ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY
IN OCEANIA

IN THIS ISSUE

I. From the Editor ........................................... p. 1
II. From the Chair ........................................... p. 2
III. Pacific Islands Scholars Fund ......................... p. 3
IV. 2012 ASAO Annual Meeting ............................... p. 3
V. Notes from the Program Coordinator .................. p. 4
VI. 2012 ASAO Proposed Sessions
    Formal Symposia........................................ p. 5
    Working Sessions ...................................... p. 6
    Informal Sessions ...................................... p. 12
VII. Recent Journals ....................................... p. 19
VIII. Bibliographic Information ............................. p. 19

I. FROM THE EDITOR

In this issue we are largely focused on planning for the next meeting in Portland, Oregon. Details about hotel registration and sessions should provide food for thought. It seems that the last four months were also a very productive time for new books, including the first of the ASAO Studies in Pacific Anthropology from Berghahn Books. And don’t forget:

Please contribute to the Pacific Islands Scholars Fund
to support wide participation in the upcoming meeting.

Details about this wonderful fund can be found on page 3.

Please note that all materials to be included in the December Newsletter must be received by December 1. Additional deadlines for session organizers are discussed by the program coordinator herein.

Cheers

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II. FROM THE CHAIR

I am delighted to announce that Susanne Kuehling and Paige West have been elected new members of the ASAO board of directors. I know I speak on behalf of the Board in extending them a cordial welcome. In a reversal of last year’s election, which had seven candidates vying for two positions, this year’s slate of two candidates for two positions resulted in a race that was rather less of a nail-biter. Nevertheless, we couldn’t ask for a better pair of incoming board members. If you have not yet served on the board, please consider putting your name forward at our annual meeting this February. Even if you participated in past races and won a reprieve, why not throw your hat in the ring for another go?

We all owe a debt of gratitude to outgoing board members, Toon van Meijl (chair and past chair), and Elfriede Hermann (who represented the board on the PISF committee) for their service. On behalf of the entire Association, thank you!

While I am on the topic of opportunities to serve ASAO, recall that we are actively seeking a replacement for Mike Rynkiewich, who would like to retire as Annual Meetings Site Coordinator. Please contact Mike or me if you think this might be a way you’d like to advance your career while giving back to your Association. Mike is happy to work with his successor to ensure a smooth transition.

It is also my pleasure to announce the formal selection of David and Dorothy Counts as honorary ASAO fellows. This recognition is overdue for these long-time friends of the ASAO. We look forward to officially bestowing the honor on them in Portland. I want to thank their nominator, Naomi McPherson, and all the members who took the time to vote on whether to endorse the nomination during the board election. I encourage you all to think about who you would like to see nominated at our next meeting. Colleagues who have distinguished themselves as scholars in Pacific anthropology are eligible. Nominations for Honorary Fellowships must be made to me before November 1st.

Plans for our meeting in Portland, Oregon at the Benson Hotel are proceeding apace. Portland is a vibrant city in a stunning natural setting. Anthropology is represented in town at Portland State University and Reed College. The rocky Pacific coast, verdant orchard valley, majestic forested mountain ranges, and extensive desert are all in striking distance for a break during our five days of sessions. There is much to explore in the area.

Please remember to renew your ASAO membership year to year, regardless of whether you attend the meeting. In-person and in-absentia session participants should be current members, and those directly participating in session presentations and discussions are expected to register for the conference. Without income, there is no output. Please consistently support our special Association.

A reminder to Pacific Island scholars planning on attending the meeting: Application for PISF awards are due November 1st and details can be found here: http://www.asao.org/pacific/pisf.htm

We are also accepting applications for the Grant to Return Indigenous Knowledge to Pacific Islands Communities (GRIKPIC). Applicants are due December 1st, and information can be found at: http://www.asao.org/pacific/GRIKPIC/GRIKPIC.htm.

On other matters, Joshua Bell and Mac Marshall are coordinating to officially register the revised ASAO bylaws with the State of California. They will be made available online and in this newsletter when they are submitted.

As we look forward to meeting in Oregon, I ask session participants and organizers to please
keep in mind the ASAO tradition that emphasizes discussing rather than presenting papers. The Association provides a venue and scheduling for sessions, but not audiovisual equipment. Participants wishing to use laptops, Internet connections, or projectors to enhance the exchange of ideas in their sessions are welcome to arrange for and fund their provision. Many of us have found the face-to-face exchange of ideas to be what makes ASAO meetings distinctive and worth coming to year after year. I look forward with pleasure many such exchanges in Portland this February.

Roger Lohmann, ASAO Chair

III. PACIFIC ISLANDS SCHOLARS FUND

Remember the Pacific Islands Scholarship Fund

Last year, a record number of scholars applied for support in order to participate in a variety of ASAO sessions—from informal sessions to Symposia. We would like to include and to support as many scholars at the Portland meetings as we can. There are two ways to do this: recruit Pacific Island scholars into sessions you are organizing or in which you are participating; contribute to the fund as soon and as generously as you can. And you can certainly do both. Your efforts will be appreciated all around. Thank you.

Judith Schachter, Chair PISF

IV. THE 2012 ASAO ANNUAL MEETING

VENUE: We are scheduled to meet on the West Coast of the U.S. for 2012. The site is the Benson Hotel in Portland, Oregon. The time is during the week of February 7-11, 2012. The Benson is a 4-diamond, historic hotel in downtown Portland, steps away from dining, shopping, entertainment, the trendy Pearl District, Powell’s Bookstore, and several local attractions. The Benson has 287 guest rooms and 16,000 square feet of meeting space as well as sustainability and green policies and practices. There is no sales tax in the State of Oregon.

