Political Culture, Representation and Electoral Systems in the Pacific

University of the South Pacific (Emalus Campus), Port Vila, Vanuatu, South Pacific, 10th-12th July 2004

Organised by the Pacific Institute of Advanced Studies in Development & Governance (PIAS-DG), University of the South Pacific & the Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington.

Programme

Friday 9th July 5pm Kava Function, Nakamal, Emalus Campus (with the Oceanic Linguistics Conference participants).

Day One - Saturday 10th July

8.00 Registration
[For those wanting to obtain conference materials, including papers, earlier, registration will also occur at the Meridien Hotel on Thursday 8th and Friday 9th at 5pm. Check with Susan Tafuna‘i-mani]

9.00 Welcomes & Addresses

John Lynch, Vice Chancellor, Emalus Campus, Port Vila, Vanuatu
Ron Duncan, Director, Pacific Institute of Development & Governance
Prayer -

9.30 Analysing Pacific Electoral Systems

- Chair – Bernie Grofman, University of California (Irvine)


- ‘Applying Typologies to Political Parties in the Pacific’, Roland Rich, Centre for Democratic Institutions, ANU.

(Tea available at back of the room during session)

11.40 Talk – ‘Representing the dispersed peoples from Nuclear-affected Rongelap Atoll’, Abacca Maddison, MP for Rongelap, Nitijela, Marshall Islands

12.00 Lunch

1.00 Chiefs, Customary Authority & Political Power

- Chair - Andrew Ladley, Centre for Policy Studies, Victoria University

- ‘Democracy, Power, and Political Culture in the Pacific’, Stephanie Lawson, University of East Anglia, UK.

- ‘Sāmoa’s Electoral System as it Operates on the Ground’, Asafou So’o, National University of Sāmoa.


- ‘Men Who Lead, Men Who Serve, and Men Who Are Just Big: The Mystery of the Unwanted Politicians in Melanesia’, Ian Fraser USP School of Law.

2.45 Tea-break

3.15 Electoral Systems & Political Culture in Melanesia

- Chair – Ben Reilly, APSEG, ANU

- ‘Unbounded Politics in the Melanesia; Assessing the Evidence in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands’, Jeanette Bolenga (with Jon Fraenkel), PIAS-DG, University of the South Pacific.


5.00 end of day 1.

_**Evening – Reception organized by the New Zealand High Commission (Invitations will be distributed at the conference)**_

Day Two - Sunday 11th July

10.30. Presidents, Premiers & Elections in Micronesia

_Chair – Graham Hassall, PIAS-DG, University of the South Pacific, Fiji_


- ‘On Checks and Balances within the Federated States of Micronesian’s Presidential System’, Glen Petersen, Baruch College, New York.


12.20 Lunch


1.50 Why is PNG Politics so Competitive?
3.40 Teabreak

4.10 What Drives Electoral Politics in Polynesia?

- **Chair - David Hegarty, State, Society & Governance in Melanesia Project, ANU**

- ‘Political Culture, Representation & the Electoral System in the Cook Islands’ Ron Crocombe Raratonga, Cook Islands, & Jon Tikivanotau Jonassen, Brigham Young University, Hawaii

- ‘Constitutional Reform Proposals in Tonga’, Ian Campbell, University of Canterbury, Christchurch & University of the South Pacific.


End day 2 –5.45pm

7pm - Dinner, Evening Reception, and Informal Consultation – venue/Speakers to be announced.
Monday 12th July

9am - Electoral Reform in Ethnically Divided Societies

Chair – Ron Duncan, PLAS-DG, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji

- ‘From Eloi to Europe: Interactions with the ballot box in New Caledonia’, Nick Maclellan, Journalist & independent author.

- ‘Last General Elections in New Caledonia’, Frederick Angleviel, University New Caledonia.


(Tea available at back of the room during session)

11.30 Talk – ‘Activities of the Inter-Parliamentary Union’, Ian Harris, Clerk to the House of Representatives, Commonwealth of Australia, President of the Association of Secretaries-General of Parliaments and delegate from the Inter-parliamentary Union.

12.00 Lunch

1.00 Issues of Institutional Design & Electoral Reform

Chair – Stephanie Lawson, University of East Anglia, UK.

- A Theory of Atomistic Federalism for Melanesia’, Philip T. Powell, Indiana University Kelley School of Business


- ‘Constraints and current visions for election of women in Solomon Islands’, Josephine Taekeni, Director of Vois Blong Mere, and Ian Scales, Consultant & Associate at SSGM, ANU.

- ‘Challenges of Strengthening the Political Party System in PNG’, Orovu Sepoe, University of Papua New Guinea.
3.00 Teabreak

3.30 Bernie Grofman, University of California, – Institutional Design in the Pacific Islands - Overview of Papers & Plans for Publication

Discussion of Plans for Publication

4.30 Closing Address


5.00 - Tea and Coffee

Final Thanks.