND

Report following 2008 Canberra Meeting for ASAO Newsletter

The PISF Committee (Judith Schachter representing the Board, Ty Tengan and Ping-Ann Addo as at-large members, and Keith Chambers, chair), received eleven applications in late fall 2007 for travel support for the Canberra meetings. We had $5,000 to award for travel support this year. Following review of applications and a conference call, the committee recommended five applicants for full or partial travel funds. These applicants were approved by the Board and all
attended the Canberra meetings. Each of these young scholars also had her or his registration fee paid and received a year’s membership in ASAO. Each awardee also received up to US$200 toward the cost of accommodation in Canberra.

Our 2008 travel awardees were: Salanieta Bakalevu (Fiji), Sekove Degei (Fiji), Dionne Fonoti (USA/Samoa), Lily George (Aotearoa/New Zealand) and Fa’anofo Lisaclaire Uperesa (USA/Samoa). All were hosted to a Board-sponsored luncheon on Thursday, February 14th.

Our PISF awards are funded from members’ voluntary donations and from a small portion of each ASAO membership fee. We thank all members and those who made personal donations for their support. As of late March 2008, the fund balance is lower than we would like, and we urge you to contribute generously this year to help us assist Pacific Islands scholars to take part in next year’s Santa Cruz (California) meeting. Donations can be sent to Mary McCutcheon, ASAO Treasurer, 115 North Rolfe St, Arlington VA 22209-1029 USA. Those who pay U.S. taxes can deduct your donations, as ASAO is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. Further information on PISF and its purposes is on the ASAO Web site: http://www.asao.org.

For the year going forward, the PISF committee includes continuing members Ty Tengan, Ping-Ann Addo and Keith Chambers, and we welcome Tevita Ka’ili as the new representative of the Board, replacing Judith Schachter, who rotates off. Many thanks to Judith her excellent work this past year. The full PISF 2008 report is available from the ASAO Secretary.

Keith Chambers
PISF Committee Chair

Applications and Awards Information

The Pacific Islands Scholars Fund supports two types of awards. The bulk of our award funds go to Travel Awards, which are allocated through a competitive process in which applications are due annually in early September. In most cases these awards cover the cost of round-trip airfare. Awards also provide meeting registration and a year’s ASAO membership. Mini-Grants allow us to further encourage participation in ASAO sessions by Pacific Island scholars and extend our recognition for their valuable contributions -- they provide meeting registration fee waivers and a year’s membership in ASAO. Mini Grants are awarded to Pacific Islander participants who are taking an active part in one or more sessions, either by serving as organizer, presenting a paper, or making a presentation in another format. Further information on application procedures is available on the ASAO Web site.

IV. FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

In this issue of the newsletter you will see reports of the sessions held at the 2008 conference in Canberra. For those sessions that will continue at the 2009 meeting, organizers are asked to send updated announcements to me for the September newsletter by August 20th. Please mark all ASAO deadlines (below) on your calendar now. Guidelines for session organizers and participants and a timetable can be found in this issue for your convenience, and are also available at the ASAO Web site. Please note a new policy adopted by ASAO’s Board to take effect beginning with the next newsletter (September 2008): “For session proposals to be entertained, organizers must be ASAO members in good standing at the time the proposals are submitted. For session proposals to be accepted and announced in the Newsletter and on the ASAO Web site, organizers must preregister and prepay dues for the year in which the sessions will be held.”

One of the things that makes ASAO a different kind of scholarly organization is the rich discussion made possible by the three-year sequence of sessions. This allows for a progressively developing collaborative project, pursued as long as needed to investigate a topic across Pacific Oceania. Sessions normally meet for three successive years. Organizers should
be members of ASAO. An **informal session** allows an exploratory discussion of a topic to determine the level of interest and possible directions for a new collaboration. Participants may pre-circulate abstracts, statements of interest, or drafts, or may meet without advance preparation. A **working session** involves pre-circulated papers, which, rather than being formally presented, are discussed by participants. If a coherent theme and common focus emerges from the discussion, and at least seven participants agree to further develop and re-circulate advanced drafts of their papers, they may proceed the next year to meet for a **formal symposium**. Symposia allow a more sophisticated discussion to emerge from the long-term engagement with one another’s papers, and include final honing of the project as a whole, typically with the goal of publication as an ASAO volume, an edited book published by another academic press, or a special issue of a journal.

Typically, the three types of session occur in successive years; however, the full sequence is not required. For example, a group with advanced papers already prepared may commence at the working session level and proceed to symposium the following year. While joint publication is often a goal, sometimes participants seek publication for their work individually. Participants in informal or working sessions sometimes decide not to meet again the following year, if their interests are disparate or the collaboration has already served its purpose. Any session that generates new insights through discussion can be celebrated as a success.

Whatever the level of your session, during your meeting please remember to allow all participants equal time to speak and contribute. This requires time management, acting as a timekeeper, and serving as a discussion facilitator on the part of the session organizer.

I welcome any questions you may have about organizing sessions after reading the guidelines below.

*Roger Lohmann*

**GUIDELINES FOR SESSION ORGANIZERS AND PARTICIPANTS**

ASAO is characterized by social informality and collegial cooperation regardless of rank. At the same time, the rigorous examination of data and ideas in ASAO sessions is designed to lead to high quality, publishable sets of comparative papers on topics of importance in Pacific anthropology. The format of ASAO sessions differs from those at many scholarly meetings where individual papers are presented. Instead, ASAO sessions feature the ongoing give-and-take required for penetrating intellectual examination of difficult, yet vital, issues.

ASAO sessions are of three types:

**(A) INFORMAL SESSIONS** involve the informal sharing of ideas to determine whether there is common ground for further inquiry. Anyone who has relevant data is welcome to attend and participate. If such sessions generate enough interest, participants make plans to develop and share lists of bibliographic references, draft and circulate papers, and discuss them (possibly via e-mail) in preparation for the next stage (see below).

Informal Sessions are of two types. Impromptu Informal Sessions can be announced at the Opening Plenary Session of the annual meeting and posted on the bulletin board in the registration area during the meeting. These sessions do not have pre-arranged meeting locations but may meet in available conference rooms, participants’ rooms, or local cafes. The second type of Informal Session may be announced at the prior year’s meeting, proposed in the ASAO Newsletter or on ASAONET, or otherwise pre-arranged. **To appear in the full schedule of the annual meeting, which is published in the December Newsletter, announcements of Informal Sessions must be submitted to the Program Coordinator by November 1** (see Timetable).

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

(B) WORKING SESSIONS are based on prepared papers that are briefly summarized (NOT READ) during the session. Abstracts, if not drafts of papers, must be precirculated among session organizers and participants. Most of the meeting time during the session is allocated for discussing common themes, with an eye toward finding coherence and preparing for a second round of writing.

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

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

A minimum of seven participants presenting papers in person at the meeting is required for Working Session status. A list of participants, paper titles, and copies of their abstracts must be sent to the Program Coordinator by the November 1 deadline (see Timetable). Sessions that do not meet these criteria by the November 1 deadline will appear on the Program of the Annual Meeting as Informal Sessions.

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

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

Some Symposia may require only an hour and a half to wrap up unfinished business, while others may need as much as six hours to discuss issues, themes, and future plans. Symposium organizers should advise the Program Coordinator of their time requirements.