ROOM RATE: Our guest room rate will be: Deluxe King or Deluxe Double room at $129.00 plus 12% occupancy tax. This includes free WiFi in guest rooms. Parking at the hotel is valet-only with unlimited in/out privileges at $29 per night (inform the attendants of this fee).

BOOKING: The booking link for on-line reservations is: http://www.coastpromos.com/6xq. You may book either of the two types of rooms listed above for the nights of February 7 through 11. If you use this link, it already recognizes that you are from ASAO and already has a group code, dates, and prices entered. You may adjust the dates within 7-11 as you wish, but not outside those dates.

Alternatively, if you desire to book a different room type or arrive/depart on shoulder dates, you must call the hotel directly at 503-228-2000, or toll free at 888-523-6766, or e-mail the Benson at reservations@bensonhotel.com. Inform them that you are with ASAO.

Address: The Benson Hotel, 309 Southwest Broadway, Portland, OR 97205.
Website: www.bensonhotel.com.

Mike Rynkiewich, ASAO Site Coordinator
V. NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

In this issue of the newsletter, I have gathered updated session announcements and proposals for new sessions for the 2012 meeting in Portland. All session organizers and participants should review guidelines and timetable on the ASAO web site. A condensed version of the timetable is included below. Please note the following November 1 deadlines: 1) Submit required information about your session to me as ASAO Program Coordinator, 2) Advise me of foreseeable scheduling needs or conflicts, expected audience size, and audio-visual or other special needs. The hotel is responsible for providing equipment for those with disabilities. In all other cases, hotel equipment rentals are often quite expensive. Session organizers are encouraged to make their own arrangements for costly equipment. But I must know if you are doing this so I may inform the hotel coordinator. It is also important that 3) session organizers inform me about who will not be able to attend the sessions in person, and that 4) participants limit themselves to participation in no more than two sessions. Multi-session participation creates scheduling conflicts and may disrupt sessions and distract contributors. In organizing the program, first priority in case of scheduling conflicts goes to organizers and discussants. There is no guarantee that any session will be given a full day. In the past, working sessions have been given priority for all day meetings. Since the focus of formal symposia is discussion of publication plans and pulling a collection together (and NOT the presentation of papers, which should be reviewed BEFORE the meeting), formal symposia, no matter how many participants, are normally given half a day. Depending on the number of sessions, however, ALL sessions may be given half a day (or less in the case of informal sessions). With this in mind, it is important for session organizers to have participants do much of the session work ahead of the actual meeting. Given the many informal sessions in the Honolulu program and the fact that most are expected to be working sessions at the Portland meeting, I anticipate a very full 2012 program.

Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi, Program Coordinator

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 descriptions of session, deadline reminders, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before November 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Participants submit abstracts to session organizers and send to other participants</td>
<td>Participants circulate drafts of papers to session organizers and other participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>To Program Coordinator: Updated description of proposed session; list of people who have expressed interest, number expected to attend. Last chance to be scheduled in the program.</td>
<td>To Program Coordinator: Names of participants, titles of papers, order of presentation; all abstracts; which papers will be read in absentia; how much time required.</td>
<td>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 required.</td>
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2012 ASAO PROPOSED SESSIONS

FORMAL SYMPOSIA

Ends of War: Causes of Peace in the Pacific
Organizer: Roger Ivar Lohmann

Participants in this session address the following issues based on their original data sets: definitions of and the relationship between peace and war, biological, social, cultural, and agentive causes that generate war and peace, description of cases of transitioning from war to peace or of maintaining peace, and practical lessons or principles that can be generalized from the cases described, on how war is successfully minimized and peace made and maintained. Papers by Cato Berg, *Cammi Webb Gannon, Iati Iati, Susanne Kuehling, Roger Lohmann, Tiara Naputi, *Glenn Petersen, Manuel and Mihamm Raucholz, *Jim Roscoe, Ryan Schram, Tobias Schwörer, and David Troolin will be featured. Polly Wiessner will be joining us as discussant. All participants, in person and in absentia (indicated by an asterisk), should provide full, advanced drafts of their papers to the organizer for distribution by October 20, 2011. In the grand ASAO tradition, participants are expected to read and prepare constructive critiques on all of the other papers to aid in revisions toward publication.

Roger Lohmann, Department of Anthropology, Trent University, 2140 East Bank Drive, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 7B8, CANADA; <rogerlohmann@trentu.ca>

Engaging with Capitalism
Organizers: Fiona McCormack and Kate Barclay
This symposium will address two interrelated themes about ways Pacific Islanders engage with capitalism.

1) Owning and Transferring – How property issues (broadly conceived) are implicated in the way people own, hold on to and claim new (or reclaim old) things and how people, things and social relations are reconstituted in this process. In engaging with capitalism new ways of valuing and transacting objects may emerge which may dispossess former owners, create new opportunities for owning or in many other ways have social consequences.

2) Local capitalisms – The relationship between capitalist and noncapitalist practices, the impact of this engagement on traditional patterns of social organization and ideas of personhood, whether this negotiation enables a locally appropriate form of development or conversely entrenches people at a disadvantaged position within the world political economy.

