

**“TO HELL WITH DROWNING”
CONFERENCE PROGRAM 2023**



Australian
National
University

School of
Culture, History
& Language

ANU College
of Law



Australian
Association
for Pacific
Studies

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Ngunnawal, Ngunawal and Ngambri peoples.

Sovereignty over this land was never ceded.

We acknowledge and respect their continuing cultures and the contributions they make to the life of this city and this region. We also acknowledge and welcome other Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, South Sea Islander, and Indigenous Pacific peoples who are attending the conference.

This always was, and always will be Aboriginal land.



Welcome to Country by Aunty Serena Williams (Ngunnawal - Wiradjuri)

Aunty Serena Williams is a proud Ngunnawal - Wiradjuri woman, a Traditional Custodian and has lived in Canberra all her life. She is heavily involved in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander community and organisations in the ACT and surrounding regions. Aunty Serena has also worked with remote and rural indigenous communities throughout Australia and has international relations through her work and cultural responsibilities. Aunty Serena conducts Welcome to Country, smoking ceremonies and is a Woman of Ceremony.

Funding

This conference is generously supported by the Australian Association for Pacific Studies (AAPS), the ANU School of Culture, History and Language (CHL), the ANU College of Law and Centre for International and Public Law, the Asia Pacific Innovation Program, College of Asia and the Pacific, the ANU Pacific Institute and the ANU Gender Institute.



Australian National University

School of Culture, History & Language



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Pacific Institute



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Gender Institute



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Many thanks

Cover artwork by Hefrani Barnes of Youngsolwara Pacific “To Hell With Drowning” 2023 inspired by Julian Aguon’s Pulitzer nominated essay for The Atlantic.



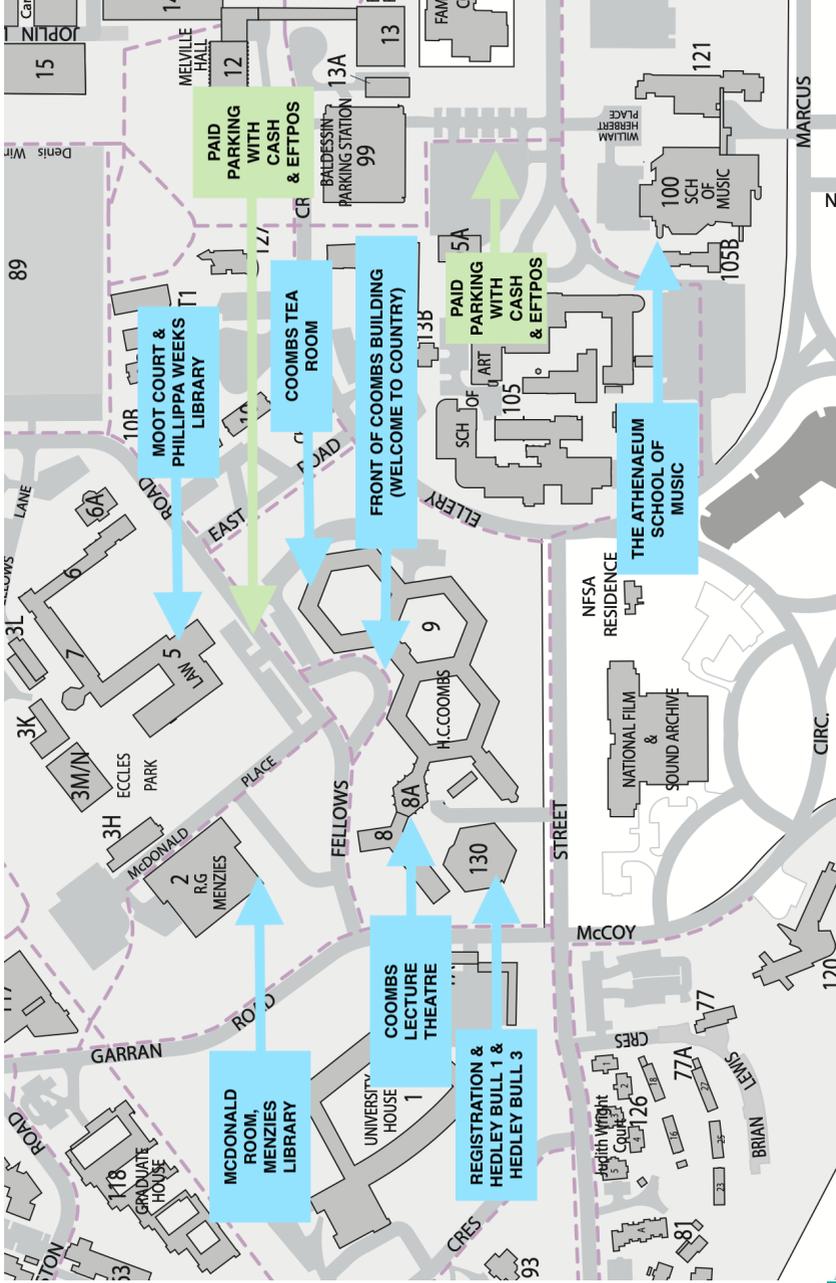
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Quickview Timetable

Time	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9am		Plenary One: The Decolonial Possibilities of Pacific Studies Futures (CLT)	Plenary Three: Trans-Indigenous reflections on sovereignty and self-determination (CLT)	Plenary Four: Narrating our bodies in research-creation (CLT)
10am		Morning Tea	Morning Tea	Morning Tea
11am		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> But whose lands are you on? Positioning Pacific diasporas on Aboriginal Lands (CLT) Reframing and transforming oceans governance in Oceania (HB1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embodying Viā: An activation through research, artistic expression and movement (McD) To Hell with the Status quo! Translating equitable principles to meaningful actions in Pacific fisheries (CLT) West Papua: Our Pacific struggle (HB1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Articulating Em(OCEAN): Survivance on a Sea of Islands, a Youngswolwara tale of beautiful chaos (McD) Decolonial feminisms in Oceania: Localised and regional perspectives (CLT) Rethinking Australian coloniality through Pacific Biography 1 (HB1)
12pm				
1pm	Postgraduate & ECR Workshop	Lunch	Lunch	Working Lunch & AAPS AGM
2pm		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justice for Creation: Indigenous perspectives and the role of the Church (McD) Pacific Studies Fight Club? Ethics, politics and possibilities of critique (CLT) 'Oceanic Diplomacy': Indigenous diplomatic pathways in the Contemporary Pacific (HB1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts Community: Informal show and tell (McD) Constructing belonging: Situating Indo-Fijian gendered narratives in Oceania (CLT) Navigating uncharted waters: Critical approaches to law and Pacific peoples (HB1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Flying Canoe & Suiga (McD) Pasifika/Wansolwara environment Law in Practice: Perspectives from the Pasifika Program at Environmental Defenders Office (CLT) Rethinking Australian coloniality through Pacific Biography 2 (HB1)
3pm		Afternoon Tea	Afternoon Tea	
4pm	Break	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viā Hine: Embodied Relationality (McD) Mapping Otherwise Realms (CLT) Refusing Fatalism: Voices for climate justice and decolonial futures (HB1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navigating the Archives (McD) Stories of environment and disability in Oceania (CLT) Just Restore: what do Oceania communities tell us about ways to do justice in Australia? (HB1) 	Break
5pm	Welcome to Country	Refreshments	Free Evening	
6pm	Epeli Hau'ofa Public Lecture: Intergenerational Wisdom of the Blue Pacific (CLT)	Plenary Two: Pacific Regionalism in an Era of Climate Change (CLT)		Conference Dinner
7pm				
8pm	Reception (The Athenaeum)			

Map



Welcome

Yuumma, bula vinaka, kam na mauri, halo olgeta and welcome to the Australian National University. We meet on the unceded lands of the Ngunawal/Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples, and acknowledge their elders past and present.

We are honoured to welcome all delegates and participants to the biennial AAPS conference. Over the next four days, we have an incredible range of keynote plenaries, as well as creative, relational and traditional paper sessions addressing an array of fields that make up Pacific Studies and that extend research and teaching beyond the academy.

The Australian Association for Pacific Studies was founded in 2006. The second biennial conference that was held at the Australian National University in Canberra was the “Oceanic Connections” conference in 2008. It has been fifteen years since then and a lot has changed in Australia’s relationship to the Pacific and how we have come to think of ourselves in relation to the islands. We saw it fitting to use, with permission, Chamorro human rights lawyer and writer Julian Aguon’s inspiring words “To Hell With Drowning” to frame this conference. In his much celebrated essay he writes:

We need stories. And not just stories about the stakes, which we know are high, but stories about the places we call home. Stories about our own small corners of the Earth as we know them. As we love them.

– Julian Aguon, “To Hell With Drowning”, (The Atlantic 2021)

The 2023 AAPS conference theme emphasises the need to resist and reframe fatalist and narrow representations of Oceania. From the highlands to the islands, the conference aims to advance multiscope understandings of Oceanic people’s relationships and relationality of places through storytelling, rooted in a transdisciplinary, critical and creative Pacific Studies. Endorsing Aguon’s call for “stories about the places we call home”, we sought stories, research, practises and conversations that illuminate fierce attachments to place and the immense beauty, magic and abundance of Oceania.

Many in the Pacific Studies community recognise both ancestral and contemporary kinships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, South Sea Islanders, Māori and Pacific Islanders. While the 2023 conference is at the ANU, an institution that is located on unceded Aboriginal lands and central to the Australian coloniality that continues to impinge upon the sovereignties of First Nations of this Country and across the region, it is also an institution central to the decolonial possibilities envisaged by specific thinkers in Pacific Studies. The organisers of the conference understand the ANU context as a site for great potential and meaningful solidarities and approaches to Pacific Studies, and other fields of research and study.

Do use this program for both information and taking notes, we have left many spaces and blank pages at the end for just this purpose.

The Conference Committee

This conference was organised and convened by Prof. Katerina Teaiwa (CHL), Talei Luscia Mangioni (CHL), Prof. Rebecca Monson, ANU College of Law, and Lisa Hilli (CHL).

Additional organisation was generously provided by Romitesh Kant (DPA ANU), Soli Middleby (University of Adelaide/CHL), Ronny Kareni (CHL), Jen Mason (CHL), Rafael Florez (CLT) and Kari James (PAMBU/CHL).

Vinaka, kam rabwa and tenkyu tru:

- Event support staff: Stella Hibbins, Jemimah Bryson, James Lowrie, Luseane ‘Ofa and Tivien Homerang.
- Camera and photography: Tangyao Zhang (CLT) and Akil Ahamat.
- Menzies library and archives team: Catherine Ziegler (PRA), Jacky Clements (Menzies Library) and Kathryn Dan (ANU Archives).
- The School of Culture, History and Language (CHL), College of Asia and the Pacific, and the ANU College of Law staff: Prof. Simon Haberle, Lea Collins, Gouri Banerji, Stella Diao, Dipika Nand, Michelle Zheng, Jialing Sun, Joanna Cousins, Olivia Wenholz, Ashley Rogge, Thomas Fearon, Charlen Vandervalk, Anita Fitch and Stacey Lamberth.
- Dr Nayahamui Rooney, Jenny Homerang, Sarouche Razi, Assoc. Prof. Imogen Saunders and Assoc. Prof. Jonathan Liljebblad.

AAPS

The Australian Association for Pacific Studies grew from a meeting at the Australian National University in 2004, called to initiate a new organisation to be a broad umbrella for Pacific Studies in Australia.

AAPS aims are:

- To promote the international excellence of Australian research and teaching in Pacific Studies
- To play an advocacy role with Government, NGOs, schools, businesses, media and universities and to increase public awareness of Pacific Studies
- To promote Pacific Studies and its component disciplines at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels
- To promote the role of Australian repositories in the collection, preservation and access to Pacific Island research, cultural and historical materials
- To promote excellence in the teaching of Pacific Studies through professional development programs for university teachers
- To promote specifically the study of Australia-Pacific Island relations
- To establish and maintain links with Pacific communities in Australia
- To establish and maintain links with honorary correspondent members and cognate organisations overseas.

You can find membership and other information on the website:

<http://pacificstudies.org.au/>

Executive Committee 2021-2023

 <p>President Mandy Treagus</p>	 <p>Vice President Katerina Teaiwa</p>	 <p>Secretary Talei Mangioni</p>
 <p>Treasurer Glenn Finau</p>	 <p>Public Officer Rebecca Monson</p>	 <p>Postgraduate Representative Ramitesh Kant</p>
 <p>Community Connections Kim Kruger</p>	 <p>Newsletter Officer Emma Kluge</p>	 <p>Newsletter Officer Tahlia Bowen</p>
 <p>Book Series Editor Mandy Treagus</p>	 <p>Website Manager Stan Florek</p>	

Housekeeping

Conference Etiquette

To ensure everybody gets the most out of their experience at the conference, we welcome questions, discussion, and sharing with a spirit of generosity and mutual learning, grounded in an understanding of our different emplacements (including race; culture; class; gender; LGBTQIA+; settler, migrant and Indigenous). This includes respecting people's preferred pronouns, their knowledge, stories and experiences, and importantly, respecting the volunteers and staff who have put many hours and care into organising the event.

Map of conference venues

The conference will take place at the Acton Campus of the Australian National University. The plenaries and panels will be spread across a number of rooms nearby the School of Culture, History and Language (CHL) of the College of Asia and the Pacific (CAP) and the ANU College of Law (CoL) including the HC Coombs Lecture Theatre, the Hedley Bull Building (HB 1-3), the Coombs Extension Building (1.04), the Menzies Library (McDonald Room), the HC Coombs Tea Room, and the ANU College of Law building (Moot Court and Phillipa Weeks Staff Library). Refer to the map on Page 7 of the conference program, or the map will be available at the registration desk for your reference, with conference venues circled.

Registration desk

Registration at the ground floor Hedley Bull Atrium and is open from:

- Tuesday, 11 April 10.00am-4.00pm
- Wednesday, 12 April 8.00am-6.00pm
- Thursday, 13 April 8.00am-5.00pm
- Friday, 14 April 8.00am-4.00pm

Conference support team

Volunteers will be available throughout the conference wearing 'To Hell With Drowning 2023' T-shirts to assist with questions. Please seek out volunteers at the registration desk or during the catering breaks. Volunteers will also be providing technical support throughout venues during the event. Any urgent issues can be directed to Talei Mangioni on +61 422 122 422 via phone or Whatsapp or our logistics coordinator Lea Collins and staff at the registration desk.

Catering

Conference catering has been provided by The Edge. Morning teas and afternoon teas will be available in the Hedley Bull Atrium. Lunches will be available at both the Hedley Bull Atrium and the Coombs Tea Room in Hexagon 1 of the HC Coombs Building. Please note that lanyards must be worn to receive your meals.

Wifi

All conference participants have free Wifi on campus via ANU-Secure.

Guest Username: AAPS

Guest Password: Conf2023!