The presence of seven participants with precirculated papers is required for full Symposium status. A list of participants, paper titles, and copies of the first and last pages of their papers must be sent to the Program Coordinator by the November 1 deadline (see Timetable). Sessions that do not meet these criteria by the November 1 deadline will appear on the Program of the Annual Meeting as Informal Sessions or Working Sessions, according to their level of preparedness as judged by the Program Coordinator.

Responsibilities of Session Organizers:

1) Submit the required information about your session to the Program Coordinator by the March 20, August 20, and November 1 deadlines. (See Timetable for Session Organizers and Participants.)

2) Assist any Pacific Islands scholars who are interested in applying for support from the Pacific Islands Scholars Fund. (See PISF Guidelines.)
3) Advise the Program Coordinator by no later than November 1 of any particular scheduling needs (e.g., late arrivals, early departures, or potential conflicts with other sessions).

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

5) Send the Program Coordinator your contact information, and advise of any changes during the year.

6) Plan to attend both the Opening Plenary and Closing Plenary Sessions at the annual meeting. All session organizers are expected to deliver a Closing Plenary Report on the results of their sessions and future plans. If the organizers cannot be present at the Closing Plenary, they should appoint one of the participants to deliver the report. A written copy of the report must be sent to the Newsletter Editor before the March 20 deadline.

**Responsibilities of Session Participants:**

1) Please respect the deadlines for your particular session and your session organizer’s responsibility for meeting the overall deadlines (see Timetable). Submit and circulate your abstracts and draft papers on time. Advise the organizer well in advance (before the organizer’s November 1 deadline) as to whether you will be able to attend the session in person.

2) Members should limit themselves to participation in no more than two sessions, preferably at different levels. In the past, problems have sometimes resulted from members participating in multiple sessions. For the ASAO format to work, contributors must give their sessions their undivided attention. Multiple participation creates scheduling conflicts, which often disrupt sessions and distract contributors. If you must be in more than one session, please send the Program Coordinator a note indicating your priority. First priority in case of scheduling conflicts will go to session organizers and discussants. However, since ASAO sessions are lengthy and relatively few in number, there is no guarantee that scheduling conflicts can be avoided.

All correspondence to the Program Coordinator should be sent to:

Roger Lohmann, Department of Anthropology, Trent University, 2000 Simcoe St. N., Oshawa, Ontario, CANADA L1H 7L7; tel (905) 721-8668 x2044, e-mail rogerlohmann@trentu.ca

**Timetable for Session Organizers and Participants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>INFORMAL SESSION</th>
<th>WORKING SESSION</th>
<th>SYMPOSIUM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>to Program Coordinator: announcement of proposed session</td>
<td>to Program Coordinator: report on informal session held at annual meeting; call for papers, deadlines, etc.</td>
<td>to Program Coordinator: report on working session held at annual meeting; next steps, deadlines, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 20</td>
<td>to Program Coordinator: updated description of proposed session</td>
<td>to Program Coordinator: updated description of session and call for papers, deadline reminders</td>
<td>to Program Coordinator: updated description of session, deadline reminders, etc.</td>
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</table>
Before November 1  
Participants submit abstracts to session organizer(s) and send to other participants  
Participants circulate drafts of papers to session organizer(s) and other participants

November 1  
to Program Coordinator:  
updated description of proposed session; list of people who have expressed interest, total number expected to attend. Last chance to have a room and time scheduled in the program  
to Program Coordinator:  
names of participants, titles of papers, order of presentation; all abstracts; which papers will be presented in absentia; how much time requested  
to Program Coordinator:  
names of participants, titles of papers, order of presentation; first and last pages of each paper; which papers will be presented in absentia; how much time requested

2008 ANNUAL MEETING SESSION REPORTS

SPECIAL SESSION

Research in West New Britain: Then and Now  
Organizer: Naomi McPherson

This special session was organized to bring together in Canberra as many people as possible who have been doing research in West New Britain Province of Papua New Guinea. The session was a tremendous success for contributors and audience alike. We had 10 papers presented ranging from the latest on genetic variation in WNB and surrounding areas (Friedlander and Friedlander) to the latest in archaeological work and catastrophic/volcanic environments (Specht, Torrence, Pavliides); human geography, cultural ecology and migration (Curry, Koczberski), ethnography (Chowning, Counts and Counts, McPherson); museums and photography (Knowles). Unable to attend were Jebens, Goulden and Thurston whose papers contributed to the ethnography and linguistics of the area. Given the wide range of the research presented (indicative of why we all love anthropology) the papers do not make for a tightly constructed volume and we are considering how best to present this material for the people of West New Britain Province. We may end up workshopping the material in order to put it in a format that would be useful for senior high school and university students. We will continue our conversation on this issue. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the WNB contributors for presenting their work; it was a fabulous day of immersion in the anthropology and geography of West New Britain.

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

This year’s symposium was a success and featured presentations from the organizers, Fa’anofo L. Uperesa, Dionne Fonoti, Pepule’a Micah Van der Ryn, Ping-Ann Addo, Katerina Martina Teaiwa, and ‘Okusitino Mahina; also participating from the audience was Unasa Va’a. In addition to our presentations, we also conducted an ‘awa/ava/kava circle, which was made possible by Siosiu F. P. Laffitani Tofua’ipangai and the Phoenix Performing Arts who performed songs in our session and staged a performance the following night. We were also generously
hosted by Katerina Teaiwa at Pacific Studies. The organizers wish to thank all of the many individuals, families, and organizations who have participated in our various sessions since 2005. We intend to move forward to publication.

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)

In our final symposium session we spent time discussing points of convergence and difference among the papers and we all greatly benefited from an excellent discussion of the major themes explored in the panel by our discussant Alan Rumsey. Presently, contributors are putting the finishing touches on their papers in anticipation of submitting the collection for consideration for publication as an edited volume. Themes addressed during the symposium included (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 nonverbal 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.

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; Session Chairs: Bronwen Douglas and Paul Turnbull

Because this was planned as a one-off session and most of the participants are engaged in ongoing collaboration on its theme, we opted not to pre-circulate papers or to have a discussant. Each of the participants, therefore, read a 20-minute paper followed by 10 minutes discussion—excellent time discipline was shown by all. Unfortunately, Chris Ballard was forced to drop out at the last minute due to family illness but Paul Turnbull admirably filled the gap as co-chair with Bronwen Douglas, to her considerable relief. Ten papers were presented, including one in absentia, addressing varied aspects of the theme of the
relationships between unstable metropolitan racial theories and field materials generated in personal exchanges between Europeans and indigenous people in Oceania. The quality of both papers and discussion was gratifyingly high. A large audience attended the morning papers and a somewhat smaller but no less vocal group heard the afternoon ones. Our thanks to presenters and audiences alike. The topics addressed ranged widely over the session theme: the domestic origin of tropes applied to Oceanian people by sixteenth-century Portuguese and Spanish voyagers; French ideas of race, climate, and human difference and nineteenth-century naval field naturalists in Oceania; French racial cartography in Oceania; a pioneer Russian fieldworker in New Guinea and racial theory in Russia; constructions of tribal people in Peninsular Malaya by British and Malay colonizers; German anthropologists and the import of field experience in New Guinea and Samoa; a missionary’s contribution to kinship theory and evolutionist anthropology; the nexus of museums, medical officers and protectors, and frontier violence in the collection of Aboriginal bodily remains in northern Australia; and New Zealand colonial racial classifications in Samoa. The organizers have decided not to proceed with publication at this point. However, several of the papers will be channeled into an intensive writers’ workshop they are holding in October, in the expectation that it will lead to the offer of an edited special issue to the Journal of Pacific History.

