

EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

we are delighted to present you a new issue of Pacific Geographies with contributions dealing with a great variety of topics.

The first paper by Antje Missbach and her colleague Wayne Palmer introduces two case studies of underage transporters from Indonesia, who brought asylum seekers to Australia by boat. Both were convicted and jailed for the crime of people smuggling. Antje and Wayne problematise the culpability of underage smugglers, and argue for more lenient treatment by law-enforcement authorities.

The second contribution, a research note by Matthias Kowasch, Simon P.J. Batterbury, Séverine Bouard and Eddie Wayuone Wadrawane provides deeper insights into the circumstances of the recent referendum on political independence for New Caledonia. The authors argue that despite a clear vote against independence from France, the situation is much more complex and that the process of decolonization should be continued.

The third contribution is another a research note. Duy Linh Nguyễn presents his work on the multilevel coping mechanisms of street vendors in Hanoi, and their business strategies. They are branded as informal / illegal, but tolerated by representatives of the local government.

The fourth contribution is a commentary by Gerd Vetter, who spent four years as a teacher at a German school in South Korea. He addresses some of the cross-cultural issues he experienced during that time.

The present issue also contains two book reviews. Britta Schmitz reviews a dissertation investigating the "ant tribe" in China which describes the ever-growing group of rural graduates who try to gain ground in major cities. Elodie Fache reviews a book describing a citizen science trip between Rapa Nui and French Polynesia, an all-female sailing expedition aiming to explore the causes and impacts of, as well as potential solutions to, ocean plastic pollution.

An announcement from the Austrian South Pacific Society (OSPG) completes the present issue. OSPG informs us of the design process for developing a new logo, and the establishment of a new website.

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, 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 team. All other articles have been reviewed by the editorial team.

The Association for Pacific Studies (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Pazifische Studien e.V., APSA) was founded at the Department of Geography of the University of Technology in Aachen in 1987. 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 (now PACIFIC GEOGRAPHIES). 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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Layout:

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Language Editing:

Christopher Ballard, Simon
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managing_editors@
pacific-geographies.org

COVER PICTURE

Off-road vehicle and Kanak
independence flag, October 2020
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