



Talanoa

Newsletter of the

CENTRE FOR THE CONTEMPORARY PACIFIC

Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies

Australian National University

Canberra ACT 0200

Australia

URL: <http://rspas.anu.edu.au/ccp>

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Editor: Greg Rawlings

NEWS

In January 2000 Greg Rawlings was appointed acting Administrator of the Centre. Greg is a PhD student in the Department of Anthropology at RSPAS and is currently completing his thesis entitled '*Once there was a garden, now there is a swimming pool: urbanisation, inter-ethnic relations and globalisation in peri-urban Vanuatu*'. Greg also works part time with the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau.

SEMINARS

The Centre started its schedule of seminars in conjunction with the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Project (SSGM) on 8 February. Michael Monsell-Davis presented a paper on *Youth and Social Change in the Pacific*. Michael is a graduate of Anthropology and Sociology at the Universities of Papua New Guinea and Macquarie. He was formerly Senior Lecturer at the University of Papua New Guinea and currently teaches at the University of the South Pacific. In his paper

Michael examined questions about changing family structures, the roles of urbanisation and education, the consumer society, notions of citizenship and the way these are affecting young people in the Pacific.

The second CCP lunch time seminar was on 15 March when Peter Raftos delivered a presentation on the *Pacific Studies World Wide Web Virtual Library*. Peter is RSPAS web support officer who holds a PhD from the Department of Anthropology, RSPAS. His talk covered the development of the Pacific Virtual Library as a major nexus of electronic and web based sources of information and data on the Pacific region.

On 17 March the Leader of the Samoan National Development Party (the official opposition in Samoa), the Honourable Tuiatua Tupua Tamasese Efi provided an overview and analysis of contemporary political developments in Samoa. He discussed issues of governance, accountability, transparency and economic reform in Samoa.

On 30 March, Louis Mapou, Director-General of the Agence de développement rural et l'aménagement foncier (the Rural and Land Development Agency) (ADRAF) in New Caledonia gave a paper entitled *The Issues and Challenges in New Caledonian Land Policy following the Noumea Accord*. Mr Mapou was visitor at the Centre from 27 March – 10 April 2000 (please read our Visitor's section for further details about Mr Mapou's visit). Louis discussed the colonial history of New Caledonia, concentrating on events in the last 30 years with particular emphasis on land policy, distribution and provisions for customary rights immediately prior to and following the signing of the Noumea Accords in 1998.

On 29 March 2000 the Centre opened its ongoing new seminar series *Conversations with Senior Pacific Diplomats* with colloquia convened by His Excellency, Renagi R. Lohia CBE, High Commissioner for Papua New Guinea in Australia, who spoke about *Opportunity and Participation in the Global Village*. The High Commissioner's presentation covered the relationship between social changes and constitutional continuity along with the opportunities and challenges that this dialectic presents for relatively new nation-states like Papua New Guinea.

The second seminar in the *Conversations with Senior Pacific Diplomats* series was held in the Coombs building on 2 May. His Excellency, The High Commissioner for Samoa in Australia, Leiataua Dr Kilifoti Eteuati spoke on the theme of *Contemporary Samoan Society*. Dr Eteuati holds a PhD degree from the ANU as well as an MA in Political Science and a LLB from the University of Auckland. Prior to his appointment as High Commissioner, Dr Eteuati was Secretary to Government and to the Prime Minister's Department of Samoa.

The CCP will continue to run additional seminars throughout the year. Please consult our web site (<http://rspas.anu.edu.au/ccp>) on when and where these seminars will be held. Alternatively, feel free to contact Greg Rawlings to be placed on the CCP's seminar mailing list.

CONFERENCES 2000 AND 2001

The Centre is planning three international conferences in the next 12 months. There will be a conference on *Urbanisation in Oceania* from 6-7 November 2000, *Food in the Pacific and Asia* from 30/11-01/12 2000 and a conference on *Education in the Pacific*, 7-9 March 2000. The CCP invites papers for all these conferences from scholars across a range of disciplines as well as people from the region who have a special interest in these themes. Electronic registration on the CCP's web site will be available in July 2000. Contact the Centre if you require other forms of registration.