Bronwen Douglas, Division of Pacific and Asian History, RSPAS, The Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200, AUSTRALIA; tel 612 6125 3175; mobile 04 0762 4977; <bronwen.douglas@anu.edu.au>

Chris Ballard, Division of Pacific and Asian History, RSPAS, The Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200, AUSTRALIA; <chris.ballard@anu.edu.au>

Diaspora, Identity and Incorporation
Organizers: Michael D. Lieber and Michael A. Rynkiewich

Jan Rensel and Alan Howard filled in for the session organizers, Michael Rynkiewich and Michael Lieber, who were unable to attend the meeting. The three-hour session was attended by 25 people, many of whom were actively engaged in a productive discussion of 4 precirculated papers (Falgout, Kuehling, Howard/Rensel, and Ahrens) and 2 additional presentations (Carucci, Helen Lee). By the end of the session, 8 others expressed an interest in participating in a session next year -- Marsa Dodson (Otago), Marion Struck-Garbe (Hamburg), Kalissa Alexeyeff (Melbourne), Ping-Ann Addo (U Massachusetts), Micah Van der Ryn, Lisa Uperesa (Columbia), Dionne Fonoti (SFSU), and David Wakefield (SIL) -- for a possible total of 14 participants. The following themes and questions emerged from this year’s session:

• Diasporic Pacific Islanders respond actively and creatively to the new social, political, and economic contexts in which they find themselves. Aspects of the new contexts may be enabling or constraining, eg, the availability of affordable land, housing, and suitable jobs, as well as the ways that the larger community perceives (or misperceives) them. In many cases there seem to be significant differences in the experiences of earlier and later migrants, sometimes leading to problematic relations between them.

• What are key markers in forming and retaining identity in new circumstances? For instance, traditional voyaging narratives may be echoed in contemporary movements; flower garlands and their scents and colors play a subtle role in communicating meanings to Saipan Carolinians; and Enewetak/Ujelang migrants on the Big Island of Hawai‘i grow and consume particular foods such as pandanus and certain types of breadfruit as they establish a new identity and connection with the land there.

• What kinds of social and cultural categories emerge as a result of the size of the population and interactions among them and with the broader community in the new setting? Sometimes, for instance, the category “Micronesian” can be imposed by a larger society that doesn’t know
the difference between them; other times, such as at UH Hilo, students from various islands choose to come together as “Micronesians.”

- What are the issues of concern to migrants in relation to the home community? What is the nature of the interaction between returning migrants and those who’ve remained at home?

- What are the contingencies confronting the next generation, the children of migrants, born in the new context? How do they respond to these contingencies, and how do they relate to the home island? For instance, transnationalism creates an ambivalent identity for the children of Tongan migrants in Australia.

The group decided that it would be premature to move to the symposium level next year, and that we would like to meet again as a working session. Michael Rynkiewich will take the role of discussant for the 2009 session, while Alan Howard and Jan Rensel will join Michael Lieber as co-organizers.

| Michael Lieber, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois, 1107 Harrison, Chicago, IL 60607-7139, U.S.A.; tel (312) 413-3577; <mdlieber@uic.edu> |
| Michael A. Rynkiewich, Asbury Seminary, 204 N. Lexington, Wilmore, KY 40390, U.S.A.; tel (859) 858-2218; <Michael_rynkiewich@asburyseminary.edu> |

En/Gendering Violence in Oceania
Organizers: Dorothy Counts and Christine Stewart

Our session continues its organic process of development, with some participants dropping out and others joining. Our original plans to proceed to symposium this year were thwarted by the many other commitments of participants during the past year, meaning that work has not progressed as hoped. Nevertheless, we were presented with an exciting range of papers this year: some advanced, some still in draft stage. All dealt with gender violence in Papua New Guinea, meaning that we will have to reconsider our session title. We are now more determined than ever to proceed to publication.

We had already learned that one of the sources of violence in the rapidly changing societies of PNG is the stress put on male identity formation, a stress that often finds its outlet in violent behavior, and dubbed it “troubled masculinities.” Our papers deal with some newly emergent and quite exciting issues surrounding gender violence, such as the influences of Christianity, the introduced legal system, economic development and donor aid, mythical origins, the gendering of witch-killing, and the cultural perceptions which legitimize some forms of gender violence. This year, we spent a large part of the day discussing the papers of those present, and noted two new papers from participants unable to attend. Our session this year concluded with a summary of themes we could see emerging, which gave rise to these stresses. These themes included:

- The disempowerment and empowerment of women, the threats posed by empowerment, and the means adopted to retaliate to this threat
- Tradition, modernity, and societies in transition
- Economic factors and the way they operate to increase/diminish the propensity for gender violence.

We also devoted some time to planning for a symposium next year, and to setting a timetable for comment and development of papers along the lines of the themes we have discerned and any others that may emerge. We are still undecided as to whether we will opt for publication as an ASAO Monograph, or as a special journal issue.
Imagination and Innovation in Pacific Oceania
Organizer: Roger Ivar Lohmann

Most papers circled around imaginative continuity and creativity as reflected in material culture. Rod Ewins considered how changing criteria of identity are reflected in Fijian bark cloth designs. Katie Glaskin discussed the changing use and re-use of dream-revelations in making Australian Aboriginal religious paraphernalia. Pierre Lemonnier contemplated the role of drums in triggering the imagination in Papua New Guinea. Roger Lohmann explored how products of the imagination are distinguished from products of the senses to decide what is “real” in Papua New Guinea. Heather Miller focused on how material culture variation in Papua New Guinea reflects different imagined affiliations and changing aesthetics. Laurie Zadnik, in absentia, considered how children’s clothing on a school dress-up day reflects notions of common nationhood in Papua New Guinea. Six papers were pre-circulated. Five presenters participated in person, plus one in absentia. About 25 people attended; several expressed interest in participating next year.

We agreed to pursue continuation next year as a formal symposium. Additional participants are especially welcome (and needed to reach the minimum of seven). To build on the nascent coherence achieved in the working session, all participants should include in their papers emic and/or etic definitions of the session’s two key concepts of “imagination” and “innovation,” and should incorporate creativity, agency, temporality, cultural change, and material culture and its associated performativity. If, by August 15, 2008, a sufficient number of participants (1) send an abstract, (2) express willingness to complete an advanced paper for pre-circulation by October 30, 2008, and attend the session in Santa Cruz, we will move ahead to symposium. If not, this year’s participants will seek publication independently. The proposed symposium’s title would be changed, to reflect the new focus on material culture: “Artifacts of Imagination and Innovation in Pacific Oceania.”

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

Forty-six persons attended the session over the day. Nine pre-circulated papers were presented and discussed, first by a pre-identified discussant and then through a general discussion. At the end of the day, the 11 authors of the pre-circulated papers confirmed their commitment for next year. Four new participants also expressed their desire to join the session. We are thus moving towards a symposium in 2009 by collective agreement. We also agreed to submit a semi-final version of our papers for comments by November 1st, 2008. The finale drafts will be expected by January 15th, 2009 for pre-circulation.

