



ENVIRONMENTS & SOCIALITIES IN OCEANIA

Practices of Transformation & Cooperation

25 June 2021

*Online Workshop by Arno Pascht and Desirée Hetzel
in cooperation with
German Anthropological Association's (GAA) Oceania working group*

People across Oceania experience and create transformations linked to processes of globalisation. Indigenous activism regarding climate change, the protectors of Mauna a Wakea in Hawai'i or calls for political self-determination in some Pacific states are prominent examples. Decisions about political and economic developments as well as questions of tradition/kastom and identity, or migratory movements concern the present as well as the future. An example is the debate around questions of indigeneity and power in Aotearoa New Zealand. It is characterised, according to Anne Salmond (2012), not only by discussions about the past, but also by “ontological quarrels” regarding human and more-than-human actors and life in total, or different assumptions about the guardianship of the environment (Salmond et al. 2019). There are many other examples from Oceania in which frictions mark encounters between members of governments, staff of non-governmental organisations or international aid programmes, indigenous activists and people living in rural and urban areas. To realise and acknowledge these potential frictions opens the way to dialogue; and to communicate about Pacific relational assumptions, for example, could stimulate conceptual shifts that may lead to the creation of new, shared ontological assumptions. This, in turn, may lead to changes in political process and legal principles, which have the potential to meet future global social and environmental challenges.

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Program

Time	Presentation
9.00	Welcome and Introduction
9.15-10.00	Keynote: Let the River Speak: Working across 'Worlds' for Socio-ecological Transformation (working title) Anne Salmond & Dan Hikuroa
10 min break	
10.10-10.35	The Platformization of Ritual Economics: Indigenous Encounters with Nature 2.0 (Pre-recorded) Stephanie Hobbis, Alex Soete & Geoffrey Hobbis
10.35-11.00	Fiji Islander Sociality in Urban and Migrant Environments: The Case of Fijian Professionals Sina Emde & Dominik Schieder
11.00-11.25	Large-scale Land Transformations and Changing Sociality among the Wampar in Papua New Guinea Tobias Schwörer
10 min break	
11.35-12.00	Women's Active Engagement with the Sea through Fishing in Fiji Elodie Fache
12.00-12.25	Tackling Knowledge and Power: an Environmental Justice Perspective on Climate Change Adaptation in Kiribati Silja Klepp and Hartmut Fünfgeld
12.25-12.50	Foodways over the Life-course. (Re-)Engaging Environment and Sociality in a Papua New Guinea World Anita v. Poser
12.50-13.15	Ethnographic Explorations into Acoustemologies of Hope: Some Suggestions on How to Listen 'Care-Fully' in Times of Crisis Carsten Wergin
13.15-13.30	Final discussion