***Urbanisation in Oceania* 6-7 November 2000**

In Oceania urbanisation is an historically situated, fast-growing and socially diverse spatial and demographic trend. A series of economic, political, cultural and social transitions have accelerated the rate of urbanisation and concomitant social transformations. In Fiji, over 40 per cent of the population lives in urban and peri-urban areas, and in Samoa 20 percent. French Polynesia and the Marshall Islands are regarded as 60 percent urban. Urbanisation in the Pacific is characterised by rapid population growth, high rates of internal migration and rapidly growing towns and

cities, with major implications for employment, young people in town, gender relations, infrastructure and utilities (water, roads, sanitation and waste), housing, education, violence, criminality, justice, political process and governance. It also involves complex power relationships between new arrivals in town and indigenous peri-urban villagers, reflecting the significant differences between urbanisation based on rural to urban migration and urbanisation which has occurred through selective participation in town by people who have lived in close proximity to an urban environment for generations. The cities of the contemporary Pacific have their origins in the port towns established as a result of the complex relationships between indigenous peoples and foreign traders, whalers, planters, speculators, entrepreneurs and colonial administrators. It was these earlier nineteenth century entrepôts which established the foundations of today's Pacific cities. Urbanisation in Oceania has led to an explosion of creative energy in terms of art, drama, theatre, music, religion, housing, employment opportunities and language use.

This two day conference will appeal to anthropologists, sociologists, linguists, human and physical geographers, political scientists, cultural studies practitioners, historians, urban planners, economists, development studies specialists, demographers and representatives from NGO's, governments, businesses and churches. *100 – 250 word abstracts due 30 August 2000.*

Food in the Pacific and Asia
30 November – 1 December 2000

The Centre is convening a two-day conference from 30/11/2000 – 1/12/2000 to examine food as a mediator in inter-cultural relations and invites papers from scholars across a range of disciplines as well as people from the region who have a special interest or expertise in relevant aspects of food in social and cultural contexts. There are many aspects of food that lend themselves to social elaboration. All societies recognise basic distinctions between edible, inedible, and poison, but these seemingly natural categories often in fact vary culturally. Food can be seen as a social bond, as a medium of exchange and as a potent marker of identity and can mark or mediate relationships between different cultural groups. It can also shape perceived boundaries between different groups and individuals, either at the level of the social division of labour involved in production, in seasonal festivities or in marketplaces. It can also act as a prime marker of hierarchy and of gender segregation. In most societies, social prestige is attached to certain foods and these may be preserved for people of high rank and made inaccessible to others. These same foods may be central to cementing alliances with other groups and the choicest items may be offered as special gifts. Non-mixing of certain foods can serve as a metaphor for social segregation or exogamy. The provenance of different foodstuffs, the modes of organisation required in their production and the ways and means of transforming raw foods into cooked meals all play their part in shaping cultural notions of self and other. At the same time, these different factors provide the cultural bases for sharing substance through commensality, as well as various rationales for marking social proximity and disparities in wealth and status. *100 – 250 word abstracts due 30 August 2000.*

Education in the Pacific
7-9 March 2001

Education in the Pacific involves the interplay between state policy and local practice. This incorporates complex relationships between teaching, class room activities, modes of curricula, syllabus development, linguistic diversity, imperial legacies, post-colonial dilemmas and the challenges of learning in the current economic and political milieu in the Island States of the South Pacific today. The Centre for the Contemporary Pacific (CCP), in conjunction with the Division of Pacific and Asian History (DPAH), is planning a two to three day conference to discuss these and related issues. This workshop style conference calls for papers from educators, education specialists, teachers, historians, economists, sociologists, linguists, anthropologists and people from other fields of expertise, including practitioners, who have an interest in education issues in Oceania. The conference welcomes papers which examine class room theory and practice (for example what really happens in class rooms and how does this relate to state organised education policy). The CCP also urges those interested to submit abstracts on textbooks and their histories, the influence of radio in education, the findings of oral histories from school based experiences, situational analyses of current educational projects, policy reviews and the relationship between primary, secondary and tertiary education sectors.

