
CONTRIBUTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Tusiata Avia is a poet, performer, and teacher of Samoan descent. Born and raised in Christchurch, New Zealand, she has garnered acclaim for her 2004 collection of poetry, *Wild Dogs Under My Skirt*. She is also the author of two children's books, *Mele and the Fofo* (2002) and *The Song* (2002). She was shortlisted for the New Zealand Prize in Modern Letters in 2006 and was awarded the 2005 Fulbright-Creative New Zealand Pacific Writers' Residency at the University of Hawai'i.

Jewel Castro (BA, Painting and Drawing, San Diego State University; MFA, Visual Arts, University of California, San Diego) is an artist who looks for ways to celebrate her Samoan ancestors and living elders, and to honor the integrity of her family's indigenous history, to recognize the recent accomplishments of the young Samoan people. In 2005, she curated the group exhibition, "Turning Tides: Gender in Oceania Art," at the University of California San Diego. In 2006, Castro co-curated with Dr. Peri Klemm the exhibition, "Island Affinities: Contemporary Oceania Art," at California State University Northridge. She currently teaches studio arts courses part-time at MiraCosta and Mesa College in San Diego.

Christine Taitano DeLisle is a PhD candidate in History/Women's Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She is the recipient of a 2006–2007 Ford Foundation Fellowship and is currently writing a dissertation on early twentieth-century relations between Chamorros in Guam and U.S. Navy wives. DeLisle is also completing a certificate in Museum Studies and has curated several exhibits on Guam and Micronesia. She is a published writer of Chamorro/Guam history and poetry and is co-producer of the video documentaries *Sacred Vessels: Navigating Tradition and Identity in Micronesia* (1997) and *The Pattera of Guam: Their Story and Legacy* (2001).

Sia Figiel is a single parent and DB Warrior who powerwalks with her children to fight Diabetes. She's written novels and poetry and produced *TERENESIA*, a performance poetry collaboration with Teresia Teaiwa. She lives in Nuuuuli, Amerika Samoa and works for the Office of Congressman Faleomavaega.

Jacinta S. Galea'i was born and raised in American Samoa. She lives in Honolulu and writes on a variety of topics and issues that are all “centered” on being a Samoan in Oceania. She also completed a PhD in English from the University of Hawai'i-Mānoa in 2005.

Jennifer Noelani Goodyear-Ka'ōpua was raised in Kalihi and He'eia, O'ahu. She is a mother, a teacher, a paddler, and an assistant professor in Indigenous Politics at the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa. Noelani's path is guided by a commitment to *aloha 'aina*--Hawaiian independence, social justice, and environmental responsibility. Noelani is a co-founder of Halau Ku Mana public charter school, and she completed her PhD in History of Consciousness at the University of California, Santa Cruz in 2005. Her dissertation, *Ku i ka Mana: Building Community and Nation through Contemporary Hawaiian Schooling*, discusses cultural and political movements to indigenize education in Hawai'i.

Lisa Kahaleole Hall is an assistant professor in Women's Studies at Wells College in Aurora, NY. A diasporic Hawaiian who grew up in the US military, she holds a BA in Women's Studies from Yale University and a PhD in Ethnic Studies from the University of California at Berkeley. Her work has been published in anthologies such as *Names We Call Home: Autobiography on Racial Identity*, *Beyond A Dream Deferred: Multicultural Education and the Politics of Excellence*, and *Dimensions of Desire*. She thanks Mrs. Martell, Miss Choi and Miss Takuda for giving her a good educational start at Kekaha Elementary School.

Mei-Lin Te-Puea Hansen (Tainui - Ngati Mahanga, Chinese, Pakeha) completed her PhD at the University of Auckland, Aotearoa in 2006. Her thesis, *Aroha's Granddaughters: Representations of Maori women in Maori theatre and drama 1980–2000*, was supervised by Dr. Stuart Young and Associate Professor Witi Ihimaera.

ku'ualoha ho'omanawanui is a Kanaka Maoli woman who was born near the sands of One'awa, Kailua, O'ahu, and raised in the mountainous Kaipuha'a region of Wailua, Kaua'i. She is a founding editor of *Ōiwi: A Native Hawaiian Journal*, a publication produced by Kanaka Maoli that showcases Native Hawaiian writers and artists. She is also an Assistant Professor of Hawaiian Literature at the University of Hawai'i-Mānoa. When she is not teaching, dreaming, or writing, ku'ualoha hangs out at the beach a lot.

