ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY IN OCEANIA

Newsletter #142  April 2012

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I. FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the newsletter is full of official business. In addition to our recounting of the annual meeting, and the publishing of officer reports, it is my pleasure to print the revised ASAO Bylaws (as required in order to make them official). In addition, there are a number of changes announced in this issue including new officers, new deadlines and new three-year membership options (as noted on the last page and www.asao.org).

In addition, we provide some initial details regarding the 2013 meetings in San Antonio, Texas, a place that I like to call home.

Jamon Halvaksz

Jamon Alex Halvaksz
Department of Anthropology
University of Texas at San Antonio
One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, Texas 78249
<jamon.halvaksz@utsa.edu>
II. FROM THE CHAIR

As a much-desired spring has decided to proceed with its beneficial annual influences and to chase away the storms and rains of the North Sea winter, life in the increasingly multinational Bergen Pacific Studies research group here on Norway’s west coast takes on an added dimension that involves crawling out of winter hideouts and getting the sunglasses on. The sun is indeed shining as I am writing this, thinking back on our Portland meeting in February with fond memories. It is no secret that the ASAO’s gathering in Portland was a particularly successful one, with such a wide range of fertile sessions and with continuous, inspiring dialogues among colleagues and friends in the warm ambience of the Benson Hotel, in the salty atmosphere of the oyster bars, and in the general welcoming air of a real, working city where spring seemed about to arrive already then. The choice of the hotel is something for which we are all grateful to site coordinator Mike Rynkiewich. Indeed, this meeting was a particular one with reference to our association’s gratitude also to the hotel itself and to its staff, for such a hospitable environment conducive to the cultivation of scholarship, friendship and the good life.

As a representative of those who have to travel far to attend any ASAO meeting no matter where its location, I wish to highlight the fact that for many of us, the annual meetings are the scene on which we are able to meet face-to-face with so many of our friends. That annual social feast is an important contribution made by the ASAO to the worldwide community of Pacific scholarship, measured in particular by the degree to which colleagues from North America, the Pacific region, Europe and elsewhere get together in a shared agenda to collapse categorizations based on home country or work place. The ASAO’s systematic yet relaxed progression of sessions, and the opportunities given for conversation at a pleasurably slow pace, allow us to maintain dialogues and exchanges in a swirl of sociality from year to year. With all this in mind I wish to thank all our Officers and Board members for their efforts to make the Portland meeting such a wonderful event, and in particular program coordinator Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi for composing such a rich and smoothly organized series of informal sessions, working sessions, and symposia. Logistics were truly magnificent in Portland. Worthy of note were also “side-shows” that emerged during the week in the form of even less formal “informal” sessions, held over lunch at nearby restaurants. The ASAO seems to be brimming with energy these days, and it is a true honor to be your new Chair.

We owe thanks to the past Chair, Roger Lohmann, for his service to the ASAO. Personally, I am also grateful to Roger, and for outgoing past chair Joshua Bell for handing the association over to me in such great condition, and for their kind and gentle insistence on teaching me key aspects of the largely unwritten customs of ASAO chair-ship, thus easing my transition into my new existence. ASAO as a whole is indebted to Roger for his effort at transforming a diversity of unwritten leadership customs into a written manual – as a sensible leader, Roger has become past Chair with the knowledge that his directions will remain for navigation by future Chairs. Outgoing Board member Aletta Biersack has served on the PISF committee and has also made a strong contribution to broadening the Pacific participation at ASAO meetings, in Portland focusing on a particular, very successful event aimed at locally resident Pacific Islanders. Ping-Ann Addo and I joined the Board together, and I am grateful to her for dialogue between newcomers and for her support in my transition to Chair. She is the Board’s new PISF representative. It is my great pleasure to greet the two incoming Board members – Susanne Kuehling, who will in due course replace Ping-Ann on the PISF committee, and Paige West, who is the new chair-elect and thus my pre-destined successor, and who currently chairs the GRIKPIC committee.

While the Board discusses and deals with matters raised during the year, make decisions and develop the policies of the ASAO, it is the many Officers who are to be thanked for the continuous, day-to-day operation of our association. It is impossible for me here to give every
Officer the praise he or she deserves so well. I have already mentioned the central roles played by Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi and Mike Rynkiewich as Program Coordinator and Site Coordinator, respectively. After long and illustrious careers in these capacities they have both asked to be replaced. Their replacements were in fact identified and enlisted at the Portland meeting. Alex Mawyer will be taking over from Laura as Program Coordinator after the San Antonio meeting in 2013, and Ryan Schram will likewise take over from Mike. Both Laura and Mike will be working with their successors through this transitional year. Things looked particularly challenging at Portland since a third Officer also wanted to be replaced, but this in the end worked out extraordinarily well, in that our Website Manager and much-loved living ancestor Alan Howard agreed to take over immediately from Eric Silverman as Membership Coordinator. We thank Eric for his service, and Alan for stepping in.

Our other Officers continue to serve the ASAO and assist us all so well in their various capacities. Judith Schachter continues her important relation-making work as chair of the PISF committee, and in Portland she and her committee organized the special event “Initiation into ASAO: Rules, Rituals, and Rigmaroles”, a first-ever happening for newcomers which is likely to become a fixed part of the meeting program. Treasurer Mary McCutcheon continues to carry the ASAO into a larger-scale economy as meetings become events of increasing financial scope, Mike Lieber mediates the virtual relationships driven by ASAONet, Jan Rensel manages our past as the ASAO archivist and knows all our customs by heart too, and Cato Berg fills the central communicational and organizational role of ASAO secretary in an almost silent, yet smooth and omniscient, way. Although Cato has so far operated in my immediate vicinity (which is to say, in the same corridor), he is now an active international job-seeker and may well turn up in a location far from here but close to any of you. Jamon Halvaksz and Rupert Stasch manage the published outputs of the ASAO in two very distinct and important ways, as Newsletter Editor and Series Editor of the ASAO Studies in Pacific Anthropology, respectively. Jamon has developed the Newsletter into a true communication platform for us all, and Rupert is moving the ASAO book series onto the high-profile international scene in cooperation with Berghahn Books, a publisher that straddles both sides of the Atlantic and is committed to Pacific studies. Talking about books, we are fortunate in having David Troolin now well settled as Book Display Coordinator, assisting the Program Coordinator in this very significant task, in a time when some say the Book – more specifically the anthropological monograph – is an endangered species, and a great book display is a highlight of any ASAO meeting. Finally, as long-standing Distinguished Lecture coordinator Lamont Lindstrom develops and manages the highlights of every annual meeting. It is a great pleasure for me to tell you all that the distinguished speaker at next year’s meeting in San Antonio will be Professor Marshall Sahlins, who is an Honorary Fellow of the ASAO, a past distinguished speaker, and in my mind probably our community’s most prominent agent in bringing anthropology in general and Pacific materials in particular out to a wide range of audiences beyond ourselves. We look forward to welcoming Marshall in our midst once more.

In May we shall hold the annual elections for two new Board members and for Honorary Fellows. This will be carried out electronically as usual. The list of eligible voters, restricted to those who have renewed their membership for 2012 by May 1st, will be established by that date, after which the link to the electronic ballot will be sent out as e-mail by the Membership Coordinator. Paper ballots will, as before, be printed and mailed to members without an e-mail address. The candidates for Board members are:

- Jerry Jacka
- Maria Lepowsky
- Lisa Uperesa
- John Wagner
We shall also ask you to vote over the nominations of Francis X. Hezel, Bruce Knauft and Mike Lieber for Honorary Fellowship. The biographies of the candidates for Board members and the nominations for Honorary Fellowships will be featured with the ballot, and Honorary Fellow candidates are also profiled in this Newsletter.

Being someone not academically born and raised in the ASAO, but who has rather entered the association at a more advanced career stage (my first meeting was in Salem in 2004), I still find many mysteries and wonders in our association and its work. Not being an American adds to this feeling I have about the ASAO as not a little exotic. In this spirit I am impressed by the ASAO's professionalism and not a little daunted by its organizational complexity, which far exceeds that of its European counterpart ESfO, and I see it as a privileged opportunity to serve for this year as Chair of the ASAO’s Board of Directors, thus giving my small contribution to an organizational longue durée of some uniqueness. Thank you, ASAO folks, for placing your faith in me.

Edvard Hviding
ASAO Chair

III. PACIFIC ISLANDS SCHOLARS FUND

This year’s PISF Committee consisted of Michael Goldsmith as member at large, Ping-Ann Addo as both member at large and representative of the Board, and myself, Judith Schachter, as chair. For this year we started with an account balance of $10,478.00 that could be awarded, a substantial sum thanks to the generosity of members of the Association and a generous contribution from the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation's Heaney Family Fund.

We changed the deadline for applications to October 1, but apparently did not publicize the change early enough that it was noted by potential applicants and session organizers. Consequently, we accepted all applications that came in by the November 1st deadline. Beginning in 2012, the deadline for Travel Award applications will be October 1, candidates will be notified by November 15, and awards must be accepted by December 15.

Our emphasis on the importance of letters of recommendation had an impact, and we received much more informative letters about the applicant, her or his work, and expected participation in a session than had been the case in earlier years. We intend to continue to emphasize the importance of a thoughtful and detailed summary of work both by the applicant and by her recommenders.

Travel Awards
We received seven applications for PISF Travel Awards, and we were able to award travel funds to all seven. I sent electronic copies of all applications to the committee and in our deliberations we followed the guidelines for the PISF travel awards as they appear on the ASAO website. As in previous years, we looked closely at the abstracts, the letters of recommendation, and the scholar’s contribution to the proposed session. We were pleased by the quality of all aspects of the applications.

Besides the travel funding, each recipient also received (from Board funds, not the PISF fund) $US200 toward accommodations, a year’s complimentary membership in ASAO, had her/his meeting registration fee covered, and was invited to the Board Luncheon on Thursday, February 9th.
The awardees who attended the Portland meetings were:
- Unaisi Nabobo-Baba (Fiji)—Participant in the working session, “Brothers and Sisters.”
- Yvonne Aitu SuniaMafieleo (Fiji/Rotuma)—Participant in the working session, “Photographing Pacific Islanders.”
- Gonzaga Puas (FSM)—Participant in the working session, “Law and Custom in Melanesia.”
- Ben Enlet (FSM)—Participant in the working session, “Law and Custom in Melanesia.”

Three awardees were unable to attend for personal reasons:
- Linus digim`Rina (PNG)—Participating in informal session, “Value in Motion.”
- Walberg Hadley (FSM)—Participating in the working session, “Law and Custom in Melanesia.”
- Malia Talakai (Tonga)—Participating in the working session, “Engagement with Capitalism.”

Thanks to Yvonne, for the wonderful photos. Look for them on the ASAO website.

In addition, three scholars received mini-grants, with a waiver of meeting registration fee and a complimentary one year’s membership in ASAO.

Of the total, $10,478 we spent $3892, leaving us with a generous amount for next year.

We were pleased by the number of newcomers to ASAO this year, and we encouraged contacts and conversations among newcomers, old-timers, and Pacific Island scholars at a lunch hosted by the PISF on Friday, February 10th.

Going Forward
Committee makeup. We welcome our new member, Susanne Kuehling, who replaces Ping-Ann as Board representative. Ping-Ann remains as a member at large, along with Michael, and I will remain as chair.

We will make sure the new deadlines are posted on the ASAO website, with an emphasis on the importance of session organizer letters. The deadline for all applications is now October 1st. We thank Alan Howard for making these, and other, and other changes on the website.

We will further clarify instructions for applying for mini-grants and add those clarifications to the website.

We will consider the possibility of multiple year funding (2 years) for session organizers.

We have included information on VISA requirements on the application form.

We will discuss ways of increasing the PISF funds and encouraging a larger number of Pacific Island scholars to apply.

We thank ASAO members for their generous contributions which support ASAO’s travel awards—and we encourage all to donate as this year goes on. These funds make a big difference in the professional lives of our Pacific Islands colleagues. For those who pay taxes in the USA, donations to the PISF are tax deductible.

Judith Schachter, Chair
PISF
IV. FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

In this issue of the newsletter, I have gathered reports on all the wonderful sessions held at the meeting in Portland along with updated news and proposals for sessions at the 2013 San Antonio meeting. All session organizers and participants should review guidelines and timetable on the ASAO web site. A condensed version of the timetable for session organizers and participants is included below. Please note that there is a new, October 1 deadline for all “special” session or “special” events proposals in order that the board can review such proposals (which usually fall outside of regularly scheduled session times) and select those that fit into and merit inclusion in the overall program. All such “special” session or event proposals should be sent through me as Program Coordinator first. Symposia organizers are also asked to note that – in this age of digital attachments – it is no longer necessary to send the program coordinator first and last pages of finished drafts in order to prove that the papers have been written. Simply send the full drafts via email attachments (I do not need to print them out; merely look at them).

Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi, lauratamakoshi@yahoo.com

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>Participants submit abstracts to session organizers and send to other participants</td>
<td></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; attachments of finished papers; a list of which papers (if any) will be presented in absentia; how much time required.</td>
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V. 2012 ASAO SESSION REPORTS

FORMAL SYMPOSIA

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

We had lucky 13 people in the room for our session throughout the day, with very productive discussion from those summarizing papers as well as audience participants. Our discussant Polly Wiessner identified several themes in the papers. First, she noted frequent mention of Christianity and challenged us to answer the question of why Christianity promotes peace in some cases but not in others. She suggested that it may in part be a matter of scale, being more effective in smaller populations. Noting that pastors can promote peace, she also observed that in some areas they are known to be corrupt, which would diminish their moral authority. She also challenged us to consider how it works when it does, and to pay attention to the emotional influence of ritual performance in maintaining peace. As capitalism becomes stronger in places where Christianity was established first, she challenged us to consider, will wars resurge over money? Second, Polly observed that our papers contradict the popular understanding that tribal peoples are more warlike than others. In fact, war and peace are intertwined in broader exchange patterns as “gifts and blows.” We can emphasize that the societies we study, including their remembered pre-contact past, illustrate that the past of human warfare was not typically a time of violent anarchy. War is not necessarily over resources in our part of the world, but about relationships. Third, Polly noted that the papers rightly stress agency in war-and peacemaking. People respond to incentives and to force in these matters, and we should explicitly describe these processes of individual action and decision-making in making peace happen and stay. Fourth, Polly reminded us that war does solve problems when and where it is resorted to, and we need to understand what these problems are and how people solve them without recourse to war. In light of these themes and our discussions throughout the session, we agreed to revise our papers to address the general theme of how each case provides insight into how war can be abolished and peace sustained indefinitely. We are pursuing publication together as a theme issue of a journal under the title “Ending War and Sustaining Peace: Pacifc Means.”

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

From “Romance” to “Reality”: Representations of Pacific Islands and Islanders Across Time and Space
Session Organizers: Nancy Lutkehaus and Judith Schachter

Our symposium in Portland had nine participants who presented papers and one paper presented in absentia. Participants included Lawrence Carucci (Mont), Maria Lepowsky (Wisc), David Lipset (Minn), Nancy Lutkehaus (USC), Judith Schachter (Carnegie Mellon), Jocelyn Armstrong (UI Champaign-Urbana), Juliana Flinn (Ala), Sarina Pearson (U Auckland), and Bill Heaney (Wisc-Oskosh/Independent Scholar). Guido Pigliasco io (UH Manoa) was unable to attend, but prepared a paper, and Dionne Fonoti has indicated her intention to contribute a paper to the final volume.

Given the diverse media discussed, including film, television, photographs, books, travel literature and other written texts such as websites, and tourist events, there was a variety of themes addressed by the participants. These included:
Temporality: The theme of temporality had several different dimensions to it, including that of disappearance: Pacific Islands and Islanders as exemplars, on the one hand, of timelessness or past worlds lost and, on the other, the islands as disappearing islands, faced by threats of climate change and man-made disasters. Another more overtly evolutionary theme was that of Pacific Islanders as children or “child-like” in comparison to westerners.

Pacific Islanders and “the Savage Slot”: Closely related to the former theme was that of Pacific Islanders being expected to fill a “Savage Slot” in the way they are represented in film, television, and tourist events and in contrast to the images of westerners. When they don’t fit that slot, alternative representations, even when indigenously produced, raise questions of authenticity versus the inauthentic.

Origins of western tropes of Pacific Islanders: Again, closely related to the theme of Pacific Islanders and “the Savage Slot” was the theme of the origins and perpetuation of various other images of Pacific Islanders (as cannibals, as head-hunters, as child-like, etc.) and common tropes, such as descriptions of the “King/Queen” or “Princess” of a particular island or society, in travel literature, film, novels, etc. linked a number of the papers. Given the wide range of historical time periods the papers covered, we also discussed changes in the images of Pacific Islanders over time.

Commercialization of Representations: Discussions of media images raised the theme of the commercialization of representations with regard to audience expectation, whether television or movie viewers or tourists. Do audiences expect certain types of representations of Pacific Islanders, and if so, which images and which audiences?

Indigenous Agency in the Creation of Representations: papers discussed the production and circulation of images of Pacific Islanders by Pacific Islanders themselves, whether online, in film or on television and the use indigenous producers make of common Pacific Islander representations and tropes, whether for political purposes or entertainment.

Other themes included: (1) the relationship between different genres (film, travel literature, memoirs, novels, etc.) and the representations of Pacific Islands and Pacific Islanders; (2) Tourism as the translation of culture for commercial purposes; (3) the use of Pidgin languages as a Pacific Island trope; and (4) sovereignty and nationhood.

We have decided to go ahead with plans to publish the papers in a volume and have asked contributors to have their revised papers to us by September 20, 2012.

Nancy Lutkehaus, Department of Anthropology, USC, Grace Ford Salvatori 126, Los Angeles CA 90089-1692, USA; <lutkehau@usc.edu>
Judith Schachter, Department of History, Carnegie Mellon University, Baker Hall 240, Pittsburgh PA 15213-3890, USA; <jm1e@andrew.cmu.edu>

WORKING SESSIONS

Avoiding Giving
Organizers: Elise Berman

We had an excellent discussion of seven very different and unique perspectives on the role of avoiding. The topics ranged from youthful efforts to avoid giving sex, engaging in *kula* exchanges so as to avoid giving shells to kin, the use of deception and children to avoid giving, Ponzi schemes as examples of extended efforts to avoid giving, social change and the effect it
has had on gift economies, nostalgia for the time when colonial powers prohibited large social exchanges, and Seventh Day Adventist claims that they are “born-again” and thus born out of kinship obligations that would require them to give. The papers included ethnographically rich data from Melanesia, Polynesia, and Micronesia. We plan on continuing in some form next year and would welcome additional contributions. Please contact Elise Berman if you are interested in participating.

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

Engaging with Capitalism
Organizers: Fiona McCormack and Kate Barclay

This session built on a well-attended and lively informal session in Hawai‘i in 2011, and was again well-attended with enthusiastic discussion of the empirical and theoretical issues. We have decided to revise the papers in light of the discussions and submit them as a Special Issue of a journal during 2012. We feel the topics covered in the papers should speak beyond anthropology, and also beyond Oceania, so we are aiming for journals with a broad international readership concerned with issues of economic and human development. George Curry became involved this year and will write a conclusion paper for the Special Issue.

Participants:
- Kate Barclay & Jeff Kinch: Locally Specific Capitalism and Sustainability in Coastal Fisheries
- David Boyd: Negotiating a Local Modernity on the Margins of Capitalism: the Irakia Awa Case
- Steffen Dalsgaard: The Politics of Remittance and the Role of Returning Migrants: Localizing Capitalism in Manus Province, Papua New Guinea
- Toon van Meijl: Neotribal Capitalism in Maori society?
- Edvard Hviding: ‘The Time of Development’: Timber, religion and rural engagements with capitalism in the Western Solomons
- Martha Macintyre & N. Bainton: Business Development in the Context of Mining Projects
- Fiona McCormack: Negotiating Capitalism: Small-scale fishers in New Zealand and Hawaii
- Mark Mosko: Money, Food, Magic and Fame: New Excesses in North Mekeo Commoditization
- Anton Ploeg: Capitalism Among the Me?
- Tim Sharp: Power, Agency and Sociality in the Papua New Guinean Betel Nut Trade
- Malia Talakai: Competing Claims of Ownership in Tonga (discussed in absentia, recorded and sound files sent to author).

Fiona McCormack, Department of Anthropology, University of Hawai‘i, Hilo, 200 W. Kawili Street, HI 96720, USA; tel. (808) 9747472; <fionam@hawaii.edu>
Kate Barclay, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Technology Sydney, P.O. Box 123 Broadway NSW 2007, AUSTRALIA; tel. +61 29514 1579; <Kate.Barclay@uts.edu.au>

Law and Custom in Micronesia
Organizer: Manuel Rauchholz
Discussant: Richard Scaglion

The day-long session was marked by an intense interdisciplinary discussion between anthropologists, lawyers and theologians of diverse ethnic backgrounds. We especially
benefitted from the presence and engaged participation of three Micronesians, Ben Enlet, attorney at law in the FSM and his son Joe, a graduate student at Multnomah University and Zag Puas, attorney at law in the FSM and currently a PhD candidate at ANU in political science on the one hand and the first Chief Justice to the FSM, Edward King, on the other hand. King had been most instrumental and influential in the challenging task of accommodating US transplanted or received law into the context of the various Micronesian island states of Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae with varying traditions and sets of values that at some points might conflict with the constitution of the FSM. Unfortunately Scott Garvey, Attorney General of Pohnpei State, and Madolenihm Municipal Justice Walberg Hadley had to cancel their participation short of notice as did Marston Morgan. Yuping Chen’s paper was read in absentia. Shingo Iitaka of Japan was unable to attend but is planning to participate in 2013. Two more papers are anticipated for next year’s session representing the Marshall Islands, one by a Marshallese lawyer and the other by an anthropologist and we are seeking further engagement and responses to our papers by attorneys and judges in Micronesia. Our special thanks go to the ASAO Board and the donors to the PISF, which generously provided support towards transportation and accommodation of our Micronesian participants. The session participants decided to move ahead to a symposium next year and are expecting more contributions from Micronesia.

Manuel Rauchholz, University of Heidelberg, Institute for Ethnology, Sandgasse 7, 69117 Heidelberg, GERMANY; <rauchholz@eth.uni-heidelberg.de>

Men, Masculinities, and Violence
Organizers: Aletta Biersack, Margaret Jolly, and Martha Macintyre

“Masculinities” was convened as a working session on February 11th. Six papers were given, and there was one formal discussion. Several who had submitted an abstract did not come to the Portland ASAO Meeting, and these are being canvassed to see whether they expect to participate next year. In addition, five others indicated at the February 11th session that they would give a paper next year, and a sixth has since identified himself by email. The organizers feel that, since not all who submitted an abstract were able to participate in the Portland meeting and a significant number of others will be joining us for the first time in 2013, we should have another working session in 2013.

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>

Photographing Pacific Islanders
Organizers: Kathryn Creely and Eric Silverman

After meeting in 2010 and 2011 as an informal session, we came together for a working session in 2012. Eleven papers (ten pre-circulated) were briefly summarized and then discussed, first by an assigned discussant and then by the group as a whole. Along with our 13 participants, there were also about 20 attendees in the audience, many of whom participated in the rich discussion. In 2013 we will meet for a symposium, with invited outside discussants. Final
papers are due by November 1, 2012. Our goal is to move forward to a publication that can include numerous black and white and also color photographs, perhaps with ANU EPress. Themes which emerged in this session include:

- sharing/repatriation of photographs with local communities and wider audiences through sharing prints and digitizing/internet access;
- valuations/uses/interpretations of photographs in Pacific Islander communities;
- old and new practices of Pacific Islander photographers (personal, professional, artistic), including social media;
- re/interpretation/description of colonial photographs (gaze, emotion, empathy, indigenous agency, eliding modernity, racism/exoticism, imperialism, framing for publication);
- representing movement, temporality, place, social contexts

Kathryn Creely, Melanesian Archive, Geisel Library 0175-R, 9500 Gilman Drive, University of California San Diego, La Jolla CA 92093-0175, USA; <kcreely@ucsd.edu>
Eric Silverman, Department of American Studies, Wheelock College, 200 The Riverway, Boston MA 02215, USA; <esilverman@wheelock.edu>

Spatial Orientation
Organizers: Alex Mawyer and Richard Feinberg

This year, about a dozen participants gathered to discuss eight ethnographically robust papers on spatial orientation and the problem of ambiguity. We were pleased to note the geographical range of the papers as well as the breadth of their topical coverage. The contributions drew attention to themes of way-finding, environmental-spatial cognition (e.g., wind compasses), frames of reference, spatial symbolism and political structure, spatial metaphysics and cosmology, and performance spaces in terms of the formal and informal ambiguities in or ambivalences about spatial orientation. This focus on uncertain or ‘fuzzy’ cognition, we felt, offers a timely and significant conversation within Pacific anthropology. Although we felt the papers were individually very fine and could be sent off for publication without much revision, there was a unanimous agreement on the goal of pursuing collective publication either as a special issue of an appropriate journal or edited volume. Those who presented work in the session include: Brenda Boerger, Rick Feinberg, Joe Genz, Alex Mawyer, Susan Montague, Cathy Pyrek, Katharina Schneider, Micah Van der Ryn, and discussant John Huth.

