I. FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to thank all of you who sent in session announcements and other materials by the November deadline. In particular, I would like to extend my gratitude to our Program Chair, Roger Lohmann. This is Roger’s last program design effort for ASAO and it has been a true joy to work with him. He is always prompt, and the materials he provides for the Newsletter are in near-perfect order, greatly easing the burden for Samantha, Jan, and me. Equally, I wish to thank Jan Rensel for her efforts in giving the Newsletter a final editorial review, and Kathy Creely for providing me with the most recent membership lists and labels.

Information on accommodations and transportation for the 2009 meetings in Santa Cruz appears on page 3, and the schedule of sessions is on page 5.

Also recall that the association is seeking a Newsletter Editor to begin publication with the September 2009 issue. If you are in a position to consider becoming the next Newsletter Editor, please contact Dan Jorgensen or Larry Carucci prior to the time we gather in Santa Cruz. This would give time for some hands-on training prior to taking on the responsibilities of editor.

Please note that all materials to be included in the April Newsletter must be received by March 20.
II. FROM THE CHAIR

For those of us in the northern hemisphere, summer must now seem very far away. The fall’s US elections were met with an excitement and optimism verging on euphoria, but we enter winter with the growing realization that what at first looked like a localized problem about mortgage lending is affecting livelihoods and futures far beyond North America. Sobering times indeed.

The fall also brought its share of sadness for ASAO members with the news of Jane Goodale’s passing last month. Jane played an important role in Pacific anthropology and the life of the association in a career spanning several decades. Many of our members counted her as a friend, colleague, and mentor all at once, and the next Newsletter will contain a number of reminiscences to mark her passing.

Over the summer the Board has been working with our officers to prepare for the Santa Cruz meetings (see Roger Lohmann’s report below for a preview). As mentioned in the last Newsletter, one problem many members – especially those outside the US – have faced is the difficulty of paying dues and registration fees in advance of the annual meetings. We now have (thanks to the efforts of Alan Howard, Mary McCutcheon, and Kathy Creely) a PayPal-based method of online payment that we hope will smooth the way via the ASAO website. For more information, go to our Membership and Meeting Registration page at http://www.asao.org/pacific/membership.htm.

Looking to the future, the Board also conducted an online survey of members’ views concerning meeting site selection. The survey’s findings included the fact that both Las Vegas and Washington DC have strong (and equivalent) levels of support as possible 2010 sites, and that our members generally approve of our current site rotation (although nearly a quarter favored dispensing with a rotation altogether). Beyond that, however, the survey shed light on our members’ criteria for good meeting sites. Good air connections topped the list of concerns, a factor that is increasingly important as ASAO has grown to embrace members from the western Pacific to western Europe. A significant proportion of respondents also listed a warm location as a clear preference. Finally, many members also entered comments stressing the importance of keeping costs manageable.

All of these results more or less endorse our current practice, but the survey also brought new possibilities to light. One member suggested that our East Coast US rotation might instead be configured as a “wild card” option in which any suitable site (regardless of location) could be up for consideration. Since this is, in effect, what the Board has suggested in contemplating Las Vegas as an “East Coast” site, we found this idea interesting and will be considering it further. We also tested the receptiveness of our membership with regard to sites outside our usual rotation scheme. Of the various choices presented, two stood out: Europe and the Pacific coast of Mexico. While each of these also attracted dissenting views and presents various practical complications, the Board found there was sufficient interest to warrant thinking through these possibilities in more detail.

While on the topic of annual meetings, I should note that Paige West has been spearheading efforts by the Anthropology and Environment section of the AAA for the “greening” of AAA’s meetings. She recently forwarded the AAA proposals to the ASAO Board, urging us to make our own meetings as environmentally responsible as possible. This list of proposals is lengthy, and the Board will consider the various elements in detail at February’s meeting. In the meantime, however, I would point out that it is increasingly common (e.g., in grant proposals) to include carbon offsets in the costs of air travel. The costs themselves are extremely modest, and provide funds to support activities designed to counteract the effects of carbon emissions resulting from air travel. Some airlines (e.g., Northwest) make such an option available as a
standard part of their online booking systems, and many travel agents are up to speed with such things. For those who are interested in finding out more about carbon offsets and how they work, see [http://www.ecobusinesslinks.com/carbon_offset_wind Credits Carbon Reduction.htm](http://www.ecobusinesslinks.com/carbon_offset_wind_Credits_Carbon_Reduction.htm). On a different note, Pacific anthropologists continue to make their mark in the academic world, and one of our most recent claims to (surrogate) bragging rights comes with the news that Mike Wesch at Kansas State has won the prestigious Professor of the Year Award from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Mike has been fabulous in his use of digital media in teaching, and is no stranger to awards for his work. For details, you can consult the Wikipedia entry on him [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Wesch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Wesch) or the following link: [http://www.usprofessorsoftheyear.org/POY_Display.cfm?CONTAINERID=184&CONTENTITEMID=8951](http://www.usprofessorsoftheyear.org/POY_Display.cfm?CONTAINERID=184&CONTENTITEMID=8951)

Alternatively, you could search YouTube to see some of his work online. In addition to his work in the classroom and in cyberspace, Mike is an alumnus of the Min/Mountain Ok School of Pacific Ethnography.

Finally, as Joshua Bell indicated over ASAONET in his capacity as Convenor of the Melanesian Interest Group, there was a significant ASAO presence in the program at San Francisco's AAA meetings. As is our custom, the Chair hosted an ASAO party that provided a chance for folks to get together (in a room far too small for the purpose!). It was good to see so many of you there, and I look forward to seeing you and the rest of the crew in Santa Cruz.

Dan Jorgensen

III. PACIFIC ISLANDS SCHOLARS FUND

PISF information and forms can be found on the ASAO web site: [http://www.asao.org/pacific/pisf.htm](http://www.asao.org/pacific/pisf.htm)

IV. THE 2009 ASAO ANNUAL MEETING

The 2009 meeting site chosen by the Board will be in Santa Cruz, California from February 10-14.

