



Association of Social Anthropologists of Aotearoa/New Zealand

Newsletter, September 2018

## Seasons Greetings from the Chairperson

Kia Ora,

As this is our end of term newsletter, I would like to wish you all a good final weeks of the last teaching term of 2018 and a fruitful and sun-filled conference season and summer months.

I am currently on RSL, hence I have been very quiet. But I would like to join Nayantara in thanking Caroline Bennett for being acting secretary while Nayan took parental leave.

I am very much looking forward to meeting many of our members at the Wellington ASAANZ conference held on the Massey campus in Mount Cook. It promises to be a great occasion.

See you soon!

Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich  
Chair, ASAA/NZ

## Greetings from ASAA/NZ

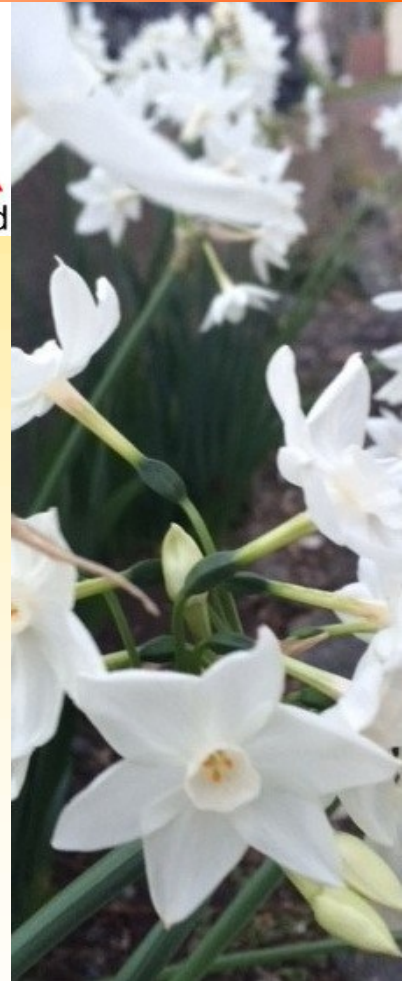
Tēnā koutou katoa ASAA/NZ members,

I have returned from maternity leave and have thoroughly enjoyed working on this newsletter—it is a wonderful reminder of the amazing community I belong to as an ASAA/NZ member and anthropologist in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

I also take this space to thank Caroline Bennett who was acting secretary of ASAA/NZ while I was on leave.

In a few weeks time, we will all meet for the ASAA/NZ annual conference in Wellington. I look forward to connecting again soon.

Ngā mihi,  
Nayantara S Appleton  
Secretary, ASAA/NZ



### Inside This Issue

Noteworthy MA Thesis . . . . .	2
Profile: Otago Anthropology 2&3	
OCEANIA Latest Issue . . . . .	3
Royal Society Report . . . . .	4
Fossil Fuel Aotearoa Research Network (Report) . . . . .	4
Publications . . . . .	5
Graduate Essay Prize . . . . .	5
Mahi Tahi wānanga at VUW . . . .	6
2018 Honours Moderation . . . . .	6
2018 ASAA/NZ Conference . . . . .	6

### Special Point of Interest

ASAA/NZ Conference  
December 6 – 7  
See you soon!!!

## Noteworthy Master's Thesis

### Towards an Understanding of Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation in the Kaipara Catchment of Aotearoa New Zealand By

**Danielle Johnson**

Johnson, who is now a doctoral student in the School of the Environment (Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau) at the University of Auckland recently completed her master's in Sociocultural Anthropology.

This was done in collaboration with an iwi-led group in the Northland/Auckland regions looking at the social dimensions of climate change impacts and adaptation in communities in Northland.

