

APFRN Postgraduate Workshop - 'Writing the Pacific' **Monday & Tuesday, November 17th & 18th** **University of Wollongong**

Supported by grants from the Asia Pacific Futures Research Network and the Centre for Asia Pacific Social Transformation Studies as a project of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Pacific Studies.

Convened by:

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Pacific Studies has been one of Australia's strengths, but the 'turn to Asia' and a now ageing university staff nationally prompt moves to promote renewed interest in the Pacific and to foster a new generation of scholars.

This two-day workshop will provide opportunities for postgraduates in Pacific Studies to generate morale and synergies by meeting others in the field, to check their methodologies and insights against work from different disciplinary bases, hone writing skills and think through issues of cross- or inter-disciplinary work.

Ten selected postgraduates will work closely with experienced academics in the field.

The aims of the Workshop are:

- To explore recent work which critically engages with the question of writing the Pacific
- To assist doctoral students to enhance their academic knowledge and expertise
- To provide opportunities for feedback on writing and advice on publication
- To reflect on the nature and challenges of interdisciplinary studies
- To enhance the postgraduate experience with a view to promoting research in Pacific Studies

Participants will speak to their theses and papers and receive feedback from the panel of leaders, with discussion from all participants to share different disciplinary approaches and opinions on each topic. Discussion will identify writing strategies for addressing a range of readers across disciplinary boundaries and how to bring together differing methodologies.

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A panel of experienced supervisors from several disciplines will lead discussion both from the point of view of polishing the research project, and as a means of developing part of that project for article publication and/or conference paper presentation. Thesis-based submissions will be supplemented with examples from the work of scholars in a range of disciplines (including the workshop facilitators) to allow reflection on cross/inter-disciplinary practice.

This workshop will address the Asia-Pacific Futures Research Network 2008 signature theme: "Crossing Borders of Cultural Meanings in the Asia Pacific". The recent conference of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Pacific Studies revealed a common interest in indigenous epistemologies and how these 'translate' into modernity, and cross social borders into Australian and diasporic contexts. This gives a focus for discussions about how such experience also crosses into the rubrics of academic disciplines, and how these rubrics cross with each other in an interdisciplinary framework. The workshop will provide opportunities for postgraduate research students to think long-term on research collaborations/directions in the field. Above all, the workshop will bring together people from around the country in keeping with the APFRN aim of 'integrating regionally dispersed' work to build a sense of cohesion in a currently dispersed and under-represented area of teaching and research. (For more information on the APFRN go to the website at <http://www.sueztosuva.org.au>)

Applications:

Postgraduates working in the area of Pacific Studies (ideally around a third to half-way through their candidature) are invited to submit to the Convenors:

- an outline of their project giving details of topic, research approach and supervision (one page)
- an indication of work to be submitted to the workshop (chapter/article draft and topic)
- any relevant information on track record
- a letter of support from one or more supervisor/s.

The panel will select to produce a mix of institutions and a spread across the various disciplines, and according to the quality of the applications and track record.

Successful applicants will be covered for cheapest reasonable mode of return travel, three nights' accommodation and two days' meals.

Closing Date:

Applications should reach A/Prof Sharrad at the address above by **5pm. Friday, September 19.**

The Panel consists of:

Dr Teresia Teaiwa, is Programme Director for Pacific Studies at Victoria University of Wellington. She studied at U. Hawai'i for her MA, completed a Doctorate on Militarism and Tourism in the Pacific at U. Cal. Santa Cruz, taught at USP, Suva, and has been a research scholar at the Macmillan Brown Centre, U. of Canterbury. Dr Teaiwa is well known for her poetry and she is on the boards of journals covering cinema, ecology, politics, feminist studies. Along with many articles and chapters on Pacific affairs, she has edited *New Zealand Identities: Departures and Destinations* (2005), the Pacific section of the *Encyclopedia of Post-Colonial Literature in English* (2005) and *Inscriptions 7: Enunciating Our Terms: Women of Color in Collaboration and Conflict* (1994). She is currently Secretary of the Pacific History Association.

Prof Stewart Firth is Head of the Pacific Centre, College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University. He was Professor of Politics at the University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji, 1998-2004, and has published widely on the history and politics of the Pacific Islands. His most recent books are *Australia in International Politics: an introduction to Australian foreign policy*, 2nd edn, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2005, and two edited collections: *Globalisation and Governance in the Pacific Islands*, ANU E Press, 2006 and (with Jon Fraenkel) *From Election to Coup in Fiji: the 2006 campaign and its aftermath*, Asia Pacific Press and ANU E Press, 2007, and *Politics and State-Building in Solomon Islands*, a collection edited with Sinclair Dinnen, Asia Pacific Press and ANU E Press, 2008.