**Accommodations**

The hotel for the meeting will be the University Inn and Conference Center (www.ucscinn.com) at 611 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (phone: 831-426-7100, Toll free: 866-827-2466; Fax 831-429-1044). Please make reservations, by phone or online with Charla Rotter (crotter@ucscinn.com), by January 7th as rooms will be released after that date. Please identify yourself as a member of ASAO for best rates. Rates and amenities:

1. Singles and Doubles: $69 weekdays; $89 Friday and Saturday.
2. Triples: $79 weekdays; $99 Friday and Saturday.
3. Quads: $89 weekdays; $109 Friday and Saturday.
4. Free Expanded Continental Breakfast; waffles or omelets extra.
5. Year round heated pool and spa.
6. Exercise room.
7. Free Wifi in Lobby and Sunset Room; free internet hookup in rooms.
8. Free parking.
9. Five minute walk to downtown, party til midnight.

**Transportation**

Most participants will fly into San Jose International Airport. Santa Cruz is an hour’s drive from the airport. There are several options for ground transportation:

- Rent a Car. All the usual agencies are available at the San Jose International Airport.
- Join with other ASAO attendees in sharing ground transportation that is being arranged with one of the shuttle companies: Airport Express. When you make your flight arrangements, give your arrival time to the Site Coordinator-Michael.rynkiewich@asburyseminary.edu, 1-859-858-2218. Alternatively, you may contact Reno at Airport Express at jonreno@hotmail.com, 1-831-464-2600. Identify yourself as attending ASAO at the University Inn in Santa Cruz. He will then group people in the most inexpensive way so to keep individual costs down. This service is a 24-7 operation, so they can accommodate any arrival and any departure.

- Arrange your own ground transportation. The companies working out of San Jose International are:
  a. Airport Express (831-462-5800)
  b. Early Bird (831-462-3933)
  c. Santa Cruz Airporter (831-475-0234)
  d. Surf City Shuttle (831-419-2642)
  e. ABC Sedans & Limousines (831-477-0170 / 1-800-734-4313)
  f. West Coast Limousines & Sedans (831-684-2200)
  g. Main Event Limousines (831-646-5466)
  h. Yellow Cab (831-423-1234)
  i. Delux Cab (831-462-6063)

Mike Rynkiewich, ASAO Site Coordinator

V. 2009 ASAO SESSIONS

FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

As we look forward to this February’s meeting in Santa Cruz, I’d like to remind 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 at least 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 and 9:30 – 11:00 pm, Thursday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm – 11:00 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 on the display or registration desk. Please e-mail me if you are able to help in either capacity, indicating which of the following time slots you would be available to fill.

Wednesday 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Thursday 8:00 am – 10:00 am, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Friday 8:00 am – 10:00 am, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am – 10:00 am, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

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

2009 ASAO ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

EVENING EVENTS

Session Organizers’ Meeting
Wednesday, February 11, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Coast
All session organizers are requested to attend this meeting to discuss session organization and management questions. Light refreshments will be served.
Opening Plenary  
Wednesday, February 11, 8:00 pm – 9:30 pm, Sierra  
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 11, 9:30 pm – 11:00 pm, Dawn/Coast  
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. The book display in the room will be open during the party.

Distinguished Lecture  
Friday, February 13, 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Sierra  
James Clifford will present this year’s distinguished lecture titled “Articulating, Performing, Translating: Native Heritage Politics in Oceanic Alaska.”

Reception following Distinguished Lecture  
Friday, February 13, 9:00 pm – 11 pm, Dawn/Coast  
A no-host bar reception will follow the Distinguished Lecture to provide further opportunities for discussion. The book display in the room will be open during the reception.

Closing Plenary  
Saturday, February 14, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm, Sierra  
Highlights of the Closing Plenary will include session reports and future plans, proposed new sessions for 2010, installation of the new ASAO Board Chair, announcement of the site of next year’s meeting, and other association business.

**2009 ASAO ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE**

**(S)** Symposium  
**(W)** Working Session  
**(I)** Informal Session

*Refreshment Breaks on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in the Meeting Rooms and the Book Room  
10:00 – 10:30 am and 3:30 – 4:00 pm.  
Lunch on own 12:00 – 2:00 pm*

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<td><strong>Tuesday February 10</strong></td>
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### 2009 ASAO SESSIONS

* Indicates papers to be presented in absentia.

### FORMAL SYMPOSIA

**Artifacts of Imagination and Innovation in Pacific Oceania**

Organizer: Roger Ivar Lohmann

**Meeting: Thursday, 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm (Sierra)**

Papers in this symposium address how continuity and change in imaginative productions are reflected in material culture and behavior. Creativity, agency, temporality, performativity, cultural change, and related concepts can serve as foci for analysis of particular ethnographic situations. Participants have committed to precirculate advanced drafts, read and comment on all of the other papers, and incorporate cross-referencing into their own drafts prior to meeting in Santa Cruz. At the meeting, participants will summarize their papers, leaving time for discussion of each one. The symposium will conclude with a discussion of publication options and the deadline for final revisions, aiming for the end of March.

Roger Ivar Lohmann (Trent University) “Introduction: Artifacts of Imagination and Innovation in Pacific Oceania”

Astrid de Hontheim (Université Libre de Bruxelles) “Imagination behind Shapes: The Invisible Content of the Asmat Artefact”

*Katie Glaskin (University of Western Australia) “Dreams, Innovation, and the Emerging Genre of the Individual Artist”*

Roger Ivar Lohmann (Trent University) “Strategic Objectification of Past Relationships among the Asabano of Papua New Guinea”
Indigenous Struggles and Issues
Organizers: Marie Salaün and Natacha Gagné
Meeting: Saturday, 8:30 am – noon (Dawn)

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 states and majority populations. Over the years, indigenous struggles and movements themselves have considerably changed since their first expressions. From our experiences of Oceania, new movements, claims, expressions of claims in the name of indigeneity, and a new generation of activists are emerging today.

