

EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

we are pleased to announce a special issue of Pacific Geographies in collaboration with the Austrian South Pacific Society (OSPG), for which this volume is part of its "Pazifik Dossier" publication series.

The six contributions are based on papers presented and discussed in the frame of a young scholars' session ("More than a cliché and the dream of the South Seas? Young research in and about the South Pacific") at the Vienna Anthropology Days' conference in autumn 2020, organized by OSPG members. They all deal with representations of "the Pacific", since the transmission and the re-interpretation of clichés of the South Pacific region is a recurring theme in Pacific Studies

The contributing authors made a great effort to point out the connections between their respective articles: Two scientific papers are based on doctoral research projects. Claudia Ledderucci's paper discusses Pacific regionalism in the wake of climate change. Magdalena Kittelmann takes a historical approach to medical and missionary work in Papua New Guinea.

The following research notes are authored by BA and MA students: Wolfgang Kiss explores if the Tapati Rapa Nui festival nowadays is an expression of constructed authenticity. Hannah Dittmer discusses the representation of Pacific Islanders in the Disney movie "Moana". Rebekka Wörner's contribution analyses images of Oceania in Ballantyne's "The Coral Island", whereas Julia Hazar analyses the historical photograph of Sir Bob Jones taken at the demonstrations against the 1981 Springbok rugby tour in New Zealand.

We hope that this (for most of the session's participants) first publication will provide the readers with insights on topics that are relevant for aspiring scholars working on Pacific Island issues.

In addition, Britta Schmitz' book review on "Beijing from Below – stories of marginal lives in the capital's center" was not part of the conference session, but is a valuable contribution in making the voices of a highly marginalized community heard.

Please enjoy your readings and do not hesitate to give us feedback.

The editors of this special issue, Elisabeth Worliczek & Matthias Kowasch

Pacific Geographies

Pacific Geographies (PG), ISSN (Print) 2196-1468 / (Online) 2199-9104, is the peer-reviewed semi-annual publication of the Association for Pacific Studies. It is published through the Department of Human Geography at the University of Hamburg.

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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 board. All other articles have been reviewed by the editorial board.

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 (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 Print Version:

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Language Editing:

Simon Batterbury, Monique Gross

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COVER PICTURE

Dance group from Rapa Nui
at the Tapati Festival in 2020
Source: © Wolfgang Kiss