Colleagues interested in joining this endeavor should contact the organizers as soon as possible. Participants are requested to send their draft papers of around 7000 words in length to the organizers by Monday 17 October.

Participants
Aletta Biersack (University of Oregon); Fiona McCormack (University of Hawa‘i – Hilo); Mark Mosko (Australian National University); Anton Ploeg (Harfsen, The Netherlands); Mark Busse (University of Auckland); Toon van Meijl (Radboud University Nijmegen); Kate Barclay (University of Technology Sydney); Pei-yi Guo (Academia Sinica); Edvard Hviding (University of Bergen); Martha MacIntyre (University of Melbourne); Nick Bainton (Newcrest Mining Limited); Matthew Allen (Australian National University); Kalissa Alexeyeff (University of Melbourne); Eric Silverman (Wheelock College); Shu-Yuan Yang (Academia Sinica); David Boyd (University of California - Davis); George Curry (Curtin University)
From Romance to "Reality": Representations of Pacific Islands and Islanders
Organizers: Nancy Lutkehaus and Judith Schachter

We will hold a Symposium in February 2012. The papers explore notions of the island Pacific, as island places and peoples have been represented over time and from different cultural perspectives in memoirs, travel accounts, biographies, journals, journalism, documentary film, and reality TV. Some questions participants raise include: what have been the dominant tropes and metaphors generated by and that also constitute these perspectives? What have been the transformations of these tropes over time? What have been the contexts for these transformations? Contributors to the Symposium cover all areas of the Pacific.

All papers are ethnographically grounded and based on fieldwork or are the result of the close reading of documents (visual or textual), exhibitions, or performances and are theoretically focused, advancing our understanding of how cultural stereotypes of Pacific Islanders have been created, maintained, or transformed over time. An important aspect of the session are those contemporary case studies that demonstrate how Pacific Islanders themselves are no longer simply the subjects of these stereotypes or tropes but have been transforming and refashioning them – sometimes ironically, sometimes humorously, sometimes dead seriously – for new political, economic or social purposes and new roles.

Final drafts of the papers are due to the Session organizers on September 30, 2011.
This working session extends a very successful meeting as an informal session in Hawaii. Some of the topics we discussed include: how people avoid the extraordinary burdens of modern economic life in Samoa; instant noodles and how they transform the exchange economy in New Guinea; kula as a method of keeping goods as opposed to giving them; and children’s unique position in Micronesia as people who are permitted to refuse. I invite new as well as returning participants to continue these themes or to further reflect on the nature of informal and formal giving in the societies in which they work. I also invite discussions of how people use space to delineate to whom they give and to whom they do not, the effects of modernity and globalization on practices of exchange; and the relation between semiotics and material goods. People who are interested in writing a paper for this working session should send statements of interest to Elise Berman before the end of September. Please send abstracts to Elise Berman by October 15.

Elise Berman, Department of Comparative Human Development, University of Chicago, 5730 S. Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago IL 60637 USA; <eberman@uchicago.edu>

Law and Custom in Micronesia
Organizer: Manuel Rauchholz

The main goal of this working session will be to consider the relationship between law and custom/tradition from the first colonial administrations that introduced their legal concepts and implemented them in Micronesia up into the present interpretation of law and custom within the independent States of Micronesia such as the Republic of Palau (RP), The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). What these island nations have in common today, is that while they have incorporated US law into their own legal systems they have also - to varying degrees – included the respect and acknowledgement of their past traditions and customs into their legal codes and constitutions. In other words, local traditions and customs have been and are changing the way US law is being interpreted and implemented in Micronesia. At the same time, US laws are and have been changing Micronesian customs and traditions, often in subtle ways. After having laid some of the theoretical foundations on law and custom in Micronesia itself this session also intends to include contributions dealing with current issues related to Micronesians and their encounter with the legal system in the United States. With the discussion of both perspectives, the judiciary in the US, as well as the Micronesian, it is hoped that some light will be shed on the current challenges both legal systems and Micronesian migrants to the U.S.A. are facing today. Educational challenges and difficulties on both sides of the divide are welcome to be discussed in an attempt to improve dialogue and understanding. Abstracts should be sent to the session organizer by October 20, 2011.

Current paper contributors are:
Scott Garvey, Attorney General of Pohnpei State, FSM (together with Walberg Hadley).
Walberg Hadley, Justice of Madolenihm Municipality, Pohnpei State, FSM (Rule of relationship or rule of law? Pohnpeian concepts of justice in the era of constitutional government).
Shingo Iitaka, Research Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science / University of Tsukuba (The effect of Japanese colonialism/land survey on land tenure in Palau and Palauan responses).
Edward C. King, Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia (Law and Custom in the Federated States of Micronesia)
Men, Masculinities, and Violence
Organizers: Martha Macintyre, Aletta Biersack, Margaret Jolly

This session will explore the terrain of men, masculinities, and violence in the contemporary Pacific, albeit approached historically, with an eye toward continuity and change as well as generational differences. In what ways is the category “man” changing, and are there any significant continuities? Does this differ generationally, and, if so, what generational tensions are created because of it? How have activities characteristic of men changed and why? What implications have followed for male prestige and the arenas in which it is sought? Are there significant changes in the status and authority of chiefs and/or big men that have altered social sanctions of male violence? Are warfare and payback still important activities for pursuing name and fame? Do older men still exercise authority over younger men, and, if not, what are the emerging authority structures, or is control now decentralized, and, if so, how? What is the role of Christianity in promoting altered masculinities? What is the range of male sexual and marital practices today, and how do these differ from the past? How do STIs and HIV/AIDS affect men, and how do they deal with these diseases? What are the causes of violence against women, and does the frequency and purposes or causes of violence against women differ from the past? What are the politics of this violence? How, more generally, do
men exercise control over women today? In an era of monetization, how do men acquire money, and what do they do with it once they have it? How are men today stratified, and what accounts for this stratification? What kinds of criminality do men participate in, and toward what ends? Participants should write a short paper (7 pages or so double spaced) for the session, and come to the session prepared to summarize its main points and indicate how the paper would be expanded to book chapter length.

