



Australian
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Public Book Launch

Engendering objects. Dynamics of Barkcloth and Gender among the Maisin of Papua New Guinea

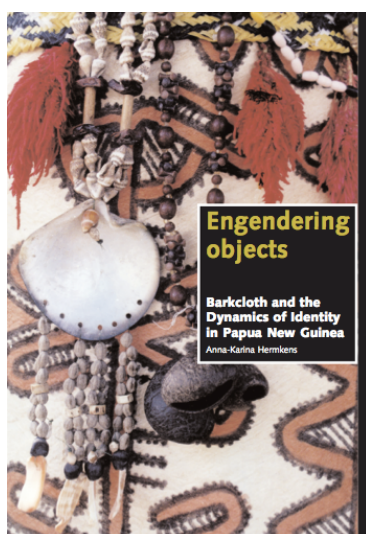
by Dr Anna-Karina Hermkens

To be launched by Drusilla Modjeska, acclaimed author of *The Mountain*

Tuesday 5 November 2013, 4-5.30pm light refreshments from 4pm

Hedley Bull Atrium, Hedley Bull Centre [Building 130], Garran Road.

The Australian National University, Canberra



Engendering objects (Sidestone Press, 2013) explores social and cultural dynamics among Maisin people in Collingwood Bay (Papua New Guinea) through the lens of material culture. Focusing upon the visually stimulating decorated barkcloths that are used as male and female garments, gifts, and commodities, it explores the relationships between these cloths and Maisin people. The main question is how barkcloth, as an object made by women, engenders people's identities, including gendered personhood, clan and tribe, through its manufacturing and use.

Acclaimed author Drusilla Modjeska will launch Anna-Karina Hermken's book and discuss her own engagement with women's textile art in PNG and her novel *The Mountain* (Random House Australia, 2012).

Anna-Karina Hermkens is a cultural anthropologist working as an ARC postdoctoral fellow at the School of Culture, History and Language, College of Asia and the Pacific. She has been doing research in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands, focusing on material culture, gender issues and, since 2005, the interplay between religion, conflict and peace-building. She co-edited a volume on Marian pilgrimages *Moved by Mary* (Ashgate, 2009) and has published several book chapters and articles on the Bougainville conflict in terms of gender, religion and customary beliefs (in amongst others: *Intersections*; *Culture and Religion*; and *Anthropology Today*).

Presented by

ARC Laureate Project
Engendering Persons, Transforming Things
Held by Professor Margaret Jolly

For more information

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