Lana Sue Ka'ōpua, PhD, DCSW, LSW is Associate Professor at the University of Hawai'i. Promoting a legacy of health and social justice for Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and others is the focus of her commitment as a community-based health researcher. She is involved in breast cancer prevention with women in Hawaiian communities, as well as in collaborating with nations in the western Pacific to enhance health infrastructure. She resides in He'eia with her husband, Victor Voth, and is the mother of Noelani and Kulamanu Goodyear-Ka'ōpua, who share a commitment to the health and wellness of Native Hawaiians and other indigenous peoples.

J. Kēhaulani Kauanui, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Anthropology and American Studies at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, USA. She is completing her first book, *Hawaiian Blood: Colonialism and the Politics of Indigeneity and Sovereignty* (forthcoming, Duke University Press). Her work appears in the following journals: *The Hawaiian Journal of History*, *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, *The Contemporary Pacific*, *Social Text*, *Pacific Studies*, *Comparative American Studies*, *American Studies*, *Amerasia Journal*, and *Women's Studies International Forum*. Her next book project focuses on women and decolonization practices relating to the contemporary Hawaiian sovereignty movement.

Victoria Nālani Kneubuhl was born of Hawaiian, Samoan and Caucasian ancestry in Honolulu. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Antioch University and a Master's degree in Drama and Theatre from the University of Hawai'i. As a playwright, she has had plays produced locally, nationally, and internationally. Her anthology, *Hawai'i Nei, Island Plays*, was published by the University of Hawai'i Press. She received the Hawai'i Award for Literature in 1994 and the Cades Award for Literature in 2006. Her novel *Murder Casts a Shadow* will be published by the University of Hawai'i Press in 2008.

Theresa Koroivulaono has worked as an instructional designer at the University of the South Pacific (USP) since November 2002. She completed a Bachelor of Arts (in English) at the University of Auckland in 1996 and a Master of Arts (Honours) in 1998. Ms. Koroivulaono is currently also completing her PhD with the English department of the University of Auckland. In 2005, Ms. Koroivulaono completed USP's Certificate in Teaching English as a second language (Cert. TESL). Her research interests include examining systems of teaching and learning in

oral cultures, designing learning materials in economically challenged learning environments and developing multi-modal learning materials.

Cresantia Frances Koya is of mixed ethnicity including Indian-Arabian, Samoan, Scottish, and Solomon Islander. She is a member of the Fiji-based Niu Waves Writers Collective. In 2003, the Pacific Writing Forum published Koya's first collection of poetry called *Of Schizophrenic Voices*. She is currently working on a number of projects, including a satirical novel on marriage and finding love in the Indo-Fijian community, and a compilation of short stories that recounts her mother's youth in Samoa. She is also collaborating on a collection of poetry with two other Fiji-based women. After seven years of teaching, Koya co-founded the Post Script writing collective to nurture young writers. She works as a Lecturer in Education at the University of the South Pacific. She has twin daughters with Tongan Artist Lingikoni Vaka`uta.

Kim Meredith was born in Auckland, New Zealand in 1965. Her ancestry spreads to Samoa, Tokelau and Portugal. She takes inspiration from her parents Ielusalema and Rita Sina Meredith when writing. She is married to jazz arranger/composer Kingsley Melhuish and has a daughter, Courtney, and two sons, Cyrus and Pelemoni.

Rosanna Raymond is a performance/installation/body adornment artist and writer. A New Zealand-born Pacific Islander of Samoan descent, she is currently living and working in London, UK, where she is active in establishing dialogues with museums and institutions focusing on the issues of Pacific Modernity and concentrating on her writing and art practice. Her works are held in the collections of museums around the world. Over the past few years, she has been published as a poet and is the Creative Director for the Pasifika Styles exhibition for the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, where she was the Leverhulme artist in residence.