Twitter

We'll be tweeting the conference using the hashtags #AAPS2023 and #ToHellWithDrowning2023. Please join in the conversation. You can tag AAPS @AAPSPacific or the School of Culture, History & Language at @ANU_CHL and ANU College of Law at @ANU_Law

COVID safety at ANU

Masks

Masks are no longer required indoors at ANU except in clinical settings.

Following the decision by ACT Government to end the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and relax restrictions across the Territory, as well as other factors around the pandemic including consultation with the ANU community, the University has decided to remove the requirement to wear a mask indoors on the ANU campus, except in clinical settings from 17 October 2022. Please be mindful of members in our community who are vulnerable. We will have masks available at the registration desk. We strongly encourage you to keep a mask with you at all times, and be respectful of colleagues, students and visitors who may wish to continue to wear one, or if other COVID-19 safe behaviours are not practicable.

Notification of positive cases

It's important that you let us know if you test positive for COVID-19. Current ACT Government rules require individuals to let people they have spent time with in the previous two days know if they test positive. By also notifying the University, we can help determine the risk of exposure to your colleagues and students in line with ACT Health Guidelines and, where appropriate, pass this information on to colleagues and students so they can take the necessary steps.

If you test positive to COVID-19, please:

1. Register your positive result with ACT Health using this online form: <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/stay-safe-and-healthy/rapid-antigen-test-rat-positive-result-registration-form>, or with the state/territory health authority where you are located;
2. Alert the University through this online form: <https://forms.office.com/r/hHNDwYigkx> and;
3. Inform the organising committee via ToHellWithDrowning2023@gmail.com

Emergencies

If an emergency is of a life-threatening nature, please dial 000 (or 0000 if dialling from an internal phone). Your call will be transferred to the appropriate trained emergency operator. ANU UniSafe Security is available on campus 24/7 for any safety concerns and can be reached on 02 612 62249 (extension 52249 from internal phones). All phone calls made to ANU Security are recorded for security purposes.

Most ANU buildings have trained first aid officers. Seek help from nearby staffed buildings in the case of medical emergencies. For further information on ANU safety and security measures, go to:

<https://services.anu.edu.au/campus-environment/safety-security>

Cleaning and sanitation

Hand sanitiser will be available in all foyers and common areas to help maintain good hand hygiene.

Family Friendly Options

A parenting and breastfeeding room is available in the HC Coombs Building which includes a lounge, change table, sink and first aid kit. The room is in Hexagon 1, Level 2 in room 1.201 next to the Coombs Tea Room.

Prayer Rooms

Two Al-Inaya prayer rooms for sisters and brothers are available in the HC Coombs Building. The rooms are in Hexagon 1, Level 1 in rooms 1.113 and 1.115.

Environmental impact

We have endeavoured, wherever possible, to reduce the environmental impact of this conference. We urge delegates to be careful to use the recycling and green waste bins around campus. We also encourage you to bring a reusable keep cup and water bottle for use during the conference.

Getting around Canberra

Taxis and Ubers

Taxis are available throughout the city. However, it is worth booking a taxi in advance for busiest periods such as Friday or Saturday nights and/or for transportation to the airport.

Taxi contacts include:

ACT Cabs - (02) 6280 0077, or book online: <https://www.actcabs.com.au/bookonline.html>

Canberra Elite Taxis - (02) 6126 1600, or book online: <https://www.canberraelite.com.au/booking-taxi-canberra-elite>

Silver Service Canberra Taxis - (02) 6239 3555 / 133 100, or book online: <https://www.silverservicecanberra.com.au/book-online/>

Ubers are available via the Uber online or through the Uber app.

The best drop-off location where the majority of conference activities will be taking place is:

HC Coombs Building - 9 Fellows Rd, Acton.
Hedley Bull Building - 130 Garran Rd, Acton.

The best drop-off spot for the conference dinner is:

University House UH@Rimmer - 3 Rimmer St, Canberra.

Public transport

Bus and Light Rail

Canberra's public transport system has an extensive array of services including the bus and light rail throughout the city and greater metropolitan area. Information about routes, timetables and fares can be found on the Transport Canberra website: <https://www.transport.act.gov.au/>

For both of these services, you will require a MyWay card which can be bought at a 'recharge agent' throughout the city.

Ezy Mart - Jolimont Centre, 65 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra City

Supa24 Convenience - 2 Mort Street, Canberra City

Braddon Newsagency - 2/18 Lonsdale Street, Braddon

If you are using the bus service, you can pay in cash on the bus.

Food and drink in Canberra

For recommendations for Food and Drink in Canberra check out our website here: <http://pacificstudies.org.au/2023/02/food-and-drink-in-canberra-for-aaps2023/>

Media

There will be media presence at this conference including filming of interviews and podcasting from the ABC, as well as documentation of all keynote plenaries by the ANU Centre for Learning and Teaching (CLT). Please let us know via email to ToHellWithDrowning2023@gmail.com or in person at the registration desk if you do not wish to be filmed during the conference.

SUSTENANCE II

All conference participants have received a publication by the School of Culture, History and Language titled *Sustenance: decolonial recipes for wellbeing, self and community care* (2022).

The chapbook emerged from a collaboration between Indigenous, Pacific and Australian scholars across and beyond the ANU following workshops organised by the CHL flagship project “Decolonial Possibilities” led by Prof Katerina Teaiwa, A/ Prof Janelle Stevenson and Talei Mangioni. Learn more about the project and film here:

<https://decolonialpossibilities.anu.edu.au/>

SUSTENANCE II is a padlet based activity for participants of the “To Hell With Drowning” AAPS 2023 biennial conference. This edition will be edited by Katerina Teaiwa, Talei Mangioni, and Natalie Harkin.

We encourage everyone to creatively respond to the prompt in the padlet with your own images, text (prose & poetry) and anything else you’d like to share that you have permission to publish. These will be compiled for publication after the conference.

To add your contribution, please visit:

<https://padlet.com/taleimangioni/dri1rvxcir4g6qh7>

Or scan the QR code below:



Don’t forget to add your name at the beginning or end of your contribution and let us know what image you’d like us to use - your own bio pic or another image.

For further information, contact Talei.Mangioni@anu.edu.au

Citing Ourselves Exhibition



Citing Ourselves is an exhibition that draws upon the living practices of Pacific artists, activists and the legacy of Pacific Studies scholars to explore the issue of Pacific climate justice. Pacific women and fa’afafine, grassroots activists, academics, and artists are the inspiration and reference points in our approach to archival materials drawn from the ANU Archives, Pacific Research Archives, and the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau. The exhibition also honours and acknowledges Pacific Studies scholars including ANU alumna and notes the impact and influence of their intellectual and creative legacies that ripple and flow on to present and future generations to follow in their wake. Citing Ourselves is a collective review and distinct Pacific perspective to inform the ongoing climate impacts, challenges and solutions faced and initiated by Pacific people and cultures.

Citing Ourselves is curated by ANU School of Culture, History and Language PhD students Talei Luscia Mangioni and Lisa Hilli, held on Ngunnawal, Ngunawal and Ngambri Lands at Menzies Library, home of the ANU’s Pacific Research Archives and part of the Australian Association of Pacific Studies Biennial Conference 2023. The project was greatly supported by Stella Hibbins, Luseane ‘Ofa, Jemimah Bryson, James Lowrie and Tivien Homerang.

Exhibition Dates: 11 April – 21 July 2023.

Acknowledgements: ANU Gender Institute, ANU Pacific Research Archives, Pacific Manuscripts Bureau (Pambu), Australian Association for Pacific Studies, ANU School of Culture, History and Language.

Archives Roadshow in HB3

At break times (morning teas, lunches and afternoon teas) from Wednesday-Friday, in Hedley Bull Room 3 (HB3), you will find information desks and displays from Canberra-based archives and libraries that hold Pacific and Indigenous collections.

Come along to ask for assistance with your research topic; how to search our databases and catalogues; how to access collections; how to donate materials to our collections; and anything else you might want to ask. There will be collection displays and technology demonstrations. Come along if you have a question for:

- ANU Press
- Australian Institute for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) – unstaffed
- Australian National University (ANU) Library
- ANU School of Culture, History & Language Education Team
- National Library of Australia
- Pacific Manuscripts Bureau (Pambu)
- Pacific Research Archives
- Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (PARADISEC)

Postgraduate & ECR Workshop

Post-graduate students and Early Career Researchers (ECRs) face unique challenges in establishing their academic careers, generally shaped by structural inequalities. This workshop brings together a group of early career scholars with more established scholars and practitioners working in Oceania to develop strategies, share resources, and build mentoring. The half-day workshop will comprise a panel discussion and multiple small-group sessions between Early-Career and mid-to-senior-level academics, to provide strategic advice on establishing reciprocal relationships, self-care and career development and foster longer-term mentoring relationships.

This year's workshop has three interconnecting sessions:

Session 1: Research as Reciprocity

12pm – 1.15 pm

Facilitated by Prof. Alice Te Punga Somerville, Dr. April K. Henderson and Maureen Penjueli

Pacific research approaches and methodologies are informed by a relational worldview and can also be perceived as a web of relationships between people sharing information with each other. Fieldwork as qualitative research is based on building and managing relationships between the researchers and community members. These relationships are meant to be maintained throughout the entirety of the research (and beyond), including the topic selection based on community needs that creates the basis for giving back and reciprocity. This session will provide insights by Pacific scholars and civil society into establishing reciprocal relationships with community members collaborating in the research study and discuss how these relationships can contribute to ethical practice. In doing so, the session will examine the successes and challenges with specific attention to issues of power and gain for the researched community.

Session 2: Publishing as an early career researcher

1.45 pm – 2.45 pm

Facilitated by Prof. Em. Terence Wesley-Smith

The session will first discuss publication strategies, including picking publication outlets, understanding and navigating the submission and review process, and the variety of different publication outlets on offer with the aim of providing key tips and tricks to establish a strong research track record.

The session will first discuss publication strategies, including picking publication outlets, understanding and navigating the submission and review process, and the variety of different publication outlets on offer with the aim of providing key tips and tricks to establish a strong research track record.

Session 3: Self-care and Sustenance in academia

3pm – 4pm

Facilitated by Prof. Katerina Teaiwa and Associate Prof. Natalie Harkin

The PhD journey can be a tough one. Grad students and ECRs juggle many roles and demands in their personal and professional lives, and this can lead to intense stress and pressure. Financial and family concerns, imposter syndrome, and challenging program dynamics are some common challenges that grad students face. There are so many external factors that can go wrong and are outside our control, but also many internal factors that can contribute negatively (physical health, mental health, relationships, dietary habits, etc.).

In this session we will start to populate the online platform - padlet - for our conference Sustenance II publication. This is an initiative of the Decolonial Possibilities project in The School of Culture, History and Language ANU (CHL).

Epeli Hau'ofa Memorial Lecture

Intergenerational Wisdom of the Blue Pacific

In recent years, the transformative words of Epeli Hau'ofa and his contemporaries have firmly found their way into the practice of Pacific regionalism. Regularly quoted in policy documents and strategic plans, framed and re-presented in conferences and workshops, you do not have to look far to find that many islanders are deeply committed to “the ocean in us”. Arguably, at their most transformative, these words have supported the strategic repositioning of the Pacific as an oceanic continent - the Blue Pacific - but they have also been the subject of appropriation. This year's Epeli Hau'ofa Memorial Lecture will take the form of an intergenerational talanoa between Pacific students, activists, practitioners, public officials and leaders. The talanoa will be facilitated by Professor Katerina Teaiwa joined by Dame Meg Taylor, Tuiloma Neroni Slade, Senator Hilda Heine, Jope Tarai, Itinterunga Rae Bainteiti and Moemoana Schwenke. Together, the group will share their collective reflections, reservations and projections of the ways in which core ideas from Hau'ofa and transdisciplinary Pacific Studies, where Pacific people define their own pasts, presents and futures, are reverberating through Pacific-led regionalism, collective activism, the ‘Pacific way’ and responses to global geostrategic competition. The talanoa will also present an open opportunity for engagement with the audience.

Speakers:



Dame Meg Taylor was the first female Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum and founding Vice President of the Office of the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman for the International Finance Corporation. She has served on various United Nations Committees, as a diplomat and in the Office of the Prime Minister, Grand Chief Michael Somare. Dame Meg currently serves on the Board's of Nambawan Super and the PNG Sustainable Development Program and as an advisor to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and Vanuatu government on its application to the International Court of Justice. Dame Meg has an undergraduate degree from the University of Papua New Guinea, a LL.B. from Melbourne University and an LL.M. from Harvard University and is a strong advocate for women and youth.



Tuiloma Neroni Slade was the first Samoan to be appointed as Attorney-General of Samoa and one of the first elected Judges of the International Criminal Court (ICC). He has served as acting Chief Justice of Samoa, a Samoan diplomat, senior counsel in the Commonwealth Secretariat in London, Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), and Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. Tuiloma continues to be engaged on international legal issues and on assignments in Samoa and the Pacific region and is currently Board chair of the Samoa Ports Authority, an independent member of the Judicial Service Commission and Advisory Board member of the Australian Pacific Security College (APSC).



Senator Dr. Hilda Cathy Heine was the eighth President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) from 2016-2020. She was the first woman to serve as President and head of state in Micronesia. Dr. Heine also served as Minister of Education. She co-founded the women's rights group, Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI) and campaigned for RMI to join the Human Rights Council in Geneva where the RMI nuclear legacy and climate change issues for indigenous and marginalized communities were highlighted. She is currently Senator representing Aur Atoll in the RMI Parliament (Nitijela), chair and Pro Chancellor of the University of the South Pacific Council and a member of the East West Center Board of Governors and serves in other international fora.



Itinterunga Rae Bainteiti is of Banaban and Kiribati origins, raised and educated in Fiji. Like all Banabans, his grandparents were forced to relocate to Rabi in Fiji because of British, Australian & New Zealander phosphate mining. His environment and social justice work is linked to the histories of his people. Rae has extensive background in Local Government and NGOs and has founded youth and community NGOs in Kiribati and New Zealand. He currently serves as a member on Pacific, regional and international boards, is the Pacific Youth Focal Point for Climate Mobility and runs his own consultancy firm supporting the Kiribati and Banaban CSOs in areas of good governance, social work, and policy.



Moemoana Schwenke is a Sāmoan born performance artist, emerging writer, director, advocate and cultural arts tutor at her family's cultural centre Matavai. Matavai promotes Pacific cultures through dance, music, language and creative arts and reconnects the Australian-Pacific community with their culture and history through passing down traditions and art forms. She participated in Te Maeva Nui in the Cook Islands, World Fire-Knife Championships in Hawai'i, Heiva I Tahiti in Tahiti and Teuila Festival in Sāmoa and is heralded as one of few female fire-knife performers in the world, placing 1st Runner Up in the World Fire- Knife Championships 2019. She graduated from the University of Wollongong with a Bachelor of Arts.



