



DECOLONISATION AND THE TRANS-PACIFIC

Melbourne, 14-17 April, 2020

CALL FOR PANELS



Image: Kat Ellinghaus 2007

The Australian Association for Pacific Studies is pleased to call for panel proposals for its 2020 conference, which is being organised by the Melbourne Pacific Studies Network in partnership with the Melbourne Museum and Footscray Community Arts Centre.

Thematically, the 2020 conference will take as its focus the work of the late Pacific historian Tracey Banivanua Mar, and specifically her ground-breaking book *Decolonisation and the Pacific: Indigenous Globalisation and the Ends of Empire* (Cambridge University Press, 2016). This is a book that, as Tracey wrote, 'charts the sometimes parallel, sometimes intersecting, paths and border crossings of anti-colonial and Indigenous political movements that have helped to define and shape the postcolonial, or rather still decolonising, Pacific'. The conference aims to embody and respond to Tracey's insights into decolonisation and trans-Indigenous connections, including connections between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, South Sea Islanders, Māori and Pacific Islanders. Taking inspiration from Tracey's work, we seek to reflect on the connections between Pacific peoples and places, past and present. What are the practices of movement, activism, creativity, power, and environmental interconnectedness that traverse the region? In what ways have colonial dispossession and displacement produced, as Tracey described, 'a unique, diasporic and stateless process of daily decolonisation characterised by a global connectivity'? How does decolonisation continue to be practiced by Pacific peoples as an 'ongoing, ever contingent process of uncolonising ... worked from the inside out'?

We invite proposals for panels that respond to the conference theme, and to the spirit and content of Tracey's work. Proposals should include a panel title, a 250 word abstract, the name and contact details of the panel convenor(s), and should be emailed to the conference co-conveners (Kalissa Alexeyeff, Victoria Stead and Kim Kruger) at pacificstudies2020@gmail.com by **30 September 2019**. A call for individual papers will open later in the year.