

Shared histories, connected futures: The entangled relationships between Aotearoa New Zealand, Germany and Sāmoa

4-5 July 2024

Presented by the Goethe Institut of Wellington and the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa



The island nation of Sāmoa is rich in natural resources and cultural heritage, but it also has a turbulent history of colonisation and occupation by foreign powers, primarily New Zealand and Germany. Following the Tripartite Convention in 1899, Sāmoa first became a German protectorate. The German administration, though making German an official language and introducing other European systems, sought to retain Sāmoan customs. At the start of World War One in 1914, New Zealand seized Sāmoa from Germany and governed it until its independence in 1962. During this time further regulations were imposed on Sāmoans, resulting in growing tensions and – at times violent – conflicts. These shared histories have had lasting effects on the relations between the three countries. This symposium presents current and recent research projects that examine these interconnected relations through various platforms, including museum collections and exhibitions, university research, and the arts. While a lot of this research is focused on the past, we also seek to explore what the future could look like for these relationships.

<https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/learn/research/pacific-cultures-research/pacific-cultures-research-what-were-working-on/symposium-shared-histories-connected-futures>



Issued ten pfennig German stamp overprinted with 'Samoa', 1900, Germany, maker unknown. The New Zealand Post Museum Collection, Gift of New Zealand Post Ltd. 1992. Te Papa (PH002609)

Day 1, July 4: 9:00am-4:30pm

9:00-9:15	Welcome Session 1
9:15-10:00	Material Differences: Locating connections in archival history and museum curating <i>Dr Christine Winter and Courtney Powell</i>
10:00-10:45	Falemata'aga: Community engagement and cultural exchanges in Sāmoa <i>Utufa'asili Sharon Rosita Roma</i>
10:45-11:30	Re-connecting digitally to Sāmoan measina that have travelled the world <i>Taputukura Raea and Ulu Afaese</i>
11:30-12:15	Te Papa's History collections (BOH tour)*
12:15-1:15	Lunch*
1:15-1:30	Welcome Session 2
1:30-2:15	Adolf Vollbrandt Collection <i>Charlie Klinge</i>
2:15-3:00	Nominal Germanness <i>Leafa Wilson/Olga Krause</i>
3:00-3:45	Sāmoan Multiplicities: Experiences of Sāmoanness via museum collections and exhibitions <i>Togialelei Dr Safua Akeli Amaama and Dr Annika Sung</i>
3:45-4:30	Te Papa's Pacific collections (BOH tour)*
4:30	Closing

Day 2, July 5: 9:00am-2:00pm*

9:00-9:15	Welcome
9:15-10:45	Workshop: Lessons learnt
10:45-11:45	Introducing Te Papa (FOH tour)
11:45-12:45	Lunch
12:45-1:45	Workshop: Looking ahead
1:45-2:00	Final thoughts
2:00	Closing

*These events are for speakers only.

Abstracts:

Material Differences: Locating connections in archival history and museum curating

Dr Christine Winter and Courtney Powell

This paper is a distillation of the work produced at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa in August – November 2023 by Courtney Powell, in collaboration with Dr Safua Akeli Amaama and Dr Christine Winter. Courtney and Christine reflect on their exasperations and opportunities when coming together with two different modes of analysing and telling a story. This project delved into the entangled relations between Germany, Sāmoa, and Aotearoa New Zealand across the colonial period through objects in Te Papa's collections. These collections demonstrated spaces of contact, movement, exchange, and contest; the archives allow different connections between Sāmoa and Germany to come to the fore than the museum. This discussion centres flags and postcards as they relate to key historical moments and how they can be interpreted through these different lenses. Central questions include: What are the limitations when engaging with objects? How can archives supplement – or problematise – the stories connected to material culture? What does the end of an empire look like in the view of different disciplines?

Falemata'aga: Community engagement and cultural exchanges in Sāmoa

Utufa'asili Sharon Rosita Roma

This presentation will explore the different ways in which Falemata'aga, the Museum of Sāmoa, works with local communities in Sāmoa, using the resources and spaces of the museum. This includes, for example, guided tours for school groups or producing educational material for wider distribution. Utufa'asili Sharon Roma, the Coordinator and Principal Museum Officer of Falemata'aga, will also reflect on her recent overseas trips to Germany and Aotearoa New Zealand, where she met with colleagues from other cultural institutions. This will show how international partnerships and cultural exchanges can assist and impact on the work of museums like Falemata'aga from a Pacific perspective.

