An Overview of Indigenous Peoples and Minority Rights in the Pacific

Joshua Castellinoa and David Keane

in Minority Rights in the Pacific Region: A Comparative Legal Analysis

This chapter begins with a historical overview of the Pacific Islands. It then discusses Pacific and international law and minority rights in the Pacific.

Imperial Flotsam? The British in the Pacific Islands

Bronwen Douglas

in The Oxford History of the British Empire: Volume V: Historiography

This chapter links contemporary British Imperial and colonial texts, produced in and about Oceania, to histories of British activities in the Pacific generally and in Britain’s Pacific Empire, including its offshoots from Australia and New Zealand, in particular. Contemporaneous, academic, and influential popular histories are also considered, across O. H. K. Spate’s ‘two distinct…genera’: ‘Oceanic’ and ‘Insular’. The chapter then argues genealogically, tracing intellectual and political transitions and resemblances, without implying inevitable progression from one generation of historians to ‘successors’. It only traces the contours of the plethora of contemporary Imperial and colonial texts. The Pacific Islands were always insignificant in official British imperialism. ‘Imperial history’ denotes a common focus on the policies, interests, activities, and rivalries of Europeans. It is stated that the British in the Pacific Islands once a dominant historiographic interest, is now passé.
In the shadow of the megafauna: prehistoric mammal and bird extinctions across the Holocene

Samuel T. Turvey

in Holocene Extinctions

Huge numbers of prehistoric vertebrate extinctions and large-scale range contractions have been documented throughout the Holocene. Evidence for direct human involvement in these extinctions and population shifts is not confounded by other factors and remains relatively undisputed. The Holocene has the potential to act as an ideal study system for investigating the long-term dynamics of anthropogenically mediated extinctions at a global scale, but it remains uncertain whether most prehistoric Holocene extinction events occurred as a result of direct overkill or indirect factors such as habitat destruction. This chapter reviews data on global patterns of mammal and bird species extinctions to provide an assessment of patterns of prehistoric human impact across space and time since the end of the last glaciation. Whereas continental mammals and bird extinctions were relatively minor in comparison to Late Pleistocene megafaunal extinctions, insular faunas have experienced massive-scale extinction events of varying complexity over the past few thousand years.

Agency and authority: the politics of co-collecting

Sean Mallon

in Curatopia: Museums and the future of curatorship

At the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, there are two positions dedicated to curating Pacific Cultures. Since 2002, the curators have been of Pacific Islands descent. One of our ongoing challenges is how to represent Pacific societies and cultures, which are increasingly transnational and indeed global, in our exhibitions and collections. We are conscientiously developing co-curating and co-collecting strategies in our approach to this milieu. However, there is actually a long history of Pacific communities in New Zealand engaging the museum in curating, collecting and exhibiting processes. In this chapter, I share some examples, highlighting how Pacific communities have exercised their
agency and authority, influencing their representation in the National Museum. I describe our curatorial responses and examine what was at stake in these interactions, and what tensions and politics were and remain at play.

Where the Missionary Frontier Ran Ahead of Empire
John Barker
in Missions and Empire

Published in print: 2008 Published Online: October 2011
Publisher: Oxford University Press DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199253487.003.0005

This chapter examines the areas where the Christian missionary movement ran ahead of the colonization efforts of the British Empire. In the 1790s newly formed British mission societies began sending evangelists to the far corners of the world and within 30 years missions had become firmly established in the Pacific Islands and Africa. This chapter also examines the developments in missions to the Pacific Islands with some comparative notes on Africa in order to highlight the key interactions that shaped the early reception of Christianity on a frontier where indigenous peoples retained autonomy over their lives.

Islands That Vanished Long Ago
Patrick D. Nunn
in Vanished Islands and Hidden Continents of the Pacific

Published in print: 2008 Published Online: November 2016
Publisher: University of Hawai'i Press DOI: 10.21313/hawaii/9780824832193.003.0003

This chapter discusses those islands in the Pacific that were formerly emergent but are now submerged. It focuses exclusively on those islands that were submerged before humans settled the region in large numbers. The purpose of this exercise is to show that island submergence, for a variety of reasons, has been a relatively common phenomenon during the history of the Pacific. This supports the contention that incidences of island disappearance recalled by humans through oral traditions are not necessarily fanciful or even wildly exaggerated versions of something that actually happened. The discussion covers islands that have disappeared into ocean trenches; subsided islands in the middle of plates; islands that drowned when sea level rose; whether or not atolls are drowned islands; islands that blew themselves to pieces; vanished
islands inferred from biogeography; ancient island arks; island stepping-stones in the Tasman Sea; and biotic dispersal across the Pacific.