Aletta Biersack, Professor, Department of Anthropology, 308 Condon Hall, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon 97403-1218, USA; <abiersac@uoregon.edu>
Margaret Jolly, Laureate Professor, School of Culture, History and Language, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT, AUSTRALIA; <margaret.jolly@anu.edu.au>
Martha Macintyre, Associate Professor, Honorary Fellow, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria, Australia; <marthaam@unimelb.edu.au>

The Pacific and Judaism
Organizers: Terry Brown and Lynda Newland

The Pacific and Judaism intersect in a variety of areas. Some religious and political groups in Oceania identify themselves as in some sense “Jewish”, for example, as genealogically one of the Lost Tribes of Israel, perhaps regarding local archaeological sites as models of the Temple of Jerusalem or pursuing DNA testing. This “Jewish” identity then shapes a variety of cultural, political and religious interactions. This identification of Oceanic peoples with Jews described in the Hebrew scripture is not new. Many early missionaries to Oceania linked Pacific languages with Hebrew, encouraging the view that Pacific islanders were Semitic peoples. Evangelical missionaries with links to the British Israelite movement and Mormonism also promote this view. Pacific Christianity has often placed more emphasis on the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) than the Christian (New Testament). Some Pacific church and political leaders have visited Israel and, in relation with US Christian millenarian groups, have sought bilateral links with the State of Israel and championed its cause in the Middle East. The West Papuan independence movement draws on the example of Zionism and the formation of the State of Israel for inspiration. At least one Papua New Guinea political party identifies itself with Israel and militant groups in Fiji and the Solomons have used the flag of Israel. While many Pacific Islanders initially thought Jews were only historical personages in Scripture, they have since come directly in contact with Jewish anthropologists, diplomats and tourists, forcing a reassessment and a working out of how Jews today are related to their world, including Pacific Christianity. Likewise, there are significant points of comparison that can be made between Pacific cultures and contemporary Judaism today. Building on informal presentations at the 2011 working group (see 2011 report), this working group welcomes 10-page papers on these and any aspect of “The Pacific and Judaism” for discussion at the 2012 working group. These should reach the session organizers by December 31, 2011 for precirculation to current and new participants in the session.

Current participants or those expressing an interest: Chris Ballard, John Barker, Wendy Cowling, Lise Dobrin, Alison Dundon, Annelin Eriksen, Frederick Errington, David Gegeo, Deborah Gewertz, Alex Golub, Courtney Handman, Dan Jorgensen, Christine Jourdan, Mette Ramstad, Eric Silverman, Jaap Timmer, Alexis Tucker and Camellia Webb-Gannon.

Terry Brown, Anglican Church of Melanesia, Honiara, P.O. Box 1846, Honiara SOLOMON ISLANDS; <terrymalaita@yahoo.com> and <tmb@solomon.com.sb>
Lynda Newland, Senior Lecturer, School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Law, University of the South Pacific, Suva FIJI; <newland.l@usp.ac.fj>
**Photographing Pacific Islanders**  
Organizers: Kathryn Creely and Eric K. Silverman

Photographing Pacific Islanders met as an Informal Session in 2010 and 2011 and in 2012 will be a Working Session. We are exploring photography and Pacific Islanders, with an emphasis on photographs taken and/or used in the context of anthropological research and the interpretation/uses of those photographs in both the past and present contexts. Subthemes identified at the previous sessions include:

- Analysis of historical photographs of Pacific Islanders
- Historical and contemporary personal uses of photographs and photography by Pacific Islanders themselves
- Theorizing photographic practices for Pacific anthropology
- Photographs and photographic practices in/by cultural institutions in the Pacific and elsewhere, particularly with regard to making these images accessible on the internet
- Colonial conventions of early photographs
- Intended/unintended aesthetics and content
- Ethical/moral aspects of making anthropological photographs available to global/local audiences
- Ways photographs are used by anthropologists and local people today

Participants in 2012 are asked to develop their papers by moving beyond purely descriptive or ethnographic levels in order to engage explicitly with wider and more theoretical approaches and a relevant body of scholarly literature. A website has been created for the session that includes all abstracts from the 2011 session and a list of suggested readings (https://sites.google.com/site/asaoppi/).

If you are interested in participating in the 2012 Working Session, please notify the organizers as soon as possible. Please be aware that a revised abstract and title is due by **October 1**, followed by a working paper due on **December 1**. The session organizers will forward the working papers to all session participants and also specifically ask one or two participants to offer detailed comments during the actual session. The working papers should situate the topic/materials in a wider scholarly context and include evidence of engagement with the relevant literature. We think that this stipulation will best ensure an intellectually vibrant session, and will enable us all to write final papers that will attract a wide audience.