Our previous discussions raised the idea of a tension between “indigeneity” as a universal category and a specific political and legal category, which appeared rather recently and was institutionalized within the United Nations. In this session, we are interested in detailed ethnographies of case studies. The papers should address these questions:
(1) How is the tension around the concept of “indigeneity” relevant in your case study? How does the rhetoric of indigeneity emerge or arise?
(2) When and in what local contexts does it emerge? How has it changed through time?
(3) In your specific case study, who are the actors involved (States; groups in relations: first occupants, immigrants, European and non-European settlers; trading partners…)
(4) How did the groups’ relations change with time and impact on the rhetoric about indigeneity?
(5) How does the identification as an “indigenous” person or group articulate with locality? How is “rootedness” claimed, for instance?

In our previous meetings, the importance of considering local and global contexts which impact on indigenous claims and self-identification as indigenous peoples/groups was also emphasized. In search of a general coherence for our prospective publication, we suggest that each participant pay close attention to these contexts and give a detailed account of the most relevant of them in his or her specific case study. These contexts includes: (1) immediately competing groups; (2) opinion leaders within the state, province or colony (including influential media personnel and academics); (3) the power elite within the broader society; (4) the proximal international arena composed of trading partners, ex-colonial masters, etc. who wield an influence in the society (e.g., British Commonwealth influence in ex-colonies); (5) the colonial history; (6) the diverse strategies available to the group; (7) the broader international arena in which such issues are debated and in which an emerging consensus has been codified in the United Nations mandate.

Participants should send their completed drafts by January 15, 2009 for precirculation among participants and discussants.

Natacha Gagné (University of Ottawa) and Marie Salaün (Université Paris Descartes and Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales) “The Diverse Appeals to Indigeneity: A Look at the Category and Its Local Significances in Oceania”
Lily George (Massey University, NZ) “Expressions of Maori Multiplicity in (Re) Connection to Nga Taonga Tuku Ihō”

Michael Goldsmith (University of Waikato, NZ), “Struggling to Be Indigenous”

Alex Golub (University of Hawai‘i Manoa), “Why There Are No Indigenous People In Papua New Guinea (So Far)?”

Alan Howard and Jan Rensel (both University of Hawai‘i Manoa) “Ethnicity, Nationality, and the Rights of Indigeneity: The Case of Rotumans in Fiji”

Chad Huddleston (University of Canterbury) “The Negotiation of Takapuneke: Maori-State Relations and the Investment of Value in Tapu lands”

Fiona McCormack (University of Hawai‘i, Hilo) “Layers of Indigenism among Maori ‘Fishers’”

Judith Schachter and Albrecht Funk (Carnegie Mellon University) “Sovereignty, Indigeneity, Identities: A Perspective from Hawai‘i”

Benoît Trepied (Université de la Nouvelle-Calédonie, Nouméa) “ ‘Customary’ Representatives versus Kanak Elected Members? Indigenous Struggles and Water Policies in New Caledonia”

Eric Wittersheim (East-West Center, Hawai‘i) “Islandism and Electoral Strategies in Contemporary Urban Vanuatu”

Jonathan Friedman (Lund University, EHESS Paris, UCSD) Discussant

Roger Makaa (University of Saskatchewan) Discussant [to be confirmed]

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Marie Salaün, Université Paris Descartes; Faculté SHS, 45, rue des Saints-Pères, 75 006 Paris, FRANCE; <salaun@chess.fr>

Natacha Gagné, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Ottawa, 55 Laurier E. (B107), Ottawa (Ontario), CANADA K1N 6N5; <natgagne@uottawa.ca>

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Spectacles of Self, Community, and Modernity in Pacific Mortuary Rites
Organizers: David Lipset and Eric K. Silverman

Meeting: Thursday, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm (Coast)

This symposium will address comparative ethnographic issues related to processes of burial and mourning in the contemporary Pacific. Generally, the papers feature two themes. One theme is the documentation of mortuary rites as a kind of identity politics in which changing discourses of spirit, birth-death (or lifedeath), embodiment, and gender are debated and elaborated—sometimes in defiance of the modern subject, sometimes in compromise with it. The other theme is the methodological relationship of mortuary rites to the development of a more general view of ritual that privileges funerary rites, not as a reconstitution of local-level society (as per Hertz and Van Gennep), but as an expression of the contested, disputed, anxiety-riddled relationship of local society to modernity. Other papers will analyze the sentiment of grief, cosmology in relationship to concepts of person and gender, aesthetics and spectacle, and the relationship of mortuary ritual to the construction of local-level inequality. In addition, several presentations will document the participation of fieldworkers in these rites. Participants must complete initial revisions and circulate full drafts to the organizers and other participants by January 1.