Mythical Continents of the Pacific
Patrick D. Nunn

in Vanished Islands and Hidden Continents of the Pacific
Published in print: 2008 Published Online: November 2016
DOI: 10.21313/hawaii/9780824832193.003.0007
Item type: chapter

This chapter focuses accounts of mythical continents in the Pacific, which have almost no basis in fact, being largely a result of incorrect inferences or the products of people's imaginations. These include accounts of the supposed great southern continent known as Terra Australis; the lost continent named Rutas; the hidden continent named Lemuria; and Mu, a supposedly sunken continent in the Atlantic Ocean. It is argued that many of the people who believe in submerged continents have done so because it fits well with their diffusionist beliefs. This idea holds that modern human cultures all originated in one place (or only a few) before spreading out in all directions (diffusing) to other places where, despite acquiring distinctive cultural overlays, their original form can still be recognized.

Gender on the Edge
Kalissa Alexeyeff and Niko Besnier

in Gender on the Edge: Transgender, Gay, and Other Pacific Islanders
Published in print: 2014 Published Online: November 2016
DOI: 10.21313/hawaii/9780824838829.003.0001
Item type: chapter

This book explores the variety of ways in which gender is on the edge and the paradox of being on the edge: edginess of gender is both a position of power and one of marginality. Focusing on the transgender and cognate categories in a broad range of Pacific Island societies, the book situates gender on the cutting edge in terms of the position it has come to occupy, in the course of the last half-century, in intellectual debates. It considers how gender intersects with the important social, political, and cultural questions that confront anthropologists and other social scientists, including kinship, the division of labor, religion, law, political institutions, and the economy as well as globalization, colonialism, and history. It also discusses the ways in which
nonnormative gendering and sexuality in the Pacific Islands reflect a wide range of sociocultural dynamics that are at once local and global, historical and contemporary. Finally, the book highlights the complexity and apparent contradictions associated with categories, identities, social practices, and moralities.

Kailiopio and the Tropicbird
Gregory Rosenthal

in Beyond Hawai‘i: Native Labor in the Pacific World

Another front of extractive industry in the 1850s and 1860s was guano mining. Kailiopio was one of approximately one thousand Native Hawaiian men who worked on remote equatorial Pacific Islands mining bird guano. Chapter four bridges themes in animal studies and the history of the body to explore the guano “workscape.” The guano island work environment was a hybrid world made and maintained interdependently by both human and avian actors. Millions of nesting seabirds, and their engagements in transoceanic “work”—connecting distant feeding grounds with local breeding grounds—constituted the “nature” of Hawaiian migrant workers’ experiences of this remote world.

History of Paleopathology in the Pacific
Michael Pietrusewsky and Michele Toomay Douglas

in The Global History of Paleopathology: Pioneers and Prospects

This chapter discusses the history of paleopathology in the Pacific, highlighting key individuals who have contributed to the study of disease in this vast ocean world. Unlike other regions covered in this volume, the sheer size and relative isolation of many of the islands of the Pacific further warrants that consideration of national as well as regional variables that have influenced these contributions to paleopathology. The discussion is divided into the following periods: earliest studies (1804–1900), early twentieth century (1900–1950), after World War II (1950–1980), and recent studies (1980–present).
The First Pacific Seafarers
Alastair Couper

in Sailors and Traders: A Maritime History of the Pacific Peoples

Published in print: 2008 Published Online: November 2016
Publisher: University of Hawai‘i Press
DOI: 10.21313/hawaii/9780824832391.003.0003
Item type: chapter

This chapter describes the characteristics of the first Pacific seafarers. The peoples of the Pacific Islands have a history of early long-distance seafaring that is unrivaled anywhere in the world; their ancient ancestors were the first ever to make use of the open sea for large-scale migrations. Although there are many differences, overlaps, and transitional zones between islands and peoples, regions, and somewhat tenuous groupings of related human characteristics, have been geographically classified into the divisions and boundaries of Polynesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia. This chapter first provides an overview of the actual vessels used on the ocean voyages of exploration, migration, or early long-distance trade, with particular emphasis on the construction of oceangoing ships. It then examines the influence of weather and climate variables on Pacific voyages and migrations before discussing prehistoric seamanship and the process of navigation. It also considers the nutrition of Pacific seafarers and concludes by assessing the challenges faced by seafarers during arrival at the beach.