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**Reverse Mobilities**  
Organizers: Helen Lee and John Taylor

A great deal of research has now examined the flows of migration ‘away’ from the Pacific Islands. There has also been considerable work focusing on the transnational practices of such Pacific migrants, much of it focusing on the remittances they send home. Within this work less attention has been paid to flows of people ‘back home’ from previous diasporic movements, and this is especially true for second and later generations. A similar gap can be found in the literature on rural to urban migration within the Pacific, with very little work addressing the ‘reverse mobilities’ that take place within or across the sea of islands that comprise individual Pacific nations or states. This session focuses on issues associated with such ‘reverse
mobilities’, both from the diaspora and from urban centres in the Pacific, to explore why such movement occurs and what impact it has on the people and places involved.

The informal session of 2011 comprised an excellent representation of regional geographic spread across the Pacific region, and several topic clusters emerged, including: the forced movement of people through deportation and family decision making; the movement of older people back to their home villages; and the circular mobility of people between the diaspora and homeland. A number of common themes were also apparent, which promise to link the papers together well as we move to a working session in 2012. These included the linguistic and cultural disconnect often experienced with reverse mobility, questions of forced and voluntary movement, reflexive questions concerning ‘culture’ and ideas of ‘home’, the importance of kinship obligations and family support across dispersed communities, gender differences in experiences of mobility, and class mobility.

We welcome new participants to the 2012 working session. Participants are encouraged to look at diverse forms of reverse mobility, including return migration, educational or labour-related movements, the (often forced) movement of children, youth or women to, or home-comings from such short-term visits as family reunions, church events, weddings and funerals. Session participants from 2011 include Rachana Agarwal, Joe Esser, David Gegeo, Helen Lee, Mac Marshall, Natalie Pereira, Jack Taylor, Michah Van der Ryn, Susan Wurtzburg and Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi.

Sisters and Brothers: New Perspectives on Contemporary Siblingship in the Pacific
Organizers: Mary K. Good and Simonne Pauwels

The many different ideas and practices surrounding the relationship between sisters and brothers have long been a topic of interest for anthropologists of the Pacific. In a number of cultural groups spanning the region, terms of address, specific rules for the distribution and exchange of resources, and other aspects of daily social life related to the sibling bond have been shown to be richly polyvalent in cultural meanings as well as critical to social organization and the maintenance of local identity. Now, as more work in anthropology broadens its gaze to encompass new ways of understanding culture, global processes, and transnational forces, it is important to re-examine how sibling ties and the cultural forms associated with them come to shape contemporary values and practices on a local scale, even as they themselves are transformed in the process.

This session builds upon the prior research of scholars involved in a previous ASAO session on Siblingship in Oceania. We examine the particular ideas, interactions, and practices shaping sibling ties in the twenty-first century. Our expansion of this original work investigates how sibling bonds have been maintained or have changed within the past few decades, as important transformations in transportation, communication, migration, and consumption (not to mention cultural theory) have made an impact across the Pacific.

What effects do recent changes in migration, economy, and opportunities for employment have on sibling ties? How are the pressures and practices related to increased globalization and transnationalism resisted or accommodated within the sister-brother relationship? How do same-sex siblings continue to support or oppose each other as new concerns regarding
“tradition” arise? As Pacific Islanders move across the world in search of work, education, or other pursuits, what becomes of their cargo of morals and obligations embedded in the sister-brother bond? How are sibling ties implicated in emergent forms of gendered identities, actions, and expressions? How does an individual interact with his siblings when switching from the village to the city and vice versa? These are some possible questions this session could address, although other lines of inquiry are welcome as well.

Potential participants should contact Mary K. Good (mkgood@email.arizona.edu) or Simonne Pauwels (simonne@pacific-credo.fr) with expressions of interest or any questions by October 15.

Helen Lee, Sociology and Anthropology, School of Social Sciences, La Trobe University, Victoria 3086, AUSTRALIA; <H.Lee@latrobe.edu.au>
John Taylor, Sociology and Anthropology, School of Social Sciences, La Trobe University, Victoria 3086, AUSTRALIA; <John.Taylor@latrobe.edu.au>

Spatial Orientation
Organizers: Alex Mawyer and Richard Feinberg
Discussant: John Huth

We will build on our 2011 panel for a second Working Session on spatial orientation at the 2012 ASAO meeting. Our focus is fuzziness, interruption, or disruption in spatial orientation—a phenomenon that we might summarize as “ambivalence” in cultural systems. Such themes as way-finding, cognition, frames of reference, wind compasses, spatial symbolism and political structure, spatial metaphysics and cosmology, or space and performance all can be approached from the perspective of “ambivalence.” To maximize the value of our 2012 Working Session, we are asking all participants complete and distribute drafts of full papers (not abstracts) by the end of September, and to comment on one another’s competed papers in the months following. The papers should refer to points of intersection with one another while taking stances on the shared focal issue of ambivalence. New participants are welcome; anyone wishing to join may contact either of the organizers. Those who have expressed interest thus far include: Kate Barclay, Brenda Boerger, Rick Feinberg, Joe Genz, Natsuko Higa, Yi-chun Lu, Michelle MacCarthy, Alex Mawyer, Susan Montague, Marston Morgan, Kate Riley, Harri Siikala, Katharina Schneider, and Micah Van der Ryn.