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

INFORMAL SESSIONS

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

In our initial session we began a stimulating and productive discussion on the theorization and illustration of mimesis in the context of transcultural encounters. Our “informal” session turned out to be quite a formal one since we had seven paper presentations. Following Jeanette
Mageo’s introduction on a broadened concept of mimesis, Joyce D. Hammond, Andrew Connelly, Jeannette Mageo, Tate Le Fevre, Tom Ryan and Elfriede Hermann presented ethnographic case studies. Other attendees expressed their interest in joining the session and engaged in the discussion. From our exchange several common themes emerged: (1) the importance of mimetic “conversations” in transcultural encounters; (2) the presence of specific perspectives of all parties involved; (3) the impact of history and power relationships on mimetic processes; (4) the existence of various layers of mimesis; (5) the relations between the imagery and mimesis; (6) the significance of sensuality, emotionality, performativity and embodiment in mimetic processes; (7) mimesis and the signification of similarity and difference; (8) the relevance of authorship, control and agency in mimesis; (9) the potential of mimesis for transculturation and cultural transformation. We agreed that we will proceed to a working session next year, provided that we will have a minimum of seven participants presenting papers in person. People who would like to join us for a working session are kindly asked to contact Jeannette Mageo and Elfriede Hermann. Please send us your abstract by October 1, 2012, and plan to have your paper ready for pre-circulation by January 11, 2013.

| Jeannette Mageo, Anthropology Department 664910, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington 99164-4910, USA; <jmageo@wsu.edu> |
| Elfriede Hermann, Institut für Ethnologie, Universität Göttingen, Theaterplatz 15, 37073 Göttingen, GERMANY; <Elfriede.Hermann@sowi.uni-goettingen.de> |
| Deborah Gewertz, Amherst College, Amherst, MA 01002, USA; <dbgewertz@amherst.edu> |

**Naming Systems and Naming Relations in Austronesia/Oceania**

**Organizers:** Ku Kun-hui and Lamont Lindstrom  
**Discussant:** Dan Jorgensen

Fourteen people attended the Naming session on Friday morning and nine of these agreed to commit to the working session next year. The session started with the presentations by those who signed up on the program before October 2011, except for Professor Jay Crain who was absent due to health issues. The presentations ranged from sketches of ideas to semi-formulated papers in various ethnographic settings. These were enriched by observations from those in the audience who also had personal experiences with local names, naming practices and the social obligations that came with them. The topics include the following: nomination and social reproduction/social structure; naming and personal transformation; ancestral names and identity; naming practices and changing identity; names and personhood; names and socio-cultural values. Discussion also included how theories of names and naming can engage in vital topics in the Pacific (e.g., adoption, siblingship, house society and names in diasporic settings etc). We continue to invite interested parties to submit a ten-page draft paper to organizers by **August 1, 2012** for inclusion in the September newsletter.

| Kun-hui Ku, National Tsing Hua University, Institute of Anthropology, No. 101, Sec.II, Kuang-fu Rd. Hsin-chu, 30013 TAIWAN, tel. 886-35742827, <knhui.ku@gmail.com> |
| Lamont Lindstrom, University of Tulsa, Department of Anthropology, 800 South Tucker Drive, Tulsa OK, USA; tel. (918) 631-2348, <lamont-lindstrom@tulsa.edu> |
| Dan Jorgensen, University of Western Ontario, Department of Anthropology, University of Western Ontario, London, ON Canada N6A 5C2, tel: 519-661-3430; <dwj@uwo.ca> |
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, conservations, and development projects? What is the relationship between scientific and indigenous knowledge? Whose natures are revealed, and alternatively concealed, in the final work?

During our informal session in Portland, we had nineteen people attend what was very productive discussion of these and other questions. Next year we will be going forward to a working session. Participants so far include Jaime Lynne Bach, Joshua Bell, Jamon Halvaksz, Edvard Hviding, Maria Lepowsky, Lamont Lindstrom, Carlos Mondragon, Mark Mulder, Richard Scaglion, and Paige West. Of course we welcome new participants, please contact the organizers as soon as possible. Titles and abstracts will be due by October 15th. Papers will be due for precirculation by January 15th.

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

We deeply regretted Aunchalee’s absence at the last minute due to family sickness, but she came in clearly and participated fully through Skype, as did Sue Wurtzburg from Hawaii. Unfortunately Jessica could not get through from American Samoa but we had her paper as she expected difficulties. Thus we had 7 great papers, and three participants in the room. Chelsea was most helpful in managing all the technology and keeping Aunchalee and Sue on screen to add their comments on the papers. The papers addressed the social contexts of obesity as cultural consonance, while discussing bio-medical or cultural-biological or ecological models in an obesogenic environment. Experiences of obesity through stages in the life course (Aunchalee) were addressed by each of the participants, covering both under and over-nutrition with developmental implications (Chelsea). Ashleigh’s paper addressed the phenomenon of siksuka in Vanuatu, while Tom’s paper looked at obesity for Solomon Island soccer players, and Susan’s contribution addressed tradition and modernity in relation to body images in Hawaiian Pacific island communities. Nancy’s paper brought the discussion to Obesity as a ‘pandemic’ today, and how best to manage interventions, particularly amongst student populations, in both northern and southern Pacific communities.
All contributors will update their papers with field data, or refinements for a working session in 2013. We welcome new participants.

Aunchalee Palmquist, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Elon University, Elon, NC, USA; <apalmquist@elon.edu>
Nancy Pollock, Departments of Anthropology and Development Studies (retired), Victoria University of Wellington, NEW ZEALAND; <nancy_pollock@paradise.net.nz>

The Pacific and Judaism
Organizers: Terry Brown and Lynda Newland

In its second year of development, the session was kept informal this year, but with a refined and narrowed focus that read as follows:

At least anecdotally, it is clear that many Pacific Islands Christians relate more sympathetically with the Old Testament than the New Testament of Christian Scripture. This informal session will look at various aspects of this phenomena, including early translation of Old Testament narratives into Pacific languages; Pacific people’s appropriation of Old Testament cultural and religious practices as their own; Pacific people’s appropriation of the Old Testament Jewish identity as their own (either regarding themselves as Jews or to re-affirm local identities) through the linkage of the OT and local genealogies and voyage narratives from Israel; hostility to key aspects of New Testament teaching with an affirmation of the contrasting OT view (e.g., retribution over forgiveness, law over freedom, etc); and possible reasons for this preference for the Old Testament, including a comfort with the holistic aspect of OT Jewish thought and a discomfort with the dualist Hellenist world of the New Testament. This session is intended to contribute to ongoing work on the anthropology of Christianity.

During the course of the day, there were 10 presentations which varied from a discussion of initial ideas to publishable papers. The presenters were: Alison Dundon, Terry Brown, Eric Silverman, John Cox, Lynda Newland, Courtney Handman, Jordan Haug, David Troolin, John Barker, Wendy Cowling (in absentia). Others attending included: Brenda Boerger, Alison Jablonko, Matt Riding, Jacob Nerenberg. Other potential participants who could not make it this year included Alex Golub, Christine Jourdan, Anton Ploeg, Ben Wate, Jaap Timmer, and Lise Dobrin.

The plan for next year is to hold a Working Session, having further narrowed the focus to the following three themes with the aim of producing a publication:

a) re-territorialisation: the relocation of Biblical geography to local sites
b) ethno-nationalism: the identity of being Jewish is based on ethnicity as is the identity of being Melanesian. To what extent do these correspond? What are the other attractions of Zionism for Melanesians?
c) the encounter: the Melanesian identification with the Old Testament is not just about local identities but is based on an engagement with global discourses and the particularities of the encounter, both historically and in the present.

Before the next ASAO meeting, we ask people to further focus their papers in relation to one of these three themes.

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>
Reclaiming Hope
Organizers: Eben Kirksey and Tate LeFevre

The informal session “Reclaiming Hope” was the site of a lively discussion orbiting around a series of interrelated questions: What freedom dreams and figures of hope populate the political imaginary of the Pacific? What strategies are being deployed in Oceania for entering and exiting from global entanglements? How are different imaginings about the future generating new sorts of persons, social relations, and political and cultural formations? In addition to short presentations by Jacob Nerenberg, Eben Kirksey, Tate LeFevre, and Lamont Lindstrom – we had a lively presentation from Alex Mawyer. Our discussion was digitally recorded and we intend to publish a summary of our discussion on an anthropological website.

Eben Kirksey, Visiting Assistant Professor and Mellon Fellow, Science Studies, Room 5109, CUNY Graduate Center, 365 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016-4309, USA; tel. + 1 212-817-7094, cell +1 831-600-5937; <http://ebenkirsksey.blogspot.com/>;
<eben.kirksey@gmail.com>
Tate LeFevre, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Anthropology, New York University, 25 Waverly Place, New York NY 10003, USA; tel. +1 845-807-7112;
<tlefevre@gmail.com>

Refashioning the Body: Building Critical Theory across the Pacific
Organizers: Lisa Uperesa 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 returned to, and drew on, historic conversations about bodies and adornment in anthropology, but we did 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 worked 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.

We had an excellent session with twenty-five people in attendance. Fourteen of those in attendance will move forward with us to a working session next year. The session began with all of last year’s participants giving a ten-minute presentation about their work and how they have been developing their papers over the past year. Next, new session participants gave five to ten minute descriptions of their work. We then had a formal discussion session where we developed a set of themes that we will use to guide our work together forward. The papers and discussion centered on the following themes: bodies, adornment, and mortality; reading bodies/legibility and bodies; body sovereignty, bodily transformations, and images of bodies; bodies and temporality. Out of these themes we agreed to focus our written papers for next year on:

1. Refashioning (changing/transforming) the body for socio-cultural, political, personal, and economic reasons.
2. Understanding and critiquing the assumed fixity of bodies.
3. Reading bodies, past, present, and future.
4. The fluidity of categories of the body.
Next year we will convene a working session. We have the commitment for participation from fourteen people. Between now and February we will all read a shared set of readings and discuss them on a Google docs page.

Paige West, Anthropology Department, Barnard College and Columbia University, 3009 Broadway, New York City, NY 10027, USA; tel. (212) 854-9389, fax (212) 854-3332; <cw2031@columbia.edu>
Lisa Uperesa, Departments of Sociology Ethnic Studies, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, 2560 Campus Road, George Hall 304, Honolulu, HI, 96822, USA; tel.808-956-5354; fax: 808-956-9494; <lisa.uperesa@hawaii.edu>, <uperesa@gmail.com>

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

Our group continued as an informal session for the second year in a row due to smaller numbers of confirmed participants. Five participants presented their research, including Dr. Unaisi Nabobo-Baba, one of the 2012 Pacific Island Scholars Fund recipients. After listening to confirmed participants’ presentations and answering specific questions about each project, we opened the discussion to talk about possible connections between our research and possible future directions. Our session builds on the foundation of the original work done on siblingship in Oceania in the 1970s and 1980s. Significant new directions taken include explorations into the effects of transnational movement and rural-urban migrations on sibling ties. We had significant research contributions from the Polynesian and Melanesian regions, but hope to attract a few more contributions from Micronesia. We have decided to move to a working session for the 2012 meetings based on tentative commitments from additional participants, and we are currently exploring possibilities of submitting material for a special journal issue or an edited volume in the future.

Mary K. Good, Ph.D. Candidate, School of Anthropology, University of Arizona, 1009 E. South Campus Dr, Tucson, AZ 85721-0030 USA; tel. 520-975-6197; <mkgood@email.arizona.edu>
Simmone Pauwels, CREDO, Maison Asie Pacifique, 3 Place Victor Hugo, 13003 Marseille, FRANCE; tel. +33(0) 4 91 10 61 19; <SIMONNE@pacific-credo.fr>

**Small Islands in Peril**
Organizers: Colin Filer and Simon Foale

The session was well attended (about 20-25 people) with a good geographical spread of expertise. Colin introduced the session with some history of the original SMIP project, and Simon gave some case studies from Milne Bay and Tikopia to illustrate the political ecology and political economy issues that were central to the original project.

We now plan to move to a working session and will circulate a manifesto shortly as a guide for pre-circulated papers. We will also compile a preliminary ‘taxonomy’ of SMIPs using demography data that we hope to extract from SPC. Key thematic threads include:

1. How the society-environment relationship on small islands changes over various time frames (including pre-historic) and how social and economic changes at various geographic scales, from local to global, have affected this relationship. How does this help us think about options, strategies, thresholds and scenarios?
2. The extent to which islands are not really islands but nodes in economic, social and political networks, and how society-environment changes affect the functioning of these networks. Is isolation from the network the main factor implicated in the imperilment of islands?

3. How is traditional environmental and cultural knowledge affected by the observed changes in society-environment relationships?


5. While not losing sight of political economy (e.g. prices of rice, fuel, and copra) studies of small islands should also avoid the assumption of rational economic behaviour as an adaptive response. Changes to the viability of remittance economies add further complexity to interpretations of local economic strategies on small islands.

Informal session participants who may be interested in being part of the working session: Zag Puas, Michael French Smith, Kathleen Barlow, Jaime Bach, Ingrid Ahlgren, Fred Damon, Carlos Mondragon, Sergio Jarillo de la Torre, Andrew Connelly, Ana Diaz, Toon van Meijl, Tim Sharp, George Curry, Elfriede Hermann, Nancy Pollock, Edvard Hviding, Kate Barclay. Others we would like to join us include Rick Feinberg, Katharina Schneider, Steffen Dalsgaard, Paige West, and Martha Macintyre.

Anyone interested in participating should contact us by the end of June 2012.

