

# **Empires and Cultures of the Pacific Revisited**

*The 28th annual conference  
of the New Zealand Studies Association  
together with*

*University College Prague*

**Prague, Czechia  
9–12 July 2024**

## **Tuesday 9 July**

1.00-1.30 **Registration** (Shaw)

1.30-2.00 **Welcome and conference opening** (Bracefield)

2.00-2.50 **Keynote 1** (Bracefield) – **Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich**  
(Victoria University of Wellington), “Celebrating the Nation: A Ritual  
Analysis of Aotearoa New Zealand National Days”  
Chair: [Professor Kirsten Moana Thompson](#) (University of Seattle)

2.55-4.10 **Session 1a** (McCall) – **Art, Craft & Material Cultures**  
Chair: [Marc Tabani](#) (CREDO, Aix-Marseille University)  
- [Rychèl Thérin](#), “Mana Wahine and Mataaho Collective: The Power  
of the Collaboration and How we Feed our Roots”  
- [Bernadette Samau](#) and [Sesilia Lauano](#) (National University of  
Samoa), “Fibres of the ‘Tree of Life’ in the Cultures of Oceania:  
Preserving our Samoan Cultural Heritage through ‘Afa (Sinnet)  
Making and Co-Creating”  
- [Hilke Thode-Arora](#) (Five Continents Museum, Munich),  
“A Māori Feather Cape from Whanganui and Carved Taonga:  
Examples for Museum Provenance Research in Progress”

### **Session 1b** (David-Ives) – **Pacific Poetry and Literature**

Chair: [Marine Berthiot](#) (Université Lumière Lyon 2)  
- [Cornelia Kaufmann](#) (SAS, University of London), “Parasite Time:  
French Colonialism in the Works of French Polynesia Authors Henri  
Hiro, Michael ‘Rai’ Chaze and Chantal Spitz”  
- [Angela Kölling](#) (Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz), “Visiting  
Pacific Cultures through Children’s Literature”  
- [Paola Della Valle](#) (University of Turin), “Diasporic Identities from  
Asia to Aotearoa: New Narratives in Poetry and Prose”

4.10-4.40 **Tea break**

- 4.40-5.30 **Session 2a** (McCall) – **Climate Change**  
Chair: [Cornelia Kaufmann](#) (SAS, University of London)  
- [Francisco Javier Leyva Ortiz](#) (Universidad del Valle de Atemajac), “Immigrants or Refugees? The Debate on the Status of the Climate Change Mobilisation of the Kiribati Population”  
- [Alessandra De Marco](#) and [Tommaso Caloiero](#) (CNR-IRPI), “Internet Users’ Keyword Queries, Google SERPS and Climate change in New Zealand: A Preliminary Study”
- Session 2b** (David-Ives) – **Health, Midwifery and Childhood**  
Chair: [Hilke Thode-Arora](#) (Five Continents Museum, Munich)  
- [Gabriela Kwiatek](#) (Jagiellonian University), “Weaving the Past and Present Together: The Cultural Significance of Harakeke and its use in Contemporary Māori Midwifery”  
- [Josiah Gabriel Cruz Mesngon](#) (University of Guam), “Childhood and the Self: An Existential Look Towards Childhood”
- 5.35-6.25 **Keynote 2** (Bracefield) – **Professor Angela McCarthy** (University of Otago), “New Zealand’s Ties to Transatlantic Slavery”  
Chair: [Professor Hermann Mückler](#) (University of Vienna)
- 

### **Wednesday 10 July**

- 8.45-9.35 **Session 3a** (McCall) – **Hauntings, Trauma and Memorialisation**  
Chair: [Eva Rueschmann](#) (Hampshire College)  
- [André Brett](#) (Curtin University), “‘Everybody Wanted to Know About the Accident’: Coping with the Hyde and Tangiwai Railway Disasters”  
- [Laura Sedgwick](#) (University of Stirling), “40 Years of Noise Complaints: Haunting and Hauntology in *Wellington Paranormal*”
- Session 3b** (David-Ives) – **Health and Sexual Behaviour**  
Chair: [Sebastian Jablonski](#) (University of Potsdam)  
- [Jen Kain](#) (University of Newcastle), “Kamau Taurua Quarantine Island – A Public Health ‘Chokepoint’: Seamen, Venereal Disease, and Contested Legalities”  
- [Francine M.S.N. Naputi](#) (University of Guam), “Ni Ngai’an Na Bai Hu Fa’nà’gue Enao: Counterstories for Sexual and Reproductive Health”
- 9.40-10.30 **Session 4a** (McCall) – **Decolonisation**  
Chair: [Jane Samson](#) (University of Alberta)  
- [Federica Pieristè](#) (University of Rome), “Transnational Trajectories in Gastro-Decolonisation: Between the Cook Islands and Aotearoa New Zealand”  
- [Mary Therese F. Cruz](#) (University of Guam), “I Miniton I Gerero: Reimagining CHamoru Identity in Guam’s History”