Karen Sinclair and Che Wilson “Maori Mortuary Rituals: Gender, Continuity, and the Clergy”

Eric Silverman (Wheelock College) “The Aesthetics of Death”

David Lipset (University of Minnesota) “Dialogics of Death in the Murik Lakes”

Nancy Lutkehaus (University of Southern California) “Manam Mortuary Rites”

Alexis von Poser (University of Heidelberg) “Tuning in and out of Kayan Personhood: Male Initiation and Mortuary Rites in Northern Papua New Guinea”

Karen Sykes (University of Manchester) “The Value of a Beautiful Memory: Funeral Arts (Malanggan) in New Ireland”

Joshua A. Bell (Smithsonian Institution) “‘Everything Will Come Up Like TV, Everything Will Be Revealed’: Death in Uncertain Times in the Purari Delta”
Nick Bainton (University of Queensland) “Mortuary Ritual and Mining Riches in a New Guinea Society”
Doug Dalton (Longwood University) “Equivalence and Power: Changing Mortuary Rites and Moral and Existential Paradoxes in a Pacific Island Culture”
Shu-Yuan Yang (Harvard University) “Die Easily and Uneasily: Death, Emotions, and Social Change among the Bunun of Taiwan”

David Lipset, Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota, 395 HHH Center, 301-19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455, U.S.A.; <lipse001@umn.edu>
Eric K. Silverman, American Studies and Human Development, 200 The Riverway, Wheelock College, Boston, MA 02215, U.S.A.; <esilverman@wheelock.edu>

WORKING SESSIONS

Diaspora, Identity and Incorporation
Organizers: Alan Howard, Jan Rensel, and Michael Lieber
Meeting: Thursday, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm (Dawn)

The following themes and questions are the focus of papers prepared for the 2009 session:
1) In what ways do diasporic Pacific Islanders respond to the new social, political, and economic contexts in which they find themselves? What aspects of the new contexts may be enabling or constraining? Given the potential for significant differences in the experiences of earlier and later migrants, are relations between them problematic?
2) What are key markers in forming and retaining identity in new circumstances?
3) 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?
4) 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?
5) 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?

The participants and their papers are:

Ping-Ann Addo (University of Massachusetts, Boston) “Teaching Culture with a Modern Valuable: Lessons about Money for/from Tongan Youth in New Zealand”
Susanne Kuehling (University of Regina) “Flowers and Carolinian Identity on Saipan”
Wolfgang Kempf (University of Göttingen) “A ‘Promised Land’ in the Diaspora: Christian Interpretations of Relocation and Survival among Banabans in Fiji”
Alan Howard and Jan Rensel (University of Hawai‘i, Manoa) “Issues of Concern to Rotumans Abroad: A View from the Rotuma Web Site”
Sela Panapasa (University of Michigan) “Recent Trends in Pacific Islander Immigration to the United States”
Laurence Marshall Carucci (Montana State University) “You’ll Always Be Family: Formulating Marshallese Identities in Kona, Hawai‘i”
Suzanne Falgout (University of Hawai‘i, West O’ahu) “Pohnpeians in Hawai‘i: Refashioning Identity in Diaspora”
Michael Lieber, Willis Peter, Rosita Paulus, and Mike Borong (University of Illinois, Chicago) “Kapingamarangi in the United States”
Manuel Rauchholz (University of Heidelberg) “Chuukese in the USA: A Case Study on Conflicting Legal and Moral Concepts”
Fepulea‘i Micah Van der Ryn (University of Auckland) “A Case Study of Return Migration to American Samoa”
Mike Rynkiewich (Asbury Seminary) discussant
Dumont in the Pacific
Organizers: Mark Mosko, Joel Robbins, and Serge Tcherkézoff

Meeting: Friday, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm (Dawn)

“Dumont in the Pacific” is a brief title for “Are Louis Dumont’s Models Useless for Ethnography in Oceania?” Some of the questions we plan to focus on include the following: Are some (or all) of Dumont’s proposals useful for Oceanist anthropologists, even if they 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 or individualist vs. holistic societies, etc? Regarding questions of status (hierarchy), can Dumont’s models be applied to Polynesian hierarchies of statuses? Are there potential applications of some of Dumont’s ideas to Melanesian cases of status and levels of ceremonial exchange (de Coppet was one main proponent of this kind of application)? Can Dumont’s ideas be used to revisit arguments about equality and inequality in Melanesian societies? How might Dumont’s ideas about transformations of values help us study the ways in which processes of globalization have unfolded in the Pacific? Finally, are the India vs. the West oppositions that Dumont formulated in various ways useful for exploring answers to this question?

Rupert Stasch (Reed College) “The Play of Values in Feasting: Equality, Hierarchy, Self-Assertion, Coordination, Relationalism, Otherness.”
Frederick H. Damon (University of Virginia) “Materializing Values: Outrigger Structures on the Eastern Half of the Kula Ring”
Mary Patterson (University of Melbourne) “Worldview, Ideologies, and Modernity”
Jukka Siikala (University of Helsinki) “Holism and Rebelling Communities: Ideology and Practice of Legitimation in Polynesia”
Ryan Schram (Reed College) “Father and Heir: Kinship and Clanship as Kinds of Memory in Auhelawa”
Thorgeir Storelslund Kolhus (Oslo University College) “Church, Cult, and Hierarchised Epistemologies in Anglican Melanesia”
Knut Rio (University of Bergen) “Containing Hierarchy: The Commercial Object and Market of Traditional Art in Vanuatu”
Kun-hui Ku (National Tsing-Hua University) “Dumont in Austronesian Taiwan”
Harri Siikala (University of Virginia) “Disassembling Totalities and Reconstituting Wholes: An Analysis of Polynesian Hierarchy”
Annelin Eriksen (University of Bergen) “Understanding Gendered Values and Social Change: Dumont on Ambrym”
Serge Tcherkézoff (CREDO / Maison Asie-Pacific) “Dumont’s Model as a Tool to Understand Why, in Polynesia, Hierarchy Can Be Different from Inequality”
Joel Robbins (University of California, San Diego) “On Dumont and Relationalism in Melanesia”
Mark Mosko (Australian National University) “The Dividual Melanesian Christian Individual”
Working Session: En/gendering Violence in Oceania  
Organizers: Dorothy Counts and Christine Stewart  
Meeting: Friday, 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm (Sierra)

Gender violence occurs whenever either the victim or the perpetrator of the violence is determined by gendered relations or considerations. The focus of this panel is on the variegated relationships between societal configurations of gender identity and violence. We discovered, when we first discussed the interconnections amongst the eight draft papers presented in 2007, that one of the sources of violence in the rapidly changing societies of Papua New Guinea is the stress that these changes put on male identity formation, a stress that often finds its outlet in violent behavior. We refer to this phenomenon as “troubled masculine identity.” The drafts discussed at the 2008 session dealt 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. That session concluded with a summary of the themes we could see emerging.