Colin Filer, Convenor, Resource Management in Asia-Pacific Program, Crawford School of Economics and Government, Coombs Building, Fellows Road, The Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200, AUSTRALIA; tel. +61 2-6125-3039, fax: +61 2-6125-1635, <colin.filer@anu.edu.au>

Simon Foale, Principal Research Fellow, ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, Building DB44, James Cook University, Townsville, Queensland 4811, AUSTRALIA; tel. +61 7-4781-6785 or +61-7-4781-4714; fax +61 7-4781-6722; <simon.foale@icu.edu.au>

Value in Motion: (E)motions of Exchange
Organizers: Susanne Kuehling and Katharina Schneider

We had a very productive session with six presentations and long discussions on how people prioritize certain aspects of the material and immaterial world; how they define what they deem worth striving for as well as what they regard as less relevant. Thinking about the ethnographically specific factors that characterize such value negotiation in our field sites includes considerations of value based on movements in time and space, emotions or rhetorical formulas, and constructions of age and gender. We started out by suggesting that attention to emotions and other inner states on the one hand, and to the observable movements of persons and things on the other might help us understand value better. Topics in the session included the value of precious people, objects, and animals; empowering actions of give-and-take; and discourses on moral and economic value. These, we believe, may serve as doors into the field of local contexts and priorities, hopefully leading towards a better understanding of more general principles of economic and political actions. Papers in the session discussed:

- motions and emotions of kula exchange
- firstborn/mortuary ceremonies in Bariai, West New Britain
- silent suffering of women and the value of pain in Goroka
• types of exchange and kin categories in the Trobriand Islands
• problems with Sahlins' idea of a correlation between social distance and reciprocity
• movements as a way of creating value and making it visible in Buka

We have decided to proceed to a working session in 2013 and will begin to circulate drafts over the summer. Four participants could not make it to the meeting, but will continue to be in the loop. Papers include so far:

Petra M. Autio: The Value of 'independence/freedom' and Refusing Food in Tabiteuea, Southern Kiribati
Linus S. Digim 'Rina: An Edict on Trobriand Funerary Rites and Sagali
Susanne Kuehling: Kula: Motions and Emotions of Exchange
Michelle MacCarthy: The Value of Dance in the Trobriand Islands
Naomi McPherson: Reproducing Elements of Value: The Firstborn and Exchange in Bariai, West New Britain
Susan Montague: Negotiating Trobriand Exchange: The Need to Begin with Kinds of Exchange
Martin Orans: Classifying the Flow of Valuables
Jennifer Peachey: ‘A scar is left inside me’: Compensation and emotional pain in Goroka town, Eastern Highlands, Papua New Guinea
Katharina Schneider: Value Creation on Shifting Ground
Anke Tonnaer: Shooting Value: Photography as a Shared Performance in Touristic Encounters in Indigenous Australia

VI. NEW SESSION PROPOSALS

Ethnographic Presence: Fieldwork in Oceania c. 1965 to 1995
Organizer: William Heaney

First, I would like to thank all of you who made comments on my draft proposal for a session on “Fieldwork in Oceania” at next year’s ASAO meeting. Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi has agreed to be my co-organizer and to take a more active role when she returns from the field in June. My revised proposal is for a working session, “Ethnographic Presence: Fieldwork in Oceania c. 1965 to 1995” that builds upon our apical ancestors’ papers in Terry Hays’ marvelous book, Ethnographic Presents and explores in candid descriptions and analyses what “those of a certain age among us” experienced during our first, and subsequent, visits to the field during the period between 1960/65 and 1990/95. Originally, I thought that Melanesia or the New Guinea Highlands would provide a relatively cohesive geographic area, following Terry Hays’ EP. Now, however, I believe a better approach, at least at the outset, would be to keep the project’s boundaries much looser in terms of geographic/cultural areas and the participants' areas of concentration. Researchers from many disciplines besides anthropology (archeology, economics, human and bio geography, history and pre-history, linguistics, political science...) completed important work during this period, and cross fertilization from different disciplines, if not too unwieldy, would broaden and improve the project’s overall “scientific” contributions. That being said, in practical terms the boundaries would depend largely upon who shows interest in the project, and the area(s) could multiply well beyond Melanesia.
Another important practical matter is that we "of a certain age" are not growing any younger, and it could be a real question whether there will be enough live bodies around willing to take a stab at it! But the project's value for the locales involved (aside from the very real benefit to our colleagues and future students -- both those from the host countries and visitors like many of us -- as Marie Reay's essay in *EP* was to me) is that our reflections would shed light upon a period that overlapped very abrupt and critical changes in the island Pacific and within the newly-independent countries where we worked. Another reason for doing this, although perhaps less important to our former hosts, is the value to be gained by describing the changes that occurred (or were perceived to) in various disciplines' theoretical/methodological orientations, changes that may (or may not) have affected our fieldwork experiences as well as their results. Also important, it could provide an opportunity for our hosts, wherever possible, to describe what their experience having us in their homes and communities meant to them. One prominent example is how the Telefol told Dan Jorgensen they wanted him to write down everything they told him about their religion and *maski* warfare, the topic he had intended to do. The rest is history.

If you are interested, please email me a few short paragraphs, or outline, re what inspires you about the topic, by **July 1**. Depending upon your responses, I will ask you for more detail and/or volume, due well before November, 2012.

William Heaney; tel. 910-216-9619; <heaneybvd@aol.com>

Malinowski Centennial Symposium, 2015: Preliminary Planning Session and Expressions of Interest

Organizers: Michelle MacCarthy and Sergio Jarillo de la Torre

The Massim region of Papua New Guinea has exerted a considerable influence on the disciple of social/cultural anthropology as it has developed over the past century. This is due in no small part to the work of Bronislaw Malinowski who arrived in the Trobriand Islands in May 1915. His work put the Trobriand Islands and the Massim region on the anthropological map, leading the way for countless other ethnographers to the islands of Milne Bay Province in the 100 years since, and the influence of this area on anthropological practice and theory has not diminished. In 2015, we wish to commemorate this important centennial and the role of the Massim region as a “sacred place” in anthropology by hosting a 4-5 day symposium, bringing together a number of scholars who have carried out ethnographic fieldwork in the area, and/or have used this literature to make significant contributions to anthropological theory. Specifically, we wish to focus our attentions on themes that reflect both the deep history and current realities of social change in the Massim region. Overall, we feel that it would be best to posit the creation and circulation of a Massim-based ethnographic knowledge as a communal assemblage of perspectives and projections. An overarching theme for the symposium could exemplify the extent to which Malinowski and anthropology "created" the Massim as much as the Massim created anthropology and Malinowski. Yet not to reduce the conference to a diachronic study of historical themes on (and from) the Massim, we would like to open it up to recent developments and future issues involving the area. Ideally, we would have a series of papers that would tease out the consequences of looking at the same place from different perspectives: for instance, colonial/postcolonial globalization vs. locally driven translocalism, anthropologically received or traditional knowledge vs. new re-elaborations of indigenous expertise, idealized Western projections of immaterial culture vs. embodied local aspirations.

At the 2013 ASAO meetings, we invite those who are interested in participating in this event to circulate ideas for panels, sessions, or themes that have the potential to create engaging and stimulating avenues for discussion and debate. This will be a springboard for developing the symposium programme, and putting together a list of participants for what we are certain will
prove a fruitful and productive event in 2015. We welcome input from our colleagues in further developing a series of sessions that will expand on some of these ideas. The symposium will be held in Alotau, Milne Bay Province.

Michelle MacCarthy, Department of Anthropology, Private Bag 92019, University of Auckland, Auckland 1142 NEW ZEALAND; tel. +6422 079 9037; <mmaccarthy@yahoo.com>
Sergio Jarillo de la Torre, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge, Darwin College, Silver Street CB3 9EU, Cambridge, UK; <sj323@cam.ac.uk>

Maternal and Reproductive Health
Organizer: Naomi McPherson

This impromptu informal session was prompted by a report sent to the listserv (Dec 2/2011) entitled Crisis in Maternal Health in PNG. The report suggested that maternal health in rural areas of PNG was not supported (financially or with qualified personnel) and was undersupplied (if supplied at all); that maternal mortality rates in PNG average 250 deaths per 100,000 pregnancies (compared to the lowest in the world for Canada and Norway at 5, the USA 13, or Mexico 110 per 100,000). Added to this is the fact that the Millennium Development Goals are to be accomplished by 2015 and it is obvious that MDG 5, to “Improve Maternal Health,” won’t meet the deadline. The apparently deplorable state of maternal (and child) health in PNG is attributed to the failing health care system, decades of neglect (I would say to trained personnel, infrastructure, and rural clinics generally) and remote mountain topography. This latter comment does not seem to include island and coastal communities where access is relatively easy but also does not happen due to lack of transport. The session brought together seventeen people who contributed to a lively discussion of the current issues pertaining to Maternal and Reproductive Health in Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, Fiji and the Marshall Islands. We are planning on continuing in San Antonio 2013 as a working session to explore a number of issues affecting maternal health in rural and urban areas: transportation and infrastructure; the MDGs; contributing factors such as diabetes, malaria, STIs, HIVs and AIDS that impair women’s immune systems and impact on pregnancy, and delivery; issues of contemporary polygyny, single women and teen pregnancies; and, where are the men, husbands and fathers, in all this? Anyone wishing to participate should contact the organizer, Naomi McPherson for due dates.

Naomi McPherson, Community, Culture and Global Studies, University of British Columbia – Okanagan, Kelowna BC CANADA V1V 1V7; tel. +1-250-807-9325; <Naomi.mcpherson@UBC.ca>

New Food: Cultural Consequences of Dietary Change in the Pacific
Organizer: Ryan Schram

Food, whether in the garden, presented at a feast, purchased in the trade store, or served on the mat, is perhaps the most important medium of social relationships in many Pacific societies. Ethnographies of Pacific societies in many ways turn out to be ethnographies of food and eating because the foodways of this region offer perspectives on the organization of society, cultural ideas about personhood, health, the body and relationships, and the way societies classify, value and adapt to their natural environment. Over the history of anthropology’s engagement with the Pacific, these foodways and ideas about food have been changing along with new subsistence practices, technologies, crops, and imported foods. Also, Pacific environments have been subject to increasing stress and struggle in the midst of a global
ecological crisis. Today everyone in the Pacific is eating new food. Can new food open a perspective on social and cultural transformations in general?

This informal session attempts to bring into dialogue scholars working on four different topics dealing with food: (1) the cultural meanings of food; (2) the changing economic and social values of food; (3) the factors influencing health, diet and nutrition; (4) the consequences of environmental degradation. These topics have usually been treated separately. We will explore their interconnections. What are the cultural consequences for changes in the environment, innovations in subsistence practices, the loss of traditional crops, and adoption of packaged, processed commodity foods? How do people’s shifting attitudes toward food and its cultural and nutritional values play into changes in subsistence regimes? What are the prospects for food security and food sovereignty in the future for the region’s rural and urban residents? The organizer invites all those interested in participating in this dialogue to register their interest by **October 20, 2012** and attend the informal session at the 2013 meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

Participants will be asked to select one "new food"—a specific change in the diet—they wish to document ethnographically and give a 5-10 minute presentation on their topic, drawing special attention to the causes and consequences of new food, and its implications for thinking about different kinds of social change. Some possible "new foods" are:

- The shift away from traditional crops such as taro
- Changing values of prestige crops such as yams
- The adoption or increasing reliance on new crops such as sweet potato and cassava
- Rice, tinned meat, and other commodity foods
- Deep-sea fishing
- Ethnic cuisine, or food as resource for stereotypy
- Agricultural innovation, i.e. new technologies, practices, patterns of work
- New meals, e.g. school lunches, church picnics
- Household strategies in stressed, marginal or limited environments
- Market gardens
- Non-nutritive consumption items, e.g. buai, tobacco, coffee
- Hunger and food insecurity

Partial Bibliography:*


* This is merely the beginning of a reading list for the session. Suggestions are welcome.

Ryan Schram, University of Sydney; <ryan.schram@sydney.edu.au>
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.

An informal session was held in 2011 and 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. These include 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 were unable to convene the session in 2012; however we welcome new participants to the 2013 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.

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>

The Social Life of Rivers
Organizer: John Wagner

Sixteen people attended this impromptu session in Portland. We discussed a wide range of topics and issues pertaining to rivers and bodies of fresh water more generally. A majority of participants spoke to research interests in Melanesia but all Pacific Island regions were represented and we hope to retain this broad base of interest as we move forward. Fourteen people have expressed a willingness to move forward next year to a working session. Important themes that emerged during this first session can be organized under “flows” (movement of people and other species, goods, nutrients, pollution and other substances within rivers and fresh water systems), “crossings” (of water bodies as borders or sites of physical or metaphysical danger), “power” in both symbolic and material terms (bodies of water as places of origin of life or clan identities, or as the source of hydroelectric power), and “sociality” (water bodies as gathering places). We have decided to embrace this broad range of perspectives in our first working session, in 2013, and to determine at the end of that session whether we need to move towards a more focused approach for a subsequent publication. Those expressing an interest in submitting a paper for our 2013 session include: Richard Scaglion, Toon van Meijl,
Fiona McCormack, Carlos Mondragon, Kathleen Barlow, Simon Foale, Roger Lohmann, Joshua Bell, Jamon Halvaksz, Paige West, Edvard Hviding, Colin Filer, Eric Silverman, and John Wagner. We are open to accepting additional participants. Please contact John Wagner for further information. Abstracts are due by October 15. The deadline for submission of papers is January 15.

John Wagner, Cultural Anthropology Program, Community, Culture and Global Studies, Arts Building Room 273, 3333 University Way, University of British Columbia – Okanagan, Kelowna, BC, CANADA; tel. 250-807-9313; <john.wagner@ubc.ca>

VII. OFFICER REPORTS

1. PROGRAM COORDINATOR’S ANNUAL REPORT

Program: This year’s program included two symposia, six working sessions, and ten informal sessions for a total of 18 sessions. There were 22 sessions in Honolulu; sixteen sessions planned for Alexandria and fifteen sessions held in Santa Cruz. We are therefore up three from 2009’s west coast meeting. We also had several impromptu sessions that are set to become regular sessions at next year’s meeting in San Antonio. I have gathered together the reports on these sessions along with new session proposals in my contribution to this newsletter.