This thesis presents a critical examination of climate-change vulnerability and adaptation in the northern Kaipara Catchment of Aotearoa New Zealand. Her master's thesis can also be accessed by following this link:

<https://repository.arizona.edu/handle/10150/626396>

She also produced a report for the group that discusses the findings and may be of interest to others in the ASAA/NZ community. The report can be accessed here:

<http://>

[www.kaiparaharbour.net.nz/Publications/Details/d6efb81f-661d-4da6-be1d-51c2ab9813fa](http://www.kaiparaharbour.net.nz/Publications/Details/d6efb81f-661d-4da6-be1d-51c2ab9813fa)

## Anthropology Programme Profile:

## Otago University

Greetings from Otago! 2018 has been another challenging year for many of us here at the university with major restructuring continuing this time in relation to our colleagues, the support and technical staff in our programmes along with a major administrative reorganisation of our disciplines within the Humanities. The end result is that the Social Anthropology Programme is going up in the world and we are soon to be relocating to the fifth floor of the Richardson Building as a stand-alone programme of Social Anthropology within the wider newly formed School of Social Sciences. This new school structure contains many programmes including archaeology, gender and sociology, religious studies, social work etc., and a number of new schools have been created within the Humanities Division.

Through all these changes, we have continued to delight in our excellent student cohort and have a number of masters students, PhD students and our usual great crop of fourth-year dissertation students who are working in fields as diverse as collaboration in restructuring in Air New Zealand, religious studies in India and other parts of Asia, development issues in the Pacific, psychological anthropology, care, food consumption stress and body image, tattooing and more still. We are so delighted to have found out that our students will have a home with us in our new 5th-floor offices. While we need to be brief with our news, we should just commend **Mars Lewis** for his excellent performance in the recent 3-minute thesis competition where he was a finalist – well done! Also so pleased to see one of our tutors, **Mika Young**, winning the recent Sites Student Essay Prize. Mika is going onwards to Germany next year – congratulations and our good wishes travel with you! Several of our postgrads are in their thesis-examination process now and we will be updating you on their achievements when the results are returned. Let me turn now though to the work of our teaching staff who work both within the Soc Anth programme and in other locations of our campus.

Associate Professor **Chrystal Jaye** is a medical anthropologist working in the Dunedin School of Medicine and maintains close links through shared supervision, examining,



teaching and research interests with other anthropologists at Otago. She is currently conducting research into assisted dying/euthanasia, aged care, the delivery of primary care to refugees, chronic fatigue, and sick leave. Her recent publications can be viewed on the SOMAA webpage.

Dr **Greg Rawling's** research and teaching focuses on processes of globalisation, transnationalism and citizenship. He has been working on an ethnohistorical project formed by thematic interests in history and anthropology, and law and society, to examine questions of 'race', citizenship and human rights in Vanuatu as part of British colonial policy during the decolonisation of empire in the second half of the twentieth century. The findings from this research have been published in *History and Anthropology*, *TAJA: The Australian Journal of Anthropology*, *Journal of Pacific History* and *Twentieth Century British History*. Greg is currently writing papers on the legacies of imperial law and theories of documentation (and document destruction) to enhance understandings of the recent Windrush scandal in the UK. He is also the Programme Leader for Social Anthropology in 2019.

## Anthropology Programme Profile (Continued):

Dr **Susan Wardell's** research spans the areas of medical anthropology (especially mental health and wellbeing) and the anthropology of religion (in particular evangelical Christianity, and the nonprofit sector). Her teaching also includes the topics of death, grief and ritual, and the anthropology of evil. Susan's doctoral work focused on 'burnout' among faith-based youth workers, begetting a forthcoming ethnographic book (*Living in the Tension*), and a journal article (*BioSocieties*) exploring psychometrics as 'moral labour'. She is currently conducting pedagogical research around emotion, emotionality, and embodiment in the teaching of dark or 'troubling' topics, and is leading a divisional seminar on this at a forthcoming Humanities wide Teaching and Learning Symposium at Otago. Her current writing project explores some collaborative work on dialogical sense-making about Down Syndrome on social media with Prof Fitzgerald.