**Session 4b** (David-Ives) – **Visual Culture**

Chair: [Yifen Beus](#) (Brigham Young University, Hawai‘i)

- [Hermann Mückler](#) (University of Vienna), “Hawaiian Sheet Music Art in the Tin Pan Alley Era: Reflections on Representations of the South Seas in a Historical Popular Culture Medium”

- [Kirsten Moana Thompson](#) (University of Seattle), “The Blue Humanities and Underwater Media: New Research Directions”

10.30-10.50 **Coffee break** (including book launch)

10.50-11.40 **Keynote 3** (Bracefield) – **Nalini Singh**, “Journeys of the Heart”

Chair: [Dr Anna Ďurfina](#) (University College Prague)

11.40-12.40 **Lunch**

12.40 **Coach excursion – Karlštejn and Karlštejn Castle**

7pm **Conference dinner – Restaurant Il Giardino Toscano, NH Prague City Hotel** (Mozartova 261, 150 00 Praha 5)

---

**Thursday 11 July**

9.00-10.15 **Session 5a** (McCall) – **Pacific Treaties and Diplomacy**

Chair: [Anna Ďurfina](#) (University College Prague)

- [Jouni Takalo](#) (University of Turku), “Culture and Colonialism in the Treaty of Waitangi/ Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Wallis and Futunan Protectorate Treaties”

- [Jayden Evett](#) (Australian National University), “Te Karaehe-a-Kiwa: Shifting Māori-Pākehā Relations and its Impact on Aotearoa New Zealand’s Pacific Diplomacy”

- [Chen Xi](#) (East China Normal University), “New Zealand Antarctic Strategy: Development and Challenges”

**Session 5b** (David-Ives) – **Education in the Pacific**

Chair: [Malcolm Maclean](#) (University of Wales Trinity St David)

- [Kolotina Halaifonua Lau Laupea‘alu](#) (University of Edinburgh), “The Emergence of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education in Tonga”

- [Kisha Borja-Quichocho-Calvo](#) (University of Guam), “I CHamorro ti u Falingu’: Decolonising Education in Guåhan’s Public School System”

- [Michael Clement](#) (University of Guam), “The Colegio de San Juan de Letran”

10.15-10.35 **Coffee break**

10.35-11.25 **Keynote 4** (Bracefield) – **Professor Tatiana Tökölyová** (University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava), “Cultural Landscape as Aotearoa’s Identity of Phenomenon”

Chair: [Dr Alessandra De Marco](#)

- 11.30-12.20 **Keynote 5** (Bracefield) – **Professor Jane Samson**, “Red Pacific: Portable Savages in the Age of Empire”  
Chair: **Dr Hilke Thode-Arora** (Five Continents Museum, Munich)
- 12.20-1.30 **Lunch**
- 1.30-1.45 “**Marks of Polynesia: The Tatau Dance**” (Shaw). Cultural performance by **Bernadette Samau**
- 1.45-3.15 **Film screening: *Paradise Soldiers*** (2020) (Bracefield) – with special guest **David Blyth**  
Includes post screening Q&A: David Blyth and Ian Conrich
- 3.15-3.40 **Tea break**
- 3.40-4.55 **Session 6a** (McCall) – **Māori Literature**  
Chair: **Angela Kölling** (Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz)  
- **Mattia Mantellato** (Kore University of Enna), “Encountering the Other: Witi Ihimaera’s *Pounamu Pounamu* from a Partnership Perspective”  
- **Suja Kurup P.L.** (University of Kerala), “The Spiral Motif in Witi Ihimaera’s *The Parihaka Woman* (2011)”  
- **Ian Fookes** (University of Auckland), “Images of Empire in Patricia Grace’s *Chappy* and Yuki Kihara’s *A Song About Sāmoa*”
- Session 6b** (David-Ives) – **Governance and Foreign Policy**  
Chair: **André Brett** (Curtin University)  
- **Jess Marinaccio** (California State University, Dominguez Hills), “The Australia-Tuvalu Falepili Union: Tuvaluan Values or Australian Interests?”  
- **Kenneth Gofigan Kuper** (University of Guam), “A Governmental Arm of Change: A History of the Government of Guam’s Decolonization Efforts”
- 5.00-6.30 **AGM** (Bracefield)
- 