Special Events – This year we had our usual evening events as well as a new event – Initiation into ASAO/luncheon. Up to now the deadline for notifying the program coordinator of a special event has been November 1. I suggested to the Board that we change that date to October 1 as special events often require more time to organize and approve the special times, rooms and costs. This was approved by the Board. Since there is a limited amount of time for special events, outside of the hours we set aside for sessions, anyone contemplating proposing such an event would do well to get their proposals in early to me, well before October 1. It is also best to remember that only rarely do we meet at universities which generally have more flexibility with room use (hotels book their special rooms up months, sometimes even a year in advance). So there are always more good ideas than we can accommodate, unfortunately.

AV support – Hotels charge heavy fees for screens, power patches, Skype etc. For this reason, we do not ordinarily pay for such AV, including powerpoint, because the price of registration then skyrockets (or we swallow the losses, as we did in Honolulu with some organizers paying for Skype out of their own pockets and others requesting screens, etc which in the end they did not use or pay for). The cost of AV is now a consideration when the site coordinator considers locations for our meeting. Sometimes deals can be made, sometimes not. The only AV we supported at the Benson Hotel (which charged exorbitant AV costs) was for the plenary sessions and distinguished lecturer. Currently, all AV requests should be sent through the program coordinator to the hotel by November 1. Any foreseeable AV requests for proposed special events should be sent to be to me by October 1 (or before) so that the Board can act upon both the proposal and the AV requests.

Session organizers meeting – Instead of printing hundreds of pages and handing out detailed lists and handouts to session organizers that are included in newsletters and online (in the pre-internet past they were not), I commenced a new green policy by handing out one short list of important due dates and email/web addresses at the session organizers meeting before the opening plenary.
Another old tradition I dispensed with was the time-honored request that symposia organizers send the program coordinator the first and last pages of completed papers. In the old days this saved stamps. Now, the whole papers can be sent digitally. I have no need to print them out; just check to see that all symposia papers are ready for the meeting and a session can continue to be called a “symposia”.

Another timing question/change: There have been requests for the meeting schedule to be available sooner than December. Currently December 1 is the due date for the program coordinator to send in the program to the Newsletter Editor. It would, however, be possible for me to have a list of session titles and times they will be held done by November 21 (this does not include the lists of participants and abstracts and other descriptive matter that I publish in the December newsletter). If I am able to do this, I will send such a list to Alan Howard to post on asao.org. My purpose would be to give members a few more days – ten to be exact – to make their travel arrangements. Organizing the program and then putting together the program notes etc. takes quite a bit of time, so this is the best I can do.

Book Display: David Troolin has taken over the task of organizing the book display and the Board has designated him as our new Book Display Coordinator. I want to thank David for taking over this task (and doing such a good job) as it allowed me to have more time to focus on other program coordinator tasks and to better enjoy the Portland Meeting. One task related to the book display still remains a responsibility of the program coordinator and that is getting volunteers for both book display and registration desk.

I will be retiring as Program Coordinator at the end of the 2013 meeting, having at that point organized four ASAO meetings (Alexandria, Honolulu, Portland and San Antonio). I want to express my deepest appreciation to Alex Mawyer for agreeing to take on the job at that point and will be cc’ing him in much of my ASAO program coordinator correspondence this coming year so he can learn the ropes (and think of a few changes and improvements himself). Respectfully submitted,

Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi

2. SITE COORDINATOR’S REPORT

The 2012 ASAO annual meeting was held at the Benson Hotel in Portland, Oregon the week of February 8-11. The hotel lived up to its reputation as a “classic.” The setting was elegant, with lots of Siberian cedar and Italian marble. The service was gracious and accommodating as we worked out way through the days of the meetings. Our thanks to the staff at the Benson for a great setting for our meeting.

The 2013 ASAO Annual Meeting will be held at the St. Anthony Riverwalk Wyndham Hotel in San Antonio, Texas (300 East Travis Street). The hotel is one block off the famous Riverwalk in the middle of San Antonio. The dates for the general meeting are Wednesday February 6th through Saturday February 9th, 2013. The St. Anthony Riverwalk Wyndham Hotel has 452 guest rooms and 22 meeting rooms. Our special ASAO rate for guest rooms will be $109.00 single and $129.00 double (plus 16.75% tax). These prices will be available three days prior to and three days after the meeting dates. We will receive complimentary WiFi internet access in the guest rooms and in the meeting rooms. Shuttle service to and from San Antonio International Airport is $18 each way. Taxi service to and from the airport is $25 each way. Details for making reservations will be provided in the next ASAO Newsletter.

Mike Rynkiewich
3. Distinguished Lecture Series Report

In 2009, the ASAO Board negotiated an agreement with Oceania to publish our annual Distinguished Lecture in its November issue. The previous Special Publication series was discontinued. Distinguished Lecturer Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwo'ole Osorio’s 2011 presentation, “All Things Depending: Renewing Interdependence in Oceania,” has appeared in Oceania 81:297-301. This is the third such ASAO Distinguished Lecture to be featured in Oceania furthering a series that we hope will continue. Polly Wiessner, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Utah, delivered the 2012 Distinguished Lecture at the Portland meetings—this a fascinating presentation entitled “Carrying Culture Beyond Bilas: The Enga Tradition and Transition Centre” about the establishment of an Enga Cultural Center in Wabag and she generously fielded a range of questions afterwards.

No expenditures were made this year from the Distinguished Lecture account and just over $7851.00 remains available to support future lectures. ASAO now covers travel expenses for Distinguished Lecturers, as needed, in addition to the modest honorarium that each currently receives.

Lamont Lindstrom

4. Secretary’s Report

2011-2012 is my first solo year as Secretary and has been both rewarding and challenging. I have tried to go through the ropes on my own and have largely learnt to cope with the various tasks subsumed under the office of the Secretary. Apart from the regular tasks on the to-do list I have been mostly occupied with revising a summary of Board decisions from 1996 and onwards, a time-consuming piece of work but rewarding in terms of learning of the associations past. I am happy to say that these will be ready for deposit online in the ASAO archives in the Spring, 2012.

Routine tasks
1. Responded to inquiries from members and non-members
2. Sent letters of appreciation to major donors to Pacific Island Scholars Fund
3. Prepared minutes from the 2011 meeting and opening and closing plenaries
4. Prepared draft minutes for review by board members and officers and an approved version for distribution and deposit in archives
5. Compiled copies of bylaws and minutes of past board meetings for distribution to new board members and officers
6. Prepared certificate for presentation/mailing to newly elected honorary fellow
7. Invited and processed submission for recognition of edited volumes/special journal issues resulting from ASAO sessions as ASAO publications
8. Informed contributors to newly recognised ASAO publications of their change of status to fellow
9. Maintained file of board discussions and decisions (by email) between 2011 and 2012 meetings
10. Prepared draft summaries for review by board members and approved version for distribution and deposit in archives
11. Prepared agenda for 2012 board meeting

I will give my thanks to Chair Roger Lohman, past chair Joshua Bell, and chair elect Edvard Hviding for advice and support in this rookie year and to other members of the board and officers that helped me with my inquiries. I will also give a special thanks to former Secretary
Jocelyn Armstrong who has provided help also this year and also Jan Rensel for easing my transition into Secretary

Respectfully,
Cato Berg

5. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

In 2011, the organization had 229 paid members—down from 291 in 2010. Institutional memberships were down from 19 in 2010, and 25 in 2009.

The regional representation of the paid membership in 2011 consisted of:

125 North America
33 Europe
18 Pacific Islands
24 Australia/New Zealand
7 Other (China 2, Japan 2, Taiwan 3)

The 2011 annual meeting was held in Honolulu, Hawaii—always a venue that draws a large attendance. We had 197 people present.

The new PayPal system of payment is a huge success, at least to the extent that I can judge. One issue is that some payments come to me, not to the Treasurer. We need to emphasize that folks need to either send everything to the Treasurer, who will then forward paid forms to me, or folks need simultaneously to email their form and the PayPal receipt to myself and the Treasurer.

Last, I note that as of this date (February 6), we have a total of 128 paid memberships for 2012. I do observe that sending out individualized renewal forms does increase our membership. Unfortunately, I was not able yet to do this to everybody given constraints on my time. It is a long, tedious process—the mind wanders, the fingers cramp.

The Membership Coordinator is an intermittently time-consuming task—entering information into the membership database, sending and receiving registration forms, and so forth. Alas, 2012 must be my final year. Alan Howard will be taking over the responsibilities going forward.

Eric Silverman

6. NEWSLETTER EDITOR’S REPORT

My thanks to the board and officers for continued support; with special thanks to Eric Silverman and Laura Tamakoshi for their help in the editing and distribution of each issue.

The newsletter was produced with few problems this year. We did have a problem with the print version for December 2011, as the printer (I’ve been using FedEx office) made an error in pagination using the last of our preprinted letterhead. They corrected it at their expense, reprinting the entire issue from a digital copy (which always lacks some of the imagery found on the letterhead). They also gave us a substantial discount of 50% on the order.

The April issue was also delayed due to finalization of the recipient list. As I had fieldwork planned, Eric took charge and mailed out the issue.
Summary of issues sent this year and associated costs

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This December, we ran out of the letterhead that we have been using to for printed copies and three options were presented for discussion: 1) Stop sending the printed versions. 2) Print them as we go. 3) Have 1000 printed for future use. Following discussion of these options is was decide to continue with present practices and have letterhead printed in order to save on costs in the long term. Since the meetings in Portland, I have printed these. Admittedly, the image that adorns the front page lacks some of the crispness of the original (those receiving the electronic version will see no difference). But they should suffice for the limited number of printed copies that we produce.

I am pleased to continue serving in this position and don’t anticipate needing to step down anytime during the next few years.

Jamon Halvaksz

7. ARCHIVIST’S REPORT

For deposit in the ASAO Archive at the University of Hawai‘i’s Hamilton Library Pacific Collection, I continue to collect agenda and minutes of the ASAO board’s annual meetings and officer annual reports, as well as lists of duties of the various officers and other materials deemed important by the board and officers. These will be deposited in the ASAO Archive at the University of Hawai‘i’s Hamilton Library Pacific Collection with the materials already there. But in order to make them more readily available to the board and officers (who need to consult them as they do the work of the association), I have also created a Google site to house PDFs of such documents, as submitted to me over the past ten years.

Jan Rensel

8. BOOK SERIES EDITOR’S REPORT

The first volume in the series, Hollan and Throop’s *Anthropology of Empathy* collection, began shipping as a hardback in September 2011, and is expected in paperback later in 2012. Three further manuscripts have now been turned in to Berghahn and are in production. A collection edited by Matt Tomlinson and Debra McDougall and titled *Christian Politics in Oceania* is expected to come out in November 2012, with chapters by Courtney Handman, Michael Scott, Annelin Eriksen, John Barker, Joel Robbins, Webb Keane, and the volume editors. In early 2013, we will see the arrival as #3 and #4 in the new series a monograph by Keir Martin titled *Big Men and Big Shots: Reciprocity, Disaster, and Conflicts about “Custom” in New Britain* and a monograph by Ping-Ann Addo titled *Crafting a Nation with Cloth: Women, Wealth, and Tradition in the Tongan Diaspora*. A representative from Berghahn who works on the series, Associate
Editor Ann DeVita, drove down from her home in Seattle to attend the Portland meeting, and met with the ASAO board and several authors. The series is always in need of new submissions, whether these are edited collections or single-author ethnographies. Please feel free to contact the series editor at <rstasch@ucsd.edu> at any stage of your writing or editing process, to discuss the possibility of submitting to the series.

Rupert Stasch

9. TREASURER’S REPORT

We have two accounts in Wells Fargo Bank plus Lamont Lindstrom’s two accounts in the Tulsa Credit Union. The total we had as of the end of 2011 was $55,955.37

A component of our Wells Fargo checking account is designated for the Pacific Island Scholars Fund enabling Pacific islanders to attend our meetings. The money that makes up this component comes from a) intentional donations, and b) an $8.00 per membership allocation. At the end of 2011, the PISF balance was $11,007.44 of which $6,912.00 was budgeted for awardees. Several of them were not able to come to the Portland meeting, though, so, in the end, we spent only $3892 for those that did come. There will be a comfortable carry-over for next year.

Over the course of 2011 our biggest expense was the annual meeting in Honolulu. Although the hotel cost a lot more than our mainland meetings, the attendance was excellent. We spent $18,197.99 for the hotel, and $1,514.00 on honorarium, chanter, tags, xeroxing, leis and other incidentals.

The registration fees paid by the attendants brought in 15,825.00. Though these fees did not offset the entire cost of the meeting, this is typical and not bad; the dues bring in a lot more than the amount of money we need for the other expenses. These other expense include: the newsletter, webhosting, and hotel reimbursements for PISF recipients.

The cash flow mayhem at the registration table has always bothered me. Checks and PayPal are vastly better for bookkeeping. While PISF recipients almost always prefer reimbursement in cash, as long as there is a Wells Fargo bank branch nearby (as there is in Portland), it is easy to give them cash and still have a registration desk that is as cash-free as possible.

