

## EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

Pacific Geographies #49 offers fascinating articles about a wide and interdisciplinary range of topics.

First we'll take our readers to the Jambi province in Indonesia with an article framing how the devastating peat and forest fires in 2015 generated national policy that has had the unfortunate effect of reinforcing an already vulnerable population of farmers. The authors – Flora Hartmann, Jennifer Merten, Michael Fink and Heiko Faust – show that the application of new regulations is maladaptive e.g. concerning sinking ground water table.

Two contributions deal about the United Nations Climate Change Conference that occurred in Bonn (Germany) from 6-17 November 2017. For the first time in history, a Small Island Developing State (Fiji) assumed the Presidency of a UN Climate Change Conference. In their research note, Oliver Hasenkamp and Elisabeth Worliczek ask how successful Fiji was in making COP23 a "Pacific COP" and to what extend the country was able to forge "islandised" outcomes. Struck-Garbe observes a positive shift towards an integration of gender justice and human rights in the context of the UN Climate Action Plan.

Also in Fiji, researchers Sarah Reimer and Burkhard Brielmaier undertook empirical work to develop a methodology to survey mangrove biomass in two river deltas. The young researchers include insights to and appreciation for the socio-cultural aspects they experienced with their fieldwork.

Two book reviews complete the present issue of Pacific Geographies. Trang Schwenke-Lam analyses "InVisible. Vietnamese-German realities" a interdisciplinary anthology of writings about Vietnamese immigration to Germany. Britta Schmitz takes us through the multilayers of the Pulitzer Prize winning "The Sympathizer", a Vietnamese spy novel.

We sincerely hope you enjoy your readings of these geographical, historical, anthropological and political insights.

The managing editors, Michael Waibel & Matthias Kowasch

# Pacific Geographies

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The PG provides an interdisciplinary academic platform to discuss social, cultural, environmental and economic issues and developments 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. Scientific papers and research notes receive a Digital Object Identifier (DOI).

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

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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### COVER PICTURE

Welcoming Ceremony of the COP23  
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