We collectively decided to focus on the problematization of the concept of “indigeneity”. We will look at the issue of indigenous struggles in a range of Pacific societies, including Aotearoa/New Zealand, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Rotuma in the context of Fiji, PNG, and most probably next year, Samoa, Tonga, and Hawai‘i. We were positively surprised at the level of synergy that was achieved in the session. The organizers will circulate among the session participants a full
summary of the working session, a short bibliography and an outline of the main themes for the 2009 symposium in the forthcoming weeks.

For more information or if you are interested in joining, please contact the session organizers. We send a special invitation to indigenous scholars.

Marie Salaün, Université de Paris 5, Faculté des Sciences Sociales, 45, rue des Saints-Pères, 75 006 Paris, FRANCE; <marie.salaun@paris.sorbonne.fr>
Natacha Gagné, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Ottawa, 55 Laurier E. (8107), Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6N5, CANADA; <natgagne@uottawa>
and language interplay in multilingual settings; (2) vernacular education ideologies at both national and local levels; (3) vernacular education outcomes and prospects. The relation of language and vernacular education programs to nation building and development will remain a central focus across all the session themes. Participants will be required to submit their papers by **November 1, 2008**, well in advance of next year’s conference, in order to allow time for a thorough internal review process. Ideally we will be in a position to move forward to publication immediately after next year’s conference.

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**INFORMAL SESSIONS**

**Christian Politics**
Organizer: Matt Tomlinson

Our informal session on Christian Politics was a vibrant and productive one, with participants discussing their work in Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, and Fiji. During the discussions, several common themes emerged, including (1) denominational competition and its articulations with—or disarticulations from—other social divisions; (2) the political force of ideologies of promised lands; and (3) the circulation of material emblems of Christianity across boundaries. Because of research commitments, several participants (including the organizer) cannot attend the ASAO meetings in 2009, but we are interested in carrying forth at a future meeting with the eventual goal of publication. These plans are currently developing and there are no deadlines at present.

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**Community Development as Fantasy?**
Organizer: Penelope Schoeffel

This informal session was attended by 26 people from Australia, USA, New Zealand, PNG, Netherlands, Germany and the UK. Our academic backgrounds included anthropology, geography, history and political science. Our Oceanic areas of interests included PNG, Solomons, Vanuatu, and Tuvalu, Aotearoa, Samoa and East Timor. Our topical interests included oil palm resettlement schemes; local government, devolution and leadership; governance and corruption; Maori-led development; food banks; fisheries and marine conservation; mining; water supply; agriculture; islander perceptions of development; issues of working with aid agencies and NGOs; the evolution of responses by aid donors to social and cultural concerns; and the genealogy of the notion of community development.

We agreed that the existence of collectively oriented communities with undifferentiated interests is a fantasy but one that underlies most community development projects. We recognized that most anthropologists and scholars in allied areas who work in the Pacific know this. So why don’t “they” know what “we” know? The first part of our discussions focused of the question of why anthropological knowledge has little influence on development actions and policies, and why—at least in a Pacific context—it lacks much influence in development studies. We considered various explanations of why anthropological knowledge does not inform notions of local level or “community” development. We criticized the arcane styles of communication among anthropologists; the exclusive arenas in which anthropological knowledge is disseminated; the anthropologists’ preference for particularizing cultural
contexts; and the contemporary caution amongst many anthropologists about the application of knowledge to development enterprises. We more or less agreed that there are strong incentives in the behavior of patron agencies to pretend ignorance of anthropological knowledge. That the client recipients of development projects have their own fantasies, which rarely coincide with those of the patron provider. That the problem is not necessarily one of innocence or ignorance: there is often a covert patron understanding that the realities of social organization among the so-called undeveloped or marginalized was not as the patrons overtly idealize and proclaim it to be. In the second part of our discussion we told stories of successes and failures from various perspectives. Why the improvements, regardless of patron motivation, offered in the name of “development” do not turn out as the patrons intend them to. Whether there are different perceptions of success and failure. If all externally generated innovations fail? By what and by whose criteria is success or failure attributed? Are self-generated changes in ways of living that occur via remittances rather than aid more successful?

We agreed we would proceed to a working session next year, with 24 potential contributors. Our session will be re-titled “Fantasies, Myths and Discourses of Community and Development” (or something like that, pending further suggestions). Our objective is a publication project. We agreed that we will put together a shared reading list by e-mail over the next six months or so. Penelope Schoeffel will continue to convene and coordinate.

Dr. Penelope Schoeffel, c/- UNESCO, GPO Box 57, House 68, Road 1, Block 1, Banani, Dhaka 1213, BANGLADESH; <pschoeffel@yahoo.com.au>

Dumont in the Pacific
Organizers: Serge Tcherkézoff and Joel Robbins

“Dumont in the Pacific” is a brief title for “Are Louis Dumont’s Models Useful for Ethnography in Oceania?” In the e-mail exchanges before the Canberra meeting, we had about 10-12 expressions of strong interest. The session had been planned initially by Joel Robbins and Serge Tcherkézoff. Joel could not come to Canberra, but will be at the next session. We had asked Mark Mosko if he could help. He did with all his enthusiasm, and Serge had asked him to stay with us for next sessions. After the session, he agreed. So next session will be organized by the three of us. We were quite happy to see that about 30 people came to the session. We asked each to present his or her interest. About half said that they came to learn more about Dumont’s work, and that they do not plan to contribute a paper but will listen to the discussions as students interested by the theme. The other half committed to give a paper. The session was introduced by three short presentations, given by Serge, Mark and Joel (Serge read Joel’s introduction). We had discussed the varied aspects of Dumont’s theories and models and agreed that we will focus on the main question: are some (or all) of Dumont’s proposals useful for Oceanist anthropologists, even if Dumont’s theories were produced either as an outcome of his work in India or of his broad comparative ideas about the distinction between modern vs. non-modern, individualist vs. holistic societies, etc. Regarding questions of status (hierarchy), Dumont’s models might be applied to Polynesian hierarchies of statuses; there are some applications to Melanesian cases of status and levels of ceremonial exchanges—de Coppet was one main proponent of this kind of application—but also the whole question of Pacific societies in their contact with the Western world (“globalization,” etc.). Are the India vs. West oppositions that Dumont formulated in various ways useful for this question? Everyone agreed to meet as a working session in Santa Cruz, with a commitment to give a paper and a detailed abstract by November 2008.

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

Thirty people met for our informal session. Following a presentation and discussion of a position paper by the session organizers, ten short presentations were made and discussed by attendees. While five people who had expressed interest could not be present for this meeting, an additional five people came forward with paper topics. Key themes that arose during the session were how to problematize historicity and mobility as analytic and indigenous categories; the particularities of the movement of objects, ideas and persons in the southern lowlands of New Guinea; the role of non-human agency in the region; the role of borders and barriers in the construction of regionality; and communities engagement with resource extraction. Due to the bulk of our participants being based in Australia, and our desire to involve Papua New Guineans and West Papuans, we have decided to leave the ASAO format and have separate workshop in 2009 in Australia. We would like to thank ASAO for providing us with such a productive forum to meet, and to our various participants for making the session so lively.