The conference should also provide a forum in which to discuss future projects planned by the CCP, such as the cohort studies program. The aim is to locate classmates, those who shared a classroom in the past, ask them about their education, and trace their subsequent careers. The classes will be

selected to ensure adequate representation of gender, religion and socio-economic grouping. This will not only provide detail about the education system, and how people evaluate it, but the career trajectories will illuminate much about the dynamics of the Island States. Currently, little is known about the degrees of spatial, social and economic mobility, and of the various facilitating and impeding factors. The cohort studies will provide important data about changing individual and group opportunities in the transition from colonialism to independence. 100 – 250 word abstracts due 30 October 2000.

PACIFIC WIDE CONFERENCES

Walking about: travel, trade, migration, and movement in Vanuatu.
A cross-disciplinary discussion.
13 – 14 October 2000

Centre for Cross-cultural Research
Australian National University

Ni-Vanuatu value travel highly. In the past men made significant journeys across land and sea, to trade for goods and for knowledge. Women made significant journeys at marriage, moving from one district, or even one island, to another. Spirit paths linked particular places together. There were trading connections with most of the island groups adjacent to Vanuatu, including Fiji, the south-eastern Solomons and New Caledonia. Colonisation and the labour trade brought what some saw as new opportunities to travel, and others experienced, ultimately as displacement or migration. Today, ni-Vanuatu still value the opportunity to travel, especially to and from the two towns, Port Vila and Luganville, by plane or cargo boat. This value placed on

moving about the landscape counterpoints the located self-identification embodied in the term '*manples*'. Road and place have become central and opposed metaphors in contemporary ni-Vanuatu discussion

Papers are invited from a variety of disciplinary perspective's which address the

Continued from page 4

theme of movement in Vanuatu – in the past and in the present. No funds will be available to support attendance at the conference, but there will be no registration fee.

Please send offers of papers, with a title and a brief abstract, to the conference convenor:

Lissant Bolton
British Museum
Department of Ethnography
6 Burlington Gardens
London W1X 2EX
United Kingdom
Phone: 020 7323 8047
Fax: 020 7323 8013
Email: lbolton@british-museum.ac.uk

The conference is funded by the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research, with assistance from the British Museum.

From the conference convenor, Dr Lissant Bolton

***Measina a Samoa: 2000 and Beyond
11 – 14 December 2000***

**Lepapaigalagala Campus, National
University of Samoa, Apia, Samoa**

Talofa Lava

You are warmly invited to participate in "Measina a Samoa 2000 and Beyond" at Lepapaigalagala Campus in Apia, Samoa from 11 to 14 December 2000.

Your contribution can take the form of attendance at the conference or presentation of a paper relating to one or more of the following themes: Art; Culture; Customary Law; Economic Reform; Economic Strategies; Education; Environment; Fa'amatai; Health & Social Issues; Identity; Literature & Language; Media & Representation; Religion; Samoa & other Cultures; Samoa Language; Samoan Sports (contemporary and traditional).

The length of the abstract should be between 250 and 500 words. Each speaker will have twenty minutes to present their paper. Papers presented at the conference will be published and available at the close of the conference

Deadlines:
Abstracts 30 June
Registration 16 October
Full Papers 14 November

Costs:
Registration
Local: SAT\$50
Overseas: US\$100

(The cost of the conference dinner on 13 December will be additional)

Further information:
Available from June 2000 on the NUS Website www.nus.edu.ws

All abstracts, papers and other correspondence should be sent to the Conference Convenor;
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National University of Samoa

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Continued from page 5

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*From the conference convenor, Asiata Dr
Saleimoa Va'ai*

PUBLICATIONS

The CCP's Director, Professor Brij Lal, latest book has just been published. This "milestone in subaltern studies", as Brinsley Samaroo of the University of the West Indies describes it, is entitled *Chalo Jahaji: on a journey through indenture in Fiji* and is jointly published by the Division of Pacific & Asian History at the ANU and the Fiji Museum Suva. Copies can be obtained from the division by e-mailing Jude Shanahan at shanahan@coombs.anu.edu.au

At the end of 1999 the CCP published Emeritus Professor Gerard Ward's (CCP Inaugural Visiting Fellow) Pacific lecture, delivered at the ANU on 12 October 1999, as a monograph.