Alex Mawyer, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Lake Forest College, 555 N. Sheridan Rd., Lake Forest, Illinois 60045, U.S.A.; phone 847-735-5239; <mawyer@lakeforest.edu>
Rick Feinberg, Department of Anthropology, Kent State University, Kent, OH 44242, USA; phone 330-672-2722; <rfeinber@kent.edu>

INFORMAL SESSIONS

Madang
Organizer: Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi

The 2011 informal session was well attended. Those present included Anita and Alexis Poser, Nancy Luutkehaus, Kate Barclay, David Troolin, Deborah Gewertz and Fred Errington, Colin Filer, Nancy Sullivan, Martha Macintyre, James Slotta, Steven Winduo, Conrad and Carol Zimmer, Barbara Andersen and myself. Those who were interested in participating but who could not attend the Honolulu meeting or who were in a concurrent session included:
Discussion and presentations covered a variety of topics from the anthropologies of emotion, aging and climate change to the suburbanization of Madang, changing social relations, land grabs, political de-linkage and dysfunctional bureaucracies, interpersonal corruption, James Yali, a new sense of elitism, new versions of state capitalism, and more. Attention was also given to groups and individuals directly involved in (or likely to be affected by) mining and other economic developments as well as those left out of such development plans.

In my introduction, I emphasized that Madang is more than a town or province. Madang is a region with a long history of change and engagement in the global economy and geopolitical sphere (belying its romanticization and sleepy characterization) as well as a long history of ethnographic and scholarly interest in many topics, not the least of which are inequality and reactions to inequality ranging from cargo cults to court cases. Madang Province itself is also an area of great cultural diversity. Taking all of this into consideration, I suggested that Madang would make a great case study of a region and its peoples responding to and negotiating global and local forces.

Those interested in participating in an advanced, second Informal session on Madang should prepare 7 to 10 page, doubled-spaced papers for circulation before the session by October 21. While some may analyze their data within the context of Madang as a regional case study or historical model of resource extraction, others may look at their data in the context of historical anthropology (or both). Yet others may focus on changing concepts - local, global, and anthropological – of place and person. I, for one, believe that the anthropological designation of the people I work with as “fringe Highlanders” is as misleading as calling Madang a “sleepy little town” or suggestions that villagers and urban dwellers are distinct populations versus borderless communities striving to deal with internal inequalities as much as outside challenges.

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Mimesis and Transcultural Encounters
Organizers: Jeannette Mageo, Elfriede Hermann and Deborah Gewertz

From Trobriand Cricket to Taussig, mimesis has been a classic subject in anthropology, especially in colonial studies. Yet, aside from Taussig’s sometimes obscure ruminations, the concept is neither broadly illustrated in ethnographic work nor deeply theorized. Mimesis has not yet done the intellectual work it is capable of doing in helping scholars understand both history and creative expression in the present. The presumption of this session is that interaction and exchange between visitors and locals always surpasses discourse. These encounters take place on embodied and imaginative levels where people understand one another through a kind of copying with variations. This “discourse of the other” is a way Pacific Islanders have thought about both modernity and tradition and is a “place” where they have evolved hybrid forms of culture that help them keep abreast of new developments and adapt to a changing world. Evidence of these encounters and the thinking in images that flows from them are evident in many forms of cultural expression, from theater arts and dance, to ritual, to artifacts and photos.

Colonial others typically recorded, collected, or took surviving theater and dance, artifacts, and photos; hence, scholars have often regarded these cultural products as kinds of Western self-mimicry, reflecting more about Euro-American stereotypes and agendas then about Pacific Islanders. This session will ask how these cultural products reflect “conversations” in images
between foreign visitors and Pacific islanders. How, through in a wide range of mediums, do Pacific Islanders “look back” from their own frames of reference, retain authorship, and incorporate foreign others within local frames in ways that surpasses colonial and postcolonial meanings and intents? From the dawn of colonialism to contemporary times, Pacific Island cultures have been rife with images borrowed from elsewhere. This session will also ask: what are the creative ways in which islanders have played with such images in thinking through their own shifting social relations and their relations to the global landscape?

Those interested in the session should contact the organizers by email with a possible paper title and a one-page statement of interest, which we will circulate prior to the meeting.

**Naming Systems and Naming Relations in Austronesia/Oceania**
Organizers: Kun-hui Ku and Lamont Lindstrom
Discussant: Dan Jorgensen

“Names” are a ubiquitous feature of human societies and naming is an act embedded in many activities, yet both are under-theorized. Anthropologists had shown interest in issues of names and naming at least dating back to “Notes and Queries on Anthropology” (1892) and descriptions of names and naming practices can be seen scattered in various ethnographies over time. More recently, Levi-Strauss’ discussion of classification systems and later actor-oriented approaches focus on how and what things can be done with names. In the Pacific, the issue of names and the evolution of “titles” appear deeply connected. In 1981, ASAO held a formal session on “Personal Names and Naming Practices”, organized by Bradd Shore who approached the naming problem as “an extended set of reflections on the implications of naming forms and processes for differentiating hierarchical and institutional complex societies found throughout Oceania.” Building on what has been done in the past and continuing interest in the issue, this session explores 1) how naming systems and naming relations can extend our understanding of Austronesia/Oceania; 2) the relationships among names, self, identity, adoption and social values; and 3) what changing naming practices reveal about reconfigurations of person and identity in the contemporary world.

Abstracts should be sent to the organizers by **15 Oct. 2011** for consideration.