Remaking Pacific Pasts
Diana Looser

Published in print: 2014 Published Online: November 2016
Publisher: University of Hawai‘i Press
DOI: 10.21313/hawaii/9780824839765.001.0001
Item type: book

Remaking Pacific Pasts offers the first full-length comparative study of recent drama and theatre in Oceania. It opens with a general introduction to the field of Pacific Islands theatre produced since the late 1960s, covering key works from Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, Fiji, Aotearoa/New Zealand, Samoa, Niue, the Cook Islands, Hawai‘i, Guam, New Caledonia, and Tahiti. The following sections explore selected plays from Hawai‘i, Aotearoa/New Zealand, New Caledonia, and Fiji that critically engage aspects of colonial and postcolonial Pacific histories. The book draws together discussions in theatre and performance studies, historiography, and Pacific studies to examine how Pacific playwrights have used the medium of theatrical performance to interrogate and revise repressive or marginalizing models of historical
understanding developed through Western colonialism or exclusionary indigenous nationalisms, and to address crucial issues of identity, genealogy, representation, political parity, and social unity. This major study emphasizes the contribution of artistic production to social and political life in the contemporary Pacific, showing how local play production has worked to facilitate processes of creative nation building and the construction of modern regional imaginaries. The book closes with an appendix that catalogs over 200 Pacific Islands plays mentioned in the volume.

**Politicians and Antipoliticians**

Jack Corbett

in Being Political: Leadership and Democracy in the Pacific Islands

Published in print: 2015 Published Online: November 2016

Publisher: University of Hawai'i Press
DOI: 10.21313/hawaii/9780824841027.003.0001

Sets out the puzzle by exploring how politicians, who were once heroes of independence, have become increasingly associated with malaise and despair. It considers this shift in the context of the literature on anti-politics and political leadership in the Pacific. It concludes by laying out the methodological parameters of the study.

**Death, Taxes, and Tobacco Control**

Mac Marshall

in Drinking Smoke: The Tobacco Syndemic in Oceania

Published in print: 2013 Published Online: November 2016

Publisher: University of Hawai'i Press
DOI: 10.21313/hawaii/9780824836856.003.0007

This chapter asserts tobacco has become a major cause of death and disability in Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs), especially over the past century, as industrially manufactured cigarettes have captured an ever greater number of smokers. According to the World Health Organization's Western Pacific Regional Office, diseases strongly linked to tobacco smoking are among the three leading causes of death in most of the islands. Cardiovascular diseases were the top reported cause of death in fifteen of the twenty PICTs for which data were available and respiratory diseases were ranked as the first, second, or third most frequently reported cause of death in eleven of the twenty political entities.
Introduction
Peter Larmour

in Interpreting Corruption: Culture and Politics in the Pacific Islands
Published in print: 2012 Published Online: November 2016
Publisher: University of Hawai‘i Press
DOI: 10.21313/hawaii/9780824835149.003.0001
Item type: chapter

This introductory chapter presents the main themes and arguments for a study into corruption in the Pacific Islands. It discusses the complicated meanings of the term “corruption” and the differing perceptions (cultural and otherwise) that muddy the concept even further. At the same time the chapter provides an overview of the Pacific Islands, with the intent of an intermediate approach—area studies—which looks at a small number of countries with certain shared background conditions of history, geography, and language. Coupled with this is an introduction to the terms and definitions throughout the book, as well as a brief outline of the succeeding chapters. Finally, the chapter contains the author's own personal reflections on and experiences of corruption, tying these together into the study's goals of gaining a better understanding of corruption in its myriad facets.