Our papers continue to explore these themes. However, we have not yet reached the stage where we are able to proceed to symposium level as hoped. We therefore plan another working session, where we will discuss the interrelationship of our papers and our proposals for publication.

Philip Gibbs (Melanesian Institute) “Witch Killing and Engendered Violence in Simbu”
*Anna-Karina Hermkens (Radboud University Nijmegen) “Mary Em Role Model Bilong Me’: Marian Devotion as a Solution to Gender-Based Violence in Urban PNG”
Fiona Hukula (St. Andrews University, Scotland) “Conversations with Convicted Rapists”
Martha Macintyre (Melbourne University) “The Millennium Development Goals and Gender Violence in Melanesia”

Naomi McPherson (University of British Columbia Okanagan) “Black and Blue: Shades of Violence in West New Britain, PNG”
Christine Stewart (The Australian National University) “Crime to Be a Woman: Engendering Violence against Sex Workers in Port Moresby, PNG.”
Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi (Bryn Mawr College) “Troubled Masculinities and Gender Violence in Melanesia”
Jean Zorn (Florida International University) “The Papua New Guinea Courts Address Rape”

Ta-Va, Time-Space, Theory of Reality: The Birth of an Indigenous Moana Theory  
Organizers: Tevita O. Ka’ili and Ping-Ann Addo  
Meeting: Friday, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm (Coast)

Anthropologists have increasingly been calling for the development of anthropological theories of space. This working session will examine both space and time from an indigenous Moana perspective. For Moana cultures, ta and va (or ka and wa) are indigenous expressions of “time” and “space.” In the past decade, these concepts have given birth to a Moana (Oceanian) theory known as the general ta-va, time-space, theory of reality. Two tenets of the theory are that:

1. 
2. 

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(1) ontologically *ta* and *va* are the common medium in which all things are, in a single level of reality, spatio-temporality or four-sided dimensionality; (2) epistemologically *ta* and *va* are social products, involving their varying social arrangements across cultures.

In past ASAO sessions, we have begun with Tongan indigenous concepts of time and space. In the Tongan language, *ta* means to beat, to mark, to form, or to perform; *va* is a term that marks particular concepts of space in relation to time. *Ta* signifies the marking of time that creates beats, markings, or social acts. It creates tempo, beat, pace, rhythm, and frequency. For example, *ta nafa*, rhythmic beating of drums, and *ta sipinga*, setting examples, are both processes of marking time. *Va*, on the other hand, signifies a relational space between time-markers (*ta*). It is a space that is fashioned through the relationship between time-markers such as beats, things, or people. Furthermore, *va* signifies the nature or quality of the relationship. For example, *vamama'o* indicates a distant physical space between things, and *valelei* signifies a good (beautiful) social space between people.

We argue that time and space are inseparable in reality and both dimensions must be examined together, and in relation to one another, in order to gain a deeper understanding of natural, mental, and sociocultural concepts and practices. In Tonga, as well as most Moana cultures, artists symmetrically or rhythmically mark time (*ta*) in space (*va*) to create *malie*, beauty. This artistic marking of time (*ta*) in space (*va*) is visually displayed in the *kupesi*—intricate and elaborate geometrical designs—that adorn Tongan tattoos, carvings, fine mats, barkcloths, and sennit lashings. Furthermore, it is expressed in the rhythmic patterns that define Tongan drumbeats, music, dance movements, and poetic compositions. Lastly, this time-space configuration is manifested in *tauhi va*, the Tongan cultural practice of maintaining beautiful sociospatial relations.

Tevita O. Ka’ili (Brigham Young University Hawai’i) “Tauhi Va: Creating Beauty through the Art of Sociospatial Relations”
Ping-Ann Addo (University of Massachusetts, Boston) “Tongan Textiles in Time and Space: Making Tongan Temporal and Social Relationships in Tonga and Abroad”
Nuhisifa Williams (University of Auckland) “Ta-Va: An Analytical Indigenous Tool”
Alexander Mawyer (Lake Forest College) “Mangarevan Spacetime Regimes and Everyday Presence in the Gambier Islands, French Polynesia”
Helen Leary (University of Auckland) “The Other Way: Ta Va and the Bird of Paradise”
Terri Leo-Mauu (Unitec New Zealand/Institute Relations) “Pacific Cultures of Learning: Issues and Challenges Faced by Pacific Students Pre-entry and in Tertiary Institutions in New Zealand”
Dianna M. Georgina (Western Kentucky University) “Interconnection and Diffuse Boundaries in Traditional Samoan Culture and Selfhood”
Ernie Olson (Wells College) “Kava Circles and Kava Flow”

INFORMAL SESSIONS

Austronesian Taiwan and Other Austronesian Margins
Organizer: Kun-hui Ku
Meeting: Saturday, 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm (Coast)
Due to their colonial history, Austronesian speakers in Taiwan were largely unknown to scholars outside of that island until recently; consequently studies of Austronesian Taiwan have been marginalized and left out of academic regional traditions in 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 in archaeology and linguistics about the Austronesian homeland and the dispersal of Austronesian speakers helped to boost the visibility of Austronesian speakers in Taiwan in wider academic arenas. This session brings together scholars who are interested in the study of Austronesian Taiwan, placing this in dialogue with the wider literature on Oceania and Austronesian. In addition, together with scholars working in other “marginal” areas of the Austronesian world, we will question conventional Pacific Islands culture area distinctions by using a broader Austronesian lens to stretch their customary limits. Please contact Kun-hui Ku if you are interested in joining.