Jope Tarai is a Fijian scholar and Phd Candidate at the ANU. Jope has published, researched and reflected on Pacific regionalism, diplomacy and politics since working at the University of the South Pacific. Based on his observations as a student and scholar in the Pacific, rather than reflect on the regional level of interests, his reflections will focus on the impact of national vulnerabilities towards Pacific and Oceanic consciousness. He hopes to highlight the layer beneath regional assertions to instigate a nation – state focused introspection from within Oceania.



See Page 25 for **Professor Katerina Teaiwa's** bio.

Keynote Plenary 1

The Decolonial Possibilities of Pacific Studies Futures

Since its establishment in 2006, the Australian Association for Pacific Studies (AAPS) has advocated for Pacific Studies and Pacific literacies in Australia at every schooling level. After decades of political inertia, geopolitical rivalries have led to unprecedented attention to all things Pacific providing narrow, patchy and one-dimensional analyses of Pacific issues sustained by discourses of climate change, security, defense, international relations, development, law and labour mobility. This panel discusses how these intersect with critical, creative and empowering Pacific Studies genealogies and futures across Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand, the Pacific Islands and North America.

Speakers:



Professor Emeritus Terence Wesley-Smith is based at the Center for Pacific Islands Studies, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, where he taught for many years. He served as center director 2010-18, and editor of *The Contemporary Pacific* 2008-15. He has published extensively about Pacific studies as an interdisciplinary field of inquiry, and about the implications of China's growing influence in the Pacific Islands. His publications include *Remaking Area Studies: Teaching and Learning Across Asia and the Pacific* (edited with Jon Goss, University of Hawaii Press, 2010), and *The China Alternative: Changing Regional Order in the Pacific Islands* (edited with Graeme Smith, ANU Press 2021).



Professor Alice Te Punga Somerville (Te Āti Awa, Taranaki) is a scholar, poet and irredentist. She writes and teaches at the intersections of literary studies, Indigenous studies and Pacific studies; having taught in NZ, Australia and Hawai'i, she has recently taken up a professorship at the University of British Columbia in the Department of English language & literatures and the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies. Her publications include *Once Were Pacific: Māori Connections to Oceania* (2012), *250 Ways To Start an Essay about Captain Cook* (2020) and a book of poetry *Always Italicise: how to write while colonised* (2022).



Professor Katerina Teaiwa is a Pacific Studies scholar, artist and national award winning teacher in the School of Culture, History & Language, Australian National University. She is the founder of the Pacific Studies teaching program at ANU and author of *Consuming Ocean Island: stories of people and phosphate from Banaba* (2015). She has toured her multi-media research based exhibition “Project Banaba”, curated by Yuki Kihara, through Sydney, Napier, Auckland, and soon, Honolulu. She is of Banaban (Tabiang and Tabwewa), I-Kiribati (Tabiteuean) and African American heritage, born and raised in Fiji.



Dr. April K Henderson is Director of Va‘aomanū Pasifika at Te Herenga Waka–Victoria University of Wellington. As Dr. Teresia Teaiwa’s first hire in 2002, she’s been instrumental in building and delivering Victoria’s undergraduate and (post)graduate Pacific Studies programmes. Much of her scholarship has focused on the circulation of music and performing and visual art forms within and beyond the region. However, her time is more often spent facilitating the development and publication of Pacific research by others, notably through supervising postgraduate students and creating publication opportunities for Pacific scholars in journals and her co-edited book series *Indigenous Pacifics* (U Hawai‘i Press).



Professor Rebecca Monson is based in the ANU College of Law, where she has taught courses focused on Pacific law and Pacific Studies since 2011. She is part of a growing community of legal scholars attempting to draw the insights of Pacific Studies together with critical, postcolonial and decolonial legal scholarship to ensure that teaching and research is by and for Pacific peoples and their legal systems, rather than simply about them. Her first book, *Gender, Property and Politics in the Pacific: Who Speaks for Land?* was launched at Solomon Islands National University in March 2023.

Keynote Plenary 2

Pacific Regionalism in an Era of Climate Change

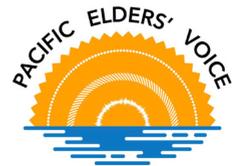
Regional cooperation and a shared commitment to work together, is recognised as an important platform for achieving the greatest benefit for the Pacific peoples according to one of the core values embraced in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. It also underscores the importance of regional architecture as a key strength in the engagement with regional, multilateral and global partners. The recent geopolitical developments in the region have demonstrated unprecedented challenges on issues where national interests take precedence over regional interests. While this is not entirely unexpected, it has given the opportunities for varying interests to exploit the unique national contexts. The issue of climate security still remains paramount, and the most important priority for the Pacific Island states. This is acknowledged as the ‘entry point’ for external interests, and could be used by the PICs as a key bargaining strength. However, even in this space, countries’ quest to maximise climate financial flows to help build resilience and reduce vulnerabilities, is being used to garner support for other agendas. The panel will discuss a wide range of issues that have a huge impact on the relationship between the Pacific Islands and its current and emerging partners, and how its united voice could provide the needed leverage for greater action and support for climate change, as well as for other social and economic development issues.

This keynote plenary is organised by the Pacific Elders’ Voice.

Website: www.pacificelders.org

Twitter: @pacificelders

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pacificelders>



Speakers:



Anote Tong was President of the Republic of Kiribati from 2003 to 2016. On leaving office, he joined Conservation International from 2016 to 2018. In 2008, Anote was responsible for declaring the world’s largest marine protected area. Closing off over 400 thousand square km of the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA). PIPA is a World Heritage Site listed by UNESCO. Anote Tong was twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. He won the Sun Hak Peace Prize in 2015, the Peter Benchley Award and the Edmund Hilary Award as well as many more.

He has a BSC, Masters in Economics and an Honorary Doctorates in Engineering and Law. To this day he continues to speak on a worldwide basis at conferences and institutions.



Ambassador Kaliopate Tavola worked for the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Forests. During his 11 tenure, he became the chief economist. He next joined Fiji Sugar Marketing Co Ltd. He spent 4 years in London and a further 3 in Brussels working for them. During that period, he was also a diplomat. First as a Commercial Counsellor in London and as Head of Mission in Brussels. Over 10 years in Brussels, he represented Fiji across the EU. Returning to Fiji after 14 years, he re-joined FSM Co Ltd as its Deputy Chief Executive. He next went into politics as Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade from 2000 to late 2006. He operated as a consultant for more than 10 years focused on ACP-EU Relations, Pacific Regionalism and Green Growth. He is now fully retired and writes short articles, including various posts for his website: kaidravuni.com



Professor Mahendra Kumar provides technical and secretarial support to the Pacific Elders Voice. He is an independent consultant in climate change, energy and environment. This includes diplomacy and policy. He is currently Honorary Associate Professor at Australian National University. Prior roles were Professor, Dean, Director and Vice-Chancellor at the following universities: University of the South Pacific, Fiji National University and University of Fiji as Professor. Mahendra worked for Fiji government as Director, Climate Change. He was also the Energy and Diplomacy Adviser for the Marshall Islands. He has worked for regional and international organisations such as ADB, UNDP, UNEP, SPREP, PIDF. This has seen him work closely with regional civil society groups such as Pacific Islands Climate Network. He currently serves on the UNFCCC Roster of Experts.



See Page 22 for **Senator Dr. Hilda Cathy Heine's** bio.

Keynote Plenary 3

Trans-Indigenous Reflections on Sovereignty and Self-determination

The struggle for sovereignty and self-determination has always been a central concern to critical Pacific Studies. This plenary will span several important issues ranging from blackbirding to deep sea mining in the Pacific, that are often marginalised or erased in Australian foreign policy concerns when approaching the Pacific. As climate change continues to compound tensions brought on by extractive industries, militarisation and settler colonial and neoliberal interests in the region, this plenary considers how the Pacific Studies community here in Australia and elsewhere, can foreground a practice of solidarity and commitment to justice in our collective work and take Pacific Studies knowledges beyond the academy.

Speakers:



Dr. Melinda Mann is a Darumbal and South Sea Islander woman from Rockhampton, Queensland which is home to most of her family and extend family and both her Aboriginal Ancestors and all generations of her South Sea Islander family since the Blackbirding era. Melinda draws on her professional experience in community education and Darumbal nation-building; her lived experiences living most of her life in regional and rural towns and her research in Indigenous learning and knowledges. She has a PhD (Education) from Central Queensland University and works on local, state and national evaluation and education projects.



Maureen Penjueli, is the current Coordinator for the Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG), a regional NGO that seeks to promote and elevate Pacific Peoples Rights to be self-determining. With almost three decades of experience in the Pacific region, her work looks at the intersections between indigenous world views, science and policy on how to be better guardians of the world's largest ocean, the Pacific ocean.



Ronny Kareni is a Canberra-based West Papuan diplomat by training, and youth vocational specialist by trade. He is a lecturer in Tok Pisin language at the School of Culture, History and Language, and is the co-founder of Rize of the Morning Star, a musical and cultural movement that continues to use music as a weapon of choice with their band Sorong Samarai. Born into the second generation of freedom fighters and growing up as a refugee in Papua New Guinea with his family, Mr Kareni's goal of West Papua's quest for freedom and liberation is to promote peace with justice in West Papua. Community resistance is at the heart of what he does.



Joy Lehuanani Enomoto is a mixed Kanaka Maoli visual artist, scholar and activist. She currently lives in Honolulu, O'ahu and is the lead organiser for Hawai'i Peace and Justice, which focuses on demilitarizing/ deoccupying Oceania. Her artwork engages issues currently affecting the peoples of the Pacific and has been featured in the exhibitions such as "Inundation"(2020) and the travelling exhibition, "Exposure: Native Art and Political Ecology"(2021) at the Institute for American Indian Arts in New Mexico and her scholarship has been featured Contemporary Pacific: A Journal of Island Affairs, Detours: A Decolonial Guide to Hawai'i, & PostModern Culture Journal.



Dr Virginia Marshall, Wiradjiri Nyemba yinaa. Virginia is Principal Solicitor/Director in her law firm, Triple BL Legal practising in native title, Traditional Knowledge protection and human rights. Virginia is also the Inaugural Indigenous Postdoctoral Fellow at the Australian National University, with the Schools of Regulation & Global Governance & Fenner Environment and Science. Virginia is the leading legal scholar on Indigenous Australian water rights and recognised by the University of Victoria BC as a Distinguished Woman Scholar. She is the author of the award winning seminal book *Overturning Aqua Nullius* (2017). Virginia was selected as a UN Pacific Delegate to Climate Change Meeting in Mexico (2019) & COP26 in Glasgow 2021 for the Indigenous Peoples Platform meetings.

Keynote Plenary 4

Narrating Our Bodies in Research-Creation

Leading bla(c)k and brown women working in the arts in Papua New Guinea, Bougainville, Aotearoa, Samoa, Australia and beyond present on contemporary projects in research-creation that prioritise situated hxstories, and genders within a critical race trajectory. This plenary session explores narratives stemming from research-creation relating to some of the earliest South Sea Islander men brought to the south-east coast of Australia, the assertion and renegotiation of Samoan Fa’afafine in dominant art histories, to centring living human stories within new working museum models in the south-eastern suburbs of Meanjin (Brisbane), and the use of cultural collections and cultural metaphors as visual representation for Papua New Guinea women. Speakers include Elder and Curator Sana Balai, Logan Living Museum, Yuki Kihara, Kim Kruger, and Lisa Hilli. Chaired by Dr Léuli Eshrāghi (they/them).

Speakers:



Kim Kruger is a lecturer and researcher with Moondani Balluk Academic Centre at Victoria University, Australia. She has a background in community development, community radio broadcasting and Indigenous arts management including film, theatre, visual art and festivals. Kim is undertaking her PhD researching Black Power at the intersection of Aboriginal and South Sea Islander political organisation. Recently she has contributed to the exhibition *Where There’s Smoke*, and essays for the monographs *DESTINY* (National Gallery of Victoria) and *Ilbijerri 30 Years. Bold. Black. Brilliant.* (Ilbijerri Theatre).



Aunty Sana (Susan) Balai was born on Buka Island in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. She is an elder born to the Nakaripa clan of the Hakö peoples. Following 13 years working for Bougainville Copper Limited (CRA/Rio Tinto subsidiary), Aunty Sana began her museum career as an assistant collection manager with the Indigenous department with the Melbourne Museum (1997-2002). From 2003-2016, she was the assistant curator of Indigenous at the National Gallery of Victoria with art from the Pacific as her main focus. Aunty Sana co-curated the *Women’s Wealth* project for the APT9 (Asia Pacific Triennial 2018-2019) and is currently the museum curator of the Living Museum of Logan.



Yuki Kihara (She/Her/Suga) is an interdisciplinary artist of Sāmoan and Japanese descent whose work seeks to challenge dominant and singular historical narratives through art, dance, and curatorial practice. Kihara lives and works in Sāmoa, where she has been based over the past 11 years. In 2022, Kihara presented her critically acclaimed exhibition entitled ‘Paradise Camp’ at the 59th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia with critical reviews published in CNN, Financial Times and The Guardian. Kihara is a research fellow at the National Museum of World Cultures in The Netherlands. www.yukikihara.ws



Lisa Hilli creates and curates exhibitions that shift narratives and art histories with a Melanesian feminine lens. She has specialist knowledge of lens-based practices, the language of textiles and interpretation of museum collections. Lisa’s recent projects include *Birds of a Feather* highlighting the trailblazing career of Dame Meg Taylor, commissioned by the University of Melbourne and *Sydney Road Blaks: Blak Mobility, Settler Surveillance* curated with Kimberly Kruger and Savanna Kruger, presented at Counihan Gallery. An Australian National University student, Lisa’s practice led PhD project is focused on the visual representation and agency of Papua Niuginian women through photography and filmmaking. www.lisahilli.com



Dr. Léuli Eshrāghi (Seumanutafa Sāmoan, Persian, Cantonese) intervenes in display territories to prioritise global Indigenous and Asian diasporic visibility, sensual and spoken languages, and ceremonial-political practices. They are Curatorial Researcher in Residence at University of Queensland Art Museum (Brisbane), and Curator of the 8th edition of *TarraWarra Biennial: ua usiua fa’ava’asavili* at TarraWarra Museum of Art (Healesville). They will soon become Curator of Indigenous Arts at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (Tiohtià:ke). Eshrāghi holds a postdoctoral fellowship from Concordia University (Tiohtià:ke), a PhD in Curatorial Practice from Monash University (Melbourne), and a Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Arts Management from the University of Melbourne.