Identity Issues and Ethno-Racial Categorization in the Pacific
Organizer: Pauline McKenzie Aucoin; Chair: Mike Goldsmith

This informal session continued the 2007 informal session on “Race Ideology: Ideas and Practice.” This session was very well received and attended by 23 scholars. It was led by Mike Goldsmith, and participants commented on a number of questions that had been posed for discussion including the nature of and difference between racial-ethnic-cultural distinctions in the Pacific; various understandings and examples (current and historical) of distinction as an ordering social process; and concerns involving the nature of social distinctions and significance of inclusion/exclusion for contemporary political, legal, governmental, residence, gender, and identity rights and issues. Specific topics raised and explored in this discussion included (1) how—if at all—do the current concepts of race/ethnicity/cultural categories fit with local understandings and distinctions of difference; (2) what contemporary examples illustrate how practices of categorization “order” people in the Pacific in terms of gender, residence, educational opportunities, conflict, labor etc.; (3) what terminology is used to draw distinctions between persons and to whom do terms apply; (4) how are self/other differences expressed and understood in language, and how are naming practices of categorization reflected in current political systems, gender, person and citizenship categories, and in residence patterns? Given the interest expressed in this topic, participants would like to continue this session and organize as a working session for 2009. Participants who would like to join this session for 2009 should contact Pauline McKenzie Aucoin by May 30, 2008.
**Kava in Australasia**
Organizers: Grant McCall and Shane G. Aporosa

The kava panel, held during the afternoon of the third day of the conference, started with an *isevusevu* presentation by the panel convenors. This traditional offering of kava acknowledged authority figures and thanked those present including the five who subsequently presented papers. The *isevusevu* was reciprocated by Sekove Degei from the Fiji Affairs Board, who later presented a paper on the relationship between kava and the Fijian Methodist Church. Other topics included the kava trade and its sustainability (Pollock), the preliminary findings of a comparative study investigating kava consumption and its impacts on an indigenous Fijian and an Indo-Fijian village (Newlands), the contemporary use of kava within non-traditional settings (McCall), and the impact that daily kava consumption by teachers is having on education delivery in Fiji (Aporosa). The panel was well attended and papers generated a large amount of discussion, which continued around the kava bowl until the early hours of the following day. Due to some material currently being in post, and other research still in its preliminary stages, no plans have been made at this stage regarding publication. The panel will reconvene as “Kava: The Golden Shrub” at the Pacific History Association (PHA) Conference at the University of the South Pacific in Suva (8-13 December 2008) as this venue is believed to be the most appropriate considering theme, locality and participant accessibility. Those interested in participating at “Kava: The Golden Shrub” are encouraged to contact either Grant McCall or S. Aporosa. Abstract deadline is **1 July 2008**.

Shane G. Aporosa, Massey University, Palmerston North, NEW ZEALAND;
<aporosa@ihug.co.nz>
Grant McCall, Centre for South Pacific Studies, The University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW 2052, AUSTRALIA; Tel (61+2) 9385-2408;
<g.mccall@unsw.edu.au>

**Obesity and Oceania**
Organizer: Margaret Mackenzie

How Pacific peoples live in their bodies, objectify them, imagine themselves, in a climate of professional alarm and social prejudice about their high weights initiated discussion. Migrants embody the double binds of transitions from traditional foods now unaffordable, to high-calorie meals of urban settings. They witness the construction of problems, such as introducing the concept of “picky eaters” in current advertising in Papua New Guinea. A category of exercise to replace the former work inevitable in rural life is undermined by exhaustion from employment and ease of entertainment. Adolescents may go to gyms, exposing themselves to stress injuries; patrolling nightclubs may be the available employment. As migrants to metropolitan countries, they may use their large size to assert an identity of strength and power in non-islander communities—often racist, bullying cultures. This identity of physicality highlights problematic of advocating weight loss. Earlier eating patterns in unstable food supplies, such as voluntary vomiting to be able to consume more food at feasts, would today be diagnosed as eating disorders, as would death by intentional starvation because of heartbreak. Now there are reports of conventional eating disorders in Fiji, precipitated by exposure to the thin body sizes of television. Although there are claims, Maori for instance, that everything went wrong as soon as whites arrived and that includes body weight, there are leaders stating that their people eat, drink, and smoke too much. The politics of suffering is complicated by questions of how to prevent adverse consequences from high-fat diets and diabetes when genetic heritage compounds urban inactivity, when heaviness becomes a key marker of identity, and when there are very low rates of sustained weight loss in treatment anywhere in the world. Lacking seven committed speakers, we do not intend to move to meet again in 2009.

Margaret Mackenzie, California College of the Arts, P.O. Box 1286, Point Reyes, CA 94956, U.S.A.; <mmackenzie@horizoncable.com>
Pacific Pasts: Agency, Archive, and Artifact
Organizers: Kathy Creely and Deborah B. Waite

The aim of this informal session was to frame a discussion on the history, representation, and uses of Pacific Islands research materials. Six participants gave informal presentations. Crispin Howarth spoke on the history and collections of the National Gallery of Australia. Karina Taylor gave an update on the Pacific Archives Reading Room at the Australian National University. Ewan Maidment addressed the history of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau, and gave information about the kinds of anthropological materials that the bureau has microfilmed. Deveni Temu gave a presentation on the Pacific Collection in the library of the Australian National University. Adrian Cunningham gave an overview of Pacific collections at several institutions, including the Mitchell Library, the National Library of Australia, and the National Archives of Australia. Deborah Waite spoke about her experiences researching the history of shell valuables from Solomon Islands, both in the field and in the Turnbull Library. These presentations were followed by a lively discussion among all nineteen people who attended the session.

Themes of continuity and connection emerged, which will be followed up in another informal session next year, possibly with different co-organizers. The first theme contrasts/compares the points of view between those who collect/organize/preserve materials/collections (curators, librarians, archivists, etc.) and those who make use of the materials/collections (anthropologists, historians, community members, etc.). A second theme explores the differing types of institutions which house collections (e.g. local island community centers, metropolitan organizations), and the differing purposes of collections (research, repatriation, expatriation, preservation). A third theme is delineation of particular collections in cultural institutions (libraries, archives, museums, etc.) and narratives of present-day uses of those materials in arenas such as politics, religion, heritage, and education.

Remembering Donald Tuzin
Organizers: Kathy Creely and Mark Busse

Over a picnic lunch, under a sunny Canberra sky, 15 participants shared memories and appreciations of Donald Tuzin, who passed away in 2007. The ANU setting was particularly fitting, as this is where Tuzin obtained his Ph.D. in 1973. It was also fitting that we were joined by Monica Freeman, the widow of Don’s advisor and mentor, Derek Freeman. Most of the session was devoted to informal discussion, with presentations in absentia from Paula Brown-Glick, Peter Hempenstall, and Joel Robbins. If there is enough interest, we may go forward with another informal session next year, which will address Tuzin’s scholarly legacy. Those interested in participating in 2008 should contact Ryan Schram by October 20, 2008, at rschram@weber.ucsd.edu.

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>
Deborah B. Waite, Department of Art and Art History, University of Hawai‘i – Manoa, 2535 McCarthy Mall, Honolulu, HI 96822, U.S.A.; <waite@hawaii.edu>
**2009 Proposed New Sessions**

**WORKING SESSION**

**Translations and Transformations of Sensual Experiences in Oceania**
Organizer: Bettina Beer

This working session continues the informal session “Anthropology of the Senses in Oceania” (Charlottesville 2007). Participants had carried out, or were planning, empirical research on synaesthesia or the different senses in their specific context. They are interested in such topics 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 the conversion of one sensory modality into another in ideal aesthetic experiences among the Iatmul (Eric K. Silverman). Participants are asked to send abstracts to the organizer by **October 15, 2008**. All papers for the working session will be precirculated and should be submitted by **December 15, 2008**. One reviewer will be assigned for each paper; that person will also act as the paper’s discussant at the meeting.

