



Association of Social Anthropologists of Aotearoa/New Zealand

Newsletter, December 2017

Seasons Greetings from The Chairperson

Dear fellow ASAANZ colleagues,

Quite a few of us have just met each other at the Adelaide conference where the Aotearoa/New Zealand cohort enjoyed a very strong presence. We enjoyed each other's company and missed all of you who could not be there.



Despite the many challenges Anthropology in Aotearoa New Zealand is facing right now, our academic work is strong, our postgraduate students are doing great work and a sense of common purpose is felt by all.

That is also due to the work that is done by all our campus representatives and our committee members.

I thank you all very much for supporting ASAANZ, by being visible and audible on our discussion lists and our website.

All the best for the festive season and a happy new year to you all.

Brigitte

Greetings from ASAA/NZ

Tēnā koutou katoa ASAA/NZ members,

I have just returned from the Shifting States conference where a strong contingent of the ASAA/NZ members reminded me of how glad I am to be part of this community.

It was my first AGM as secretary and it was an invigorating experience, which made me appreciate our organization and its lovely people. Thank you for a great conference. Hope you have a lovely holiday and see you in the new year!!!

Ngā mihi,
Nayantara S. Appleton (ASAA/NZ Secretary)



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Special Point of Interest

University of Otago promotes Ruth Fitzgerald to Professor!



Teaching Accolade

Dr Lorena Gibson was awarded Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association (VUWSA) **Best lecturer of the Year** for her outstanding contribution to the student experience.

To read more:

<https://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/about/news/collaborative-approach-earns-best-lecturer-award-for-lorena-gibson>

Promotion News

The University of Otago promotes Ruth Fitzgerald to Professor. This is great news for the anthropology community within and beyond Aotearoa, New Zealand. Professor Fitzgerald has been a vital member of the ASAA/NZ community through her academic engagements, mentorship, and generous comradery.

Her research interests are in the disciplinary subfield of medical anthropology, in which she takes a sociocultural approach. Her work draws its inspiration from a deep commitment to the study of health and illness in its social and political context. Her work has been both diverse in topic (exploring health policy, health practitioners, problematizing disability, pioneering the social study of the impact of new technologies in New Zealand medicine, media analysis of health debates, lay meanings of oral health etc.) as well as methodologically flexible (frequently working in interdisciplinary collaborations and publishing in 'hard' as well as social science journals).



Congratulations Professor Fitzgerald !!!

Shifting States— Student Travel Awards

The week of December 11th was enjoyed by many members of the ASAA/NZ community at the Shifting States conference in Adelaide. We had a successful book launch for four books from our members (see details on page 4) and many wonderful panels.

One of the major highlights were the number of our graduate students who presented stellar papers at the conference. These students were also awarded the **2017 ASAA/NZ Graduate Travel Award** to support travel and presentation.

Congratulations to:

- Jacinta Forte, PhD Candidate (University of Waikato)
- Daniel Hernandez, PhD Candidate (University of Auckland)
- Rachel Innes, MAST Student (University of Canterbury)
- Janepicha Cheva-Isarakul, PhD Candidate (Victoria University of Wellington)
- Hina Cheema, PhD Candidate (Massey University)
- Amir Sayadabdi, PhD Candidate (University of Canterbury)

Thank you for representing ASAA/NZ to the larger anthropological community and we look forward to seeing and hearing more of your stellar work!!!

New Executive Board Positions and Members

At the Annual General Meeting in Adelaide in December, the ASAA/NZ membership approved, nominated, and elected a few key new positions and representatives on the executive board. We are thus excited to welcome our new representatives.

New Representatives for Established Positions

- IUAES and WCAA Representative - Professor Brigitte Bonisch-Brednich
- Kākano Fund Chairperson - Dr. Barbara Andersen
- Royal Society Te Apārangi Representative - Dr. Graeme Whimp

New Positions Established

- Social Media Manager
- Māori Representative (2 Positions)

New Representatives Nominated and Elected for the New Positions

- Social Media Manager - Dr. Lorena Gibson
- Māori Representative - Dr. Marama Muru-Lanning
- Māori Representative - Dr. Lily George

Updated profiles of our new executive committee members will be shared on the ASAA/NZ website early in the new year.