Sessions

1. But whose lands are you on?

Positioning Pacific diasporas on Aboriginal Lands

Session Type: Creating

Organisers:

Dr. Melinda Mann, Adjunct-CQUniversity, melindamanno7@gmail.com

Kim Kruger, Moondani Balluk Academic Unit, Victoria University,

Kim.Kruger@vu.edu.au

Abstract:

Whilst Blackbirding (the Pacific Slave Trade) is recognised as a Pacific story, South Sea Islanders are often omitted from Pacific narratives. The presenters will share insights of South Sea Islander community, struggles, futures and the interface between South Sea Islanders and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This session aims to deepen participants' understanding of what it means to strategise and organise from and on Aboriginal lands. Led by Kim Kruger and Dr Melinda Mann, the session draws from the personal, intellectual and political work of South Sea Islanders as one of the first displaced Pacific communities as a result of Australian colonialism and imperialism. The session is inquiry-driven and poses questions to participants around the notions of sovereignty, solidarity and liberation. Why is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sovereignty critical to the Pacific? What does Trans Pacific solidarity look like on Aboriginal Lands? If liberation is key to Oceanic self-determination and decolonial possibilities, how do we imagine it in the context of sovereignty and solidarity with Indigenous peoples here? This session is for anyone interested in understanding how and why positioning Pacific work on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lands needs to be conducted without adding to the ongoing trauma of colonisation and violence by settler communities.

Session Keywords: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, South Sea Islanders, sovereignty, solidarity, liberation

Contributors:

Kim Kruger, Victoria University, Kim.Kruger@vu.edu.au

Dr Melinda Mann, Adjunct- CQ University, melindamanno7@gmail.com

Dr Victoria Stead, Deakin University, victoria.stead@deakin.com.au

Amy McGuire [pre-record], University of Queensland

2. Reframing and transforming oceans governance in Oceania

Session Type: Presenting

Organiser: Pip Louey, Australian National University, Philippa.Louey@anu.edu.au

Abstract:

The panel examines the ways Pacific Island Countries and Territories have framed, negotiated and transformed their oceanscape. Drawing connections between the colonial project and contemporary movements for blue justice the scholars provide unique insights on the contemporary challenges of oceans governance. The panel encompasses scholars from International Law, Political Science and Marine Science. The interdisciplinary approach of the panel sheds light on aspects of renewal in coastal communities, explores the framing of exploitation of ocean resources, provides insights on cooperative fisheries regulation and reveals how new discourses like the Blue Economy can be negotiated in the region. The panel also examines the institutional architectures that have evolved to substantiate claims of governance over an ocean continent. The panellists reflect on how their areas of interest and expertise reframe and transform oceans governance in Oceania.

Session Keywords: Diplomatic agency, ocean continent

Contributors:

Genevieve Quirk, University of Wollongong, genevieve.quirk@gmail.com

Constance Rambourg Davis, University of Wollongong, crambourg@uow.edu.au

Pip Louey, Department of Pacific Affairs, Australian National University,
Philippa.Louey@anu.edu.au

Zsafia Korosy, Faculty of Law and, University of New South Wales,
z.korosy@unsw.edu.au

3. Pacific Studies Fight Club?

Ethics, politics and possibilities of critique

Session Type: Presenting/Relating

Organiser: Prof. Alice Te Punga Somerville, (Te Ātiawa, Taranaki) University of British Columbia, alice.tepungasomerville@ubc.ca

This session responds, in the most direct sense, to a recent (2022) special issue of a US-based journal about the relationship between Trans-Pacific/Transpacific studies and Pacific (Islander?) Studies. For me, the issue raised – or perhaps crystallised – longstanding questions around the risks, ethics and possibilities of critique in the context of Pacific Studies. Drawing on Māori historian Aroha Harris’s question about when Māori history will be ‘grown up’ enough to withstand – maybe even encourage – critique, this session will ask: How do (and could and should) we engage in critique of each other? What are the stakes, ethics and risks of public engagement (when that engagement is anything other than a love letter)? Are there ways that our mobilisation of Indigenous Pacific practices of relation could restrict, or enable, ethical and productive critique? When it comes to public, and/ or published, critique, is it worse to respond (which may imply you don’t understand the political and cultural stakes of certain voices being on the record) or to not respond (which may imply you don’t think Pacific scholarship should be held to a certain standard)? How do we manage the risk that critiques of each other can be mobilized by others against all of us? What forms might critique take that neither tries to “Love Actually” everyone into silence (or private text messages) nor simply bludgeon all concerned with “Ten Things I Hate About You”? How do we negotiate all of these questions in the context of particular structural, institutional, disciplinary, imperials, state and cultural contexts? With limited time and energy, how do we balance the need to speak back and the need to create anew? How can critique be mana-enhancing rather than paralysing, and how do these questions connect to the age-old questions about insiders and outsiders? What spaces exist for critique in the context of Pacific Studies, and how (and why) might we seek to view - and to create - such spaces as life-giving rather than as traitorous?

Session keywords: disciplinarity, institutions, critique, methods

Contributors:

Prof. Alice Te Punga Somerville, (Te Ātiawa, Taranaki) University of British Columbia, alice.tepungasomerville@ubc.ca

Tiara Na’puti, University of California, Irvine, tnaputi@uci.edu

4. Justice for Creation

Indigenous perspectives and the role of the church

Session Type: Presenting/Relating

Organisers:

Raisera McCulloch, North American Institute for Indigenous Theological Studies (NAIITS), raiseramcculloch@gmail.com

Talitha Fraser, Australian Collaborators in Feminist Theologies, talitha@therecollective.com.au

Post-colonial work in academia offers a theoretical lens to the ongoing effects of the colonial project but the critical conversation for the local church is at the intersection of theology and discipleship. Practical modalities concerning wealth, identity and connection might be the key to engaging with local churches in our desire for creation justice. Uninterrogated theologies of ‘dominion over’ inform the culture and institutions around us, even if we don’t identify or belong to any church or faith community.

This blended session will present a panel of Indigenous faith leaders from the Pacific, Australia, and Aotearoa. These leaders will unpack how approaching theology with an Indigenous lens might compel us to action. There will be an invitation for participants to reflect and reconnect with our identity and discipleship, as we explore our individual relationship with land.

Session keywords: Indigenous spirituality, creation justice,

Contributors:

Raisera McCulloch, North American Institute for Indigenous Theological Studies (NAIITS), raiseramcculloch@gmail.com

Talitha Fraser, Australian Collaborators in Feminist Theologies, talitha@therecollective.com.au

5. 'Oceanic Diplomacy' Indigenous Diplomatic Pathways in the Contemporary Pacific

Session Type: Presenting

Organisers:

Prof. Greg Fry, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU, gefry1451@gmail.com

Sala Dr. George Carter, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU, george.carter@anu.edu.au

Abstract:

The starting point for our panel discussion is the observation that while westernisation of the region has added new layers of political community and diplomatic practice, it has not eliminated, or even marginalised, traditional political communities and their ways of managing relations between themselves using established diplomatic pathways. We assert that these longstanding Indigenous practices remain important in the conduct of relations among tribes and clans within the postcolonial states of the Pacific. Furthermore, these practices work alongside Western diplomatic practices in the performance of modern diplomacy by Pacific states and are sometimes employed in the region's diplomatic approaches to the global arena. We focus on the value of these Indigenous diplomatic pathways in contemporary contexts in Oceania. What form do they take? What significance and value do they bring to the practice of inter-communal relations within the modern state and between states in post-colonial Oceania? What are the ethical and political issues that arise when Pacific states employ Oceanic diplomatic practices and values in their contemporary inter-state and multilateral diplomacy? When does indigenisation become unacceptable cultural appropriation? Finally, despite the diversity of forms under the rubric of Oceanic diplomacy, is there, at a very general level, a shared set of principles that could be said to constitute a Pacific way of diplomacy or to at least to contribute value to the regional diplomacy of Pacific states?

Session keywords: Indigenous diplomacy; oceanic diplomacy; diplomatic pathways' decolonisation of diplomacy

Contributions:

Consensus decision making in Pacific– beyond transactional, acknowledging relationships

George Carter, Department of Pacific Affairs, Australian National University, george.carter@anu.edu.au

“The steering paddle of our canoe”: culture in Vanuatu’s diplomatic practice
Anna Naupa, School of Culture, History and Language, Australian National
University, anna.naupa@anu.edu.au

Talanoa Diplomacy: Cultural Appropriation?
Jope Tarai, Department of Pacific Affairs, Australian National University, [jope.
tarai@anu.edu.au](mailto:jope.tarai@anu.edu.au)

Leading from the frontline: A history of Pacific climate diplomacy
Dr Wesley Morgan, Climate Council of Australia, w.morgan@griffith.edu.au

6. Vā Hine

Embodied Relationality

Session Type: Creating

Organisers:

Dr Tia Reihana (Ngāti Hine), University of Auckland, tia.reihana@auckland.ac.nz

Dr Nālahi Wilson-Hokowhitu (Kanaka Maoli), Ngā Wai a Te Tūi, Māori and

Indigenous Research Institute, nwilsonhokowhitu@unitec.ac.nz

Abstract:

Dancing saltwater rhythms, Moana Nui peoples are forging new ocean ways into the future. This creative and birthing session is an intergenerational ruahine/luahine voyage across space and time, interconnecting the kinship flows between Moloka'i Nui a Hina, Moananuiākea and Ngāti Hine, Moana Nui a Kiwa. Retracing the storylines of Moana Nui, the session celebrates a shared genealogical lineage between wāhine Māori and Kanaka Maoli in relationship with the greater expanse of Oceania. The session will be a decolonial embodied activation for future generations. Our inward and outward movements are informed by mo'okū'auhau (genealogy) as methodology and Kaupapa Māori research processes that are defined by connectivity and relationality. Our intension is to honour localised specificity in relationship with interconnected familial ties from Moana Nui. Reframing the "Pacific" with cultural specificity is a form of decolonial activism. Therefore, the process of dancing, re-storying, renaming, reconnecting, and reclaiming through movement is restorative for the future of Moana Nui. The experimental session seeks to engage saltwater visionaries to re-narrate Moana 'her-stories' and to better articulate the diverse roles that wāhine have played in the complexities of voyaging, migration, movements, identity, places and displacements, diasporas and connections to imagine a future for Pacific Islands women, diverse genders, peoples and islands, salt and sky that forge new possibilities for Pacific leaders, artists, scholars, and activists. This is the Vā Hine.

Session keywords: Mana Wāhine, Hina, Hine, Relationality, Embodiment, Birthing, Ruahine, Luahine, Wai, Water, Ocean, Moana, Moananuiākea, Moana Nui a Kiwa, Moloka'i Nui a Hina, Ngāti Hine

Contributions:

Menhalom, Senhalom Famalao'an: Awakening our Women's Embodied Wisdom from Deep Within

Eva Aguon Cruz, University of Hawaii, evacruz@hawaii.edu

“Reweaving our universe”: A series of waiata aroha to my kuia, Hinetauarau
Marama Salsano

Marama Salsano, Victoria University of Wellington, marama.salsano@gmail.com

Dancing Between Two Worlds

Laura Simpson Reeves, The University of Queensland,

laura.simpsonreeves@uq.edu.au

Tofā sa’ili: Navigating the ocean within

Teuila Hughes, Waipapa Taumata Rau | University of Auckland,

teuila.hughes@auckland.ac.nz

7. Mapping Otherwise Realms

Session Type: Relating

Organisers:

Dr. Emma Powell, Otago University, emma.powell@otago.ac.nz

Dr. Jess Pasisi, Otago University, jess.pasisi@otago.ac.nz

Melanie Puka Bean, Louisiana State University tmelanie.puka@gmail.com

Abstract:

The session organisers propose to discuss peoples and cultures of islands who experience and have lives shaped by constitutional forms of self-governance and constitutional affiliation across the Pacific. This includes arrangements like the unincorporated territory, the compact of free association, the overseas collectivity and country, and self-government in free association with colonial and imperial power. In this session we make space to look past imperial territory and binaries of occupation and independence, and talanoa about how such arrangements reshape relationality for Indigenous Pacific peoples. Though physically separated from colonial and institutional powers, the impact of these territorial cartographies have worked their way into the structures of daily life for Indigenous peoples across the region. Extending on conversations in Pacific Studies scholarship about reimagining the region (Hau'ofa, 1993; Wendt, 1976; Te Punga Somerville, 2012; Powell, 2021), ways of understanding trans-indigenous relations (Allen, 2012; Diaz, 2019), and drawing on the Black Shoal (Lethabo King, 2019), together with Otherwise Worlds (Lethabo King, Navarro and Smith, 2021) we propose to map the expansive and multiplicitous ways that Pacific peoples continue to relate to each other, form kinships and in doing so, create genealogies of relation and belonging that confound nation-state borders.

While this session is essentially a talanoaga, we will be taking an experimental approach and structuring it around a series of prompts that will garner discussion about the connections between people, communities and places. Prompts will be circulated to participants in advance.

Session Keywords: Relationalities, mapping, genealogies

Contributors:

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Tagimamao Melanie Puka Bean, Louisiana State University, ptagim1@lsu.edu

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Jesi Lujan Bennett, University of Waikato, jesi.bennett@waikato.ac.nz
Maira Fortin, University of Otago, moira.fortincornejo@otago.ac.nz
Sam Iti Prendergast, University of Waikato, samiti.prendergast@waikato.ac.nz
Ioane Aleke Fa'avae, Unitec Institute of Technology

8. Refusing Fatalism

Voices for climate justice and decolonial futures

Session Type: Presenting and Creating

Organisers:

Prof. Em. Margaret Jolly ANU margaret.jolly@anu.edu.au

Dr. Siobhan McDonnell ANU Siobhan.mcdonnell@anu.edu.au

Vehia Wheeler ANU jennifer.wheeler@anu.edu.au

Abstract:

This panel will celebrate how Oceanic refusals of fatalist framings of the climate crisis and visions of decolonial futures exist at various scales—from local actions across lands and oceans, to decolonising movements entwined with climate justice outcomes, to artistic and research works grounded in Indigenous knowledge and embodied practices, to the voices engaged in diplomacy across regional and global conferences (such as the annual meetings of the UN Conference of the Parties - COP). It will explore how these diverse practices might be seen as connecting, not just the diverse places of Oceania, but what are too often seen as distinct even discordant ‘scales’ rather than connected, resonating spheres of resistance.

Session Keywords: Climate crisis, Decolonial, Arts, Diplomacy, Justice

Contributions:

Beyond ‘climate coloniality’: Exploring decolonial futures in the world of climate negotiations

Siobhan McDonnell, Australian National University

Communicating Survivance in the Necrocene: Pacific Island Engagement with Framings of Climate Change

Jason W. R. Titifanue, University of Melbourne,
jtitifanue@student.unimelb.edu.au

Te Ao ‘Āpi: Mā’ohi decolonial land futures based in Mā’ohi knowledges in a time of climate change

Vehia Wheeler, Australian National University, jennifer.wheeler1@anu.edu.au

Poetry: Beached and Seawall Soliloquies

Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner Australian National University,
kathy.jetnil-kijiner@anu.edu.au

9. Embodying Vā

An activation through research, artistic expression, and movement

Session Type: Creating

Organiser: Jasmin 'Ofamo'oni, The University of Auckland, New Zealand,
jofa491@auckland.uni.ac.nz

Abstract:

“Where I’m from exists within differences. Everybody’s other.
Nameless. We are woven hard” (Grace Taylor, 2012).