Although I was afraid our bank was refusing international checks last year, this was not true and the only loss we incur when we receive out-of-state checks is $5.00 per check. This is not bad and makes joining and renewing memberships as well as attending our meetings easier for non-U.S. participants.

As you plan for next year’s meeting, keep in mind that checks and PayPal are best.

Mary McCutcheon

10. WEB SITE MANAGER’S REPORT

During the year I updated the website as required to reflect session reports from the 2011 meeting in Honolulu, session announcements provided by the Newsletter Editor and Program Coordinator, and information concerning the 2012 meeting in Portland provided by the Program Coordinator and Site Coordinator. The PISF application forms for the Portland meeting were uploaded in PDF format. Employment opportunities relevant to the membership have been posted as they were drawn to my attention.

The archives on the website have been updated to include all the newsletters in PDF format through December 2010 (in compliance with the plan to add newsletters one year after their publication so that members maintain the benefit of having current newsletters that are...
unavailable to non-members). A photo album has been added to the archives with pictures from the Honolulu meeting.

During the month of January 2012 the website received an average of 99 visits per day with an average of 257 pages observed. Total number of visits for the month was 3068, with 7968 pages observed.

As always, I would be happy to hear from members of the Association regarding ways to improve the website, and would appreciate being informed of any errors, misspellings, or bizarre experiences you might have when visiting the site.

Alan Howard

VIII. RECENT JOURNALS

The Contemporary Pacific, Volume 24 (#1), is now available and contains the following articles and dialogue pieces:

'I Hē Koe?: Placing Rapa Nui
Forrest Wade Young

Development and Negative Constructions of Ethnic Identity: Responses to Asian Fisheries Investment in the Pacific
Kate Barclay

Choreographing Difference: The (Body) Politics of Banaban Dance
Katerina Martina Teaiwa

Dialogue
"Vot Long Stret Man": Personality, Policy, and the Election of Ralph Regenvanu, Vanuatu 2008
Benedicta Rousseau

"We Were Still Papuans": A 2006 Interview with Epeli Hau'ofa
Nicholas Thomas

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 uhjourn@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 (1) 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).

IX. BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The article was originally part of Marc Tabani and Marcellin Abong’s session in 'Cargo Cults, Kastom, and Kago Kalja' (2009 & 2010).
X. BYLAWS
In accordance with Article X, the revised bylaws published below take effect one month from the date of their circulation. The effective date is May 15th, 2012.

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2010
BYLAWS OF THE
ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY IN OCEANIA
(ASAO)

ARTICLE I
Name and Offices

Section 1. Name. The name of this corporation is ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY IN OCEANIA (ASAO).

Section 2. Offices. The principal office of the corporation shall be in the City of Seattle, King County, State of Washington. The corporation may also have offices at such other places as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine or the purposes of the corporation may require.

ARTICLE II
Members and Meetings of Members

Section 1. Membership. Membership in this corporation shall be open to all persons who support the purposes of the corporation and pay their annual dues. Four categories of membership are recognized: (a) Institutional Member; (b) Voting Member; (c) Fellow; and (d) Honorary Fellow.

The status of INSTITUTIONAL MEMBER is achieved simply by payment of annual dues. It is a statement of interest in the corporation.

VOTING MEMBER status is granted in recognition of payment of annual dues and is a statement of commitment to the corporation and its concern with comparative research in the Pacific. FELLOW status represents recognition of achievement within the framework of the corporation’s stated goals, purposes, and scholarly activities. Persons who have contributed to the corporation in one of the following ways may become a Fellow upon payment of annual dues: (a) author of a contribution to the ASAO Publication Series, including Monograph Series and any other official ASAO publications the corporation may devise or designate as acceptable; eligibility dates from the time the contribution is accepted by the Series Editor; (b) editor(s) of an ASAO monograph; eligibility dates from acceptance of the monograph by the Series Editor; (c) present status as a Director or Officer of the corporation; or, (d) former service as a Director or Officer of the corporation.

Distinguished scholars in the field may be elected as HONORARY FELLOWS of the corporation by a simple majority vote, based on ballots received from the Voting Membership and Fellows. Any Voting Member or Fellow may propose a candidate for Honorary Fellowship. After approval of the Board, the Chair of the Board of Directors may mail or publish in the Newsletter a ballot for the purpose of electing Honorary Fellows, or alternatively the Chair may organize an electronic ballot. The number of living Honorary Fellows shall at no time exceed twenty-five; no more than three Honorary Fellows may be selected in any one year.

Section 2. Dues. The Board of Directors will consider the dues structure at each annual meeting, along with the financial needs of the Association. It may revise the dues structure, as it deems necessary and appropriate by a Board resolution (a simple majority of the Directors present). The dues structure will be published in a Newsletter following the annual meeting. Dues for Honorary Fellows are waived in perpetuity.

Section 3. Rights of Members. The rights of Institutional Members are the right to attend the annual meetings of the corporation and the right to receive the ASAO Newsletter and other such announcements of the corporation’s activities as may be disseminated. The rights of Voting Members, Fellows, and Honorary Fellows are the same as those of Institutional Members and in addition the right to vote in corporate elections and on such issues as may require a vote. These rights and all rights, title, and
interest in or to the corporation will cease on termination of his or her membership. No members shall be entitled to share in the distribution of the corporate assets upon the dissolution of the corporation.

Section 4a. Resignation of Members. Any member may resign from the corporation by submitting a written resignation to the Secretary of the corporation.

Section 4b. Removal of Members. Any Voting Member, Fellow, or Honorary Fellow may have his or her corporate status disqualified and be removed from the rolls of the corporation by an affirmative vote of the Directors at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, for nonfeasance, malfeasance, or misfeasance, for conduct detrimental to the interests of the corporation, for lack of sympathy with its objectives, or for refusal to render assistance in carrying out its purposes. Any member proposed to be removed shall be entitled to at least five days notice in writing by postal or electronic mail of the meeting of the Board of Directors at which such removal is to be voted upon and shall be entitled to appear before and be heard by the Directors at such meeting.

Section 5. Annual Meetings. There shall be at least one official meeting of the members of the corporation each year. That meeting, known as the ASAO Annual Meeting, shall be held at a time and place designated by the Board of Directors with proper notice in the ASAO Newsletter. The purpose of the meeting is to transact such business as may properly come before the meeting.

Section 6. Notice of Annual Meetings. Notice of the time, place, and purpose or purposes of the annual meetings shall be served by postal or electronic mail not less than three months and not more than six months before the meeting, upon each person who appears on the books of the corporation at his/her postal or electronic mail address as it appears on the books of the corporation, unless he/she shall have filed with the Secretary a written request that such notice intended for him/her be mailed to some other address, in which case it shall be mailed to the address in such request.

Section 7. Voting. The Chair of the Board of Directors shall be responsible for publishing and/or distributing ballots to all voting Members, Fellows, and Honorary Fellows in accordance with procedures approved by the Board of Directors, and for tally of such ballots. Throughout the bylaws, the term ‘ballot’ will normally be understood to refer to electronic balloting. Postal ballots may be employed as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors. Individual members can request for themselves a postal ballot.

Section 8. Quorum. In any transaction of the corporation requiring a vote of Voting Members, Fellows, and Honorary Fellows, the receipt of ballots by one-tenth of the combined Voting Members, Fellows, and Honorary Fellows shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for all purposes, except as otherwise provided by law, and the act of the simple majority of Voting Members, Fellows, and Honorary Fellows constituting a quorum shall be the act of the full membership except as otherwise specifically provided by statute or by these bylaws. In the event that a quorum is not achieved on the basis of ballots received, the status quo shall be maintained until a new ballot is published/mailed in the following year.

Section 9. Waiver of Notice. Whenever under the provisions of any law or under the provisions of the article of incorporation or bylaws of this corporation, the corporation or the Board of Directors or any committee thereof is authorized to take any action after notice to the members of the corporation or after the lapse of any period of time, if at any time before or after such action be completed, such requirements be waived in writing by the person or persons entitled to such notice or entitled to participate in the action to be taken or by his/her attorney thereunto authorized.

Section 10. Compensation and Expenses. Members shall not receive any stated salary or stipend for their services as such. The Board of Directors shall have the power in its discretion to contract for and to pay members rendering any special or unusual services to the corporation affecting the purposes for which the corporation is formed, reasonable compensation appropriate to the value of such services.

ARTICLE III

Directors

Section 1. Election. The business and property of the corporation shall be managed and controlled by a Board of Directors elected by the Voting Members, Fellows, and Honorary Fellows of the corporation annually. Members of the Board serve for three years, Chairs for four. Two members shall be elected each year, assuming office immediately upon publication of election results in the Newsletter. The Directors must be members of the corporation, and they shall be chosen by published or postal or electronic mail ballot of the Voting Members, Fellows, and Honorary Fellows by the following procedure.
(a) The Board shall appoint a nominating committee.

(b) At the annual meeting the Board will present a nomination slate and solicit additional nominations from members present. Any members not planning to be at the annual meeting may send one (or more) nomination(s) for Directors(s) to the Chair of the Board at least one week prior to the annual meeting.

(c) The Chair or designate shall ascertain whether each nominee is ready, willing, and able to serve on the Board of Directors.

(d) Following the annual meeting, the Chair of the Board of Directors will publish or send by postal or electronic mail to all Voting Members, Fellows, and Honorary Fellows an election ballot listing all nominees. Those nominees receiving the most votes from a duly constituted quorum shall be elected to the Board of Directors. The Chair shall be responsible for promptly and formally notifying all those so honored. Election results shall be published in the Newsletter following the election.

Section 2. Number. The number of Directors of the corporation shall be seven but such number, within the limits fixed by the Articles of Incorporation of the corporation, may be increased or decreased by amendment to these bylaws, in the manner set forth in ARTICLE VIII hereof. When the number of Directors is so decreased by amendment adopted by the Board of Directors, each Director in office shall serve until his/her term expires, or until his/her resignation or removal as herein provided.

Section 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy in the Board of Directors occurring during the year, including a vacancy created by an increase in the number of Directors made by the Board of Directors, may be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by the Directors then serving, although less than a quorum, by the affirmative vote of the majority thereof. Any Director so elected by the Board of Directors shall hold office until the next succeeding annual election of the corporation or until the election and qualification of his/her successor.

Section 4. Resignation. Any Director may resign at any time, by giving written notice of such resignation to the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Annual Meetings. The Board of Directors shall meet during the ASAO Annual Meeting for the purpose of organization, reviewing the work of Officers, and the transaction of other business, and if a quorum of Directors be then present, no prior notice of such meeting shall be required to be given. The place and time of such meeting may, however, be fixed by written or verbal consent of all Directors. The Board of Directors may also meet, by mutual consent, at any other time or place during the year for the purpose of conducting the corporation’s business.

Section 6a. Notice of Meetings. Notice of all Directors’ meetings, except as herein otherwise provided, shall be given by postal or electronic mailing the same at least three weeks before the meeting to the usual business or residence of the Director, but such notice may be waived by the Director. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors may be held without notice at such time and place as shall be determined by the Board. Any business may be transacted at any board meeting. At any meeting at which every Director shall be present, even though without any notice or waiver thereof, any business may be transacted.

Section 6b. Virtual Meetings of the Board. The provisions of Section 6a notwithstanding, the Chair of the Board of Directors may from time to time use email or other electronic means to convene virtual meetings of the Board of Directors to transact any business. Virtual meetings are subject to normal quorum rules (see Section 8), with the proviso that ‘presence’ in such meetings is indicated by an email reply to the Chair’s call.

Section 7. Chair and Chair-Elect. The Board of Directors at each annual meeting shall elect a Chair-Elect from among those Directors beginning their second year of service. The Chair-Elect will assist the Chair in the ensuing year. The Chair-Elect, at the beginning of his/her third year of service, assumes the Chair of the Board. The Chair will preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and will be responsible for coordinating the work of the Board. In their role as Chair and Chair-Elect these persons serve as the senior Officers of the corporation for the conduct of corporation business, as well as members of the Board. The past Chair shall remain a member of the Board of Directors for one year after stepping down as Chair in order to provide increased time depth to ongoing discussions of Association business.

Section 8. Quorum. At all meetings of the Board of Directors, a majority of all the Directors shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and the act of the majority of Directors present at any meeting at which there is a quorum shall be the act of the Board of Directors.
Section 9. Contracts and Services. The Directors and Officers of the corporation may be interested directly or indirectly in any contract relating to or incidental to the operations conducted by the corporation, and may freely make contracts, enter transactions, or otherwise act for or on behalf of the corporation, notwithstanding that they may also be acting as individuals, or as Directors or trusts, or as agents for other persons or corporations, or may be interested in the same matters as Directors or otherwise; provided, however, that any contract, transaction, or act on behalf of the corporation in any matter in which the Directors or Officers are personally interested as Directors or otherwise shall be at arm’s length and not violative of the proscriptions in the article of incorporation against the corporation’s use or application of its funds for private benefit. In no event, however, shall any persons or other entity dealing with the Directors and Officers enter into and consummate any contract, transaction, or other action.

Section 10. Compensation. Directors shall not receive any stated salary or stipend for their services as such, but by resolution of the Board a fixed sum or expense of attendance, if any, or both, may be allowed for attendance at each regular meeting of the Board. The Board of Directors shall have power in its discretion to contract for and to pay to Directors rendering unusual or exceptional services to the corporation special compensation appropriate to the value of such services.

