



Pacific News from Mānoa

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTER FOR PACIFIC ISLANDS STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

No. 3

May—June 1992

CENTER REPRESENTED AT KAPALUA CONFERENCE

Bob KISTE, Vilsoni HERENIKO, and Diane AOKI recently represented the Center at the Second Annual Cultural Values in the Age of Technology Conference presented by the Kapalua Business Center at the Kapalua Bay Hotel in Maui. This year's conference entitled "Land, Culture and Development in the Aquatic Continent," was co-sponsored by the East-West Center, the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific, the Maui Economic Development Board, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Pacific Basin Development Council, the State of Hawaii and the University of Hawaii. The conference brought together people from all over the Pacific to discuss topics such as sustainable development, land tenure in the Pacific Islands, preservation of the environment, natural resources, and indigenous cultures and the role of education. Kiste chaired the education session; Hereniko and Aoki were speakers in that session.

Several alumni from the Pacific Islands Studies MA program participated in the recent Kapalua conference: Clayton HEE (1978), Jon JONASSEN (1982), Puakea NOGELMEIER (1987), and Faustina REHUHER (1989). In addition, currently enrolled students Kalani ENGLISH, Ruth GURNANI-SMITH, and Diane AOKI participated.

HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL SOLICITS ENTRIES

The Hawaii International Film Festival is seeking documentaries or feature films made by Pacific Islanders for this year's film festival. Films must have been made within the past year and must fall under one of the following

categories: environmental films, indigenous voices on film, and films made in Hawai`i. Deadline for submissions is 17 July. To enter, a preview tape and entry form must be submitted. For entry form write to: Film Selection Coordinator, Hawai`i International Film Festival, 1777 East West Road, Honolulu, Hawai`i, 96848. Telephone: (808) 944-7007, Fax: (808) 949-5578.

INTERVIEW: KENNETH REHG, LINGUIST

Dr. Kenneth REHG is an assistant professor of linguistics at the University of Hawai`i at Manoa. He was interviewed by Joakim PETER, a graduate student from Chuuk.

What projects have you done in Micronesia? I began to study Micronesian languages in 1967. I first went to Micronesia as a Peace Corps staff member to set up two language training programs. My contract was for six months, but I fell in love with the people and the place and stayed on for two and a half years.

In 1970, I came here to UH as a graduate student and was fortunate to be able to work on the staff of what is now known as the PALI (Pacific Asian Linguistics Institute) project. Our goal was to develop reference grammars, dictionaries, standard spelling systems, and resident Micronesian linguists for all of the major Micronesian languages.

In 1974, some of us on the staff of the PALI project started the Bilingual Education Program for Micronesia, which was involved in training Micronesian educators to incorporate vernacular language into their school systems. That project ended in 1983. Since then, I have been working on Micronesian languages largely on my own.

How much work has been done on Micronesian language? Prior to the PALI and BEPM projects, little information existed on Micronesian languages. We now know a fair amount about these languages. Of course, much remains to be done.

How does the origin of these languages fit into the overall linguistic studies? Linguists can approach the study

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of language from two directions. Synchronic linguistics is involved in describing languages as they are spoken today. Diachronic linguistics focuses on understanding the history of languages. We know now, for example, that not all the languages spoken in geographical Micronesia are members of the Micronesian language family. That is, the boundaries of linguistic Micronesia are different from those of geographic Micronesia.

How many languages are there in linguistic Micronesia? That's a very difficult question. "About eighteen" is my current response. The problem with giving a precise number is that it is sometimes very difficult to decide whether a particular community speaks a unique language or a dialect of a language spoken elsewhere. This is especially a problem among the languages spoken on the atolls to the west of Chuuk, where we can observe a kind of dialect continuum. In such a situation, it is difficult to know where to establish language boundaries.

I read somewhere that in the next century, 90 per cent of the world's languages will be eliminated. How does that relate to Micronesia? This is an issue that concerns me very much. The work that I did on the development of bilingual education programs in Micronesia was intended to address this problem. My hope is that, if Micronesian children become literate in their own language and learn that their language is every bit as complex as any other language, then they will be less likely to abandon it in favor of English. My fear is that this may not be enough. A lot of languages and cultures in Micronesia and elsewhere are in danger of being swallowed up by what Professor George Grace characterizes as a growing world monoculture. In light of this, I think linguists have two obligations. The first is to document as many of these languages as possible, before they disappear. The second, and by far the most important, is to do everything possible to shield these languages and cultures from extinction. I'm not sure exactly how we do this, but we need to learn -- quickly.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Wesley-Smith at New Zealand Conference

Terence WESLEY-SMITH recently attended the New Zealand Political Studies Association 1992 Conference sponsored by the Department of Political Studies at the University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand. Dr. Wesley-Smith presented a paper entitled Social Science and the Bougainville Crisis which presented a critical look at the research done by anthropologists, geographers, political scientists, and other social scientists on social and political change in Bougainville in the 1970s.