Vā is an overarching theme, critical theory and methodology in our research. Mana Moana creatives understand vā in many different ways. This workshop will discuss how five Mana Moana postgraduate dance students from Aotearoa/New Zealand approach and utilise vā within their research. As a response to their personal reflections as urban Māori and Indigenous Pacific peoples of te-Moana-nui-a-kiwa, they will unpack vā frameworks (such as vā-kā, tā-vā) used within their research, and how they are able to nurture the vā (teu le vā/ tauhi vā) between their research participants and each other.

This session will include multi-modal explorations of vā through embodied methodological approaches such as talanoa (storytelling/conversational), creative practice, acti(vā)tion tasking and art-making. We aim to provoke thought into how vā - through a methodological lens - can be viewed as healing, decolonizing, and a reclamation of Indigenous ways of being. We open this space for attendees to share their own personal stories, experiences and self-reflections throughout the process. Our hope is that through this workshop participants will experience and embody new ways of understanding vā that they may reflect in their own research contexts, creative practices or pedagogy.

Session Keywords: Vā, Teu le vā, Tauhi Vā, Tā-Vā, Vā-Kā, Embodiment, Collective, Decolonisation, Healing, Reclamation, Dance, Indigenous, Holistic

Contributors:

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Chas Mamea, The University of Auckland, csam389@aucklanduni.ac.nz
Jasmin 'Ofamo'oni, The University of Auckland, jofa491@auckland.uni.ac.nz

10. To hell with the status quo! Translating equitable principles to meaningful actions in Pacific fisheries

Session Type: Presenting

Organiser: Dr. Bianca Haas, Ocean Nexus, Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), University of Wollongong, bhaas@uow.edu.au

Abstract:

The tuna fisheries of the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) are vital for livelihoods, food security, and culture of Pacific Island countries (PICs). The key tuna stocks in the WCPO are in a healthy state and well managed. However, while the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission's founding convention contains a range of principles intended to support the interests of small island developing states, PICs are still disadvantaged due to inequitable governance. Current management approaches are often based on principles that support countries that have already well-developed fisheries. In this session, important concepts that are needed for more equitable fisheries management will be discussed. Panellists will outline management aspects that are currently in place, but which potentially negatively impact PICs, such as the current approach to catch attribution. We will suggest how the interests of PICs can be better addressed in tuna management, including through concepts such as zone-based management. Presentations will also consider equity aspects of climate change, which is expected to cause a south and westwards move of important tuna species away from waters under PICs' jurisdiction to the high seas. This will have significant economic implications for PICs.

Session Keywords: Equity, Ocean governance, Small Island Developing States, Tuna

Contributions:

How do address disproportionate burdens in tuna fisheries management?

Dr Bianca Haas, Ocean Nexus, ANCORS, University of Wollongong,
bhaas@uow.edu.au

Enhancing cooperation to respond (equitably) to the climate-driven redistribution of Pacific tropical tuna stocks

Dr Camille Godman, ANCORS, University of Wollongong, cgoodman@uow.edu.au

Senoveva Maui [pre-record], ANCORS, University of Wollongong,
saemaui007@gmail.com

11. West Papua Our Pacific Struggle

Session Type: Presenting

Organiser:

Joey Tau, Youngsolwara Pacific, youngsolwara.pacific@gmail.com

Abstract:

West Papua statehood remains an unfinished decolonisation process of its political and legal status under international law. Since 1962, the region of West Papua has fought for political self-determination, a fight that continues to this day. Since the first days of Indonesian brutal occupation, the people and land of West Papua have been under relentless attack and human rights abuse. In order to maintain control over the Papuans, and to claim the land to make way for resource extraction, Indonesian military and police has systematically murdered, raped and tortured people in numbers that could constitute a genocide.

This session aims to present the voices of West Papuans at the forefront of the struggle for self-determination. This session will discuss:

- The political context of West Papua
- The ongoing state of human rights violations
- The resistance and activism of West Papua
- The role of Pacific solidarity
- The need for global action.

Session Keywords: cultural diplomacy, solidarity, militarism, self-determination, resistance

Contributors:

Ronny Kareni, School of Culture, History and Language, Australian National University and University of Wollongong West Papua project

Maria Komboy, West Papua Council of Churches

Sr Rode Wanimbo [pre-record], PPADSM Secretariat

Joey Tau, Youngsolwara Pacific, youngsolwara.pacific@gmail.com

12. Arts Community

Informal show and tell

Session Type: Relating/Creating

Organisers:

Yuki Kihara, Artist

Joy Lehuanani Enomoto, Hawai'i Peace and Justice/Artist

Other artists TBC

This is an informal session that invites artists, artswokers and all of the arts community at AAPS to come and discuss their recent, current and forthcoming projects. This is an opportunity to share and participants are welcome to bring their USBs/flashdrives and links to websites to aid descriptions of their work and research.

13. Constructing belonging

Situating Indo-Fijian gendered narratives in Oceania

Session Type: Presenting

Organisers:

Dr. Domenica Gisella Calabrò, The University of the South Pacific, domenica.calabro@usp.ac.fj

Romitesh Kant, Australian National University, romitesh.kant@anu.edu.au

Abstract:

“The Indo-Fijian identity is created in the transitional moments between an Indian past, the traumatic indenture experience, and a long history of relative social and political marginalization in Fiji. From Fiji, but not being Fijian, labelled Indians, but not being from India. The defining characteristic of the Indo-Fijian cultural identity is to be found in a distinct hybrid moment between these very different and sometimes conflicting cultural influences” (Presterudstuen, 2019, p. 51). Stories of relationships and narratives of home in the Pacific from individuals and collectivities shaped by histories of displacement in the colonial era and postcolonial diasporic movements are increasingly coming to surface. As we research and examine diverse categories of belonging, such as gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, community, and citizenship, we encounter accounts undoing and redoing relations forged in the colonial moment, and the (mis)interactions of intertwined and yet divergent destinies. The Indo-Fijian perspective in particular tells about a passage through *kala pani*, the dark waters that separated them from India, and a new beginning in Fiji. Ultimately aiming to inclusion in the Pacific story, Indo-Fijians search for the terms to legitimize their own journeys into the past, their present claims, and their desired futures along discourses and narratives framed around Indigenous status or presence in the ancestral territories. The papers in this panel reflect on what kind of language can account for their own experiences, and, more broadly, what space(s) we envisage to include distinct (his/her/their)stories emerged from a shared colonial experience in Oceania.

Session keywords: Indo-Fijians, gendered narratives, belonging

Contributions:

A new kind of femininity: Athletic Indo-Fijian girls as subversive bodies

Dr. Rohini Balram, Western Sydney University, r.balram@westernsydney.edu.au

Indo-Fijian gendered narratives of climate change and resilience

Roshika Deo, University of College London, University of the South Pacific,
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Romitesh Kant, Australian National University, romitesh.kant@anu.edu.au

Behind the Mask: (in)visibility of Indo-Fijian queer experiences

Domenica Gisella Calabrò, University of the South Pacific,
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Jasbant kaur, University of the South Pacific, jasmine.kaur.fj@gmail.com

14. Navigating uncharted waters: critical approaches to law and Pacific peoples

Session Type: Presenting and Relating

Organiser: Rebecca Monson, ANU College of Law, rebecca.monson@anu.edu.au

Abstract:

The Pacific is receiving unprecedented attention in both Australian and global legal scholarship, yet in many respects scholarship produced by and for Pacific peoples remains in its infancy. In these sessions we are concerned with exposing, discussing, and charting paths that take us beyond what we see as a current paucity of critical Pacific legal scholarship. We see this endeavour as crucially linked to addressing the under-representation of Pacific people as law students, law academics, and legal practitioners. Our session(s) aim to extend an emerging conversation that develops distinctly Pasifika approaches to legal scholarship and praxis. We are particularly interested in exploring the relationship between Pacific Studies and critical, feminist, queer, postcolonial, 'Third World' and related traditions in legal scholarship in order to advance work that is expressly by and for, not simply about, Pacific peoples and their places.

Session Keywords: Pacific Studies and law; pedagogies and methodologies; talanoa; tok stori; feminist legal scholarship; queer legal scholarship; postcolonial legal scholarship; TWAIL; Critical Race Theory; legal plurality; pluriversality.

Contributors:

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15. Navigating the Archives

Session Type: Relating

Organiser: Kathryn Dan, Australian National University Archives, kathryn.dan@anu.edu.au

Abstract:

This session aims to promote discussion and exchange about collections and archives. It will start with comment on introductory topics from those responsible for collections, researchers and community members:

What we have, where and why

How archives/collections are managed and accessed

The complexity of the archives – systems, resources, format

Opportunities to relate, collaborate, improve

This will be followed by open forum and small group discussion encouraging participants to address issues of concern or contention in an open way and to seek pathways to navigate the archives.

Session Keywords: Archives, collections, access, community engagement, language, digital

Contributors:

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16. Stories of Environment and Disability in Oceania

Session Type: Relating

Organiser: Dr. Bonnie Etherington, Te Herenga Waka– Victoria University of Wellington, Bonnie.Etherington@vuw.ac.nz

Abstract:

This session focuses on sharing and analysing stories of environment and disability in Oceania as we navigate the following questions:

- How have stories, told through diverse forms, tracked experiences and histories of environment and disability in Oceania?
- What does the disability justice movement look like expressed through stories of environment and disability in Oceania?
- How do these stories engage with and foreground Indigenous experiences of environment and disability?
- What does eco-ableism look like in these stories?

These questions are critical as environmental studies too often erases or obscures disability. In Oceania, where environmental impacts from nuclear and other military contamination often cause disabilities, and where those who are disabled are written off as collateral damage during natural disasters, including the Covid-19 pandemic, disabled people's stories are not highlighted. This session foregrounds stories of disability and environment by centring stories from Oceania that posit disability-centred ways of creating sustainable and just environmental futures.

Session keywords: Climate justice, environment, disability, storytelling, literature

Contributions:

Moving Through Neoliberalism and a Climate Crisis: I-Kiribati and Tuvaluan (Im)mobilities in Aotearoa

Olivia Yates, School of Psychology, University of Auckland,
o.yates@auckland.ac.nz

Re-membering nuclear stories from a mā'ohi perspective

Mililani Ganivet, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, mililaniganivet@icloud.com

Children's Perceptions on Climate Change Displacement: A Fiji Case Study

Rosiana Lagi and Apolosa Robaigau, University of the South Pacific,
rosiana.lagi@usp.ac.fj

Gender, Disability, and Poetics in the Nuclearized Pacific

Dr. Rebecca Hogue, Harvard University, rhogue@fas.harvard.edu

17. Just Restore

What do Oceania communities tell us about ways to do Justice in Australia?

Session Type: Relating

Organiser:

Sarouche Razi, ANU College of Law, sarouche.razi@anu.edu.au

Abstract:

In 2020 a young Pasifika person died after a stabbing in the Western suburbs of Melbourne. The death ended one life and inevitably tore through many families and communities. It also brought to the fore the deep questions of justice that communities of Oceania face in Australia: unequal access to services, insecure work, insecure education, uncertain pathways to residency, racism and poverty, and trauma from cultural separation. As always the community rested on its strengths to seek answers – and started a restorative justice project that was based in self-determination approaches and deeply embedded cultural values from the Pacific Islands, with all the richness, complexity, and nuance that accompanies those values. This session tells the story of the Tangata Wyndham Restorative Justice Action group and speaks to the ways that communities build alternative visions of justice.

Session Keywords: Law; talanoa; decolonisation; justice; restorative justice.

Contributors:

Tangata Wyndham Restorative Justice Action Group

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Rebecca Monson, ANU College of Law, rebecca.monson@anu.edu.au

18. Articulating Em(OCEAN) Survivance on a Sea of Islands, a Youngsolwara Tale of Beautiful Chaos

Session Type: Creating

Organiser:

Jason W. R. Titifanue, The University of Melbourne, wesleytitifanue@gmail.com

Abstract:

In this space, Youngsolwara Pacific activists and participants will interact with creative pieces artwork, poems and stories, that articulate the deep, intrinsic, and raw emotions that emerge from their lived experiences on a sea of islands. Their creative works are drawn from the well of trauma, love, mana, resistance, and endurance felt by Youngsolwara activists as individuals working in a collective on a Sea of Islands. Their creative works are links of a garland of liberation. These links Articulate acts of witnessing, reacting, challenging, experiencing, living, caring, crying, shouting, wishing, seeing and (re)imagining in the beautiful chaotic currents in our sea of islands. This session shall employ the lens of Survivance as a theoretical backdrop. Coined by Gerald Vizenor (1999), Survivance refutes the notion that indigenous peoples are merely survivors clutching at lost remnants of their cultures. Rather they are active agents using all means at their disposal to assert their presence. "... survivance is the continuance of stories, not a mere reaction, however pertinent" (Vizenor, 2008, p. 1), and this session shall affirm how Youngsolwara activists draw on the aforementioned motivations to articulate acts of Survivance. Interactions arising from this session will re-affirm and (re) invigorate the activist connections spanning our oceanic sea of islands. Through the reciprocation of experiences, this session exposes presenters and participants to the deep rooted and chaotic emotions that fuel us to face our collective realities and struggles. In these margins we will reflect on the unspoken struggles of solidarity to forge a collective pathway to liberating Our Ocean.

Session Keywords: Solidarity, Ocean, Militarism, New Clear Ways, Resistance

Contributors:

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Malia Vaurasi, Youngsolwara, malia.nozomi@gmail.com

19. Decolonial Feminisms in Oceania

Localised and Regional Perspectives

Session type: Presenting

Organisers:

Cammi Webb-Gannon, University of Wollongong, camellia@uow.edu.au

Jenny Munro, University of Queensland, jenny.munro@uq.edu.au

Elvira Rumkabu, University of Cenderawasih, ira_hiers@yahoo.com

Abstract:

Reflecting on whether there is space within the broad handle of ‘feminism’ for Indigenous Fijian perspectives, author Sereana Naepi concluded “Until feminisms make space for more ontologies and ways of knowing, they really will not be part of the Fijian conversation” (2016). The term feminism has historically held deeply hegemonic connotations in the Pacific (Trask 1996; Molisa in Tusitala Marsh 1999). More than 20 years ago, Selina Tusitala Marsh questioned whether feminism can be productively transplanted to the Pacific, or whether indeed the “concept of feminism [has] always existed in the Pacific” (Tusitala Marsh 1999). She queried what a “rejection of feminism as ‘Western’, to a reconceptualization of locally relevant and culturally resonant feminism” might look like in the Pacific (Tusitala Marsh 1999). From the opening quote in this abstract, it seems these questions retain relevance. Two decades on, we might also ask if, and in what ways, access to social media and digital networking has contributed to the creation and articulation of “vernacularized” (Merry 2006; Monson 2013) Pacific feminisms? And whether increased solidarity of action across the Pacific in response to climate change as well as activism against gendered violence has contributed to a reconsideration of these issues within Indigenous feminist frameworks? Have ongoing colonisation in Kanaky and West Papua, accelerated resource exploitation, and renewed Black and Indigenous identity struggles prompted Oceanian feminist responses?