Book Publications

Since the last newsletter, two more books have been published by ASAA/NZ members. Congratulations and I am sure they will be on some of our reading lists:

Bulloch, Hannah (2017) *In Pursuit of Progress: Narratives of Development on a Philippine Island*. University of Hawai'i Press

Wright, S. and Shore, C. (2017) *Death of the Public University? Uncertain Futures for Higher Education in the Knowledge Economy*. Berghahn.

2017 Kākano Award Recipients

The Kākano Fund supports graduate students in social or cultural anthropology.

The award winners for this year include:

- Lauren Ghoram Henderson MA, Auckland Thesis preparation
- Josh Connolly MA, VUW - Thesis preparation
- Rara Larasati MA, VUW - Fieldwork costs and thesis preparation
- Jess Carter MA, VUW - Fieldwork costs and thesis preparation
- Sarah Haggart MA, Auckland - Thesis preparation
- Jacinta Forde PhD Candidate, Waikato - Conference Travel
- Daniel Hernandez PhD Candidate, Auckland - Conference Travel
- Rachel Innes MA, Canterbury - Conference Travel
- Zahida Jatt, PhD Student, VUW - Conference Travel
- Janepicha Cheva-Isarakul, VUW - Conference Travel
- Hina Cheema, Massey - Conference Travel
- Amir Sayadabdi, Canterbury - Conference Travel

Marsden 2018

Dr Eli Elinoff has won the prestigious **Marsden Fast Start Grant** for his project titled, *A Kingdom in Concrete: Urbanising Thailand in the Anthropocene*.

Project Details:

Accounting for over five per cent of global carbon emissions, concrete is a ubiquitous, but often overlooked, material in contemporary environmental debates. This research develops a multi-sited, multi-scalar ethnographic approach to studying both the situated and planetary effects of the concrete industry. Focussing on Thailand, a critical site for cement production in Southeast Asia (one of the world's fastest urbanizing regions), this project investigates the social, technical, environmental, and political processes that give urban environments their shape. Within these settings, this study explores how concrete's situated material effects intertwine with socio-political processes to produce trajectories of environmental change and opportunities for environmental contestation.

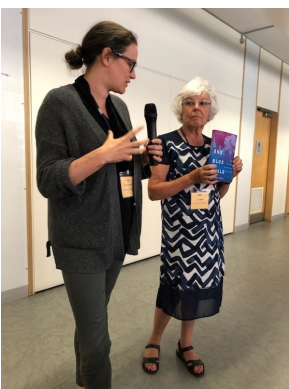
2017 Mason Durie Medal Awarded to Professor Chris Shore

Viewing institutions and policy through a social lens

Professor Cris Shore has been awarded the prestigious Mason Durie Medal for his contributions to political anthropology and the study of organisations, governance and power.

Read more about Prof. Shore's work and this award at:

<https://royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/medals-and-awards/medals-and-awards-news/2017-mason-durie-medal-viewing-institutions-and-policy-through-a-social-lens/>



ASAA/NZ Book Launch

On Thursday, December 14th at the Shifting States conference, ASAA/NZ launched four books recently published by our esteemed colleagues in Aotearoa . Attended by a large number of the ASAA/NZ community, it was an invigorating launch, which provided an opportunity to celebrate this milestone for some of the amazing scholarship originating from our shores.

Professor Brigitte Bonisch-Brednich opened the event with a welcome, followed by Professor Cris Shore introducing Dr. Fiona McCormack's book, *Private Oceans: the enclosure and marketisation of the seas*. His praise for the book included outlining the

argument in Dr. McCormack's writing and how this work will influence the next generation of scholarship from and beyond New Zealand.

Professor Julie Park and Dr. Catherine Trundle then discussed Dr. Susanna Trnka's *One Blue Child: Asthma, Responsibility, and the Politics of Global Health*, lauding the book for its beautiful ethnography and valuable argument for medical anthropology scholars. Dr. Trundle then read a short reply and acknowledgement from Dr. Trnka.

This was followed by Dr. Eli Elinoff outlining the wonderful ways Dr. Trnka and Dr. Trundle's edited volume, *Competing Responsibilities: The Ethics and Politics of Contemporary Life* is a valuable and timely contribution to anthropological scholarship. In particular, he highlighted the potential of this edited volume to change the course of a conversation on 'responsibility' within our fields. Dr. Trundle thanked him graciously for his comments and acknowledged the support of ASAA/NZ members who had made this project possible.