Franco on Presidential Panel

Bob FRANCO, of Kapiolani Community College, was recently invited by Dr. Annette WEINER, President of the American Anthropology Association, to participate on her presidential panel Anthropology, Multiculturalism, and the University. Dr. Franco will be working with leading anthropologists from Stanford, Columbia, UCLA, Arizona, and Pitzer College, to assert the role of anthropology in America's multicultural debate.

Ogden in Japan

Michael OGDEN, an instructor at the Center, is spending six months at the National Institute of Multimedia Education in Japan, working with a research team analyzing data collected in the South Pacific Islands during the past year. The data are related to student expectations, attitudes, and opinions about distance education efforts in the islands by the University of the South Pacific. The research should provide feedback to help improve or expand USP's distance education efforts.

Hereniko Presents at KCC

Vilsoni HERENIKO presented a talk on Pacific Literature for the Hawai'i Pacific Institute at Kapiolani Community College in May. The presentation included a morning lecture and a storytelling session in the afternoon. Teachers who attended the presentation expressed an interest in using Pacific-related materials, including Pacific literature, in their courses.

Send in Your News

If you know of any news, accomplishments, comings and goings of CPIS faculty, friends of CPIS, or Pacific Islands Studies alumni, please send them to the Editor, Pacific News from Manoa, Center for Pacific Islands Studies, Moore Hall 215, 1890 East-West Road, Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96822, or call Diane AOKI at (808) 956-2673 or Fax at (808) 956-7053. We are particularly interested in the activities of our alumni.

OCCASIONAL SEMINARS

Allan HANSON, professor of anthropology at the University of Kansas, presented a seminar on 13 April, entitled Further Reflections on the "Invention" of Culture. Dr. Hanson has conducted research in French Polynesia and New Zealand. Among his publications are *Counterpoint in Maori Culture* (with Louise Hanson) and "The Making of the Maori: Cultural Invention and its Logic" which appeared in the *American Anthropologist*. A forthcoming book to be published by the University of California Press, *Testing: The Social Consequences of the Examined Life*, is based on Dr. Hanson's recent research on contemporary American society.

Niko BESNIER, an assistant professor in the department of anthropology at Yale University and currently a Rockefeller Fellow at the Center, gave a seminar on 12 May entitled Authority and Egalitarianism: Discourses of Leadership on Nukulaelae Atoll. Dr. Besnier has a special interest in communicative ideology and the cultural aspects of language behavior. His area focus has been Polynesia, and Tuvalu in particular. He is currently working on an ethnography of literacy on Nukulaelae Atoll in Tuvalu.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Creative Works: An Anthology of Prose, Poetry and Art, edited by Margo VITARELLI, (US\$10.00 postage paid) is a collection of creative writing and art by the Students of Northern Marianas College. *Creative Works* was funded by a grant from the Consortium of Pacific Arts and Cultures, Honolulu. For information or orders, write to: Donna WARREN, English Department, Northern Marianas College, PO Box 1250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950.

Pacific History: Papers from the 8th Pacific History Association Conference, edited by Donald H. RUBINSTEIN, (US\$12.00) will be available from the University of Guam Press in July 1992. The papers were presented at the December 1991 conference held at the University of Guam. Checks are to be made payable to the University of Guam Press. To order, send payment to University of Guam Press, Graduate School and Research, UOG Station, Mangilao, Guam 96923.

Native Land and Foreign Desires or Pehea La E Pono Ai? by Lilikala KAME`ELEIHIWA, (Bishop Museum Press; US\$29.95) will be published in August 1992. This long-awaited book by Dr. Kame`eleihiwa of the Hawaiian Studies Department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, is a history of land tenure change in Hawai`i from traditional times until the 1848 *mahele*, including an analysis of the roles that *ali`i nui* and American Calvinists

played in changing Hawaiian society. Includes extensive genealogical charts, land tables, and maps. For advance copies, contact the Bishop Museum Press, PO Box 19000-A, Honolulu, Hawai`i, 96817-1916.