### **Friday 12 July**

- 9.00-9.50 **Session 7a** (McCall) – **Indigenous Film part 1**  
Chair: **Kirsten Moana Thompson** (University of Seattle)  
- **Eva Rueschmann** (Hampshire College), “Colonialism and Intergenerational Trauma in Lee Tamahori’s *Mahana* (2016)”  
- **Briar Meads** (University of Auckland), “Te Tōrino Haere Whakamua, Whakamuri: Contemporary Use of Traditional Oral Storytelling Frameworks in the Screen Adaptation of *Cousins* (2021)”

**Session 7b** (David-Ives) – **Regional Securities and Pacific Relations**

Chair: [John F. Wilson](#)

- [Anna Đurfina](#) (University College Prague), “Regions and Powers in the Pacific: What is True About the Regional Security Complex Involving Pacific Island Countries?”

- [Chen Hong](#) (East China Normal University), “China-New Zealand Relations and New Zealand Studies in China”

9.55-10.45

**Session 8a** (McCall) – **Indigenous Film part 2**

Chair: [Kirsten Moana Thompson](#) (University of Seattle)

- [Leah Vonderheide](#) (Emerson College), “‘Uplift and Uphold the People’: Revisiting and Reclaiming the Power of the Image in Merata Mita’s *Mana Waka* (1990)”

- [Yifen Beus](#) (Brigham Young University, Hawai‘i), “Re-Placing Paradise: The Missing Waikiki as Site of Indigenous Protest”

**Session 8b** (David-Ives) – **Lands Within a Sea**

Chair: [Hermann Mückler](#) (University of Vienna)

- [Marc Tabani](#) (CREDO, Aix-Marseille University), “Reinventing Land Tenure in Tanna (Vanuatu) Through Anthropological Data”

- [Sebastian Jablonski](#) (University of Potsdam), “Archipelagos, Terripelagos and Infulpelagos: ‘Reading’ Historical Pacific Literatures and Spaces in Europe”

10.45-11.10

**Coffee break**

11.10-12.00

**Keynote 6** (Bracefield) – **John F. Wilson**, “Rival Empires, Competing Cultures – Their Impact on the Pacific Islands”

Chair: [Dr Mikko Myllyntausta](#) (University of Turku)

12.00-1.15

**Lunch**

1.15-2.30

**Session 9a** (McCall) – **Pacific and New Zealand Literature**

Chair: [Paola Della Valle](#) (University of Turin)

- [Malcolm Maclean](#) (University of Wales Trinity St David), “Emphasising Conflict Over Struggle: Literary Constructions of 1981’s Springboks in Aotearoa New Zealand”

- [Ajani Burrell](#) (Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz), “Trans-Versations: Talanoa as Decolonial Analytical Praxis in Contemporary Indigenous CHamorro Narratives”

- [Marine Berthiot](#) (Université Lumière Lyon 2), “An Intermedial Dialogue on Magdalenism in Aotearoa: A Comparative Study of *Does this Make Sense to You?* (1994), by Renée, and its Film Adaptation, *Piece of My Heart* (2009), by Fiona Samuel”

**Session 9b** (David-Ives) – **Māori History/Identity in an Age of Empire**

Chair: [Leah Vonderheide](#) (Emerson College)

- [Laura Singeot](#) (University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne), “The Empire Revisited: Māori in Victorian London in Two New Zealand Novels”

- [Mikko Myllyntausta](#) (University of Turku), “Alleged Desire for Empire: European Colonisation of New Zealand and Claims of Māori Willingness for Further Colonial Contact”

- [Ian Conrich](#) (Stockholm University), “Māoritanga in Miniature: Victorian Scopic Culture, Mākareti Papakura and Early Armchair Tourism”

2.35-3.25 **Keynote 7** (Bracefield) – **Professor Michael Belgrave**, “Finding New Zealand and Escaping the Weather Forecast”

Chair: [Dr Malcolm Maclean](#) (University of Wales Trinity St David)

3.30 **Conference Ends**