**Naturalist Histories: Making nature in Oceania**
Organizers: Jamon Halvaksz and Joshua Bell

From early explorers to contemporary scientists, naturalists have examined island flora and fauna of Oceania. Sometimes focusing attention on the discovery of new species, but also
carefully documenting the lives of animals, their work has been central to the wider image of Oceania (consider recent discoveries in the Foja Mountains of New Guinea). These ‘discoveries’ and exploratory moves have had profound local and global impacts. But often, local knowledge and communities are silent in the ethologies and histories that naturalists produce. This session will examine the ways that indigenous and non-indigenous naturalists have made island natures visible to a wider audience, their relationship with the communities where they work, as well as the unique natures that they explore and help make.

In staking out an area of naturalists histories, we invite contributors from a range of disciplines whose work might address the following questions: What is the relationship between naturalists and Oceanic communities? How have naturalists’ histories shaped place and practices in the past and present? How have their works influenced communities, conservation, and development projects? What is the relationship between scientific and indigenous knowledge? Whose natures are revealed, and alternatively concealed, in the final work?

Individuals interested in the session should contact the organizers by email with a one-page statement of interest, which we will circulate prior to the meeting.

**Obesity and Health in the Pacific**
Organizers: Aunchalee Palmquist and Nancy Pollock

This informal session is a continuation of discussions that were initiated at the 2011 ASAO meeting in Honolulu. We will continue to discuss participants’ works in progress and proposals for papers. Topics such as body image; obesity, ethnicity and representation; obesity-related diseases; illness/obesity experience; child/adolescent obesity; obesity and health identity; and eating disorders are some examples of the range of issues that fall within the purview of this session. Likewise, a wide range of theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches used to study these topics are welcome. We especially encourage the participation of new Pacific Island scholars currently engaged in obesity and related research. For this informal session, participants should be prepared to give a 10 minute presentation that outlines their concept paper and, ideally, provide the group with a preliminary bibliography. If you are interested in participating, please send an email with a statement of interest to Aunchalee Palmquist or Nancy Pollock by October 15, 2011.

**Reclaiming Hope**
Organizer: Eben Kirksey

Amidst U.S. regional hegemony, memories of earlier European colonialisms, and emergent Asian expansionist projects, indigenous intellectuals from the Pacific Islands are maneuvering to actualize elusive freedom dreams. This Informal Session will orbit around existing
scholarship about sovereignty, freedom, and hope in Oceania to catalyze conversation about future horizons for new research. We will engage with a series of questions: What freedom dreams and figures of hope populate the political imaginary of the Pacific? If “hope” has become a word that bulldozes over our dreams, to borrow a phrase from Anna Tsing, how might we mobilize ethnographic insights to ground collective desires in the topos of territory, native soil, city? What are strategies in Oceania for entering into and exiting from geopolitical entanglements? Authors are invited to double as discussants in this Informal Session. In other words, potential participants should contact the organizer to offer up their existing publications for discussion. The texts already on the table include: “Lost in the Weeds: Theme and Variation in Pohnpei Political Mythology” by Glenn Petersen (Center for Pacific Island Studies, 1990), “The Method of Hope: Anthropology, Philosophy, and Fijian Knowledge” by Hiro Miyazaki (2004), “Dreams, Madness, and Fairy Tales in New Britain” by Andrew Lattas (Carolina Academic Press, 2010), as well as “Freedom in Entangled Worlds: West Papua and the Architecture of Global Power” by Eben Kirksey (Duke University Press, in production for Feb 2012). Scripted presentations by designated discussants, and interventions from audience members, will set the stage for an open conversation about research in progress related to these themes.

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Refashioning the Body: Building Critical Theory across the Pacific
Organizers: Lisa Uperesa, Bethany Matai Edmunds, and Paige West

Historically, people across the Pacific Islands have altered their physical appearance in order to express personal and familial identities, community belonging, and their own subjectivities. They have also produced material objects that when worn adorn the body, express identity, and materialize selves. Since its beginnings, anthropology has been concerned with personal adornment and body modification. In this session we return to, and draw on, historic conversations about bodies and adornment in anthropology, but we do so with the goal of using contemporary discussions about materiality, indigenous politics, authenticity, and decolonizing methodologies to inform the development of a new way of looking at physicality and materiality in the Pacific. At the same time we wish to hold in tension the critique of the role of anthropology in the formulation of an external gaze of the Pacific and the ways in which it has manifested through clothing, views of Pacific bodies, and commodification of Pacific island adornment for non-indigenous consumers.

Last year we had a lively session with twenty participants. The session began with everyone speaking for five minutes about their current research interests in bodies and adornment. Half of the participants are working on the refashioning of actual, physical indigenous bodies and the other half are working on images, icons, and material objects that are meant to index indigenous culture. These two threads were brought together in a discussion of tattoo.

This year we will continue our discussion around ideas of living indigenous Pacific island culture and identity as expressed through personal adornment, dress, and the body in a second informal session. We ask participants to prepare a 7 to 10 page paper for circulation before the session.
Small Islands in Peril or Under Pressure
Organizers: Colin Filer and Simon Foale

The aim of this session is to start a new conversation amongst ASAO members about the relationships between society, economy and environment on what we have previously defined as small islands which are either ‘in peril’ or ‘under pressure’ because they have a surface area of less than 10 km² and a crude population density in excess of 100/km². Our interest in these so-called SMIPs started more than 10 years ago, when we drafted a proposal to undertake a comparative study of those which were then thought to exist in Papua New Guinea. At that time, we estimated that there were more than 100 SMIPs in PNG, and there are probably more today, as well as an unknown number scattered through the rest of Melanesia and the Pacific island region.