Re-connecting digitally to Sāmoan measina that have travelled the world

Taputukura Raea and Ulu Afaese

DigitalPasifik will be running an interactive activity to allow you to explore and connect with digital Sāmoan measina that are held in institutions around the world. This will be an opportunity to connect and share your knowledge on the collections through the DigitalPasifik user contribution feature. Bring along your device so you can explore the thousands of measina held on DigitalPasifik.

Adolf Vollbrandt Collection

Charlie Klinge

The Adolf Vollbrandt photography collection, comprising 77 black and white glass negatives, offers a snapshot of colonial Sāmoa at the turn of the 20th century. It captures scenes of Sāmoan and Euro-American encounters and their legacies. Sponsored by Te Papa and the Museum Natur und Mensch in Freiburg, Germany, Charlie Klinge was tasked with undertaking provenance research over three months on a part-time basis, with invaluable support from Safua Akeli Amaama, Sean Mallon, and Athol McCredie. During this talk, Charlie will provide a more detailed account of the process involved in identifying those portrayed, gathering their stories, and presenting them in a way that honours their contributions to Sāmoan society – both historically and in the present. Additionally, she will delve into the intricacies of establishing connections between photographs and discuss the challenges inherent in analysing and interpreting these very connections. The talk will also reflect on what was achieved within the constraints of a brief three-month timeframe and consider how additional time might have enriched the team's insights.

Nominal Germanness

Leafa Wilson/ Olga Krause

The German occupation of Sāmoa (1900-1914) gave rise to diasporic Germans living in Sāmoa until today. Of all the remaining legacies, nominal Germanness is the longest-surviving remnant, yet appears to have had little to no influence upon Sāmoans' daily lived practices in Sāmoa or in the diaspora. Leafa Wilson's work as an artist has loosely explored the nominal presence of Germany. In this paper, she further drills down into *gafa* (genealogy) and how Germany's departure from Sāmoa seemed absolute.

Sāmoan Multiplicities: Experiences of Sāmoanness via museum collections and exhibitions

Togialelei Dr Safua Akeli Amaama and Dr Annika Sung

The research project 'Sāmoan Multiplicities: Experiences of Sāmoanness' is a collaboration between the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa and the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich, Germany. It studies Sāmoan multiplicities past, present and future, hypothesising that Sāmoan identities have been spatially and temporally distributed. By examining different environments and research material, this project offers novel insights into why and how Sāmoanness remains a valid marker of identity underpinned by a set of core values despite historic and ongoing transformations, such as the colonial administration of Germany and Aotearoa New Zealand. In this talk, Dr Safua Akeli Amaama and Dr Annika Sung introduce the project and delve into two of its research foci. The first considers the cultural significance of the Manumea, Sāmoa's national bird, and the ways in which its endangered status presents opportunities for collaboration between the three countries. The second explores how Sāmoan identities and perspectives have been applied to museum and art exhibitions, particularly inspired by Safua's recent visits to Germany.

Speakers:



Dr Christine Winter



Courtney Powell



Utufa'asili Sharon Rosita Roma

Dr Christine Winter is a historian whose work connects the Pacific with Australasia and German speaking Europe. She has published widely on legacies of German colonialism, effects of WWI and WWII, collecting, and identity transformation of Pacific Islanders of German heritage, including her co-authored books *SCHOLARS AT WAR Australasian Social Scientists, 1939-1945* (2012) and *Chicanery: Senior Academic Appointments in Antipodean Anthropology, 1920–1960*, (2023). She is teaching MA courses in Archives and Museums at Adelaide University, Australia, and was Australian Research Council Future Fellow (2014-2018) and inaugural Matthew Flinders Research Fellow, Flinders University (2019-23). Associations: Assoc. Researcher, Centre for Collection Development, Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen; Research Affiliate, Department of History, Sydney University College of the Arts and Social Sciences, Flinders University.