Session keywords: Feminism; Oceania; gender justice; Indigenous

Contributions:

Ascribing Meaning to Notions of Feminism and Womanhood in Papua New Guinea

Nalisa Neuendorf [presenter]¹, Angela Kelly-Hanku^{1,2}, Agnes Mek¹, Jamee Newland², Paula Jops², Ruthy Neo-Boli¹, Lisa Vallely^{1,2}, Priscilla Poga¹

¹ Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research (PNGIMR)

² The Kirby Institute, The University of New South Wales (UNSW)

Making meaning out of objects: Self, connectedness and belonging among sexuality diverse men and transgender women in Papua New Guinea

Agnes Mek [presenter]

Ruthy Neo-Boli¹, Jamee Newland², Angela Kelly-Hanku¹, Herick Aeno, Peter Aggleton and Kerry Robinson

¹ Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research (PNGIMR)

² The Kirby Institute, The University of New South Wales (UNSW)

Feminisms in West Papua: Histories, Practices, Ideas

Elvira Rumkabu [pre-recorded], Cenderawasih University in Jayapura, Papua, ira_hiers@yahoo.com

Jenny Munro [presenter], University of Queensland, jenny.munro@uq.edu.au

Cammi Webb-Gannon, University of Wollongong, camellia@uow.edu.au

20. Rethinking Australian Coloniality through Pacific Biography (Part 1 & 2)

Session Type: Presenting

Organisers:

Dr. Nicholas Hoare, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU

Talei Luscia Mangioni, School of Culture, History and Language, ANU

Prof. Katerina Teaiwa, School of Culture, History and Language, ANU

oceaniaworkingparty@gmail.com

Abstract:

In recent years (and months) the Pacific Islands have become more central to Australia's regional security concerns. How can we ensure that Islander voices, perspectives, and histories are not lost in this new sea of competing geopolitical interests? The Oceania Working Party of the Australian Dictionary of Biography believes that Pacific biography and life writing told in solidarity and dialogue with Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Islander histories, challenges, and activism, presents a path towards mobilizing Indigenous scholarship and reclaiming the narrative from outside interests. Building on the rich tradition of historical biographical writing by and about Pacific Islanders in Australia works and the paradigm shifting 2016 special issue of Biography, 'Indigenous Conversations about Biography', by Alice Te Punga Somerville, Daniel Heath Justice and Noelani Arista, this session seeks to continue the conversation through a focus on Pacific-Australian and South Sea Islander lives (including Māori, Indo-Fijian and other diverse Pacific identities), and the re-telling of Australian-Pacific history through biographical approaches. We invite reflections on both extraordinary and ordinary individuals, scholars, artists, musicians, athletes, family members, communities, and the history, ethics, and theory of biography, memoir, autobiography, and other forms of life writing. Submissions that link Indigenous Australian, South Sea Islander and Pacific or Pasifika histories are especially welcome. The call for papers is deliberately broad, with single or co-authored papers on non-traditional biographical subjects such as islands or places, stories of animals and trees, of ancestral remains, museum artefacts and other material objects also encouraged.

Session Keywords: Pacific Biography, Life Writing, Indigenous Conversations

Contributions:

O le Fa'aulufalega o le Fale Sa i Mare, I le alavaa o Torise – The Opening of the Church in Mare, Torres Strait

Wanda Ieremia-Allan, Te Tumu – Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies at the University of Otago, wieremia@gmail.com

My grandmother is (not just) a small brown fragment

Pauline Reynolds, Norfolk Island Museum, paulineesreynolds@gmail.com

Activism, Solidarity and Friendship: Bobby McLeod and Tuaiwa Rickard

Hineitimoana Greensill, Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland, hine.greensill@gmail.com

Koe folau 'o Futukava mei Tonga ki Aositelelia: The voyage of Footoocava from Tonga to Australia

Dr. Ruth (Lute) Faleolo, La Trobe University, r.faleolo@latrobe.edu.au

A long and winding road: completing a biography of Solomon Mamaloni

Christopher Chevalier, ANU Alumnus/Independent Researcher, cchev52@gmail.com

What Ever Happened to the Papua New Guinea Dictionary of Contemporary Biography?

Theresa Meki, Department of Pacific Affairs, Australian National University, theresa.meki@anu.edu.au

Nicholas Hoare, Department of Pacific Affairs, Australian National University, oceaniaworkingparty@gmail.com

No bombs, no planners, no Rambos: Thinking about Amelia Rokotuivuna from Australia

Talei Luscia Mangioni, School of Culture, History and Language, Australian National University, talei.mangioni@anu.edu.au

21. Pasifika/Wansolwara Environment Law in Practice

Perspectives from the Pasifika Program at Environmental Defenders Office

Session Type: Relating

Organisers:

Dr Bal Kama, Special Counsel, Pasifika (Pacific) Program, Environmental Defenders Office,
bal.kama@edo.org.au

Abstract:

The Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) is the largest public interest environmental law firm in the southern hemisphere. Its Pasifika Program is focused entirely on the Pacific region. Although the Program is still developing, it has built important linkages with partner community environmental legal firms in the Pacific and is working with state agencies and NGOs to support environmental and climate change justice initiatives including law reform. EDO's work covers some of the important themes featured in the conference. For instance, EDO Pasifika Program is using customary law as a basis for legislative reform at the local government in Papua New Guinea to protect the Sepik River or using customary law to potentially have the Supreme Court declare the rights of the Sepik River, including its right to life and as an ancestral being. In climate change loss and damage assessment, EDO is at the forefront of valuing cultural and relational losses. In litigation cases against logging and mining companies, EDO lawyers work with local partner legal firms to ensure property ownership under custom and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) processes are not subsumed or undermined and violated. In relating or having a tok stori/talanoa, EDO seeks to share insights into its work and how legal, justice and social institutions might work better to advance environmental protection and climate change resilience, particularly a Pasifika-led program within a mainstream environmental law organisation. What innovations can a Pasifika-led program bring to environmental lawyering? It will also be opportune for others to share their experiences, and thus, enable a process of learning and collaboration.

Session Keywords: Environmental law, customary law, justice

Contributors:

Rohan Nanthakumar, Senior Lawyer for EDO's Pasifika Program
Freda Kanek Talao, Managing Lawyer for EDO's Pasifika Program

Watna Mori, Senior Solicitor for EDO's Pasifika Program
Fleur Ramsay, Head of Litigation and Climate Lead for EDO's Pasifika Program
Dr Bal Kama, Special Counsel with the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO), bal.
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22. The Flying Canoe

Session Type: Creating

Organiser: Marita Davies, The Threshold, info@thethreshold.com.au

Abstract:

In this session, people will be brought into the world of brand new audio-theatre work, 'The Flying Canoe' by Kiribati writer Marita Davies. The body is central to telling stories for Pacific Islanders. Culture is shared through song, gesture, dance and touch, but how can this embodied practice be shared online to meet wider and globally dispersed audiences? Using live recordings from performances of the Kiribati community living and working in Victoria, 'The Flying Canoe' is a digital work that immerses people in the sounds of Kiribati, and invites them to physically explore Kiribati culture.

This dynamic soundscape invites families to build a canoe from objects from found objects, dive into the azure waters, and dance together as they traverse the fictional island of Neiko. 'The Flying Canoe' offers an innovative and engaging way to bring education about the Pacific into homes and schools and public spaces. In this interactive workshop, writer Marita Davies will share her learnings about how she crafted a story around the idea of physical embodiment as a way to share culture and educate families about Kiribati. The broad session title leaves room for multiple responses within this session: How do we cross geographical boundaries using digital platforms to creatively share stories of the Pacific? Marita's example is one way that creative practitioners are using digital mediums to share Pacific stories- it would be wonderful if this session could include more examples of contemporary creative digital storytelling.

Session Keywords: Digital creativity, Education, Interactive workshop

Contributors:

Marita Davies, The Threshold, info@thethreshold.com.au

23. Suiga

A decolonial choreographic exploration of Christianity within the Pacific

Session Type: Creating

Organiser:

Chas Mamea, Ankaramy Fepulea'i, Jireh Lalotoa-Peniata, Ana Funaki Taulanga, Keyana Fuiava

Aotearoa, Samoa, Tonga

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Abstract:

“When the missionaries came,
they had the bible and we had the land.
They then taught us how to pray.
When we opened our eyes.
We had the bible,
And they had the land.”

Jahra Rager Wasasala

For many Pasifika communities, religion and tradition are intertwined and are fundamental elements of identity as Pasifika peoples today. ‘Suiga’ is a Pacific-contemporary dance piece choreographed by Ankaramy Fepulea'i: Bachelor of Dance Studies & Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching graduate at the University of Auckland. When translated from Samoan to English, ‘Suiga’ simply means ‘Change’. The choreographic piece comments on the first encounter of Christianity arriving in Samoa in the 1830s and the disruptive shifts and changes that took place as our people adjusted to a new way of life. The choreographic process critically explored pre-colonial concepts of spirituality and religion’s rapid influence on Pacific communities following colonisation. These themes were explored through talanoa, shared experiences of dancers’ families and scholarly research surrounding the impact of Christianity on the Pacific. The process bridged together understandings of Christianity within the Pacific as both a ‘blessing’ and a ‘curse’ for dancers involved. A blessing because it was an introduction to the acknowledgement of a higher being, which is an integral part of our identities and ways of being; a curse because it changed, morphed & shifted the way our people lived and denied/erased customs and traditions that did not align with the dominant way of life as a result of colonialism.

This session will be a dance performance called ‘Suiga’: a contemporary dance work with influences of street dance and Pacific cultural elements. It is a 5-7 minute work that consists of 4 performers. The piece is a critical reflection of the arrival of Christianity for Pasifika peoples; more specifically, for the Samoan community and its rapid influence over Samoan culture. Choreographer, Ankaramy Fepulea’i will also be taking a 40-minute workshop consisting of taskings/movement from the Suiga performance.

Session Keywords: Theology, Christianity, assimilation, Pacific storytelling, tradition, religion, identity, culture, dance, contemporary dance, Pacific-contemporary dance.

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Bios



Anges Kupul Mek is a Senior Social Scientist and Head of Social and Behavioural Research at the PNG Medical Research Institute. Agnes has more than 15 years' experience working in social research exploring gender, culture, sexuality, GBV and sorcery related violence, HIV/AIDS, social impacts of resource extractions, and public health; using participatory and storytelling methods; and a practitioner and pioneer at incorporating visual methods into research at the PNGIMR.



Prof. Alice Te Punga Somerville (Te Āti Awa, Taranaki) is a scholar, poet and irredentist. She writes and teaches at the intersections of literary studies, Indigenous studies and Pacific studies; having taught in NZ, Australia and Hawai'i, she has recently taken up a professorship at the University of British Columbia in the Department of English language & literatures and the Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies.



Ana (Naki) Funaki Taulanga (Folaha, Tonga) is a born and bred South Auckland street dance and Pacific-contemporary dance practitioner. She recently graduated with a Bachelor of Dance Studies at the University of Auckland. Since graduating, Naki has recently taken on performance opportunities as a freelance dance artist and currently works as a youth mentor for Affirming Works which caters to South Auckland rangatahi.



Ankaramy Fepuleai (Sato'alepai & Saleaula, Sāmoa) is a graduate of the Bachelor of Dance Studies degree and Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Secondary) at the University of Auckland. He is currently teaching dance at Alfriston College. In 2019, he established Nappyboyz, a South Auckland dance company that provides platforms for South Auckland dancers to perform, compete and create.



Anna Dzedzic (University of Melbourne) is a postdoctoral fellow in the Laureate Program in Comparative Constitutional Law at Melbourne Law School. She researches constitutional law, with a particular focus on the constitutional systems of the Pacific region. Her work has explored ideas of membership, belonging and representation through a legal and constitutional lens, with publications exploring foreign judges in the Pacific, the redefinition of constituencies in Samoa, and citizenship laws across Oceania.



Anna Naupa is a PhD student in CHL, ANU. She is also Associate Director – Outreach at the Pacific Fusion Centre in Vanuatu. She has over 20 years' experience in senior public sector and Pacific regional organisation management, including as regional and international issues adviser at the Forum Secretariat. She holds MAs in Geography and Public Administration from the University of Hawai'i, Manoa and Harvard University's Kennedy School respectively.



Apolosa Robaigau (University of the South Pacific) is a Climate Change Post Graduate Scholar and Environmental Science Graduate. His research interests are conservation, climate change adaptation and environment advocacy. He is a Practitioner and a community liaison who works with communities – children and youth groups on natural resource management projects weaving indigenous and contemporary methods.



Dr Bal Kama is a Special Counsel with the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) and specialises in matters of constitutional, climate and environmental law in the Pacific as well as regional socio-political affairs. Dr Kama has a PhD from the Australian National University (ANU) and undergraduate degrees in Law (Honours) and Arts (International Relations and Politics) from the University of Canberra (UC).



Dr Bianca Haas has conducted her PhD at the University of Tasmania on regional fisheries management organizations and their link to the UN Sustainable Development Goal. Since 2022, she works as a postdoctoral research fellow at the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS). Her research is on equity in transboundary fisheries management, with a special focus on tuna management in the Pacific and the Indian Ocean.



Dr. Bonnie Etherington was born in Whakatū (Nelson) in Aotearoa, mostly raised in West Papua, and now works as a lecturer in literary and creative communication at Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington.



Bridget Fa'amatiainu is currently a lecturer at the AUT Law School finalising a PhD by publication exploring a Talanoa approach to law reform and recognition of fa'atama in Samoa. Bridget's research interests are law reform, legal pluralism, constitutional law, human rights law and private law in the Pacific; gender law and legal research methodology; socioeconomic justice and meaningful access to justice; self-represented litigation; critical legal education and Pacific pedagogies in Indigenous private law teaching.



Dr Camille Goodman is a Senior Lecturer at the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security, and a Visiting Fellow at the ANU College of Law. From 2005 to 2020, Camille worked at the Attorney-General's Department, providing legal and policy advice to the Australian Government, with a focus on law of the sea. Camille's research focuses on applying the law of the sea to address contemporary challenges, particularly in relation to fisheries, marine environmental law, and climate change.



Catherine Ziegler, MLIS, MSc, is an archivist at the ANU Archives Centre. She joined the ANU Archives team in January 2016, and her role has included an emphasis on the Pacific Research Archive at ANU. Previously, she had been the Manager of Digital Collections and Online Services of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society and Project Archivist at the American Sephardi Federation at the Center for Jewish History.



Chas Mamea (Matautu Lefaga; Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hine) is a South Auckland artist/dancer/practitioner/choreographer/researcher. Chas graduated with a Bachelor of Dance Studies in 2020, completed her Bachelor of Dance Studies (Honours) in 2021 and has now gratefully received a scholarship for a Doctorate of Philosophy at Waipapa Taumata Rau | the University of Auckland (UoA) within the Ngā Akoranga Kanikani | Dance Studies Programme.