Current participants include Tom Gibson, Nancy Pollock, David Blundell, Shu-ling Yeh, Gregory Forth, Kun-hui Ku, Richard Scaglion, Bien Chiang, Anna Tsing, and Toon van Meijl.

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Cargo Cults and Other Melanesian Movements: Old Theories and New Realities
Organizers: Marc Tabani and Marcellin Abong
Meeting: Saturday, 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm (Dawn)

Cargo cults have long been one of the major concerns of Melanesian anthropology. A plethoric literature, feeding endless debate, has grown up around this increasingly difficult concept. For many anthropologists today, the label “cargo cult” has come to connote confusion, colonialism, or even basic racism. Neither cargo, cult, Melanesian, nor Millenarian, such social phenomena have generally been reclassified as “movements,” religions, culture, kastom, Western phantasmagorias or global economics of desire. But have these recent critical approaches thrown the baby out with the bathwater? Substitute labels are not necessarily less confusing, or even more polite, than the old “cargo cult,” especially if we consider recent ethnographic accounts from Melanesia of innovative ritual processes, political contests and acculturative pressures in the context of island states and societies today confronted with even more rapid and drastic sociocultural change.

This session proposes to launch critical debate about critical practices in anthropology (to quote Joel Robbins). The cargo cult issue, raised again, can show the weakness of existing theory to deal with huge accumulations of ethnographic data and can illuminate difficulties in dealing theoretically with disjuncture and continuity within pre-/post-World War Two and pre-independence/post-colonial socio-historical contexts. For example, how to distinguish big-men or prophets from businessmen or politicians, what kind of demarcation should we establish between millenarian movements and state policies, prophetic ceremonial complexes and mass neo-ritualizations, between syncretic beliefs and neo-evangelical practices, between kago, kalja, and kastom? Such issues and questions will be at the core of this informal session. We return to cargo cult again in order to explore older facts and theories, new data, and critical approaches in order to clear the road for a critical anthropology of the political and religious realities of contemporary Melanesia.

Those planning to participate include Joshua A. Bell, Cyril Belshaw, Aletta Biersack, S. Eben Kirksey, Andrew Lattas, Maria Lepowsky, Lamont Lindstrom, Nancy Lutkehaus, Mary N. MacDonald, Martha Macintyre, Richard Scaglion, Robert Tonkinson, Marcellin Abong, and Marc Tabani.

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Contemporary Political Economies of Sport in Oceania
Organizers: Fa’anofo Lisaclaire Uperesa and Paige West
Meeting: Saturday, 8:30 am – noon (Sierra)

The anthropology of the Pacific has historically had a sustained interest in play and games. In the Pacific today organized sports serve as the most prevalent contemporary forms of organized physical activity with institutionalized rules. Sports are expressions of economics, popular culture, youth culture, and politics and the analysis of sport allows for analysis of race, power, gender, and social inequality. Participation in sport varies across the Pacific with participation ranging in meaning. For some sport is wage labor, for others it is economic development, ritual expression, an arena for conflict mediation, a set of sociocultural expressions, or just play. This working session contributes to the growing body of work on the anthropological and historical analysis of sport that treats sport as a form of social, economic, and political expression worthy of careful social analysis.

We are interested in political economies of sport, not in a narrow or traditional sense of economy, but rather take inspiration from the work of Pierre Bourdieu in considering the multiple forms of capital (cultural, economic, social, etc.) that are implicated in and emerge from participation in sport. We encourage papers that examine how these forms of capital are developed, valued, exchanged, circulated, and invested in different contexts. We also welcome papers that consider sport within different social scales (e.g., from the school or village level to national, regional, and international sporting circuits) and the ways in which these different scales articulate or intersect. Successful submissions may also focus on how various forms of sporting capital impact social relationships in Oceanic communities. Those interested in participating should precirculate papers before the meeting. Participants include:

Fa’anofo Lisaclaire Uperesa (Columbia University) “From Tutuila to Amelika: The Political Economy of the ‘Polynesian Pipeline’”
Liz Strober (Seattle University) “Riding the Narratives of Women’s Surfing”
Robert Dewey (DePauw University) “Manu Samoa Rugby: Professionalism and Global Rugby Union Since 1995”

Forests of Oceania: Environmental Histories, Present Concerns and Future Possibilities
Organizers: Joshua A. Bell and Paige West
Meeting: Saturday, 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm (Sierra)

Often invoked “as a sea of islands” (Hau'ofa 1994), another aspect of Oceania’s varied environments are the vast tracts of forests, which provide raw materials for local use, and increasingly materials for global consumption. The recent protest by Greenpeace on the ship Harbour Gemini as it loaded timber for transport to China from Papua New Guinea’s Papuan Gulf raises questions about the state of the forests within Oceania and the various networks within which flora, fauna, communities, and economies are intertwined. At the same time feeding into Western imaginaries, Greenpeace labels the tropical forests that span Asia Pacific (New Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the nearby archipelagos) the “Paradise forests.” While this label usefully links regions otherwise separated by academic regionalism,
what do such labels obviate? As the ensuing media blitz demonstrated, deforestation is a topic of international concern that is intimately connected with the realities of global warming, coastal erosion, and environmental displacement. Intertwined as they are with cosmological beliefs and livelihood, as sites of biodiversity and Western desire, forests within the Pacific have been and continue to be transformed by the interaction of foreign and local entities. As part of the assemblages that form global capital, Oceania’s forests are also sites of the various frictions that accompany these connections. But as evidenced by the sandalwood trade in the early 19th century, these engagements in and around these forests and their products have their own historical trajectories. What then is the state of Oceania’s forests today?