Noenoe Silva was born in Honolulu and is of Kanaka Maoli descent. She is the author of *Aloha Betrayed: Native Hawaiian Resistance to American Colonialism* (Duke University Press, 2004). She currently serves as Associate Professor of Political Science, and affiliate faculty in Hawaiian language at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She teaches research courses in Hawaiian, as well the first courses in political science in the Hawaiian language.

Caroline Sinavaiana is Associate Professor of English at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, where she teaches Oceanic and Comparative Literatures, and Creative Writing. Her poetry and criticism appear widely, and creative work includes several collections of poetry, *Alchemies of Distance* (Subpress, 2002), *Mohawk/Samoa: Transmigrations* (Subpress, 2006), and a new collection of poems and essays. Scholarship includes a study of Samoan comic theater (forthcoming from University of the South Pacific). Sinavaiana serves on the Editorial Boards of *The Contemporary Pacific*, and *Meridians: a Journal of Feminism, Race and Transnationalism*, and as Regional Liaison for the Ford Foundation Doctoral Fellows Program.

Ngahuia Te Awekotuku, MA (Hons), PhD, teaches research at the School of Maori & Pacific Development, University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand. She has been a Maori cultural activist for over three decades. Her interests are heritage issues, the arts, gender, cultural studies and traditional knowledge. She has served on various governance boards in the arts, and the academy, and has worked as a museum curator, art historian, and repatriation consultant. Published work includes *Mana Wahine Maori: Selected Writings in Maori Women's Art, Culture & Politics* (1991), and *He Tikanga Whakaaro: Research Ethics in the Maori Community* (1991). Ngahuia's first collection of short fiction, *Tahuri*, appeared in 1989. Her second book of stories, *Ruahine: Mythic Women*, was released in 2003. Her next major work, *Mau Moko: the World of Maori Tattoo*, is currently in press.

Alice Te Punga Somerville (Te Atiawa Ki Waiwhetu/Pakeha) (MA, University of Auckland; MA, PhD, Cornell University) comes from Aotearoa New Zealand. Her dissertation looks at the comparative critical contexts of Maori writing in English, and she has published on Maori learning support and mixed race Maori/Pakeha writing. Some of her own poetry was collected in the recent anthology *Whetu Moana: Contemporary Polynesian Poems in English*. She is a lecturer at the Victoria University of Wellington.

Teresia K. Teaiwa was born in Honolulu, raised in Fiji, and now lives in Wellington, New Zealand. Her mother is African American and her father is of Banaban and I-Kiribati descent. Her first collection of poetry, *Searching for Nei Nim`anoa* was published by Mana/South Pacific Creative Arts Society (1995). In 2000, she and Sia Figiel released a CD of their spoken word titled *TERENESIA*. She was a founding member

of the Niu Waves Writers' Collective in Suva, Fiji. She has performed poetry in Auckland, Bangkok, Guam, Honolulu, Lower Hutt, Medellin, New York City, Niue, Porirua, Santa Cruz (California), Suva, and Wellington.

Konai Helu Thaman is Professor of Pacific Education and UNESCO Chair in teacher education and culture, at the University of the South Pacific (USP). Born and raised in Tonga, Konai obtained her BA in Geography from Auckland University, MA in International Education (University of California, Santa Barbara), and PhD in Education from the University of the South Pacific. She has been on the staff of USP since 1974 and has published academic as well as creative writing, including five collections of poetry. Her main academic interests include indigenous education and theorizing Pacific concepts of education, sourced from Pacific cultures and epistemologies. Her KAKALA framework is being used by students and researchers in Aotearoa and the Pacific islands in an attempt to center Pacific epistemologies and values in their work. She is married and has two adult children and one grandchild.

Marie-Hélène Villierme was born in 1966 in France to a Polynesian father and an Italian mother. She grew up in Tahiti and relocated to France to pursue her studies. She spent three years at the school of "Beaux arts" in France, then attended a photography school, the "75," in Brussels for three more years. As a Polynesian photographer, she aims to reveal through her work a socio-cultural view of modern Polynesia in full mutation. Villierme's publications include *Tata'u, Polynesian Tattoo* (1992), *Faces of Polynesia* (1996), and *Tangata, a Polynesian community* (2005). She also teaches photography to college students.