Dr Max Quanchi is founding Secretary of AAAPS and a dynamic teacher and researcher in Pacific History. He has taught at QUT since 1988. He teaches a suite of Pacific Island history units including *Australia and the Pacific*, *Pacific culture contact*, *Pacific since 1945*, *USA in the Asia-Pacific* and *Colonialism and Independence in the Asia-Pacific*, and an intensive *Overseas Fieldwork* unit in a Pacific Island country each year in November. His research interests include Australia-Pacific relations, Cross-cultural encounters and the History of Pacific Photography. From 1995-2001 he co-coordinated the TTPF project, a regional professional development program for history teachers in the Pacific. He is the author, co-author, editor or co-editor of *Photographing Papua* (2007), *Hunting the collectors* (2007), *Historical dictionary of exploration and discovery of the Pacific islands* (2005), *Atlas of the Pacific Islands* (2000), *Messy entanglements* (1997) and *Culture contact in the Pacific* (1992). He is a life member of the Pacific History Association.

Associate Professor Kate Hannan is Senior Research Fellow at the University of Wollongong. She worked at USP Suva for many years and developed her interest in international governance and the choices available (and made on behalf of) developing countries, including the small island states of the Pacific. This was one of the main themes of 'Fiji: Sugar and Sweatshirts, Migrants and Remittances', published in *Globalisation and Governance in the Pacific Islands* (ANU E-press, 2006). She is currently a member of an ARC Discovery Project team researching *The Clothing Industry in the Asia Pacific* in the wake of the end of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement.

Her Pacific interests extend to China's involvement in the region and to considering the effect that low wages and decidedly basic working conditions have had on the flow of rural-to-urban migrant workers within China.

She is also investigating the identity assumed by migrants who 'live' in one geographic location, but must look for paid employment in another. The issues are coming more and more to the fore as Pacific Island states seek to increase the number of their citizens working overseas by establishing guest worker schemes. Dr Hannan is co-editing an issue of the *Copenhagen Journal of Asian Studies* on these themes and supervises several theses on Pacific topics.

Dr Helen Lee is a senior lecturer in anthropology in the School of Social Sciences at La Trobe University. Since the 1980s her research has focused on the people of Tonga, both in their home islands in the South Pacific and in the diaspora. Her doctoral research on Tongan childhood was published in 1996 as *Becoming Tongan: an ethnography of childhood* (Helen Morton, University of Hawai'i Press). Helen's more recent work has been with the Tongan diaspora and her book *Tongans overseas: between two shores* (2003, University of Hawai'i Press) is based on both conventional ethnographic fieldwork and 'cyberethnography', including a study of Tongan web-based discussion forums. Her current research focuses on second generation Tongan transnationalism. Helen's teaching draws on Pacific studies wherever possible, and for some years she taught 'Postcolonial Perspectives', a subject on the postcolonial Pacific.

Prof Mark Mosko is Head of the Department of Anthropology in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the ANU. Over the past thirty-five years he has conducted four years of ethnographic field research among the Austronesian-speaking Mekeo peoples of Papua New Guinea, and since 2006 he has spent six months researching Trobriand chieftainship and change in the field at the site of Malinowski's pathbreaking studies. He has published widely on the topics of social organisation, religion and symbolism, chieftainship, economics, and social change. Besides numerous journal articles, he is author of *Quadripartite Structures: Categories, Relations and Homologies in Bush Mekeo Culture* (Cambridge UP 1985) and *Gifts that Change: Agency, Personhood and Religion in a Changing Melanesian Society* (Berghahn Books, in press). He has also co-edited *Transformations of Hierarchy* (Harwood 1994) and *On the Order of Chaos* (Berghahn 2005). His current research interests include chaos theory in anthropology, personhood, sociality, Christian conversion, change, and social theory.

A/Prof Paul Sharrad has taught a Pacific Literature course and other Postcolonial writing subjects for many years, edited journals and supervised some 20 postgrads to successful completion. He has spent time in PNG and Hawai'i and visited other campuses in the region. His literary work crosses into historical and cultural studies areas and he published a standard collection of critical essays *Readings in Pacific Literature* and the first book-length study of Albert Wendt, *Circling the Void, Albert Wendt and Pacific Literature*. He is working on Pacific models for literary critical practice founded upon aesthetics in 'traditional' art-craft practices.