Bettina Beer, Seminar für Kultur- und Sozialanthropologie Universität Luzern, Kasernenplatz 3, 6007 Luzern, SWITZERLAND; <bettina.beer@unilu.ch>

**INFORMAL SESSION**

**Research on Austronesian Taiwan: Retrospect and Prospect**
Organizer: Kun-hui Ku

This session is to bring together scholars who are interested in the study of Austronesian Taiwan with the keen interest to dialogue with the wider literature on Oceania. Due to their colonial history, Austronesian speakers in Taiwan were largely unknown to Western scholars outside of the island until recently; consequently studies of Austronesian Taiwan were often marginalized and left out of academic regional traditions of both Asian Studies (in spite geographical links) and Pacific Islands Studies (in spite of linguistic, genetic, and to a certain extent cultural links). Recent debates on the Austronesian homeland and the dispersal of Austronesian speakers in archaeology and linguistics have helped to boost the visibility of Austronesian speakers in Taiwan in wider academic arenas, and this session should bring together social anthropologists with substantial interests in deepening this dialogue for Oceania studies as a whole. Please contact Kun-hui Ku by **October 20, 2008**, if you are interested in participating in the session.

Kun-hui Ku, Institute of Anthropology, National Tsing-Hua University, 101, Section 2, Kuang Fu Road, Hsinchu, Taiwan 200, REPUBLIC OF CHINA; <kunhui.ku@gmail.com>

V. RECENT JOURNALS

*The Contemporary Pacific*, Volume 20 (#1) 2008, is a special issue titled *Re-membering Oceanic Masculinities*, guest-edited by Margaret Jolly. It contains the following articles:

Moving Masculinities: Memories and Bodies Across Oceania
*Margaret Jolly*

Re-membering Panala’au: Masculinities, Nation, and Empire in Hawai’i and the Pacific
*Ty P Kawika Tengan*
“The Martial Islands”: Making Marshallese Masculinities Between American and Japanese Militarism
Greg Dvorak

Hui Nalu, Beachboys, and the Surfing Boarder-lands of Hawai‘i
Isaiah Helekunihi Walker

The Death of Koro Paka: “Traditional” Maori Patriarchy
Brendan Hokowhitu

Globalizing Drag in the Cook Islands: Friction, Repulsion, and Abjection
Kalissa Alexeyeff

Contending Masculinities and the Limits of Tolerance: Sexual Minorities in Fiji
Nicole George

The issue also features the art of Carl F. K. Pao, whose work is inspired by and grounded in his Kanaka Maoli culture; political reviews of Micronesia and Polynesia; and twelve book and media reviews.

To purchase this issue, or 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/

VI. BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION


The main theme of this study consists in questioning, from the Polynesian Protestant field, the connection between the transformation of the church institution and the transformation of men-women relations in parish. The institutionalization of women’s activities initiated during the 1980s by pastors’ wives and the acceptance of woman pastorate in 1995 show two distinct-and sometimes conflicting – processes increasing the participation of women in the church life.


Exchange and Sacrifice is a volume in the monograph series on ritual studies. Inspired by the research of the French anthropologist Daniel de Coppet on exchange, death, and compensation in Solomon Islands within the South-West Pacific region, this edited collection highlights the fundamental connections between exchange and sacrifice as ritual practices within cosmological frameworks. The volume builds on both de Coppet’s work and that of Marcel Mauss in The Gift and provides new insights from an engaging set of established scholars. The chapters in Exchange and Sacrifice stress the dynamic performativity of exchanges and their deep connections with ideas of sacrifice. This collection of theoretically and ethnographically focused essays will be valuable to those interested in the classic debates in social/cultural anthropology on ritual and religious systems of material and spiritual interaction, and the politics of "the gift."

Contributors: Pamela J. Stewart, Andrew Strathern, Daniel de Coppet (translated by Hattie E. Hill), Denis Monnerie, Pierre Maranda, John Liep, Edward LiPuma, Benjamin Lee, Michael W. Scott, Shankar Aswani, and Anton Ploeg.

This work is based in part on an ASAO session that took place in 2003.


VII. OTHER CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Oceanic Art Symposium
Organized by the Pacific Islands Museums Association (PIMA) and the Vanuatu Cultural Centre (VKS) Port Vila, Vanuatu, 6–8 May 2008

Final date for Registration: Monday 14 April 2008

The first Oceanic Art Symposium on “Oceanic Art Today: Status, Production and Tendencies” provides a space for international art scholars and museum professionals to share new ideas about creative traditions and contemporary arts practice in the Pacific region today. The symposium, organized by PIMA and the VKS in collaboration with the French Embassy in Vanuatu, aims to ensure the safeguarding of intangible creative traditions, the transmission of knowledge and the stimulation of interest amongst young generations of artists to keep contemporary practice alive and evolving. The symposium will include the opportunity for participants to identify opportunities for international and regional interaction with Pacific Islands’ museums, artists and creative industries. It will be an opportunity to promote recognition of PIMA’s Code of Ethics for Pacific Islands Museums and Cultural Centers, and to develop the relationship between PIMA and the Pacific Arts Association (PAA). The symposium aims to produce a set of recommendations advocating the way forward for enhancing ethical research and practice in the field of Oceanic Art. (Optional Tour-additional cost) The two-day symposium will be preceded by an optional one-day field trip to Chief Roi Mata’s Domain on Efate Island, Vanuatu’s first World Heritage-nominated site.

Of additional interest to visitors, the Vanuatu National Sand Drawing Festival will be held on the island of Ambrym from the 13th to the 15th of May, the week after the Symposium.

Please see http://www.culturepacific.org/ for further details of the Symposium program, discounted accommodation and flight options, the Field Trip, and links to Vanuatu Sand Drawing.

Inquiries about late registration may be directed to the following E-mail address: pima@vanuatu.com.vu

VIII. PROGRAM COORDINATOR’S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008

This year the program included 19 sessions—one special session, two symposia, seven working sessions, and nine informal sessions. This represents a jump from 2007’s 16 sessions (the 2006 meeting had 20 sessions, and the 2005 meeting had 27).

This year I again made an effort to expand the number of publishers who send us books for the display room. I contacted 44 presses, adding many located in Australia to our mailing list.

Thanks to Eric Silverman’s reminder, I reinstated a former practice of having a table in the book room for members to display offprints of recent articles for free distribution. I announced this opportunity on ASAOnet.
I am grateful to Mike Rynkiewich and Mark Mosko and their helpers for their efforts to make local arrangements. Mark was instrumental in arranging the rooms for our conference in the Coombs building, Matilda House’s welcome to conference participants on behalf of Ngambri Country, and much else.

Last year Larry Carucci and I proposed changing the deadlines for submissions to enhance our ability to disseminate information on time, and the Board approved these changes. The new deadlines have greatly enhanced our ability to keep the newsletter and web announcements appearing on time.

