

EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

the present Special Issue of *Pacific Geographies* discusses actual and controversial questions of decolonization and political independence in the Pacific Islands region. Many countries in the Pacific have gained their political independence in recent decades. But to this day, the decolonization process in the Pacific is not completed. New Caledonia, Tokelau, Guam, Pitcairn, Samoa and French Polynesia are recognized by the United Nations as "Non-Self-Governing Territories". But independence movements also exist in Hawaii, Bougainville and West Papua. The legal status and the socio-cultural situation, as well as the shape of independence movements differ greatly in these territories. The present Special Issue deals with the decolonization debate in Hawaii, the Cook Islands and New Caledonia. Another research note proposes an interesting comparison between Asian (Gandhi, Rizal and Sukarno) and Pacific decolonization processes. One of the three case studies (Hawaii, Cooks Islands and New Caledonia) is co-written by a representative of an independence party, the FLNKS (Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front).

Further, we would like to inform you that we adapted the management of our journal according to international standards. We selected an editorial board consisting of 12 renowned experts of the Asia-Pacific region. In the course of the upcoming three years the members of the editorial will support us to disseminate knowledge about our journal within the scientific community, to invite particularly emerging scholars to publish at our journal, to advise on the contents and to do reviews or to suggest potential reviewers. As part of this re-structuring process Julia Albrecht, who has been managing editor since 2007, moved to the Editorial Board. On this occasion, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to her substantial efforts to keep this journal alive during the recent years and we are very glad that she will continue to support us as member of the editorial board.

We sincerely hope you enjoy this new issue of *Pacific Geographies*.

The managing editors, Michael Waibel & Matthias Kowasch

Pacific Geographies

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The PG provides an interdisciplinary platform for an academic discussion of social, cultural, environmental, political and economic issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

In order to uphold scientific standards, the PG is implementing a peer-review process. Articles marked as „scientific papers“ have been peer-reviewed by two external reviewers. Articles marked as „research notes“ have been peer-reviewed by one external reviewer and a member of the editorial board. All other articles have been reviewed by the editorial board.

APSA-Members receive the *PACIFIC GEOGRAPHIES* at no cost as a membership benefit.



The Association for Pacific Studies (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Pazifische Studien e.V., APSA) was founded in 1987 at the Department of Geography of the University of Technology in Aachen. Activities include workshops, conferences, public lectures and poster exhibitions. The book series *PAZIFIK FORUM* was initiated in 1990. In 1992, it was complemented by the journal *PACIFIC GEOGRAPHIES*.

The APSA sees itself as one of the largest scientific networks in Germany for academics and practitioners with an interest in the Asia-Pacific region as well as academic exchange.

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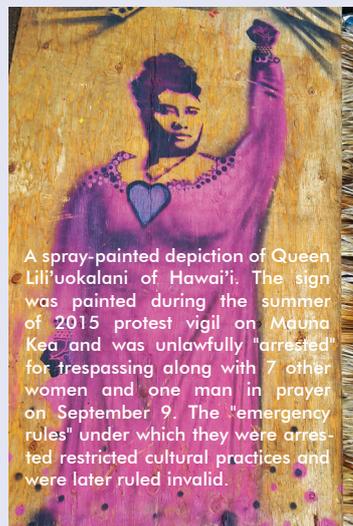
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COVER PICTURE

**Making a Nation and Faking a
State: Aloha 'Āina and Sovereignty
E(A)ducation in Hawai'i**

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A spray-painted depiction of Queen Lili'uokalani of Hawai'i. The sign was painted during the summer of 2015 protest vigil on Mauna Kea and was unlawfully "arrested" for trespassing along with 7 other women and one man in prayer on September 9. The "emergency rules" under which they were arrested restricted cultural practices and were later ruled invalid.