Dr **Molly George's** interests include the anthropology of health, ageing and migration. Her research encompasses the life course – from youth through to her special interest in ageing. Molly works for Va'a o Tautai, a new entity within the Division of Health Sciences bringing together the Office of the Associate Dean (Pacific), Pacific Islands Research and Student Support, and the Centre for Pacific Health. She is currently conducting qualitative research around sleep and well-being in Pacific families. Last year she worked on a project on sleep in Māori whanau with young tamariki and pēpi (publication forthcoming). Molly completed her PhD in 2017; her research considered older New Zealander's experiences of the significant increase in population diversity that has occurred in their lifetimes. She is working on turning her thesis into a book, positioning New Zealand's older folk as "moorings," witnessing and participating in the seas of change that have come in around

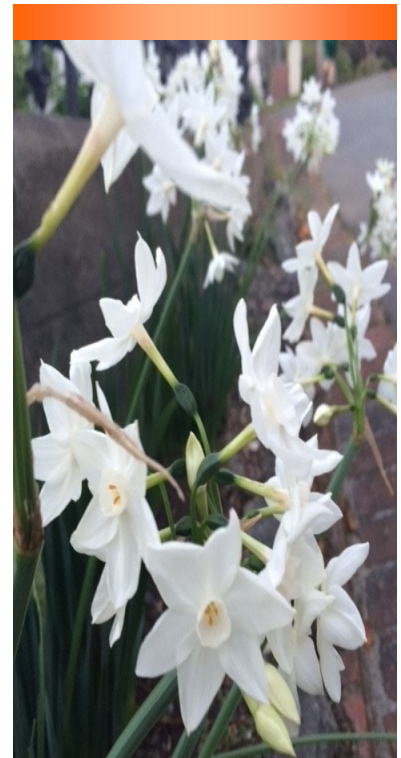
them. She was co-editor for a 2016 special edition of *SITES*, *Peripheral Cosmopolitanisms*, and is co-editor for another upcoming special edition of *SITES* focusing on the anthropology of care and cosmopolitanism.

**Nathan Hope Johnstone** is a recently graduated honours student who is looking to go into masters in the near future; while not being certain of his future research prospects he suspects that they will either involve human/animal connections or the intersecting of culture and disability. Currently he works as the Social Anthropology Teaching Fellow supporting our programme in order to release **Prof Ruth Fitzgerald** to teach in the new Humanities Division engagement with the previously hard-science content only Health Sciences First Year programme at Otago. The First Year Health Sciences Programme is the feeder course of study for many subsequent Science and Health Sciences qualifications and has an enrolment of around 2500 students every year. From 2019 onwards, Ruth will be teaching part of the Humanities content in the newly designed POPH192 paper while still teaching her methods papers and her specialist courses in medical anthropology. Ruth's current research explores the meaning of friendship for undergraduate students at Otago. She is also working with colleagues at Va'a o Tautai on the HRC funded Pacific families and sleep project.

- Cheers from Otago!



L to R: Dr. Ruth Fitzgerald, Dr. Greg Rawling, Dr. Susan Wardell, and Nathan Hope Johnstone.

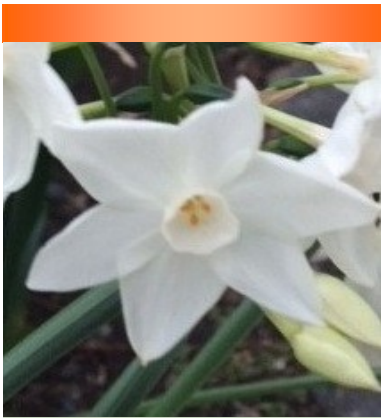


### OCEANIA

Is a journal published through the Department of Anthropology at the University of Sydney. It publishes sociocultural anthropology research situated in the broader Oceania region. Their latest issue has just been released and may be of interest to our ASAA/NZ members.

You can find the journal on social media (Facebook and Twitter— @oceaniajournal).