I will be stepping down as Program Coordinator following the 2009 meeting. I will have my successor shadow me as an apprentice to make the transition easy.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Lohmann
Program Coordinator

IX. SITE COORDINATOR REPORT FOR 2008

The 2008 meeting at Australian National University in Canberra was an extremely successful enterprise. Near record numbers of conference participants (177 registered attendees) made this the third-most highly attended ASAO Annual Meeting in the past ten years. Our sincere thanks to Mark Mosko and The Australian National University for serving as our hosts.

The 2009 meeting site chosen by the Board will be in Santa Cruz, California, from February 10-14. The hotel will be the University Inn and Conference Center (www.ucscinn.com) at 611 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (831-426-7100). Participants should plan to fly into San Jose International Airport. Ground transportation will be arranged (at a cost) for those who submit their arrival information to the Site Coordinator beforehand. Space at the University Inn will be limited, so several nearby hotels will also be available for supplementary accommodations. Details will follow in succeeding newsletters.

Mike Rynkiewich (mrynkiewich@asburyseminary.edu)

X. FROM THE SECRETARY

2007 was another year of change for the office of Secretary. It was the first year of operation as a separate office following transition during 2005 and 2006 from a combined Secretary/Treasurer office to two separate ones. 2007 saw some additional modification of the Secretary role due to division of the Treasurer role into separate Treasurer and Membership Coordinator offices. I thank Membership Coordinator Kathy Creely and Treasurer Mary McCutcheon for helping smooth the 2007 changes and Chair Naomi McPherson and Chair-elect Dan Jorgenson for help with specific tasks as well as general advice and support throughout the year.

Routine tasks

I completed or assisted with the following routine tasks.

1. Responded to inquiries from members and nonmembers *
2. Sent letters of appreciation to major donors to the Pacific Island Scholars Fund *
3. Took minutes of the 2007 Board meeting and opening and closing plenaries
4. Prepared draft minutes for distribution to Board members and officers
5. Prepared ballots for elections of Board directors and honorary fellows*
6. Prepared copies of bylaws and minutes of past board meetings for distribution to new Board members and officers
7. Prepared certificates for presentation/mailing to newly elected honorary fellows
8. Processed submissions for recognition of edited volumes/special journal issues as an ASAO publication
9. Maintained file of Board discussions and decisions (by e-mail) between the 2007 and 2008 meetings*
10. Prepared a new Secretary’s “to do” list

* Jointly with other officers and/or Board directors.

I thank Catherine Paceley, Department of Kinesiology and Community Health, and Amy Fahey, College of Applied Health Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, for important technical support.

Special tasks

1. Bylaws amendments
Minor amendments approved in 2000 and 2004 have been on hold awaiting a significant mass before the required submission of a new document to the State of California and the IRS. Another minor amendment was approved by the Board at the 2007 meeting. A draft of relatively major amendments to reflect division of the former Secretary/Treasurer office was prepared for and accepted by the Board at the 2007 meeting. The next steps of approval, publication in the newsletter to inform the membership, and preparation of a new bylaws document were put on hold. The division of the Treasurer office into separate Treasurer and Membership Coordinator offices will require additional amendments.

2. Excerpts from minutes of annual meetings that reflect policy decisions – compilation and distribution to Board members and officers
This task was last done in 1996 so a sizable backlog exists. I planned to pick it up during 2006 and again during 2007 but was not able to. I hope to give it priority during 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Jocelyn Armstrong

XI. ARCHIVIST’S REPORT

As I mentioned in the February 2007 report, I will be adding files to the ASAO archives at the Pacific Collection of the University of Hawai‘i Hamilton Library this year. Adding to the archives also involves updating the individual file finder lists as well as the overall collection list.

Besides filing five more years (2003–2007) of meeting records, officers’ reports, and directories to the open files, I am delighted to report that, having reviewed the files that Denise O’Brien sent me last year, we now have several additional files from 1983–1985, which will be added both to the open files (as above) and the restricted files (Board and officers’ correspondence). These files fill in the blanks of many officer reports that were previously missing. Restricted files may be accessed only with permission of the ASAO Board.

Board chairs and editors as well as other officers are also urged to give me copies of any important correspondence to be archived in the restricted files as part of the association’s history. And, as always, I look forward to receiving e-files of the officers’ reports this year. (Note that although my predecessor, Gene Ogan, preferred hard copy, it is easier for me to keep track of electronic files, which I can print out for the physical archive.)

Jan Rensel

XII. MONOGRAPH SERIES REPORT

As most of you know from announcements on ASAONET and at the Canberra meeting, the Monograph Series is now being published by Berghahn. I am very excited to be serving as
series editor. I work cooperatively with editorial board members Karen Sinclair, Bob Tonkinson, and Paige West to provide answers to queries about the series, and to organize review processes for manuscripts.

The main new development for the series is that we will now be publishing single-authored monographs, in addition to continuing our practice of publishing edited volumes emerging from ASAO sessions.

An updated statement of guidelines for prospective editors and authors of series volumes should be available shortly at the ASAO Web site (specifically, at www.asao.org/pacific/pubguidelines.htm).

There is strong interest in moving the series in directions that make it of interest and relevance to anthropologists and others working beyond the Pacific. In that spirit, I want to invite with particular enthusiasm any inquiries about, or submissions of, Pacific-based work on topics of global or interregional cultural significance, and Pacific-based work that is in explicit comparative dialogue with anthropological ideas and problems also being centrally addressed in literatures on other regions.

There are currently no manuscripts formally under review, though a number of prospects are on the horizon. Please get in touch with your queries, and your high-quality manuscripts. We can work with inquiries in any form, but at some early stage I will probably ask for a 1000-2000 word prospectus summarizing the subject and structure of the book, to facilitate the editorial board’s initial work. We need submissions!

Rupert Stasch
rupert.stasch@reed.edu

XIII. SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS EDITOR’S REPORT

Margaret Jolly (Australian National University) presented the 2008 Distinguished Lecture, “Of the Same Cloth? Oceanic Anthropologies of Gender, Christianities and Textiles,” with slides depicting four Pacific textile traditions (Trobriand Islands banana-leaf bundles and banana-fiber skirts; New Guinea net bags; Tongan tapa; and Hawaiian quilts) that beautifully illustrated her argument. Several previous Distinguished Lectures are being re-written and expanded for the Special Publication series. In addition, the ASAO Board is developing a new venue for publishing future Distinguished Lectures—watch for further information about this. No expenditures were made this year from the Special Publications account and $7200.00 remains available to subvent future publications.

Next year’s Distinguished Lecture will be presented by James Clifford.

Lamont Lindstrom

XIV. MEMBERSHIP CHAIR REPORT

1. MEMBERSHIP

In 2007 membership of ASAO declined to 289, down from 325 in 2006 and 378 in 2007. This year the newly created office of Membership Coordinator will attempt to reverse this trend by making contact with lapsed members. Of the 289 members in 2007, paid memberships totaled 266 (190 paying full dues, 76 paying reduced dues) and non-paying members totaled 23 (13 Honorary Fellows, 7 PISF Travel Grant Recipients, 3 PISF Minigrant Recipients).
2. MEETINGS, 1997-2008

Our recent meetings in Canberra were a big success, in terms of participants. In fact, with approximately 179 registered participants, 2008 ties for the second-largest ASAO conference in over ten years!

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*2008 meeting attendance not yet completely tabulated; this is a rough estimate.