Finally, Prof. Bonisch-Brednich introduced Professor Susan Wright and Prof. Shore's book, *Death of the Public University? Uncertain Futures for Universities in*

the Knowledge Economy pointing out the political and everyday implications of this work for academics in and beyond New Zealand. The launch, was a fantastic opportunity for the ASAA/NZ community to support scholarship emerging from our shores!



News from Royal Society Te Apārangi Constituent Organisations Workshop

On December 8th, 2017, Dr. Graeme Whimp attended the Royal Society Te Apārangi's Constituent Organisations Workshop. At the workshop it became apparent that the leadership of the society really is concerned to take action about the inequalities within and diminishing relevance without.

On the first issue, it was outlined that the current fellowship has 13 percent of women, 53 out of 406 fellows; the immediate proposal to deal with that imbalance is, for next year, to hold a one-off process for 2019 appointments accepting up to 20 nominations for women fellows in addition to the 20 of the 'normal' procedure and suspending the usual stand-down provision.

On the second, it was acknowledged that the society is only starting to embrace mātauranga Māori and so far the specific proposal appears to be the introduction of three new Māori awards, including one for emerging researchers.

Further details and additional information will be shared in the larger AGM report which will be circulated in January 2018.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

— *Nelson Mandela*

Canterbury Anthropology— Graduate Student Co-Convened 11th New Zealand Symposium of Gastronomy

The 11th New Zealand Symposium of Gastronomy was held on 24th – 26th November, 2017 in Christchurch. The symposium was convened by two University of Canterbury PhD students, **Amir Sayadabdi** (**Anthropology**) and Saman Hassibi (Management) and was attended by anthropologists, sociologists, historians, culinary professionals and food enthusiasts from New Zealand, Australia, the US and elsewhere. There was also a 'Historic Cooking Workshop' in which Sam and Amir led the attendees through cooking some historic Persian recipes based on centuries-old recipes and discussed the anthropological and sociological aspects of food and eating at the time these recipes were originally written.

During the two-day symposium, 27 papers were presented in eight sessions on the theme 'Everyday', by renowned scholars such as Helen Leach (University of Otago), Peter Howland (Massey University), Tracy Berno (AUT), Marion Maddox (Macquarie University), Donna Lee Brien (Central Queensland University) and Michael Symons (Independent Food Historian).

The next symposium will be held in Napier in November 2018.



Next Newsletter :

- Introductions to new members of the executive committee
- AGM Updates
- Anthropology Programme in New Zealand—Profile
- Publications
- Teaching Accolades
- Promotions
- Grants
- 2018 Conference Updates
- Committee Formations:
 - - 2018 Conference Committee
 - - Anthropology in NZ Outreach Committee
- News from the membership

Email here to submit material:
nayantara.s.appleton@vuw.ac.nz

Call for Proposals: **SITES: A Journal of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies**

Sites, is a peer reviewed, delayed open access journal. They publish 16-20 articles every year in both print and electronic format. Publishing frequency is twice yearly.

Their scope covers multidisciplinary perspectives on the study of societies and cultures of the wider Pacific region. They welcome work from authors in the fields of anthropology, cultural studies, indigenous studies, Māori studies, Pacific studies, sociology, history, gender, linguistics, and ethnomusicology. They publish empirical studies and theoretical essays, methodological or pedagogical topics which fall within this broad purview. The journal is trans- and multidisciplinary and we invite submissions from scholars across a diverse array of disciplinary traditions.

In particular, the journal has a call out for special issues, special sections, or even individual papers. If in this conference season you have been part of a panel or discussion that you think will be a fit for SITES, do consider the journal as an inviting space to publish your work.

You can contact Associate Professor Chrystal Jaye in the Department of General Practice and Rural Health University of Otago.

Email: chrystal.jaye@otago.ac.nz

Or

Click: <https://sites.otago.ac.nz/Sites/index>

Or

Click: <http://www.asaanz.org/blog/2017/11/27/sites-call-for-papers-special-sections-special-issues>



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