The table of contents for the latest issue is available here: <http://bit.ly/oceania2018v88i2toc>



### **Fossil Fuels Aotearoa Research Network (FFARN).**

Over the past year, Terrence Loomis has been co-ordinating an informal network of academics and environmental activists called the Fossil Fuels Aotearoa Research Network (FFARN). FFARN was established following a People's Climate Rally held in March 2017 at the time of the annual New Zealand Petroleum Conference in New Plymouth. Since it was established, FFARN has provided media briefings, submissions, public presentations and produced several reports on issues relating particularly to oil and gas development and climate change. One of the key reports was:

*Why Natural Gas isn't a Bridge Fuel to a Low Emissions Economy* [http://www.terrenceloomis.ac.nz/uploads/5/3/3/3/5333337/ffarn\\_paper\\_-\\_gas\\_not\\_a\\_transition\\_fuel\\_v.2.pdf](http://www.terrenceloomis.ac.nz/uploads/5/3/3/3/5333337/ffarn_paper_-_gas_not_a_transition_fuel_v.2.pdf)

The 'Gas bridge' study was released in May at a presentation by Dr Loomis at Parliament, hosted by Green Party MP Gareth Hughes.

## **Royal Society Te Apārangi Constituent Organisation Forum 27 June 2018 Report**

The recent Royal Society Constituent Organisations Forum saw the changeover in presidency from the incumbent Richard Bedford to president-elect Wendy Larner, provost of Victoria University of Wellington. From the point of view of ASAA/NZ, the principal areas of discussion at the meeting were plans for the work of the society during her tenure, restructuring of the Council and Academy Executive Committee and the society's staffing, a proposed strategic plan for 2018 to 2021, and the development of a new major expert-advice panel.

### **Wendy Larner**

Wendy emphasised the importance of taking the constituent organisations 'really seriously' and the need for greater interdisciplinarity and collaboration. She identified as her priorities mātauranga Māori and opening up a conversation about relationships among knowledges; equity and diversity and taking steps to see that the fellowship reflects the research community; and support for early-career researchers, which she saw as a crucial role for constituent organisations.

### **Restructuring**

In opening up this discussion it was reported that two dedicated Māori positions had been added to the Council after liaison with wānanga and Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence; that an audit had recently been conducted of the society's levels of diversity; that the society's journal was planning future articles in te reo Māori; and that the society had taken on its first Māori employee and is planning to introduce a senior, dedicated Māori position. Wendy Larner identified a need to concentrate on three research concerns and the relationships among them: Māori research, Māori researchers, and mātauranga Māori. It was also reported that there had been some degree of push-back from a number of quarters of the society in response to these initiatives.

### **Strategic Plan**

'An Aotearoa New Zealand enriched by exploring, discovering and supporting knowledge'. This was supported by five values: open and inclusive, independent, trustworthy, inspiring, and knowledgeable; six very briefly stated strategic objectives; and six 'themes for driving change'.

### **Expert-Advice Panel**

Roger Ridley, director of expert advice and practice, attended the meeting to report that preparations for the next big expert-advice panel on equality and fairness was well under way. In particular, a workshop to develop its terms of reference was planned for 3 August and 30 participants had already been selected, all this seemingly without any engagement with the constituent organisations. After some discussion, it was agreed that they be invited to forward names to the society for consideration as participant experts. Two names were forwarded from ASAA/NZ and Sari Andajani represented us at the workshop.

Graeme Whimp

---

*The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking.  
It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.*

**Albert Einstein**

## 2018 Publications

### BOOKS

- Carter, L.** (2018). *Indigenous Pacific Approaches to climate Change: Aotearoa New Zealand*. Palgrave Studies in Disaster Anthropology, Palgrave Pivot Cham/Springer.
- Rimoldi, E.** (2018) *American Retrospective: Poems 1961-2016*. Hicksville Press.
- Wardell, S.** (2018) *Living in the Tension: Care, Selfhood, and Wellbeing among Faith-Based Youth Workers* California Academic Press.