Christopher Chevalier is an ANU Alumni and Independent researcher. “Descended from mixed European ancestry, I grew up in England. Following university, I trained as a registered nurse in 1980. I worked in the Solomons from 1989 to 1998. Since 1999, I have worked as a freelance social researcher, evaluator and trainer in the Pacific with a particular interest in using participatory methods. In 2021, I completed a PhD in Oral History and Social History in Solomon Islands at the Australian National University.”



Constance Rambourg Davis (Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS), University of Wollongong) completed her Master of Maritime Policy with Honours at the University of Wollongong in 2020, where she is now working on a PhD thesis on the topic of modern colonialism in overseas territories’ large-scale marine protected areas.



Domenica Gisella Calabrò holds a PhD in Cultural Anthropology and is currently lecturer and discipline coordinator in Gender Studies at the University of the South Pacific. She has conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Māori settings since 2008, and has more recently engaged in research in Indo-Fijian contexts.



Dylan Asafo is from the villages of Salani, Satalo, Siumu, Moata’a, and Leufisa in Samoa. He is a lecturer in the Faculty of Law at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. His main areas of interest include: race and the law, climate justice in the Pacific, constitutional and human rights law in the Pacific, and criminal justice and abolition.



Elvira Rumkabu is an indigenous West Papuan academic at Cenderawasih University in Jayapura, Papua. She also serves as secretary of the Campus Coalition for Papuan Democracy which focuses on research and advocacy related to democracy and indigenous peoples' issues. She completed her Bachelor of Education at Gadjah Mada University (UGM) and Masters at the Australian National University (ANU).



Emma Ngakuravaru Powell is a lecturer in the Indigenous Studies at Te Tumu, the School of Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies at the University of Otago. Her current research focuses on the literature and history of the Cook Islands, and the political, social and cultural imbrications of New Zealand's imperial Realm. She is co-Director of the Pacific Thought Network at the University of Otago, the Aotearoa Pacific History Network and Te Vairanga Kite Pakari (the Cook Islands Research Association).



Eva Aguong Cruz, also known as “Eva Chamorrta” is CHamoru/ Chamorro (Matao, Taotao Håya) cultural artist, educator, and advocate from the Marianas. She explores her personal expressions of identity through the art of ceremony, prayer, chant, poetry, and movement. As an educator and advocate, her practice and programs in the community integrate hands-on heritage based experiences for young people, fostering positive consciousness and creativity through the cultural arts.



Fleur Ramsay is the Head of Litigation and Climate Lead for the Pasifika Program at EDO. She is a Samoan and works at the intersection of human and indigenous rights, climate and environmental law and ‘custom’ in the Pacific region and at an international level. Fleur was named one of the best Australian lawyers working in climate change law in 2022. Fleur graduated with a BA and LLB from Macquarie University and has a LLM from the University of Glasgow.



Freda Kanek Talao is the Managing Lawyer for EDO's Pasifika Program. Although trained and admitted as a lawyer to the Supreme and National Courts of Papua New Guinea, Freda holds Australian legal qualifications including a Masters in Law from Bond University and a Master of Philosophy from University of Queensland. She has been Director on several boards in PNG including Bank South Pacific BSP and is also a development specialist.



Genevieve Quirk BSc (Uni Qld), DULF(Uni Paris), MEnvLaw(ANU) is a PhD candidate at the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security at the University of Wollongong. Genevieve has worked as an oceans policy advisor in international roles focused on Antarctica, the EU, and the Pacific.



Dr. George Carter is a Research Fellow in Geopolitics and Regionalism, at the Department of Pacific Affairs at the Australian National University (ANU). In 2019 he became a Co-Director for the ANU Pacific Institute. Before completing the PhD program with ANU, he had studied a Masters of Arts in International Relations with Honours, and a Masters of Diplomacy.



Georgina Oro is a lawyer from the Solomon Islands with a deep, unfettered passion for #freewestpapua advocacy and campaign. Her involvement with Youngsolwara started in 2017. She believes that the Pacific region can never truly be free if West Papua is still under oppressive control. She encourages youths across the region, as well as the globe, to join her stand on the issue of West Papua.



Hefrani Barnes: Of English and Rotuman heritage, Hefrani, whose name translates to “the Morning Star”- is a young self-taught visual, conceptual artist and illustrator. She is a student at International Secondary School in Suva. As passionate as she is creative, Hefrani has been involved in artistic activism from a young age. She is inspired by the natural world, in particular the ocean and her creatures, its role in connecting the people and its effect on Pacific culture.



Hineitimoana Greensill (Tainui, Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Porou) is a PhD candidate in History at Waipapa Taumata Rau, the University of Auckland. Hineitimoana’s research engages with the intellectual and political work of her grandmother in conversation with a broader public archive of Māori women’s writing in the late 20th century. She is especially passionate about decolonial, Kaupapa Maori, and land-based projects that contribute to whānau wellbeing and sustainable sovereign futures.



Iatua Felagai Taito, is a multi-disciplinary artist that dabbles in theatre, teaching, dancing, writing, directing, screen-acting and advocating in advisory roles. He is currently finishing his Masters of Dance Studies at Waipapa Taumata Rau | the University of Auckland (UoA), while teaching Pacific Music and Dance at Te Wānanga o Waipapa - School of Māori Studies and Pacific Studies, and being apart of the Auckland Theatre Youth Company.



Ioane Aleke Fa'avae (Unitec Institute of Technology) is an Academic Development Pacific Lecturer at Unitec Institute of Technology Te Pūkenga and Lecturer of vagahau Niue at Manukau Institute of Technology Te Pūkenga.



Jacky Clements is the Information Access and Collection Management Coordinator – Pacific, Anthropology & International Relations, in the ANU Library. Jacky has qualifications in Library and Information Management, and experience across education, public and private industry sectors in Australia, the United Kingdom and New Zealand. A proud Ngati Mutunga Maori woman, Jacky has a personal and professional interest in Pacific and indigenous collections.



Jason Titifanue is a Rotuman from the Republic of the Fiji Islands. He is currently a PhD candidate with the School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Melbourne, and an Honorary Research Associate with the Institute of Human Security and Social Change at La Trobe University. Prior to this he worked as a teaching staff at the University of the South Pacific.



Jasmin (Jas) 'Ofamo'oni (Na'u hau mei Houma, Tongatapu Tonga/Tāurangā, Aotearoa New Zealand) is a graduate dance teacher, creative, and award-winning emerging dance researcher who is currently undertaking her PhD in Dance Studies at Waipapa Taumata Rau | University of Auckland. Her research ambitions include empowering Indigenous communities, provoking decolonial action within tertiary institutions, and exploring ways to re-imagine our Indigenous methodologies for future Oceanic scholars.



Dr Jenny Munro is a cultural anthropologist with interests in health, gender, violence and sovereignties. She has conducted extensive ethnographic research in Papua/West Papua on health care, reproduction, stigma, and racism. A recently completed study focuses on the violence embedded in Papuan experiences of hospital childbirth (The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology, with Dr Els Rieke Katmo and Meki Wetipo).



Dr Jesi Lujan Bennett (University of Waikato) is of Chamoru descent with familial ties to Dededo and Barrigada, Guåhan (Guam). She is a faculty member in Pacific and Indigenous Studies at the University of Waikato in Aotearoa. Bennett earned a PhD in American Studies and Museum Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Her research examines the outmigration of Chamorus and how these diasporic communities articulate their indigeneity in new geographic and cultural contexts in light of significant political and social change in Micronesia.



Jess Pasisi (Niue, Pālagi, Ngāti Pikiāo, Tahiti) is a researcher and lecturer in Pacific Islands Studies at the University of Otago, in Ōtepoti, Aotearoa. Jess' research explores connections and specificity relating to Niue, climate change, and Pacific and Indigenous Studies. Her current research project "Fakatokatokaaga Fiafia Niue" Niue Happiness focuses on tagata Niue conceptualisations and perspectives of Niue happiness and wellbeing.



Joey Tau is a media & communications specialist with a background in development work in campaigns, research & policy in the Pacific. Joey is the Deputy Coordinator of the Pacific Network on Globalisation, a regional watchdog promoting Pacific peoples' right to be self-determining. He is also part of the Youngsolwara Pacific movement.



Jope Tarai is a PhD student at the Department of Pacific Affairs at the ANU. His main research interests include digital politics and governance, regional politics, Pacific diplomacy and tuna politics. He recently completed a Master of Arts in Politics and International Affairs at the University of The South Pacific on the South Pacific Tuna Treaty: A case study in Collective Diplomacy.



Julia Miller is the Senior Data Manager for the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language (CoEDL) and a digital archivist for the Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (PARADISEC). She divides her time between facilitating archiving of indigenous and minority language materials collected by people from the region and world-wide, managing multiple digitising studios, and creating technical workflows and archiving guides for audiences with different skillsets and goals.



Kari James is the Executive Officer of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau (also known as Pambu). Before Pambu, she worked in the research archive of a Native Title Representative Body, as a volunteer at the National Archives of Solomon Islands and as a cataloguer and archival researcher for ABC TV News. She has qualifications in media, librarianship, archives and records management. Her particular areas of interest are preservation of at risk archives, connecting Pacific communities with archival materials, women's stories in history and climate data rescue.



Katerina Teaiwa is a Professor in Pacific Studies in the School of Culture, History & Language, Australian National University and Chair of the Oceania Working Party living and working on Ngunnawal, Ngunawal and Ngambri lands. She is of Banaban, I-Kiribati (Tabiteuean) and African American heritage, born and raised in Fiji.



Kathryn Dan is University Archivist at the Australian National University which holds the Pacific Research Archive. Kathryn has extensive experience in archives, records and libraries. She has held senior information management roles at the University of Melbourne, National Archives of Australia, National Library of Australia and Monash University. Professionally active, she has served on committees and in leadership roles of the Australian Society of Archivists and the International Council of Archives including the Pacific Regional Branch of ICA (PARBICA).



Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner is of Marshall Islander descent. She is a poet who serves as Climate Envoy for the Marshall Islands Ministry of Environment. She is also co-founder and Director of the Marshallese youth environmental nonprofit Jo-Jikum. She is author of *Iep Jältok: Poems from a Marshallese Daughter* (2017) and is presently pursuing a doctoral project by creative portfolio at the ANU.



Keyana Fuiava graduated from the University of Auckland with a Bachelor of Dance Studies (Honours) in 2019. She is currently working for the Ministry of Education as a Pacific policy advisor. She is also a dancer for Nappyboyz Dance Company, Ladió's 'The Sixxes' and a freelance dance artist in her spare time. Keyana is passionate about working with Pacific and Maori students and thoroughly enjoys giving back to her South Auckland community through her mahi with the Ministry of Education.



Krystal Elizabeth Selwood Juffa is a Youngsolwaran based in Samoa and is of Papua New Guinea and Samoan parentage. "I stand firmly with the belief that anyone and everyone should not be deprived their equal right to feel and believe, among other things I believe in a peaceful future and a stable society."



Kim Kruger is a lecturer and researcher with Moondani Balluk Academic Centre at Victoria University, Australia. She has a background in community development, community radio broadcasting and Indigenous arts management including film, theatre, visual art and festivals. Kim is undertaking her PhD researching Black Power at the intersection of Aboriginal and South Sea Islander political organisation.



Laura Simpson Reeves is a PhD candidate, research assistant and sessional academic at The University of Queensland. Her research and teaching engage with marginalised and vulnerable populations at the nexus of culture and disadvantage, particularly in relation to ethnicity, gender and sexuality. She has a strong interest in the challenges faced by diaspora. Laura's PhD explores ideas of 'the good life' amongst Samoan diaspora in Brisbane.



Libby Cass is Director Curatorial and Collection Research at the National Library of Australia, where she is involved in many projects including the Digital Pasifik Co-design Group and Collecting Fijian Australian Stories. Prior to joining the National Library, Libby worked in various library roles, including as an Information Specialist with the University of the South Pacific's The PRIDE Project, Migration and Refugee Tribunals and the Independent Commission Against Corruption.



Lisa Hilli is an artist, curator, scholar and proud Tolai/Gunantuna woman. She has specialist knowledge of lens-based practices, she is an exhibited artist and an experienced museum curator. Her art and writing often draw on archival documents and images. Lisa has a Master of Fine Art by Research and Bachelor of Fine Art from RMIT University. Lisa is currently pursuing a PhD by creative works at the Australian National University.



Malia Vaurasi: "I am a Rotuman mother of two. I have a degree in both Sociology and Psychology and a Postgraduate Degree in Sociology from the University of the South Pacific. I am currently pursuing my Master's degree in Sociology. In my artwork for Youngsolwara I combine my passion for creating art and my passion for justice in our Pacific to help inspire the change we wish for, and that the next generation deserves."



Mandy Treagus (she/they) is of Welsh, Scottish and Cornish descent and is a settler on the unceded lands of the Peramangk peoples. She is Associate Professor in English and Creative Writing and the University of Adelaide, where she teaches and researches literature, culture, and visual studies. Her publications include *Empire Girls: The Colonial Heroine Comes of Ages*, *Changing the Victorian Subject* and *Anglo-American Imperialism in the Pacific: Discourses of Encounter*.



Marama Salsano (Ngāi Tūhoe, Te Aitanga-a-Māhaki, Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Wairere) is a māmā, creative writer, lover of earrings, and ringatoi who is interested in the ways in which *tīpuna kōrero* is expressed through contemporary whakairo and *tukutuku* patterning. Marama is also a PhD candidate at the International Institute of Modern Letters at Victoria University of Wellington, where she works within the broad field of Māori and Indigenous Literary Studies.



Maria Komboy is a descendant of the Biak people of West Papua. She is a theologian and human rights advocate based in Jayapura, where she works in church and civil spaces to educate others about the basic rights of her people, and to advocate for peace and justice.



Marie Pewhairangi is a proud Māori wahine born and raised on the East Coast of the North Island, Aotearoa. Based in Melbourne, Marie is a respected member of the Māori community, Co-Chair on the Tangata Restorative Justice Advisory Group and President on the Victorian Oceania Community Alliance. She is the Team Leader Neighbourhood Hubs at Arndell Park Community Centre, Wyndham City Council with over 20 years in Youth and Community Development Sectors.



Marie-Hélène Villierme (photographer, artist, filmmaker): “Born from a Tahitian father and Italian mother, I grew up on our ancestral family land in Mahina (Tahiti). As a photographer, my book *Tangata: A Polynesian Community* documents the atoll-based rural communities in the Tuamotu islands. My documentary “*Pouvaana Te Metua*” follows the life and legacy of the first Tahitian nationalist.”



Marita Davies is a proud Kiribati & Australian woman, a Marakei and Tabiteuea North descendant, who is passionate about capturing and sharing stories of Kiribati. Marita honours her ancestors with the knowledge that geographical location does not hinder the creativity that can be unlocked. Stories and the way that they are told, is how we connect. Marita has authored *Teaote and the Wall*, a children’s book set in Kiribati and has written for *frankie*, *The Guardian*, *The Big Issue* and *Dumbo Feather*.



