

EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

today, decolonisation is still a challenge for many countries in the world. After a recent putsch in Mali, in West Africa, there were demonstrations requesting the full departure of France from the former French colony. In the South Pacific overseas territory of New Caledonia, citizens were called to vote in a second referendum on political independence from France, narrowly choosing to reject it for the second time, but with an overwhelming number of Melanesian inhabitants voting 'Oui'.

Vanuatu, a neighbouring country, celebrated its 40th anniversary of independence in July 2020. One article of this issue of "Pacific Geographies" looks back at the first decades of this young nation. Gilbert David critically discusses early development policies, which established the foundations for economic and social viability in the face of constraints imposed by insularity.

Séverine Bouard, Jean-Michel Sourisseau and Benoît Zenou, writing on "Integration and segregation in the evolution of agricultural development policies in New Caledonia" deal with the two concepts of integration and segregation in agrarian change, asking how these can provide original theoretical tools to analyse the relationships between agriculture and rural societies in New Caledonia with its unique patterns of agrarian development.

A research note by the Ni-Vanuatu student Lucas Sarvanu and the geographer Matthias Kowasch deals with the shells of Punangatu on the island of Futuna (Vanuatu). Sarvanu identifies the different shells collected, and classifies them by species according to different sedimentary layers.

Finally, we are happy to introduce the Austrian South Pacific Society (Österreichisch-Südpazifische Gesellschaft, OSPG). The Society regularly organizes scientific lectures and cultural events in Vienna.

Elisabeth Worliczek (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria), the chairman of OSPG, will join the Editorial Board of Pacific Geographies, and presenters will have the opportunity in the future to submit a paper to our journal, based on their OSPG lecture.

We sincerely hope you enjoy your readings of this issue.

The managing editors, Matthias Kowasch & Michael Waibel

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. Contributions 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 this journal 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

Impression from celebration of
Vanuatu's Independence Day in 2019
Source: © Matthias Kowasch