### CHAPTERS AND ARTICLES

- Bönisch-Brednich, B.** (2018) Writing the Ethnographic Story: Constructing Narrative out of Narratives. *Fabula* 59: 1/2, 8-26.
- Scheer, C., **Fountain, P.**, and Feener, R.M (eds). (2018) *The Mission of Development: Religion and Technopolitics in Asia*, Leiden: Brill.
- Troughton, G., and **Fountain, P.** (eds). (2018) *Pursuing Peace in Godzone: Christianity and the Peace Tradition in New Zealand*. Victoria University Press.
- Hall K, Michael J, **Jaye C**, Young J. (2018) General practitioners' ethical decision-making: does being a patient themselves make a difference? *Clinical Ethics*.
- Jaye C**, Young J, Llewellyn R, Egan R, Cunningham W, Radue P. (2018) The healthy lifestyle in longevity narratives. *Social Theory and Health*.
- Lilley R, **Jaye C**, Davie G, Keeling S, Egan R, Water D. (2018) Work-related injury claims in older workers in New Zealand, 2009-2013. *Accident Analysis and Prevention* 110: 86-92.
- Jaye C**, Young J, Egan T, Williamson M. (2018) Moral economy and moral capital in the community of clinical practice. *Qualitative Health Research* 28(4): 523-533.
- McCormack, F.** (2018) Indigenous settlements and market environmentalism: An untimely coincidence?. In D. Howard-Wagner, M. Bargh, & I. Altamirano-Jimenez (Eds.), *The Neoliberal State, Recognition and Indigenous Rights: New paternalism to new imaginings* (pp. 273-291). ANU Press.
- Nyarango, M.** and Griffin, G. (2018) 'Circumcising the mind, reconstructing the body: contextualizing genital reconstructive surgery in Burkina Faso', in G. Griffin and M. Jordal, eds., *Body, Migration, Re/constructive Surgeries: Making the Gendered Body in a Globalized World*. London: Routledge.
- Rawlings, G.** (2018) 'Stateless Persons, Eligible Citizens and Protected Places: The British Nationality Act in Vanuatu.' *Twentieth Century British History*, Advance Article, 31 July 2018, hwy011, pp.1-28.
- Shore, C.**, Williams, D. and **Raudon, S.** (2018) 'Introduction to Special Issue on the Crown and Constitutional Reform', *The Round Table: Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs*, Volume 107, Issue 4: 397-400
- Shore, C.** (2018) 'The Crown as Proxy for the State? Opening up the Black Box of Constitutional Monarchy', *The Round Table: Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs*, Volume 107, Issue 4: 401-416
- Shore, C.** and Wright, S. (2018) 'How the Big Four Got Big: Audit Culture and the Metamorphosis of International Accounting Firms', *Critique of Anthropology*, May 2018.
- Shore, C.** (2018) 'How Corrupt are Universities?: Audit Culture, Fraud Prevention and the Big Four Accountancy Firms', *Current Anthropology*, Vol. 59, Issue S18: 92-104
- Raudon, S. and **Shore, C.** (2018) 'The Eurozone Crisis, Greece and European Integration: Anthropological Perspectives on Austerity in the EU', *Anthropological Journal of European Cultures (AJEC)*, Vol. 27, No. 1: 64-83
- Shore, C.** and Raudon, S. (2018) 'Performing Austerity: Greece's Debt Crisis and European Integration', in Theodoros Rakopoulos (ed.) *The Global Life of Austerity: Economic Crises Beyond Europe*. pp. 32-47.
- Shore, C.** and David, W. (2018) 'Deliberative or Performative? Constitutional Reform and the Politics of Public Engagement in New Zealand', in Jeff King, Hoi Kong, Ron Levy, and Graeme Orr (eds), *Deliberative Constitutionalism*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: Pp.989 - 1033
- Roche, MM., & **Venkateswar, S.** (2018) Indian migration to New Zealand in the 1920s Deciphering the Immigration Restriction Amendment Act 1920'. In S. Bandyopadhyay, & J. Buckingham (Eds.) *Indians and the Antipodes, Networks, Boundaries and Circulation*. (pp. 129 - 161). New Delhi: Oxford University Press
- Venkateswar, S.** (2018) Ethnographic Frontiers: Pushing the Boundaries of Ethnography. *SITES: A Journal of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies*. 15(1), v-vi