Courtney Powell is a recent graduate with a Master of Arts in History. Her thesis explored the bringing of Pacific peoples and their objects to the New Zealand and South Seas exhibitions in 1889 and 1925. Courtney has previously worked as a Research Assistant at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa and written a Waitangi Tribunal report for the WAI 2500 Military Veterans Kaupapa Inquiry. She currently resides in Narm Melbourne and is a Research Officer at the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

Utufa'asili Sharon Rosita Roma is the Coordinator and Principal Museum Officer at Falemata'aga (Museum of Sāmoa), under the Ministry of Education and Culture in Apia, Sāmoa. She has held previous positions at multiple government departments and holds a BA in Social Anthropology and Pacific Studies from the University of Auckland. Through her involvement and leadership, Falemata'aga has forged partnerships with local schools, village communities, and cultural industries. These partnerships have resulted in a variety of innovative programs, workshops, and events. Her commitment to inclusivity, community engagement, and innovation continues to enrich the cultural fabric of her Sāmoan community and inspire future generations of museum professionals.



Taputukura Raea



Ulu Afaese



Charlie Klinge

Taputukura Raea is the Programme Manager for the Pacific Virtual Museum project at the National Library of New Zealand. The DigitalPasifik website is a key component of this project. Taputu is from the beautiful islands of Mauke and Palmerston in the Cook Islands. Taputu specialises in working with Māori and Pacific communities and giving them opportunities to share their stories and own their narrative.

Ulu Afaese is of Sāmoan descent, hailing from the villages of Falealili Mata'utu and Sagone, and grew up in Auckland. As a Content Analyst for DigitalPasifik, Ulu is responsible for the day-to-day relationship of content partners that contribute metadata to digitalpasifik.org. Ulu is currently seconded from the Research Services team in the Alexander Turnbull Library and has previously worked at a range of other libraries in the public and academic sectors.

Fa'atalofa atu!

My name is **Charlie Klinge**, and I'm a service designer at Te Tari Taiwhenua in Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Aotearoa (Department of Internal Affairs, Wellington). Through my mother, I am connected to the villages of Nofoalil'i and Mulifanua in Upolu, Sāmoa, as well as Scotland. My father's family hails from Sieboldshausen by Goettingen in Germany, where I was born and raised. Our core family moved to Aotearoa in 2012 to be closer to our maternal 'aiga, with whom we've always been very close. Being in Aotearoa has ignited a deep interest in customary Sāmoan material culture and fāgogo - Sāmoan narratives.

Fa'afetai mo le avanoa.



Leafa Wilson/ Olga Krause



*Togialelei Dr Safua Akeli Amaama.
Photograph by Frederike Wetzels,
2024*



Dr Annika Sung

Leafa Wilson/ Olga Krause, New Zealand-born Sāmoan (Vaimoso/ Siumu/ Fasito'otai), is a Performance Artist/ Painter and independent curator and art writer. Her curatorial career spans over 20 years, independently and as the Waikato Museum art curator from 2004 - 2021. Significant exhibitions include *Dolly Mix (W)raper: 28 Women Artists of Samoan Heritage* (2002), *Letters to the Ancestors Tuhia Ki Te Rangī* (2005) and *I Must Learn to Like Myself* (2010). Her artistic practice, spanning over 40 years, often includes endurance-based performance art, reiterated motifs and props such as musical instruments, blue tarpaulin, and varying sources of light. She has produced numerous art catalogues and essays independently and in the GLAM sector and judged several national art awards.

Togialelei Dr Safua Akeli Amaama is Head of New Zealand and Pacific Histories and Cultures at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. Previously, she was director (2018–2020) of the Centre for Sāmoan Studies at the National University of Sāmoa and oversaw three teaching programmes: Sāmoan Language and Culture, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, and Development Studies. Safua has research interests in cultural heritage, gender, governance, health and migration. She has a PhD in History from the University of Queensland, Australia. Her thesis focused on examining Sāmoa-New Zealand relations through key exhibitions from 1923 to 2007.

Dr Annika Sung is a Loans and Acquisitions Advisor and Research Assistant for Pacific Histories and Cultures at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. She completed her PhD in Art History at Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka and has curated the exhibition *Then and There, Here and Now: Samoan Portraits* (2023). Together with Dr Safua Akeli Amaama, she is a team member of the *Sāmoan Multiplicities* project, which works in collaboration with the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich, Germany.