South Pacific Education Profiles: A Source book on Trends and Developments by Tupeni BABA, Isimeli COKANASIGA and J.B. CABALLES, Institute of Education, University of the South Pacific, Fiji (1992, ISBN 982-01-00098-4, IOE, USP Box 1168, Suva, Fiji) has been published by the University of the South Pacific. This new publication is a sourcebook of critical information on education for eleven countries of the South Pacific region: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Western Samoa. Each country profile is organized around selected critical indicators of education. A regional profile comparing all countries is also provided.

Bavadra, Prime Minister, Statesman, Man of the People: A Selection of Speeches and Writings, edited by `Atu BAIN and Tupeni BABA (Sunrise Press, Nov. 1990, ISBN 982-01-0067-4) GPO Box 12305, Suva, Fiji) is the first comprehensive collection of Bavadra's speeches and writings put together by his close colleagues to commemorate his life.

A symposium on *Industrial Relations and Trade Unions in the South Pacific*, edited by Jacqueline Leckie, has been published in the April 1992 edition of the *New Zealand Journal of Industrial Relations*. Single copies are available for NZ\$25 from the University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand.

BULLETIN BOARD

Australian Tropical Health and Nutrition Conference
A call for papers has been announced for the Australian Tropical Health and Nutrition Conference to be held in Brisbane, 19-21 October 1992. Sessions on population growth and urban planning, poverty, nutrition, infectious diseases, urban health problems, and housing are scheduled.

For more information contact: Wendy Gardiner, coordinator, Tropical Health Program, University of Queensland Medical School, Herston Road, Herston, Queensland 4006, Australia. Telephone: (61)+7 365 5408, Fax: (61)+7 365 5599.

Pacific Arts Association Symposium
The Pacific Arts Association's Fifth International Symposium, Art, Performance and Society, will be held at the South Australian Museum on 12-17 April 1993. This symposium is proposed as an Australian contribution to the UNESCO initiative declaring 1993 as the Year of Indigenous People. Art, Performance and Society aims to

heighten the awareness of the distinctiveness and diversity of indigenous arts of the Pacific, both past and present, with a concentration on performance. It will also investigate the possibilities of broader collaborative projects and ethical issues such as repatriation.

The Pacific Arts Association is an international organization devoted to the study of all the arts of Oceania. The Association holds an International Symposium every fourth year where researchers, fieldworkers, artists and custodians of the arts of the Pacific meet to explore issues and initiate future directions. Members of the PAA receive *Pacific Arts*, issued twice yearly, in January and July.

Expressions of interest are invited from those who may wish to give papers and must be registered by 31 July. For more information on specific symposium sessions, contact Susan Cochrane Simons, PAA Symposium Co-ordinator, Division of Anthropology, South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia 5000. Telephone: 61 8 207 7383 or 207 7373 or Fax: 61 8 207 7390.

Conference on The State of Education and Development: New Directions

The Association for the Advancement of Policy, Research and Development in the Third World announces a call for papers for its international conference on *The State of Education and Development: New Directions*, to be held in 21-26 November in Cairo, Egypt. Deadline for paper proposals is 30 July 1992 and they should be accompanied by a brief professional biographical statement. For more information contact: Dr. Mekki Mtewa, Executive Director, Association for the Advancement of Policy, Research and

Development in the Third World, PO Box 70257, Washington, DC, 20024-0257. Telephone: (202) 723-7010, Fax: (202) 723-7010.

Pacific Basin Coastal Zone Management Conference

The 10th Annual Pacific Basin Coastal Zone Management Conference will be held 24-27 August 1992, at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu, and is being co-sponsored by the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program and the Pacific Basin Development Council.

The theme will be Ocean and Coastal Resources Management: Visions for the 1990s and Beyond. The conference will seek to explore how island values can be incorporated into the management of coastal resources in this era of Pacific development and economic growth. For more information, contact: Pacific Basin Development Council, 567 South King Street, Suite 325, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813-3036.

Errata

The videos described in last issue's article "New Videos on Critical Issues," about weapons testing and stockpiling, are available from the Video Project, 5332 College Ave. Suite 101 Oakland, CA 94618. Toll-free number: 1-800-4-PLANET.

The new publication *Traditional Fishing in the Torres Strait Islands* by R.E. Johannes and J.W. MacFarlane, described in the last issue, was published by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, CSIRO Division of Fisheries, Attn: M. Bessell, GPO Box 1538, Hobart, Tasmania 7001 Australia.

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