Melinda Mann is a Darumbal and South Sea Islander woman from Rockhampton, Queensland which is home to most of her family and extend family and both her Aboriginal Ancestors and all generations of her South Sea Islander family since the Blackbirding era. Melinda draws on her professional experience in community education and Darumbal nation-building; her lived experiences living most of her life in regional and rural towns and her research in Indigenous learning and knowledges.



Mililani Ganivet: “Born in Hawaii, I trace my genealogical ties to Tahiti (French-occupied Polynesia), I was raised in Taravao, a lush and small-town of Tahiti. I left for Paris at 17 where I earned a BA and MA from the Sorbonne (Paris IV). I am an Indigenous Tahitian graduate student at the Center of Pacific Island Studies at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa.”



Moira Fortin (University of Otago) is an actress and Lecturer at the Languages and Cultures Program at the University of Otago (Aotearoa/New Zealand). She is the author of the book *Rapa Nui Theatre: Staging Indigenous Identities in Easter Island* (2023), which examines the relationships between theatrical productions and socio-political aspects of Rapa Nui culture from precolonial times to the present.



Dr. Nālani Wilson-Hokowhitu (Kanaka Maoli, 'o ia/ she/her) is an artist and interdisciplinary scholar of Critical Indigenous and Pacific Studies. Her art and scholarship engages mo'okū'auhau, genealogies, connections to the natural world, mana wāhine, and Indigenous and Pacific feminisms, epistemologies, and ontologies that inform innovative and transformative futurities.



Natalie Harkin is a Narungga poet living on Kaurna Yarta, South Australia, and a Research Fellow at Flinders University. She engages archival-poetic methods to decolonise state archives with an interest in Aboriginal women's domestic service and labour histories, and Indigenous Living-Legacy / Memory Story archive innovations for our time. Her words have been installed and projected in mixed-media exhibitions, including creative-arts research collaboration with Unbound Collective.



Nicholas Hoare obtained his PhD from the Australian National University in 2021 where he currently lectures undergraduate courses in Pacific history within the Department of Pacific Affairs. Prior to this he studied at Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand. His primary research interests are the French colonial Pacific and the Pacific's phosphate islands, but he has also published, and has ongoing interests in, Australia and New Zealand's colonial history and Pacific biography.



Olivia Yates is a disabled Palagi and researcher who grew up in Tauranga and now lives in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. She is fresh from her PhD in Psychology at the University of Auckland where she pursues action-oriented research and advocacy informed by community psychology. Her research and advocacy centres upon the structural causes of climate (in) justice in the Pacific with a focus on Tuvalu and Kiribati and also upon an appropriate settler response to climate mobility.



Pauline Reynolds is a Pacific scholar and tapa practitioner of Norfolk Island-Pitcairn-Tahitian-British heritage. She is well-known for her creative and scholarly work that focuses on how objects can reveal the voices of those left out of historical narratives. She disseminates her research through publications and exhibitions and has most recently taken up a role at the Norfolk Island Museum. Her exhibition *Hina Sings...* (2022-23) is on show in Whakatāne, Aotearoa and due to travel in 2023.



Pip Louey is a PhD Candidate at the Department of Pacific Affairs, Australian National University. Pip's research explores the politics of sustainable ocean development in the Pacific Islands as negotiated under the banner of the 'blue economy.' She has worked at the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) and undertaken a research internship at the Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG), supporting the development of the Blue Pacific Line campaign.



Raisera McCulloch is a Pasifika woman living on Bunjalung country. She's an educator developing training on decolonizing practices for systems change and a consultant to INGOs in racial justice. Her homeland of Tuvalu is facing a climate crisis and she advocates for action so her own children can preserve their culture. Currently a student of NAIITS completing a Masters in Theological Studies focusing on Indigenous Theology. Founder of Indigenous Giving Circle, a philanthropic initiative created to decolonise wealth, working towards a reparations model of giving.



Rebecca H. Hogue teaches at Harvard University where she is Lecturer on History & Literature and Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her most recent work has been published in *Critical Ethnic Studies*, *Amerasia*, and *International Affairs*. Rebecca is the co-editor, along with Craig Santos Perez, of the forthcoming anthology, entitled *For the People Land and Sea: Environmental Relations in Oceania and the Pacific Islands*, under contract with University of Washington Press.



Rebecca Monson is a Professor in the ANU College of Law. Her work broadly focuses on relationships between people and environments in both Australia and the Pacific, in particular Gunaikurnai country where she grew up, and Solomon Islands, which she first visited as an undergraduate student. Her work is primarily influenced by the fields of 'law and development', legal geography, feminist political ecology, and Pacific Studies. She recently published her first book, *Gender, Property and Politics in the Pacific: who speaks for land?*



Rohan Nanthakumar is a Senior Lawyer in the EDO's Pasifika Program. He specialises in cases at the intersection of human rights, indigenous rights and environmental protection, and in climate and environmental justice. Before joining the EDO, Rohan was Associate to the Chief Justice of Australia and Counsel Assisting the Solicitor-General for Victoria. He has advised the Australian government in constitutional and international law as Counsel at the AGS, practised in commercial litigation at Allens and worked in human rights law and policy at the Australian Human Rights Commission.



Rohini Balram is an Indo-Fijian who has lived in Australia since 2010. She is an arts-based researcher at Western Sydney University with the School of Education and the School of Social Sciences. Rohini's research projects centre on gender, ethnicity, race, class and other socio-cultural issues surrounding, sporting platforms, CALD communities, ageing citizens, people with disabilities, refugees and other minority and marginalised groups.



Romitesh Kant began his PhD candidacy with the DPA at ANU in 2022. His doctoral research examines the symbiotic relationship between politics and masculinity in the Fijian national context. He completed his Bachelor of Arts (History/ Politics and Economics), Post Graduate Certificate in Gender Studies and Master of Arts (Politics and International Affairs) at the University of the South Pacific.



Ronny Kareni is an honorary fellow at the University of Wollongong West Papua Project, an arts and cultural advocacy director for Rize of the Morning Star and lecturer in Tok Pisin at the School of Culture, History and Language at the College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University.



Roshika Deo holds a MSc Public Policy from the University of College London, and a Bachelor of Law from the University of the South Pacific. She has over 16 years of work experience in public policy, research, capacity strengthening and legal analysis in the gender, human rights and development sector.



Dr. Rosiana Lagi is a Teacher by Profession, currently a Senior Lecturer in Education, Education Discipline Coordinator and Deputy Head of School (Learning, Teaching and Quality) at the School of Pacific Arts, Communication and Education at the University of the South Pacific, Suva Fiji. She is a researcher with research interest in Climate Change, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Human Development, Literacy and Quality Education.



Dr. Ruth (Lute) Faleolo, is a New Zealand-born Tongan, Australian-based Pasifika researcher of Pacific peoples' migration histories, trans-Pacific mobilities, collective agencies, and multi-sited Pacific e-cultivation of cultural heritage. Her PhD research presents interdisciplinary understandings drawn from a mixed methods study of Trans-Tasman Pasifika migrant perspectives and experiences (2015-2020). Her current postdoctoral work, alongside a global team of scholars, extends her work of Pasifika migration, widely considering their histories with and their continued contemporary mobilities, to and through Australia (2020-2023).



Sam Iti Prendergast (University of Waikato) is a Ngāti Maniapoto historian of settler colonialism and Indigenous sovereignty in and beyond Aotearoa New Zealand. Her research spans histories of ongoing colonization in the Pacific and Pacific Indigenous practices of sovereignty, defiance, and community.



Sarouche Razi is an interdisciplinary researcher and legal practitioner with expertise in the legal assistance sector, critical legal and pedagogical theories, police and state accountability, and decolonising law. He currently teaches the Prison Literacy Course in the ANU College of Law, and is undertaking a PhD looking at civil law as a space of punishment for First Nations' peoples, and the role of legal representation. Sarouche leads a project with the Tangata Wyndham Restorative Justice Advisory Group to examine Pasifika and Maori visions of restorative justice.



Senoveva Mauli [pre-record] is a PhD Candidate at the Australian National Center for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) at the University of Wollongong. Ms. Mauli was awarded a PhD Scholarship from ANCORS in 2018. This PhD study is a component of a ACIAR funded Pathway Project and the title of her thesis is: “Seeking Impact and Sustainability through the alignment of Fisheries Management into Rural Development Initiatives in Solomon Islands.”



Siobhan McDonnell is a lawyer & anthropologist with over 25 years experience working alongside Indigenous people in Australia and Oceania. As a Senior Lecturer at ANU she has been a lead negotiator on climate change since 2019 for various Pacific governments. Her commitment to activist anthropology led to her being the drafter of Constitution reforms and changes to land laws to deliver better land rights for ni-Vanuatu.



Sr Rode Wanimbo [prerecord] is the chairperson of the Women's Department of Evangelical Church of Indonesia and is devoted to the liberation of West Papua and restoring God's image in humanity. Among many other achievements in this role, she started a small women's group that is committed to decolonising the Bible – reconstructing the interpretation of biblical texts to champion women in the Pacific.



Steven Gagau is a cultural researcher, archivist and community collaborator with the University of Sydney. Based at PARADISEC digital archive, he works on Pacific collections, Pacific exhibitions with Chau Chak Wing Museum and supports CoEDL Tok Pisin language projects. He is co-producer of PARADISEC Podcast “Toksave – Culture Talks”, co-curator Pacific Views Exhibition and partner researcher with British Library “True Echoes” Project. Steven is a Tolai of Gunantuna heritage on New Britain Island in Papua New Guinea.



Syrai-Tiare Taumihau (Tahiti, Cook Islands, Tonga) is an Oceanic researcher, creative artist and current PhD candidate at the University of Auckland's Dance Studies department. Syrai's work engages in her own curated Mana Moana methodology (vā, talanoa) within practice-led dance research, focusing on navigating and negotiating cultural identity and belonging for Pacific and Māori dance students in the tertiary education context.



Tagimamao Melanie Puka Bean is a PhD candidate in Geography at Louisiana State University. Her current research focuses on the Tokelau's diasporic communities in the Wellington region and Hawai'i.



Talei Luscia Mangioni is a Fijian and Italian woman living and working on unceded Ngunnawal/Ngunawal/Ngambri lands. She is a teacher and is undertaking her PhD in the School of Culture, History & Language at the Australian National University which looks at creative and critical histories of the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific. She is a board member of ICAN Australia, member of Youngsolwara Pacific and is the secretary for the Australian Association for Pacific Studies.



Talitha Fraser, The Recollective, is a Ngai Tahu/Pakeha settler on the lands of the peoples of the Kulin Nation. She is the curator of The Recollective and Administrator for the Australian Collaborators in Feminist Theologies. Her creative practice is one of contemplative listening: How does place or event shape creative practice, and how does practice change place, or event, or people?



Teuila Hughes is a Ph.D. candidate and graduate teacher from the Dance Studies Programme at the University of Auckland in Aotearoa/New Zealand. As a Samoan woman, researcher, and dance artist, she is drawn to discourse that unearths socio-cultural narratives, pertaining to identity and sustainability of indigenous ways of knowing, doing, and being. Moving through indigenous Oceanic theories and methodologies, her current research explores articulations of embodied knowledge within Samoan dance practice, pedagogy, and performance.



Theresa Meki is a Pacific research fellow at the Department of Pacific Affairs, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs. She recently completed her PhD thesis- a political ethnography which explored the gendered nature of political campaigning during the 2017 national elections in Oro Province of Papua New Guinea. Theresa has worked as a field producer and research assistant for the DFAT funded Pawa Meri film series – a project documenting the lives of six remarkable PNG women. She has a long-term interest women's political leadership, politics and gender in the pacific region.



Dr. Tia Reihana-Morunga (Ngāti Hine) is a lecturer in Dance Studies at The University of Auckland. Tia works extensively in Arts, Education and Health with Indigenous communities in Aotearoa. Her PhD, *Te mana Motuhake o te kauri* (the authority of the Kauri tree) developed an intercultural praxis through Kaupapa Māori research with Marrugeku Dance Theatre. Tia is a dancer and choreographer, and her current research interests are focused on archiving the history of Māori Contemporary Dance in New Zealand and arts place-based, practice-led theories and methodologies.



Tiara Na'puti, global and international studies assistant professor, studies issues of militarism and sovereignty in the Pacific Islands, specifically Guåhan/Guam. As an Indigenous Chamoru (familian Robot & Kaderon), she is committed to understanding how Indigenous communities address issues of political status as well as militarization and climate change.



Tuitautai Henry Tamasese is a seasoned public policy practitioner and community activist with over two decades of experience across various jurisdictions in the Pacific and, more recently, in Australia. His first foray into community activism included co-founding a grassroots youth movement to educate Samoans about HIV/AIDS. Later, he co-founded and led the establishment of a chapter of Habitat for Humanity for affordable housing as well as immersing himself in all aspects of community development at the local, national, and regional levels.



Vehia Wheeler is a child of Moana Nui a Hiva. Born and raised in Hawai'i, and with ancestral roots to the islands of Mo'orea and Mangareva, Vehia's upbringing has instilled a passion for healthy and balanced island environments. Vehia is now a PhD student at the Australian National University, in Pacific Island Studies (School of Culture History and Language) studying ancestral land and ocean management in Maohi Nui for a decolonial future.



Victoria Stead is a Senior Lecturer in Anthropology at Deakin University. Her research critically examines the nature of Australian coloniality, both within Australia and across the Pacific region. Her books include *Labour Lines and Colonial Power: Indigenous and Pacific Islander Labour Mobility in Australia* (co-edited with Jon Altman, ANU Press, 2019), and *Becoming Landowners: Entanglements of Custom and Modernity in Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2016).



Wanda Ieremia-Allan (Sapapali'i, Safotulafai, Saōluafata, Matāutu Falealili, Lalomanu – Samoa) is a PhD candidate in Te Tumu – Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies at the University of Otago, Aotearoa New Zealand. Wanda's archival research traces the intergenerational intellectual gafa / lineage of Indigenous Samoan writing of the early twentieth century in the former London Missionary Society newspaper O le Sulu Samoa.



Watna Mori is a Senior Solicitor in the EDO's Pasifika Program. Watna is Papua New Guinean and has worked in both Australia and Papua New Guinea in different human rights fields, including practising racial discrimination law in Australia and representing asylum seekers at the Manus Island and Nauru Regional Processing Centres and in law reform with the Papua New Guinea Constitutional and Law Reform Commission.



Dr. Wesley Morgan is a Senior Researcher at the Climate Council of Australia. He is also an adjunct Research Fellow at the Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University. He has written widely on development and contemporary politics in the Pacific. His research interests include trade policy in the Pacific; geopolitics and diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific; Pacific islands and international politics of climate change and oceans.



Zsofia Korosy is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Faculty of Law and Justice at the University of New South Wales, where she completed her PhD in 2021. Her research examines marine environments, resources, law and conservation, in the Pacific Ocean and more generally.



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