Within this informal session we are interested in discussing the processes by which Oceania’s forests are being made and remade. Who and what are the various agents involved in these processes? What are the material effects of Western/Northern fantasies about paradisiacal forests and the people who inhabit them? What effect do environmental discourses, protests, and conservation efforts have on the logging of these forests? How has the increased desire in the Global North for tropically produced commodities, like coffee and palm oil, contributed to deforestation? What are the shifting strategies by which Nation States and multinational companies are transforming these forests into consumables, and how does this impact local communities? What informal economies do these projects extend, create, and obviate? How are the frictions around these projects and desires for development articulated and manifested? How have forests as sites for human and nonhuman agents been transformed by these processes historically and today? What issues of scale are involved in these transformations? What is the role of academics in these struggles?

The following people plan to attend: Jamon Halvaksz, John Barker, Rich Scaglion, Paul Shankman, Mike Wood, Jennifer Gabriel, Nancy J. Pollock, Tuomas Tammisto, Alexander Mawyer, Colin Filer, Justin Shaffner, Joshua A. Bell, and Paige West. We look forward to a lively session. If you would like to participate, please feel free to contact any of the organizers.

Global Warming in the South Pacific
Organizer: Paul Shankman
Meeting: Friday, 8:30 am – noon (Sierra)

The South Pacific is especially vulnerable to global warming. Climate scientists, who understand the physical processes involved, are interested in working with and learning from anthropologists about local conceptions of global warming and responses to it. We need to know not only what is happening with warming seas, threatened lagoons, eroding reefs, rising tides, increasingly severe storms, and endangered freshwater supplies, but also how islanders view these changes, what kinds of local responses are occurring as a result, and how global warming will influence the future of Pacific Islanders.

At this informal session, we will review the latest global warming trends in the islands, think about the kind of research that is being done and might be done, hear your thoughts and ideas, and think about possible collaborations between anthropologists, islanders, governments, NGOs, and climate scientists. If you are interested in participating, please contact Paul Shankman. Those who plan to participate include Mike Goldsmith, Glenn Peterson, Mike Burton, Bob Tonkinson, Keith Chambers, Anne Chambers, Jill Nash, David Lipset, Wolfgang Kempf, Brent Vickers, and Paul Shankman.
Pacific Pasts: Agency, Archives, and Artifacts  
Organizer: Deborah B. Waite  
Meeting: Saturday, 8:30 am – noon (Coast)

The aim of the first session was to frame a discussion on the history, representation, and uses of Pacific Islands research materials. Six participants gave informal presentations from which emerged three approaches to the discussion: (1) comparison/contrast between those who collect and preserve materials and those who make use of the collections/materials; (2) variations in types of institutions that house collections; (3) delineation of particular collections in specific cultural institutions and narratives of present-day usages of these materials. Participants who have thus far responded to calls for presentations at the 2008 conference will continue within these frameworks. The emphasis appears to be gradually shifting in the direction of scholars who utilize archives (both libraries and museum collections) as well as field research and are able to observe the sometimes surprising continuities amongst them—as well as the inevitable differences. Participants include Guido Pigliasco, Crispin Howarth, Kathy Creely, Kai Boma, Anne Marie Warramp, Carol Ivory, Stacy Kamahiro, and Deborah Waite.

Vernacular and Culturally Based Education in Oceania Today: Articulating Global, National, and Local Agendas  
Organizers: Marie Salaün and Trisha Shipman  
Meeting: Thursday, 8:30 am – noon (Sierra)

Much research has been focused on a linguistic view of vernacular or culturally based education programs, while the political aspects of creating such programs have been less frequently addressed. Throughout Oceania, formal schooling is linked to the colonial encounter, and school reforms are thus part of the efforts to reverse ongoing experiences of colonialism. However, purposes for and approaches to education reform throughout the Pacific are dependent upon particular political situations. For example, in the Pacific Islands region, there are different situations, “independent countries,” heavily reliant on international aid and, therefore, in a position to be influenced by the global agenda, and indigenous minorities, residing in so-called developed countries or dependent territories, “independent” countries which have access to resources of their former colonizers and some which do not (Tuvalu, Samoa, American Samoa vs. Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea). Our informal session is focused on the politics of education reform, including vernacular and culturally based education. Assuming there are major discrepancies among local situations throughout the Pacific, we are interested in papers dealing with local attempts to address the following questions:

1) How does the legacy of colonial education continue to shape current educational initiatives and the current education system?  
2) What are the main goals of Pacific education reform?  
3) How can national standards meet local needs and demands?  
4) Is “nation-building,” which in a Western conception requires homogenization, compatible with the respect and the promotion of cultural diversity?  
5) How are the two imperatives of academic excellence and cultural relevance articulated (and assessed in particular)?  
6) How does the international agenda (UN agencies and NGOs) affect national and local policies?
7) How is the issue of achieving self-determination through appropriate schooling addressed locally?

Those who plan to attend include David Kupferman, David Troolin, Philip Gibbs, Christine Jourdan, Maia Clay, Jacques Vernaudon, Miki Makihara, Terri Leo-Mauu, Marie Salaün, and Trisha Shipman. For more information and if you are interested in participating in the session, please contact the organizers.

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Trisha Shipman, Pacific Islands Studies, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, U.S.A.; <trishashipman@gmail.com>

Villages and Their Alters in Melanesian Social Worlds
Organizers: Courtney Handman and Rupert Stasch
Meeting: Saturday, 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm (Executive)

The category “village” is a central aspect of social life for many Melanesians, and it figures centrally, on at least a descriptive level, in most ethnography coming out of this region. This session is concerned with revisiting “villages” as spatial institutions and practices, to see if more can be usefully done to make the category an explicit analytic focal point through which to understand the shape of Melanesian social lives. Two main areas of inquiry might guide us. The first is establishment of some central questions necessary to a sustained ethnographic account of villages as such, particularly in a region where the villages that anthropologists see (and live in) ‘on the ground’ are extraordinarily fluid. How, for example, do villages contrast with other spaces of lived or imagined experience (forests, gardens, roads, towns)? How do villages contrast with other organizing and ideologized sites of social process (clanship, kinship, affinity, men’s houses)? How do villages contrast with one another as sites of institutionalized local difference? What do people concretely do in or at villages that makes them villages in the first place, and how do people evaluate these village-constituting activities? What are the concrete practices by which people connect a village to other spaces of their lives, or disconnect a village from those other spaces? How do villages form and disintegrate? A second main area of inquiry is to examine contemporary patterns of village formation or transformation specific to the current era of rapid change, characterized in part by increasing population densities and the continued growth of colonial and post-colonial village-centric institutions, such as churches, stores, health centers, and schools. How are alterations in the character of Melanesian social relations being registered or grounded in changes in villages? Across both of these areas of inquiry, our broad concern is to read spatial categories, evaluations of space, and spatial practices for the specific qualities of social relations and sociality embodied in them.