### Honorable Mention

PhD Candidate, **Janepicha Cheva-Isarakul** received an honourable mention in the 2018 Graduate Essay Competition organised by Association for the Anthropology of Policy

**Paper Title:** "Diagnosing" statelessness and everyday state (il)legibility

#### Paper Abstract:

Thailand has one of the highest number of stateless persons in the world. In the last few years, the Thai state has been passing significant amendments to the Nationality Act that theoretically open a much wider door toward obtaining Thai citizenship for stateless persons. The official policy documents released advocate for the proper documentary 'diagnosis' in order to establish a legal pathway to solve statelessness. This paper juxtaposes the state's public portrayal of its 'play-by-the-rule' administration, efficient bureaucracy and more open citizenship policies with the actual experience of individuals seeking to solve their legal status. Through two ethnographic case studies, I argue that a recent push toward a more clinical and 'evidence-led' approach to solve statelessness is a latest expression of state illegibility.



Association of Social Anthropologists  
of Aotearoa/New Zealand (ASAA/NZ)

Next Newsletter :

- 2018 AGM Updates
- Profile—An Anthropology Programme in New Zealand
- Kākano Award Updates
- Graduate Student Travel Award Updates
- Publications
- Teaching Accolades
- Promotions
- Grants
- 2019 Conference Updates
- SOMAA Updates
- News from the Membership

Email here to submit material:  
[nayantara.s.appleton@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:nayantara.s.appleton@vuw.ac.nz)

**Mark Your Calendars**  
**December 6—7, 2018**

**2018 ASAA/NZ Conference:**  
**Improvising Lives**

**Massey University**  
**Wellington Campus**  
**Co-hosted by:**  
**Massey and Victoria**

**Click below for Details:**  
<https://www.asaanz.org/conference>

## Mahi Tahī wānanga at VUW

After the launch of the ASAA/NZ Mahi Tahī: Māori and Anthropology in Aotearoa New Zealand initiative earlier this year, Tarapuhi Vaeau initiated a fortnightly wānanga for staff and students at Victoria University of Wellington to join these conversations. Mahi Tahī VUW is supported by the ASAA/NZ Mahi Tahī Steering Committee as well as Te Āta Hura Collective, a small collective of anthropologists exploring the diverse sites of kinship in Aotearoa New Zealand, including surrogacy, foster care, neonatal care, Māori families and queer families, and is experimenting in collaborative research and writing methods.

Our Mahi Tahī VUW wānanga have been attended by students and staff from a range of departments, not just Cultural Anthropology, indicating a good level of interest in our conversations. We have been increasing our collective skills in te reo, waiata, and tikanga, and discussing decolonisation and what that might look like in Aotearoa. We have set up a closed Facebook page so we can share resources and communicate with one another alongside the fortnightly wānanga.

We hope our wānanga will spark similar conversations in anthropology spaces around the country. Thanks Tarapuhi for initiating this and Catherine Trundle and Te Āta Hura Collective for your enthusiasm and support.

Lorena Gibson

## Honours Moderation—2018

Every year, the seven anthropology programmes across the country exchange their honours students' work. It is a way to ensure that the results emerging from our collective efforts are comparable to each other, but also to encourage new ideas and approaches for honours teaching and review. The moderation process takes place over the month of November and is a great collegial opportunity for us to examine, learn from, and contribute to each other's programmes. The exchange this year is:

1. AUT— Not sending for review, Not receiving review
2. Massey— Not sending for review, Reviewing for Otago
3. Canterbury— Sending to Otago for review
4. Waikato— Sending to Victoria for review
5. Otago— Sending to Massey for review
6. Auckland— Sending to Waikato for review
7. Victoria— Sending to Auckland for review



Association of Social Anthropologists of Aotearoa/New Zealand