Section 11. Powers. All the corporate powers, except such as are otherwise provided for in these bylaws and in the laws of the State of Washington, shall be and are hereby vested in and shall be exercised by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may by general resolution delegate to committees of their own number, or to Officers of the corporation, such powers as they may see fit.

Article IV

Officers

Section 1. Number. The standing Officers of the corporation shall be the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Membership Coordinator, the Newsletter Editor, the Monograph Series Editor, the Distinguished Lecture Coordinator, the Program Chair, and the Annual Meetings Coordinator. The Board may also, at its discretion, appoint other Officers with such powers and duties not mandated by these bylaws that it determines.

Section 2. Election, Term of Office, and Qualifications. The Officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors from among such persons as the Board sees fit. Each Officer serves a one-year term beginning March 1 subject to annual review and reappointment by the Board at its annual meeting.

Section 3. Vacancies. In case any office of the corporation becomes vacant by death, resignation, retirement, disqualification, or any other cause, the majority of the Directors then in office, although less than a quorum, may elect an Officer to fill such a vacancy, and the Officer so elected shall hold office and serve until the first meeting of the Board of Directors after the annual meeting of members next succeeding and until the election and qualifications of his/her successor.

Section 4a. Secretary. The Secretary shall have charge of such documents and papers as the Board of Directors may determine. The Secretary shall attend and keep minutes of all the meetings of the Board of Directors and the members. The Secretary, in consultation with the Chair of the Board of Directors, will select excerpts from the minutes of the annual meeting of the Board of Directors that reflect policy decisions and ensure that these are added to those from previous minutes and passed on to the next Chair of the Board of Directors. In addition to the secretarial duties in regard to election of members of
the Board of Directors and Honorary Fellows, the Secretary shall commission a certificate, suitable for framing, to be prepared for each newly elected Honorary Fellow. The Secretary shall try to arrange for this certificate to be delivered in person or by a member or by a Fellow of the corporation, preferably in the context of a public or semi-public ceremony. If this is not feasible, the certificate shall be mailed. In general, the Secretary shall perform all the duties incident to the office of Secretary, subject to the control of the Board of Directors, and shall do and perform such other duties as may be assigned to the Secretary by the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall submit each year to each member of the Board of Directors a written report accounting for those activities of the corporation for which the Secretary is responsible.

Section 4b. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have charge of such books, documents and papers as the Board of Directors may determine. The Treasurer may sign with the Chair of the Board of Directors in the name and on behalf of the corporation any contracts or agreements authorized by the Board of Directors, and shall act as treasurer of the corporation funds. The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds, property, and securities of the corporation, subject to such regulations as may be imposed by the Board of Directors. When necessary or proper, the Treasurer may endorse on behalf of the corporation any checks, notes, and other obligations, and shall deposit the same to the credit of the corporation at such banks or depository as the Board of Directors shall designate. The Treasurer shall sign all receipts and vouchers and, together with such Officer, or Officers, if any, as designated by the Board of Directors, shall sign all checks of the corporation and all bills of exchange and promissory notes issued by the corporation, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly designated by the Board of Directors or by these bylaws to some other Officer or agent of the corporation. The Treasurer shall make such payments as may be necessary or proper to be made on behalf of the corporation, and shall enter regularly in the books of the corporation kept for that purpose, a full and accurate account of all monies and obligations received and paid or incurred by, for, or on account of the corporation. Such books shall be exhibited at all reasonable times to any Director or member on application at the Office of the corporation. The Treasurer shall submit each year to each member of the Board of Directors a written report accounting for those activities of the corporation for which the Treasurer is responsible, including, for the fiscal year of that report: (a) money balance shown on last report; (b) expenditures (by category) during the reporting period; (c) income (by category) during the reporting period; (d) current balance; and, (e) any present or foreseeable financial difficulties. In general, the Treasurer shall perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer, subject to the control of the Board of Directors, and shall do and perform such other duties as may be assigned to the Treasurer by the Board of Directors.

Section 4c. Membership Coordinator. The Membership Coordinator maintains a membership database, containing the names of all persons and institutions who are members of the corporation, showing their places of residence or business. The Membership Coordinator maintains another database of institutional subscribers to the newsletter. Using the database, the Membership Coordinator, generates and sends mailing labels and email lists for sending the newsletter, printed nametags for the conferences, and other products as needed by ASAO officers and board members. The Membership Coordinator sends out invoices to members and subscribers for payment of dues and other fees. Upon receipt of payment to the Treasurer, Membership Coordinator generates receipts for payment. The Membership Coordinator produces an annual statistical report for the board with information on numbers of members, numbers at annual meetings, broken down by geographic regions. The Membership Coordinator sends updates to the Webmaster, for inclusion in the ASAO website membership directory.

Section 4d. Newsletter Editor. The Newsletter Editor shall have charge of accepting, rejecting, and editing news for the Newsletter, and shall be responsible for all transactions incident to the publication thereof. The Editor shall faithfully report the official business of the corporation as indicated by the annual reports of the Directors and Officers of the corporation, and shall propose editorial policy for approval by the Board of Directors. Monies from the corporation’s General Fund shall be disbursed by the Treasurer to the Newsletter Editor only for expenses incurred through the preparation and distribution of that publication.

Section 5a. Monograph Series Editor(s). The Monograph Series Editor shall have charge of the Monograph Series and all transactions incident to the publication of volumes thereof. This Editor shall accept or reject manuscripts submitted for the Monograph Series, appoint volume editors, propose editorial policy for approval by the Board of Directors, and administer monies of the ASAO Publication Fund (with the Treasurer empowered to draw checks, make payments, and receive monies into, from or for the fund in the absence or incapacity of the Series Editor as provided in ARTICLE IV, Section 4.). Monies from the corporation’s Publication fund shall be disbursed only for expenses incurred through the preparation of volumes for the ASAO Monograph Series or other official ASAO publications the corporation may devise or designate as acceptable through the action of the Board of Directors. The
Monograph Series Editor may appoint one or more sub-editors, each such appointee to be known as an Associate Series Editor, to supervise technical matters, such as cartography, pertaining to any or all ASAO publications. The main editors of all series or publications the corporation may devise or designate as acceptable shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. Service in any of these capacities (editor, sub-editor) shall qualify the persons so appointed for the status of Fellow. The Series Editor, and Subseries Editors as may be appointed, will be guided by a three-person Editorial Board. The members of this Board will be appointed by the Series Editor, subject to ASAO Board approval. Service on this Board for a period of three years qualifies the Editorial Board member for the status of Fellow.

Section 5b. Distinguished Lecture Coordinator. The Distinguished Lecture Coordinator is responsible for the selection of a Distinguished Lecturer. The Coordinator will draw up a list of possible candidates in consultation with the chair of the Board of Directors, while the Board will have to approve of the final selection. The Distinguished Lecture Coordinator is also responsible for the review and the publication of the Distinguished Lecture. In consultation with the chair of the Board of Directors, an external reviewer is selected before the manuscript of the lecture is submitted for publication. All editorial responsibilities and arrangements for the publication of the Distinguished Lecture will lie with the Distinguished Lecture Coordinator, including the right to enter into publishing contracts with authors, journals and/or publishing houses, and to spend thereupon the monies allocated to the Distinguished Lecture Fund.

Section 6a. Program Chair. The Program Chair shall be responsible, following guidelines established by the Board, for all aspects of the scholarly program of the Annual Meetings: the acceptance (or rejection) and scheduling of proposed symposia, working sessions, informal sessions, guest lecturers, and the like.

Section 6b. Annual Meetings Coordinator. The Annual Meetings Coordinator, in consultation with the Chair of the Board and following guidelines established by the Board, shall be responsible for the selection of sites suitable for annual meetings. The Annual Meetings Coordinator is responsible for negotiating terms and conditions with the management of these establishments, providing the Newsletter Editor with the copy members need to plan their attendance, including registration forms, and making whatever arrangements, with the local establishment that are necessary before, during, and after the annual meetings.

Section 7. Compensation. Officers shall not receive any stated salary or stipend for their services as such. The Board of Directors shall have power in its discretion to contract for and to pay to Officers rendering unusual or exceptional services to the corporation special compensation appropriate to the value of such services.

Section 8. Removal of Officers. Any Officer may be removed from office by the affirmative majority vote of the Directors at any regular or special annual meeting called for that purpose, for nonfeasance, malfeasance, or misfeasance, for conduct detrimental to the interests of the corporation, or for refusal to render reasonable assistance in carrying out its purposes. Any Officer proposed to be removed shall be entitled to at least thirty days notice in writing by mail of the meeting of the Directors at which such removal is to be voted upon and shall be entitled to appear before and be heard by the Directors at such meeting.

ARTICLE V

Contracts

The Board of Directors, except as in these bylaws otherwise provided, may authorize any Officer or agent to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the corporation, and such authority may be general or confined to a specific instance; and unless so authorized by the Board of Directors, no Officer, agent, or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the corporation in any contract or engagement, or to pledge its credit, or render it liable pecuniarily for any purpose or to any amount.

ARTICLE VI

Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the corporation shall commence on January 1 of each year and end on the last day of December.
ARTICLE VII

Prohibition Against Sharing in Corporate Earnings

No member, Director, Officer, or employee of or a member of a committee of or person connected with the corporation, or any other private individual shall receive at any time any of the net earnings of pecuniary profit from the operations of the corporation, provided, that this shall not prevent the payment to any such person of such reasonable compensation for services rendered to or for the corporation in effecting any of its purposes as shall be fixed by the Board of Directors, and no such person or persons shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets upon the dissolution of the corporation. All members of the corporation shall be deemed to have expressly consented and agreed that upon dissolution or winding up of the affairs of the corporation, whether voluntary or involuntary, the assets of the corporation then remaining in the hands of the Board of Directors shall be distributed, transferred, conveyed, delivered, and paid over to such eleemosynary institutions upon such terms and conditions and in such amounts and proportions as the Board of Directors may impose and determine.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

Section 1. By the Directors. The Board of Directors may adopt, amend or repeal any bylaw when at any meeting or by postal or electronic mail ballot it votes unanimously to do so. Before promulgating any such change the Board shall insure that the bylaws conform to applicable statutes and regulations. Such adoption, amendment, or repeal shall take effect one month after publication in the Newsletter.

Section 2. By Voting Members, Fellows, and Honorary Fellows. Any new bylaw may be proposed or the bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed at such time as no less than fifteen Fellows, Honorary Fellows, and Voting Members propose such a change, either at a regular meeting of the corporation or by postal or electronic mail. Proposed changes shall be circulated in writing to all the Voting Members, Fellows, and Honorary Fellows of the corporation, and the Chair of the Board of Directors shall ensure that ballots are published or sent either by postal or electronic mail to all Fellows, Honorary Fellows, and Voting Members no less than three weeks after receipt of the proposed change in the bylaws. A simple majority of the ballots returned by the Voting Members, Fellows, and Honorary Fellows within sixty days of publication or postal or electronic mailing shall be sufficient to approve proposed changes in the bylaws.

ARTICLE IX

Resolutions

No resolution of the corporation shall be considered valid unless (a) the full text of the resolution has been circulated to all Voting Members, Fellows, and Honorary Fellows of the corporation, (b) at least thirty days from the time of mailing have been allowed for receipt of the ballots from Voting Members, Fellows, and Honorary Fellows, (c) ballots are returned directly to the Chair of the Board of Directors for tally, and (d) at least two-thirds of those returning ballots are in favor of the resolution as worded. Resolutions of the corporation are to be distinguished from Resolutions of the Board of Directors. The former involve the Association in a collective stance; the latter are the means by which the Board of Directors implements its policy-making function. The Board’s resolutions, which it is free to alter in any way by simple majority vote at any regularly scheduled meeting, are the record of its decisions and the codification of its guidelines for policy and practice.

ARTICLE X

Bylaws

All bylaws shall take effect one month after they have been published in the corporation’s Newsletter.
XI. NOMINEES FOR ASAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

The following have been nominated for the ASAO Board of Directors. Voting will be conducted via electronic survey, with paper ballots sent to hard copy subscribers. Brief biographic statements will be available through the balloting process. Active members will receive an invitation to participate and vote.

- Jerry Jacka
- Maria Lepowsky
- Lisa Uperesa
- John Wagner

XII. HONORARY FELLOW NOMINEES

The following have been nominated to be ASAO Honorary Fellows. Voting will be conducted via electronic survey, with paper ballots sent to hard copy subscribers. Active members will receive an invitation to participate in the vote.

Francis X. Hezel

It is our considerable privilege to nominate Francis X. Hezel, SJ, as an ASAO honorary fellow. A scholar of unparallel scope and quality, his contributions to the study of Micronesian society and culture, both historically and ethnographically, are nothing short of monumental. Hezel first went to Micronesia in 1963. In the years that followed, he served as principal and director of Xavier High School in Chuuk (then known then as Truk). He was regional superior of the Jesuits in Micronesia and then local superior of the Jesuits on Pohnpei. As director of the Micronesian Seminar, he researched and wrote fourteen books and authored dozens of monographs on social issues facing local people. The range of his scholarship is reflected in the topics he has addressed, including 3 publications on alcohol and drug use, 14 on economic issues, 13 on education, 4 on family change, 2 on governance, 6 on health issues, 19 on historical matters, 4 on justice and human rights, 4 on migration, 16 on religion, 6 on social problems, and 6 on suicide. Collectively, these publications provide extraordinary insight into Micronesian history, culture, and the problems of social change encountered by contemporary Micronesian peoples.