Those planning to attend include Anita von Poser, Aletta Biersack, Naomi McPherson, James Slotta, Courtney Handman, Astrid de Hontheim, Ryan Schram, Pierre-Yves Le Meur, Michel Naepels, and Rupert Stasch.

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VI. RECENT JOURNALS

The September 2008 Journal of Polynesian Society (117:3) features two articles:

Reconstruction of a Carved Maori Church: Controversy and Creativity at Manutuke, 1849-1863 (Part II)
Richard A. Sundt
Traditional Hawaiian Men’s Houses and Their Socio-Political Context in Lualualei, Leeward West O’ahu, Hawai‘i
Boyd Dixon, Dennis Gosser, and Scott S. Williams

Shorter communications include:

Petrographic Analysis of Thin-sections of Samples from Two Monolithic Statues (Moai), Rapa Nui (Easter Island)
Jo Anne Van Tilberg, Adrienne L. Kaeppler, Marshall Weisler, Claudio Cristino, and Angela Spitzer

Orders and inquiries should be directed to the Assistant Secretary, Polynesian Society, Department of Māori Studies, The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, New Zealand.

VII. BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION


This volume offers a synthetic approach to language variation and language ideologies in multilingual communities. Although the vast majority of the world’s speech communities are multilingual, much of sociolinguistics ignores this internal diversity. The current volume fills this gap, investigating social and linguistic dimensions of variation and change in multilingual communities. Drawing on research in a wide range of countries (Canada, USA, South Africa, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu), it explores connections between the fields of creolistics, language/dialect contact, and language acquisition; how the study of variation and change, particularly in cases of additive bilingualism, is central to understanding social and linguistic issues in multilingual communities; how changing language ideologies and changing demographics influence language choice and/or language policy; the pivotal place of multilingualism in enacting social power and authority; and a rich array of new empirical findings on the dynamics of multilingual speech communities.


Relevant chapters for Pacific scholars include:
Language, Repertoires, and the Middle Class in Urban Solomon Islands
Christine Jourdan
Land, Language and Identity: The Socio-Political Origins of Gurindji Kriol
Felicity Meakins
Tok Bokis, Tok Piksa: Translating Parables in Papua New Guinea
Bambi B Schieffelin
How to Predict the Evolution of a Bilingual Community
David Sankoff
Empirical Problems with Domain-Based Notions of “Simple"
Miriam Meyerhoff
VIII. MEMBER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

2009: MEETING PREREGISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS. DEADLINE FOR PREREGISTERING IS DECEMBER 31!

It’s that time of year again: time to preregister for the ASAO meetings and to support the organization by renewing your membership. Personalized membership/meeting preregistration forms have been sent to all members of ASAO who paid dues for 2008. If you have not received this form, please download a blank form from the ASAO website http://www.asao.org/pacific/membership.htm. Your form and payment should be sent to ASAO Treasurer, Mary McCutcheon at the address listed on the form. Registration fees for the February 2009 Santa Cruz meetings are US$100, with a reduced rate of US$50 for students, Pacific Islanders, and retired or unemployed attendees. Membership dues remain at $35 per year for general members and fellows, with a reduced fee of $20 for students, etc. If you will be attending the 2009 meetings, please pay your membership dues and registration fee in advance before December 31 if at all possible. While we prefer payment in U.S. dollars, as this allows us to keep bank fees to a minimum, checks are also accepted in equivalent amounts for foreign currencies. If you are not able to sent payment by December 31, on-site payments will be accepted in US dollars only (checks preferred). Credit card payments may be submitted via PayPal—please see instructions for this on the ASAO website (address above). I look forward to seeing many of you in beautiful Santa Cruz! In the meantime, please feel free to e-mail or call me with your questions/concerns. kcreely@ucsd.edu (telephone 858-534-2029)

Kathryn Creely, ASAO Membership Coordinator

Changes to IPS Publications

After 32 years, IPS Publications at the University of the South Pacific is being subsumed into a new entity – USP Press. USP’s new Vice Chancellor plans to establish the Press to acknowledge the University being 40 years old. The Fiji Times online (http://www.fijitimes.com.fj/story.aspx?id=99174 – 29 August 2008) reported the Vice Chancellor as saying that the press would ‘be the drive that would promote USP’s own brand of thinking’ and ‘ensure there are scholarly publications every year’. As yet, the operational details of USP Press have not been finalized. I will be leaving the University when my contract expires on 24 September 2008. The position of IPS Publications Fellow will then cease to exist. IPS Publication’s backlist will be marketed and distributed by the USP Bookshop. Details of all IPS Publications’ books and online orders from the IPS catalogue will still be available at www.ipsbooks.usp.ac.fj (See this website for IPS’s last three publications, launched on 17 September.) All other orders (including trade orders) must be directed to ipssales@usp.ac.fj

All currently available IPS books can be browsed at Google Book Search. Queries in relation to manuscripts etc should be directed to the Deputy Vice Chancellor at williams_e@usp.ac.fj

With best wishes for the future and with thanks for your help and support over the years.

- Wendy Tubman
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