Telling Tales Out of School
Judith Raiskin

in Gender and Globalization in Asia and the Pacific: Method, Practice, Theory
Published in print: 2008 Published Online: November 2016
Publisher: University of Hawai‘i Press
DOI: 10.21313/hawaii/9780824831592.003.0002
Item type: chapter

This chapter examines the atavistic elements of colonial mythmaking and the intransigence of the fantasies continuing to influence both the imaginations of Americans and Europeans and the lives of Pacific Islanders in Sia Figiel's novel, where we once belonged (1996). The novel focuses not on the visitors to Samoa and their difficulty of belonging, but on the social discomforts of Samoans themselves, who live between traditional and modern performances of identity and community. The character Siniva voices the fury of the intellectual who, educated by the colonial machine, sees beyond the advantages offered her as an administrator of that machine (as a teacher, bureaucrat, professional) and becomes instead a critic of colonialism on behalf of her people, who reject the criticism as madness.
This chapter describes the processes by which islands are disappearing, as observed by people. It discusses islands that disappeared as a result of sea-level rise; island-flank collapses witnessed by humans; islands disappearing due to giant waves; islands that regularly appear and disappear; and islands that blew themselves to pieces. It underscores the difficulty of interpreting historic accounts of natural phenomena, particularly those from oral traditions that were written down a long time after the events described occurred, as is the case with many of those described in this chapter. There is no evidence that any continents have disappeared or become otherwise hidden anywhere in the Pacific (or elsewhere) during the time of the region's human occupation or that they will become so in the foreseeable future. This is the reason why only islands are considered.

This chapter focuses on the arrival of commercial trading and whaling ships in the Pacific Islands and the adoption of European commercial practices by paramount chiefs. The government-sponsored voyages to the Pacific in the eighteenth century were carried out by naval vessels led by commanders armed with specific instructions on behavior toward native peoples and required to report on the resource potential of island areas. This chapter considers how some ambitious chiefs in Polynesia became commercial shipowners, with particular emphasis on their first commercial ship-owning ventures in Tahiti. It also examines the transition from noncommercial to commercial forms of maritime trade by the Maori of Aotearoa in New Zealand, along with other indigenous commercial shipping ventures. It shows that commercial maritime trade enabled the Pacific people to establish connections with the vast world.
of commerce in Europe, North America, and China as well as the growing economy of New South Wales.

**Yams, Rice, and Soda**
Josh Levy

in *War in the American Pacific and East Asia, 1941-1972*

Oral histories of Pacific Islanders who lived through World War II and its aftermath burst with memories of food: the hunger and deprivation of wartime, the forced agricultural labor, and the revelatory liberation of a full plate after the guns finally fell silent. The image of generous Americans bearing food is pervasive in written accounts of the war as well. But on bypassed islands like Pohnpei in the Central Carolines the story was never quite so clear-cut, if indeed it was anywhere. On Pohnpei, American personnel landed in small numbers without an overabundance of supplies, plunging into a society that had used food and gift giving to define its social identities, politics, and relationships with outsiders for centuries. Pohnpei therefore offers an opportunity to rethink military gifts of food on an island where gifts were few and often contested, where American sailors imbued food and nutrition with their own anxieties over race and modernity, where military planners moved to assert control over imports to shield the region from subversive foreign influence, and where Pohnpeians swiftly drew American military personnel into the logic of their own food politics.

**Interpreting Corruption**
Peter Larmour

Corruption is a popular topic in the Pacific Islands. Politicians are accused of it and campaign against it. Fiji's coup leaders vowed to clean it up. Several countries have “leadership codes” designed to reduce corruption, and others have created specialized anti-corruption agencies. Donors, the World Bank, and NGOs such as Transparency International have made it an international issue. Yet there is often disagreement about what constitutes corruption and how seriously it matters. What some view as corrupt may be regarded as harmless by others. Existing
laws have proved difficult to enforce and seem out of step with public opinion, which is often very suspicious of corrupt behavior among island elites. As well as talk there is silence: People fear the consequences of complaining. The dangers of anti-corruption campaigns became apparent during the “cleanup” following Fiji's 2006 coup. So what counts as corruption in the Pacific and what causes it? How much is really going on? How can we measure it? What types are present? Are gifts really bribes? Is “culture” an excuse for corruption? Is politics—in particular, democracy—intrinsically corrupt? This book attempts to answer these questions. The book takes a comparative approach, drawing on economics, law, political science, and anthropology, as well as literature and poetry from the region. It looks at Transparency International's studies of National Integrity Systems and at newer research, including events since the Fiji coup.