

Editor's Note

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On behalf of the Editorial Board and the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Guam, I am pleased to introduce and provide an overview of the manuscripts selected for inclusion in Volume 8 of *Pacific Asia Inquiry*. The manuscripts included in this volume strongly reflect the interests and scope of this online peer-reviewed journal, which is dedicated to “showcasing works on the Pacific Asia Region and to advancing knowledge and understanding of this region” (<http://www.uog.edu/pai>). Similar to previous volumes, Volume 8 is a testament to the diversity of scholarship that is present and growing in the Pacific. In this volume, contributors will engage readers with critical topics in the fields of humanities and social sciences: identity, culture, language, and the intersection of the three.

David Gugin's article proposes and develops a synthesis of contemporary ecological and postcolonial criticism, combining a bioregional emphasis on reinhabitation and the restorative power of narrative with a postcolonial insistence on the validation and empowerment of indigenous lifestyles. The article applies that analytical approach to Robert Barclay's 2002 *Melal: A novel of the Pacific*, a book written against the backdrop of the US government's 1954 detonation of a hydrogen bomb on Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands. Ultimately then, this article focuses on the struggle of the Marshallese people to reclaim their place-identity, their culture, and thus their right to live in an ecologically healthy environment. It also argues that tradition definitions of place-identity and indigeneity need to be rethought, articulated differently in order for the Marshallese to succeed in that struggle.

The two short, creatively directed and reflective papers by linguist Joshua Nash build on his already published Pitcairn Island linguistic and ethnographic research. While much of Nash's work has been staunchly empirical and based in long term fieldwork engagement with the Pitcairn Islanders on Pitcairn Island, in the Pitcairn Islander diaspora in Australia and New Zealand, and with the Pitcairn Islanders descendants on Norfolk Island, these pieces are largely speculative. "The Kittitian *other* in the Pacific" is a musing on *Bounty* midshipman Edward Young and his possible Caribbean influence as a single individual on matters linguistic and otherwise on Pitcairn Island post 1790 arrival. Nash's hypothetical deliberation queries to what extent Caribbean vestiges arrived on the island and how long they might have endured.

A reflection on Pacific historian Greg Denning's *Mr Bligh's bad language* again uses an exploratory approach. Here Nash uses the trope of *Bounty*, that ship extraordinaire, to survey a number of ideas Denning identifies in his well-known 1992 work about Captain William Bligh's use of language on the *Bounty*. Where Denning never really took us to Pitcairn Island with this book, nor was this his brief, Nash offers several concise hows and whys with regard to the language situation there, and the extent of the Polynesian influence on linguistic and extralinguistic happenings. This contribution hints at a larger work Nash intends to write dealing with the linguistics, sociology, and spatiality of Pitcairn Island place and people.

Lastly, Perry offers an overview of the manuscripts housed in the Richard Flores Taitano Micronesian Area Research Center (RFT MARC) at the University of Guam. In particular, he draws our attention to a selection of manuscripts produced by women who have influenced the history, society, and economy of Guam and Micronesia in a notable manner. The biographies and works of the women whose manuscripts are reviewed by Perry compel the reader to consider

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the role of women in the development of Guam and Micronesia broadly, and indeed “preserves women's legacies” as central participants in the larger regional community.

In addition to these four manuscripts, three book reviews are featured in this volume, covering topics that are equally critical to scholarly dialogue in the Pacific and surrounding regions. The pieces selected for review prove exceptionally diverse, ranging from the autobiography of recently passed social scientist Benedict Anderson to an anthology of essays produced to accompany the works of the accomplished Australian indigenous author Kim Scott. The reviewers are to be commended for framing each work within its complex time and for highlighting what makes each work unmistakably timeless for the greater regional community.

Volume 8 speaks to the life and enthusiasm that are evident and growing in scholarship in the Pacific and surrounding areas. In spite of Guam's reputed disconnect from neighboring islands (Viernes, 2016) and regions, this volume's contributors and their contributions suggest the opposite. *Pacific Asia Inquiry* has once again facilitated the foregrounding of Guam as a central venue for voicing the ideas and collaborations of the Pacific and beyond. On behalf of the editorial board, I want to thank the contributors, referees, and book reviewers of this issue for their dedication and service to the larger academic and regional communities.

Si Yu'os ma'åse' and Biba Guam.