Our interest in these small island societies stemmed from the idea that they could be regarded as canaries in the coalmine of sustainable development because of scientific and anecdotal evidence of a common link between rapid population growth, degradation of the local resource base, and intensification of disputes over the ownership and use of terrestrial and/or marine resources. Furthermore, the economic and social ‘safety valves’ which had previously served to break some of the feedback loops between these trends appeared to be losing their efficacy.

For various reasons, our own interest in the SMIPs of PNG was diverted into a broader assessment of coastal, small island and coral reef ecosystems as part of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, along with a narrower focus on SMIPs in Milne Bay Province as part of a donor-funded marine conservation program which came to a sticky end (through no fault of our own).

Recent debate about economy-society-environment relationships on SMIPs in the Pacific island region has itself been overtaken by a narrow focus on the problem of climate change, as is evident from discussion of iconic cases like the Carteret Islands in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. However, even on those SMIPs that are said to be canaries in the coalmine of climate change adaptation, there is evidence that sea-level rise is not yet the main driver, or even a measurable driver, of the current crisis in economy-society-environment relationships.

We would therefore like to invite ASAO members to participate in a discussion of what they know about the current dynamics of economy-society-environment relationships on one or more SMIPs, whether in PNG or in Melanesia or the wider Pacific island region, with a view to combining this new evidence in a monograph that will include some of the case material we have already assembled from our previous research on this subject.
Value in Motion: (E)motions of Exchange  
Organizers: Susanne Kuehling and Katharina Schneider

In our 2011 informal session, we aimed to establish common ground between a wide range of value-related themes. Contributions so far address the values of personal independence, of children, of mortuary festivals and remittances, of objects as they move between different spheres of exchange, of magical formulas, of sea turtles, of peoples’ movements and of images in the context of cross-cultural encounters.

As only half of the participants could make it to the 2011 meeting, we want to continue with an informal session in 2012, focusing our attention on the dynamic political, emotional and often highly emotional processes of value negotiation, generation and transformation. We are interested in how people prioritize certain aspects of the material and immaterial world, and how they define what they deem worth striving for as well as what they regard as less relevant.

We invite our colleagues to contribute to this session by thinking about the ethnographically specific factors that characterize value negotiation in their field sites. Those may include movements, emotions or rhetorical devices, for instance. Looking at value negotiation in interactions between people used to different value regimes may provide further insights. Precious objects and animals, empowering actions of give-and-take and discourses and counter-discourses on moral and economic value may serve as doors into the field of local priorities and, perhaps ultimately, towards a better understanding of more general principles of economic and political actions.

Participants include so far:
Petra M. Autio (Åbo Akademi, Helsinki): The Value of ‘independence/freedom’ and Refusing Food in Tabiteuea, Southern Kiribati

Elise Berman (University of Chicago): On (not) Feeling Emotional about Giving one’s Child Away: Adoption in the Marshall Islands

Linus S. Digim’Rina (University of Papua New Guinea): An Edict on Trobriand Funerary Rites and Sagali

Susanne Kuehling University of Regina): Kula: Motions and Emotions of Exchange

Michelle MacCarthy (University of Auckland): Directing Emotion: The Use of Love Magic in the Trobriand Islands

Jenny T. Peachey (University of Manchester): ‘A scar is left inside me’: Compensation and emotional pain in Goroka town, Eastern Highlands, Papua New Guinea

Alexis Scott Antram (University of Texas at San Antonio): Sea Turtles as Actants in (E)motional Encounters

Katharina Schneider (University of Aberdeen): Value Creation on Shifting Ground

Anke Tonnaer (Radboud University Nijmegen): Shooting Value: Photography as a Shared Performance in Touristic Encounters in Indigenous Australia

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VII. RECENT JOURNALS

The Contemporary Pacific, Volume 23 (#2), is now available and contains the following articles and dialogue pieces:

Fleeting Substantiality: The Samoan Giant in US Popular Discourse  
by April K Henderson
Churches and the Economy of Sāmoa  
by Cluny Macpherson and La‘avasa Macpherson
Māori Studies, Past and Present: A Review  
by Michael P. J. Reilly
The Islands Have Memory: Reflections on Two Collaborative Projects in Contemporary Oceania  
by Guido Carlo Pigliasco and Thorolf Lipp
Where Has All The Music Gone? Reflections on the Fortieth Anniversary of Fiji’s Independence  
by Brij V. Lal

The issue also features the art of Solomon Enos, political reviews of the Pacific region and of Melanesia, and seven book and media reviews.

To purchase any 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; http://www.uhpress.hawaii.edu/journals/cp/; e-mail uhpjourn@hawaii.edu.

TCP issues from 2000 to present (volume 12 on) may also be accessed online (if your institution subscribes to Project MUSE): http://muse.jhu.edu/. Back issues through volume 22 (2) are freely available on ScholarSpace, the University of Hawai‘i Hamilton Library’s open-source institutional digital repository (http://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/handle/10125/2828).

VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

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Stacy L. Kamehiro  

David Shaw King  

Mary Patterson and Martha Macintyre, eds.  
Alan Rumsey and Don Niles, eds.
2011 Sung Tales from the Papua New Guinea Highlands: Studies in Form, Meaning and Sociocultural Context. Australia National University EPress. Available online at:
<http://epress.anu.edu.au/sung_tales_citation.html>

Karen Stevenson, ed.

Martin Thomas and Margo Neale
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

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