

Pacific Studies

Special Issue

Relative Power:
Changing Interpretations of Fosterage and Adoption in Pacific Island Societies

Vol. 31, Nos. 3/4-Sept./Dec. 2008



PACIFIC STUDIES

A multidisciplinary journal devoted to the study of the peoples of the Pacific Islands

SEPTEMBER/DECEMBER 2008

Anthropology
Archaeology
Art History
Economics
Ethnomusicology
Folklore
Geography
History
Sociolinguistics
Political Science
Sociology
Literary Studies

PUBLISHED BY
THE PACIFIC INSTITUTE
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY HAWAI'I
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE POLYNESIAN CULTURAL CENTER

EDITORIAL BOARD

Paul Alan Co National Tropical Botanical Gardens

Roger Greer
University of Auckland
Richard A. Herr
University of Tasmania
Francis X. Hezel, S.J.
Adrienne Kaeppler
Robert Kiste
University of Hawai'i
Stephen Levine
Victoria University

Barrie Macdonald Massey University
Cluny Macpherson Massey University, Albany Campus

Cluny Macpherson
Malama Meleisea
Richard M. Moyle
Colin Newbury
Karen Peacock

Massey University, Alba
UNESCO, Kabul
University of Auckland
Oxford University
University of Hawai'i

Sergio A. Rapu Easter Island

Karl Rensch Australian National University

William Tagupa Hone

Francisco Orrego Vicuña Universidad de Chile Edward Wolfers University of Wollongong

Articles and reviews in Pacific Studies are abstracted or indexed in Sociological Abstracts, Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts, America: History and Life, Historical Abstracts, Abstracts in Anthropology, Anthropological Literature, PAIS Bulletin, International Political Science Abstracts, International Bibliography of Periodical Literature, International Bibliography of Book Reviews, International Bibliography of the Social Sciences, Anthropoligical Index Online, and Referativnyi Zhurnal.

COVER DESIGN:

Jared Pere, Maori/Hawaiʻi – Indigenous Pacific Art Designs Anthony Perez, Samoa – Graphic Design

PACIFIC STUDIES

RELATIVE POWER

CHANGING INTERPRETATIONS OF FOSTERAGE AND ADOPTION IN PACIFIC ISLAND SOCIETIES

Guest Editors Jeanette Dickerson-Putman Judith Schachter

A Pacific Studies Special Issue Vol. 31, Nos. 3/4 (Sept./Dec. 2008) • Lāie, Hawai'i

PACIFIC STUDIES

Editor Phillip H. McArthur

Associate Editor AnnaMarie Christiansen Book Review Editor TEVITA O. KA'ILI

Book Review Forum Editor LAMONT LINDSTROM Books Noted Editor RILEY M. MOFFAT

Managing Editor Patricia E. Hildenbrand

Editorial Policy: *Pacific Studies* is published quarterly by The Pacific Institute, Brigham Young University Hawai'i #1979, 55–220 Kulanui Street, Lā'ie, Hawai'i 96762, but responsibility for opinions expressed in the articles rests with the authors alone. Subscription rate is US\$40.00 yearly, payable to The Pacific Institute. The Pacific Institute (formerly The Institute for Polynesian Studies) is an organization funded by Brigham Young University Hawai'i. The Institute assists the University in meeting its cultural and educational goals by undertaking a program of teaching, research, and publication. The Institute cooperates with other scholarly and research institutions in achieving their objectives. It publishes monographs, produces films, underwrites research, and sponsors conferences on the Pacific Islands.

Articles submitted to the editor must not be submitted elsewhere while under review by *Pacific Studies*. Please note that text files should be in Microsoft Word format and should be completely double-spaced (including quotations, references, and notes). Please submit manuscripts to Pacificstudies@byuh.edu. Authors may visit our website, http://w2. byuh.edu/academics/thepacificinstitute/pacstudy.htm, for Instructions to Authors. Books for review should be sent to the editor.

 $\ensuremath{\mathbb{G}}$ 2008 Brigham Young University Hawai'i. All Rights Reserved. Printed in the United States of America.

This publication is printed on acid-free paper and meets the guidelines for permanence and durability of the Council on Library Resources.

ISSN 0275-3596 ISBN 0-939154-77-3

SPECIAL ISSUE

RELATIVE POWER: CHANGING INTERPRETATIONS OF FOSTERAGE AND ADOPTION IN PACIFIC ISLAND SOCIETIES

CONTENTS

Preface
MAC MARSHALL
Introduction
JUDITH SCHACHTER
The Making and Nurturing of Relationships: An Ujelang/Enewetak
Model in the Context of Change
Laurence Marshall Carucci
Adopting Change: Relational Flexibility as Vice and Virtue on
Mota Island, Vanuatu
THORGEIR STORESUND KOLSHUS
Power, Uncertainty, and Obligation: Unraveling Contemporary
Adoption and Fosterage on Raivavae, Austral Islands,
French Polynesia
JEANETTE DICKERSON-PUTMAN87
A Transaction in Ambivalence: Adoption in Contemporary
Highlands Papua
LESLIE BUTT
Beyond Normative Discourse: Adoption and Violence against
Women in New Caledonia
CHRISTINE SALOMON and CHRISTINE HAMELIN

Demythologizing Adoption: From the Practice to the Effects of	
Adoption in Chuuk, Micronesia	
MANUEL RAUCHHOLZ	156
Adoption Is Blood: Understanding Chamorro Poksai as Chamorro	
Authenticity within Racialized Decolonization Politics on Guam	
Laurel A. Monnig	182
"A Relationship Endeared to the People": Adoption in Hawaiian	
Custom and Law	
Judith Schachter	211
Afterword: Adoptive Relations in Theories of Kinship and Modernity	
Susan McKinnon	232
Contributors	249