Kathy Creely, Membership Coordinator

XV. NEWSLETTER EDITOR’S REPORT

During the past year, issues number 127, 128 and 129 of the ASAO Newsletter were produced and distributed to the members. The process proceeded relatively smoothly and has benefited from the Board’s decision to move the submission deadlines forward by ten days. Distribution of the Newsletter has also been simplified by the increasing number of members who elect to receive the publication in electronic form. Moreover, the recent standardization of U. S. postal rates has slightly eased the distribution of the document though, ultimately, it has also added to the cost of each copy sent via the postal service.

My editing of the Newsletter, and ASAO as a whole, has benefited from the assistance of Jayde James, who worked on issues #122-127 of the Newsletter, and Samantha Brockman, who assisted with issues #128, 129, and the current issue. Paula Lutz, Dean of Letters and Science at Montana State University, has also agreed to continue to fund the Assistant Editorship position through the Spring of 2009. My three-year term as editor was completed after the production of ASAO Newsletter #130. Nevertheless, the Board has agreed to extend my tenure as Newsletter Editor for one additional year, through edition #133, Spring of 2009. The Association is now searching for a new editor to publish the Newsletter beginning with the
September 2009 issue. Dan Jorgensen or Larry Carucci are eager to hear from all interested candidates.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurence M. Carucci

XVI. TREASURER’S REPORT

1. OVERALL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2007
In 2007, Mary McCutcheon became the new Treasurer, while Kathy Creely continued with some of the duties to finish out the year. Beginning in 2008, Mary will continue as the Treasurer, while Kathy Creely takes on the newly created post of Membership Coordinator. The beginning balance in the ASAO general fund on January 1, 2007, was US$37,797.82, with an additional $8,830.67 in the ASAO Monograph Series fund, for a combined total balance of US$46,178.49. In 2007, we combined the two bank accounts. On December 31, 2007, our combined balance was $47,627.22. Our income for 2007 was $23,452.00 and our expenses were $22,003.27.

2. PACIFIC ISLAND SCHOLARS FUND ACCOUNTING FOR 2007 AND PROJECTED AMOUNTS FOR 2008
The Pacific Island Scholars Fund is supported by two sources of income. The first source of income is an $8 allocation out of each paying member’s dues. The second source of income is voluntary donations from individual members. The second source of income is a very important one for PISF. We encourage members to contribute, so that we will continue to be able to support Pacific Islander scholars’ participation in ASAO.

PISF balance at 12/31/2006                                      $10,552.00
PISF donations 1/1/2007 to 12/31/2007
   +3,317.00
Allocation from 2007 dues                                         +2,128.00
SUBTOTAL                                                    15,997.00
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PISF grants, 2007 meetings                                        -10,693.00
AVAILABLE BALANCE AS OF 12/31/2007
   5,304.00
PISF grants, 2008 meetings                                        -
   5,242.00
Balance at close of 2008 Meetings                                    $62.00
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Projected donations from individuals for 2008                     +3,500.00
Projected allocation from 2008 dues                                +2,200.00
PROJECTED BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR 2009 GRANTS                        $5,762.00
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The numbers above do not include modest assistance with hotel costs that was provided to 2007 and 2008 travel grant recipients. This assistance was funded by a small meeting registration surcharge in 2007 and out of the general funds in 2008.

Mary McCutcheon, Treasurer, and Kathy Creely, Past Treasurer

Mary McCutcheon
Kathy Creely
XVII. WEB SITE MANAGER’S REPORT

During the year I updated the Web site as required to reflect session reports from the 2007 meeting in Charlottesville, session announcements provided by the Newsletter Editor and Program Coordinator, and information concerning the 2008 meeting in Canberra provided by the Program Coordinator, Site Coordinator, and local liaison Mark Mosko. The pre-registration form and PISF application form for the Canberra meeting were uploaded in PDF format. Employment opportunities relevant to the membership have been posted as they were drawn to my attention.

The archives have been updated to include all the newsletters in PDF format through the year 2006 (in compliance with the plan to add newsletters one year after their publication so that members maintain the benefit of having current newsletters that are unavailable to non-members). A photo album has been added to the archives with pictures from the Charlottesville meeting.

During the month of January 2008 the Web site received an average of 73 visits per day, with an average of 283 pages observed. As always, I would be happy to hear from members of the Association regarding ways to improve the Web site, and would appreciate being informed of any errors, misspellings, or bizarre experiences you might have when visiting the site.

Alan Howard

XVIII. OBITUARY

I first met Carol Jenkins in 1992, at a meeting of the National AIDS Committee in Port Moresby, when Carol was only just beginning her work in HIV research and intervention design. Carol was working for the PNG Institute of Medical Research in Goroka at the time, and I was with the Law Reform Commission and then the Attorney-General’s Department. We soon became good buddies, taking every opportunity to hang out together and discuss the growing epidemic and what could be done about it. Even after we both left employment in PNG, we kept up the contact. When Carol’s cancer was first diagnosed as fatal in 2005, I went to Bangkok to visit her, and then last month, when news arrived that the end was close, I returned to Bangkok to say goodbye. I was there for the death and the funeral, and then ‘carried the talk’ to the memorial service in Port Moresby.

As Carol was dying, friends gathered from all around the world to pay their last respects. The multi-national nature of this crowd really brought it home to me, how far Carol has changed from being a renowned medical anthropologist in PNG, to a form of global public property. Everyone was discussing their favourite impression of her as a person. Some paid tribute to the way she had mentored them; some marvelled at the way she never shirked from a fight, always ‘leading with her chin’; some recalled her prodigious consumption of red wine, cigarettes and sugar-free Red Bull.

For my part, I remembered how, every time she came to Moresby from Goroka, we would go out to dinner at the old Fortuna restaurant for her favourite salt-n-pepper squid. I remembered that infamous day in 1996 when she was dragged off the southbound Qantas flight on suspicion of alleged ‘biopiracy’.

We discussed the Hagahai cell-line patent issue a lot, when it arose. When I was trying to get my head around the issues surrounding viruses and cells, Carol used to say: ‘Great law, Chris, lousy biology’. And in retaliation, when trying to explain to her the intricacies of patent law and group legal personality, I would say: ‘Great biology, Carol, lousy law’.

But in Bangkok, everyone eventually resolved that what Carol should best be remembered for was her way of hollering: ‘You can’t say that! Where’s the evidence? Show me the data!’
And that is why there was a floral tribute at her funeral at the Buddhist temple in Bangkok, which said: SHOW ME THE DATA. And that is why the Web site created for notices and tributes to Dr. Carol Jenkins is entitled www.evidenceofcarol.blogspot.com. I urge everyone to visit the site and maybe make their own contributions.

I can think of no better tribute to a dedicated, 24/7 anthropologist and researcher, than to be remembered for her insistence on rigorous and accurate research. Thank you, Carol.

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

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
<mmccutch@gmu.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
<kathy@library.ucsd.edu>
Program Coordinator (see p. 2)
Roger Lohmann <rogerlohmann@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
<rensel@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 Pennsylvania Ave
Ashland OR 97520
<anekiti2004@yahoo.com>

ASAO.NET
Mike Lieber <mdlieber@uiuc.edu>

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

Larry Carucci
ASAO Newsletter Editor
Dept. of Anthropology and Sociology
Montana State University
Bozeman, Montana, 59115
E-mail <lamaca@montana.edu>