Ward, R. Gerard. 1999. *Widening worlds, shrinking worlds? the reshaping of Oceania*. CCP, RSPAS, ANU. Canberra.

Professor Ward's publication is available from the Centre for \$10.00 plus \$5.00 for postage and handling.

In October 1999 *Canberra Anthropology – the Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology* published an article by Greg Rawlings.

Rawlings, Greg. 1999. "Villages, islands and tax havens: the global/local implications of a financial entrepôt in Vanuatu". In *Canberra Anthropology – the Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology*. Vol. 22, No.2: 37-50.

VISITING FELLOWS

Emeritus Professor Gerard Ward

In 1998 the Centre was honoured to appoint Emeritus Professor Gerard Ward as its inaugural Visiting Fellow. He was Professor of Human Geography at the ANU from 1971 to 1988, and Director of RSPAS from 1980 to 1993. He was Foundation Professor of Geography at the University of Papua New Guinea from 1967 to 1971. Before that, he taught at University College London, and at the University of Auckland

Professor Ward has been conducting research in the Pacific Islands since 1956, and has done fieldwork in Samoa, Fiji, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. He has a distinguished record of publication in the field of land tenure and agricultural development in the Pacific Islands, including over a dozen books and

monographs and more than ninety papers or book chapters.

Professor Ward is continuing his research on aspects of distance and isolation in the Pacific islands. This was the theme he developed in summary form in the Centre's 1999 Pacific Lecture. He plans to complete a book on the theme. He is also gathering material for a volume, to be called "Journeys to Taupo", on how travellers to the interior of the North Island of New Zealand have perceived the landscapes of their goal, and their journeys to reach there.

Much of his time in recent months has been taken up with his duties as President of the Pacific Science Association. The PSA was founded in the 1920s as a multi-disciplinary organisation to link natural and human scientists with interests in the Pacific region, including the Pacific Islands and the rim countries. It holds congresses every 4 years, and inter-congresses in between. The next (10th) Inter-Congress will be Guam in June 2001. The overall theme is "The integration of Natural and Social Science in the new Pacific Millennium", and sub-themes will include agricultural issues and biodiversity; changing health patterns; coral reef conservation; cultural diversity; climatic change; language and cultural globalisation; science education; population, resources and environment; sustainable tourism. Anyone interested in the Inter-Congress should contact the Guam organisers through Dr Joyce Camacho (email jcamacho@uog9.uog.edu) or the web site www.10psicguam.html.

Director-General Mr Louis Mapou

From 26 March to 12 April 2000, the Centre was honoured to accommodate Mr Louis Mapou as Visiting Fellow. Mr Mapou is Director-General of the Agence de développement rural et l'aménagement

foncier (the Rural and Land Development Agency) (ADRAF) in New Caledonia. Mr Mapou visited Australia under the auspices of the Pacific Islands Senior Visiting Fellowship (PISVF) program to study Native Title issues with a particular focus on the Mabo decision and subsequent developments in policies and legislation relating to Aboriginal land rights, customary law, sea tenure and the reconciliation process. He was interested in the comparative aspects of Indigenous land issues between New Caledonia, Australia and other countries in the Pacific. Land ownership, distribution and indigenous rights have become topics of open dialogue since the signing of the Noumea accords in 1998 which recognised Kanak custom as the basis of a distinct category of land tenure. During his visit, Mr Mapou met with a number of scholars, policy makers, researchers and public officials to discuss the similarities and differences in Indigenous land policies between New Caledonia and Australia. The CCP would like to thank everyone who met with Mr Mapou and helped make his visit a success. In particular the Centre would like to express its appreciation to Dr Nicholas Petersen (Department of Anthropology, the Faculty ANU), Ms Sonia Smallacombe and Mr Paul Bourke (ATSIC), Ms Sina Emde (Department of Anthropology, RSPAS) for her French/English translation services, Dr Bronwen Douglas (SSGM, RSPAS), Dr Roland Rich (Centre for Democratic Institutions, RSSH) and Mr Ken Randall and Ms Helen Fraser.

CONTACT THE CENTRE

Please feel free to visit or otherwise contact the Centre for the Contemporary Pacific.

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