Micronesian Seminar has not only produced hundreds of articles and many books, most written by Hezel. The Seminar's media studio has produced over 70 videos on a wide variety of social issues, which are broadcast on local TV stations and available in DVD format as well as online. The internationally recognized MicSem Library boasts about 23,500 titles, 760 videos, and 58,000 photos on Micronesia, all searchable online. Finally, the MicSem discussion forum continues to grow in popularity, as does its online collection of historical photo albums. Indeed, Hezel's use of the Internet both to inform scholarship and to engage local populations in discussions of issues of common interest is exemplary.

Hezel’s impact on Pacific studies can be measured, in part, by the two books on Micronesian history that were published in the Pacific Islands Monograph Series by the Center for Pacific Islands Studies at the University of Hawai‘i: *The First Taint of Civilization* (1983) and *Strangers in Their Own Land* (1995). *The First Taint of Civilization* has sold over 6,000 copies and is the best-selling book (of 25) in the monograph series. *Strangers in Their Own Land* has sold 3,700+ books and is the fourth best-selling volume in the series.

These two books were well received by reviewers as well. For example, in his review of *The First Taint of Civilization*, Mac Marshall wrote: "His book is a tour de force through bits and pieces of data from three and a half centuries of Micronesian contact with European explorers,
missionaries, military personnel, beachcombers, traders, and encroaching colonial governments. His signal accomplishment is to have melded these scattered bits of information into an enlightening story that sketches the beginnings of Micronesian incorporation into the world system."

And of strangers in their own land, Judith Modell wrote: “Hezel tells a new history. His conventional historical techniques, including massive documentation, belie his unique vision: the humane perspective of a man who has spent three decades of his life in the islands and could not have told their histories conventionally if he tried. This is a book worth reading for the specialist in Micronesia, for anyone who thinks about the changing forms and content of power, and for a lay reader who might like to know the fate of places (unfortunately known chiefly for a bathing suit and a bomb test).”

Not the least of Hezel’s contributions to Pacific scholarship has been his mentoring of young researchers who have worked in Micronesia over the years and have sought his guidance. He has been completely unselfish in the time he has spent and the resources he has put at their disposal. Perhaps even more important, he has given encouragement by showing a genuine interest in what young scholars are interested in and stimulated them to think insightfully about their research issues. This ability to inspire young scholars was particularly apparent when he attended ASAO meetings. Jan distinctly remembers that at her first ASAO meeting in 1984, Hezel was the first person to engage her in conversation about her research interests. He got her to articulate views she had only thought vaguely about, stimulating her excitement about doing research.

-Nominated by Alan Howard and Jan Rensel

Bruce Knauft

Bruce Knauft received his B.A. magna cum laude from Yale University in 1976, his M.A. with honors from The University of Michigan in 1979, and his PhD from the University of Michigan in 1983. He has taught at Emory University since 1985, becoming professor there in 1995. Since 2001 he has occupied the titled chair of Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Anthropology. From 2004 to 2009, he was Executive Director of the Institute for Critical International Studies at Emory, and he is presently Director of the States at Regional Risk Project at Emory, a position he assumed in 2008.

The Gebusi, the Papua New Guinea group Knauft has studied since 1980, is among the best-documented PNG ethnicities to date. His original book on the Gebusi, Good Company and Violence (1985), focused on the high Gebusi homicide rate, given their sorcery beliefs and efforts to bring accused sorcerers to justice, Gebusi-style. His second Gebusi book was based on his return trip in 1998, after a 15-year hiatus. Published by University of Chicago Press, Exchanging the Past (2002) focused on the shift of the Gebusi to the nearest government post, Nomad, and their abandonment of their culture as they embraced the trappings of “modernity.” This was followed up with The Gebusi: Lives Transformed in a Rainforest World, published by McGraw Hill in 2005. The book was designed for classroom adoption, and it has been so successful that a second edition quickly followed in 2010 (reporting on Knauft’s brief return in 2008, after Nomad was abandoned and the Gebusi reverted to much of their prior lifestyle). A third edition has just been announced for publication in 2012. To enhance the classroom value of The Gebusi, Knauft developed a rich web site containing 330 captioned photographs that encapsulate the Gebusi transformations his books concern (http://www.anthropology.emory.edu/FACULTY/ANTBK/gebusiResearch/gebusi.html).

The book that directly followed Good Company and Violence was a broad comparative study of the south coast of New Guinea, written while he was on fellowship at Stanford’s School of
Behavioral Studies. *South Coast New Guinea Cultures* (Cambridge, 1993) remains an impressive repository of information about cultures strung along the southern coast of New Guinea (in West Papua and Papua New Guinea) and is heavily cited in the last book of the famed Dutch anthropologist Jan Pouwer, a book that covers the ritual life of the Kamoro and Asmat of Papua, Indonesia (2009). For anyone who wishes to teach a course in Oceania or Melanesia and who wants to include Indonesian materials, the book is indispensable.

Knauft’s collection of essays *From Primitive to Post-colonial in Melanesia and Anthropology* (University of Michigan Press, 1999) is based in part on his own fieldwork but also contains a number of comparative essays, covering the body, war, and gender, and continues to serve as an important repository of ideas for those writing about Papua New Guinea in particular.

*Genealogies for the Present in Cultural Anthropology* (Routledge, 1996) saw Knauft tackling a range of influential theoretical frameworks that at the time were having an impact on the humanities and the social sciences alike. Knauft offered intelligent and intelligible summaries of the writings of theoreticians such as Bourdieu, Foucault, Gramsci, Bakhtin, and Butler. The book established his reputation as a social scientist of some heft, someone who was capable of writing about abstract and difficult theoretical frameworks. This text, which is being taught in graduate seminars in anthropology departments, set Knauft apart from those anthropologists (probably the majority) who restrict their writing to empirical case studies.

Knauft proved his ability to handle abstract theory again in his edited volume *Alternatively Modern* (Indiana University Press, 2002), the contributors to which included Jonathan Friedman and Charles Piot and which tackled the important question of how to conceptualize the contemporary: as “modern” or as something else. The book appears to have had its incubation in the “Vernacular Modernities” project that Emory and Ford Foundation co-funded from 2000 to 2003, and of which Knauft was the creator and director. The project generated three years of seminars and courses on the topic of modernity as a Western construct and how various locations in the world engaged with and/or resisted this construct. Both “Vernacular Modernities” and *Alternatively Modern* were ambitious efforts to view so-called globalization through the prism of area studies (http://www.anthropology.emory.edu/FACULTY/ANTBK/vernacularModernities/vernacularModernities.html), in counterpoint to the mantra of the era: that area studies were dead.

As already implied, Knauft’s intellectual adventuresomeness has found outlets in the various funded programs and think-tanks he has headed up. Since 2008, he has been director of SARR (“States at Regional Risk”), an Emory Project funded by Carnegie Corporation.

The underlying premise of SARR is that in each of these world regions under consideration, different dynamics shape the types and degrees of state fragility, the relation between weaker and stronger states, the impact of regional and international influence, and prospects for security and peace. Therefore, the project emphasizes place-based knowledge in relation to regional and comparative dynamics, and foregrounds critical questions such as “How do international interventions and national responses ameliorate or reinforce state fragility?” (http://sarr.emory.edu)

SARR is genuinely global in its scope, working in five regions: West Africa, Central-East Africa, the Northern Andes, Inner Asia, and the Himalayas.

A primary objective of SARR is to cultivate and expand networks of practical influence within these five regions. To this end, the project director has already initiated collaborations and held conferences in West Africa, East Africa, Northern Andes and has recently begun organizing local networks in Inner Asia.

Over the next two years, the SARR project will hold major conferences or
workshops in Mongolia and the Himalayas as well as complementary events on the Emory campus. Each forum will be developed in collaboration with local experts from scholarly, governmental, and civil-society sectors, and will bring together policy makers, practitioners, and academics (from the region and elsewhere) for discussions that emphasize pragmatic outcomes.

(http://sarr.emory.edu/projects.html)

It is clear from the materials posted online about SARR that Knauft has developed an international presence and reputation as a public social scientist who combines analytical with practical anthropological work on a global scale. Knauft has also created several documentaries out of his non-New Guinea international work: two on Liberia and a photo documentary on the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Following his curiosity where it has led him, Knauft has made substantial contributions to the anthropological knowledge of New Guinea as well as to contemporary anthropological theory. He has also very quietly and effectively created a place for himself in the wider world as a public anthropologist capable of commanding significant funding ($578,000 for Vernacular Modernities and just over $500,000 for SARR) and working with others to identify problems and find remedies for them. His trajectory is unique, and his contributions on a number of fronts are substantial.

Nominated by Aletta Biersack

Michael D. Lieber
There is a shady character who operates behind the scenes in ASAO. He has an impact on our lives as many as 20 times a day.

This person is Michael D. Lieber. It was Mike who created ASAONET back in 1996 when a large percentage of ASAO membership was bewildered by the internet and many didn’t even have email addresses. He ushered us into this new world by making it easy and desirable to subscribe.

I met him for the first time at an ASAO meeting in New Harmony Indiana. It was in 1986 and, having been to only one ASAO meeting before that, I was anxious to bring along a prop to help me make new friends. That prop was my ukulele and the new friend I made was Mike. Mike plays every imaginable stringed instrument and sometimes contributed to making ASAO meetings musical jam sessions at our annual Friday night themed parties.

Even in 1986, Mike was one of the venerable old timers who could remember ASAO "when...". Mike was one of the founders of ASAO. After his return from field work in Kapingamarangi in 1966, he was invited to join a symposium on adoption organized by Roger Keesing and Nukuoro specialist, Vern Carroll. Mike was enthusiastic about the possibilities for comparative and collaborative work, an enthusiasm that led to his desire to have a permanent organization for Pacific Island researchers. The symposium evolved into the Association for Social Anthropology in Eastern Oceania which, in turn, evolved into ASAO when the western oceanists were welcomed to participate. The publication that emerged from that first symposium became the first monograph of ASAO: Adoption in Eastern Oceania 1970. Vern Carroll (ed.). Mike went on to organize an ASAO session on Exiles and Migrants which culminated in another monograph in 1977. He contributed to an ASAO volume on Land Tenure in 1974 as well. He has published papers and volumes on language, leprosy, identity, death and grieving, religion, fishing, music, naming, storytelling, sustainability, and general ethnography of Kapingamarangi.
Mike was a board member/ committee member/ officer for an almost unbroken stretch for the first 20 years of ASAO.

He taught at the University of Illinois, Chicago for about thirty years. During this time, he began to evaluate university-community partnerships in neighborhood development projects, merging anthropology, program evaluation, and citizenship. He has gotten involved in local Chicago theater and, of course, music; (check out the Chicken Fat Klezmer Orchestra: www.chickenfatklezmer.com). He also has daily skirmishes with J.S. Bach.

I am proud to nominate Mike Lieber to be an honorary fellow in ASAO.

-Nominated by Mary McCutcheon
The ASAO Newsletter is published three times yearly (April, September, December) and is a benefit of ASAO membership. For general members and fellows, membership maybe paid annually (US$35) or once every three years (US$100). Student, retired and unemployed membership is US$20 annually or US$50 for three years. Institutional subscriptions are available for US$15 per calendar year. ISSN 1095-3000

ASAO Board
Past Chair  Roger Lohmann (Trent University) <rogerlohmann@trentu.ca>
Chair       Edvard Hviding (University of Bergen) <edvard.hviding@sosantr.uib.no>
Chair-elect Paige West (Barnard College and Columbia University) <cw2031@columbia.edu>
Directors   Aletta Biersack (University of Oregon) <abiersac@uoregon.edu>
            Ping-Ann Addo (University of Massachusetts, Boston) <ping-ann.addo@umb.edu>
            Susanne Kuehling (University of Regina) <susanne.kuehling@uregina.ca>

ASAO Officers
Newsletter Editor
Jamon Alex Halvaksz, II
Department of Anthropology
University of Texas at San Antonio
San Antonio TX 78249 USA
<jamon.halvaksz@utsa.edu>

Secretary
Cato Berg
Department of Social Anthropology
University of Bergen
P.O. Box 7800 N-5020
Bergen, NORWAY
<cato.berg@sosantr.uib.no>

Treasurer
Mary McCutcheon
2115 North Rolfe St.
Arlington VA 22209
<mmccutch@gmu.edu>

Membership Coordinator
Alan Howard
2499 Kapiolani Blvd. #1609
Honolulu HI 96826
<alanhoward@hawaii.rr.com>

Program Coordinator
Laura Zimmer-Tamakoshi
338 West Union St.
West Chester PA19382
<lauratamakoshi@yahoo.com>

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

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

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

Book Series Editor
Rupert Stasch
Department of Anthropology
UCSD, Anthropology 0532
9500 Gilman Dr.
La Jolla CA 92093-0532
<rstasch@ucsd.edu>

Pacific Islands Scholars Fund
Judith Schachter
Department of History
Carnegie Mellon University
Baker Hall 240
Pittsburgh PA 15213-3890
<jml1e@andrew.cmu.edu>

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

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

ASAONET
Mike Lieber
<mdlieber@uic.edu>