

School of Culture, History & Language
ARC Laureate Fellowship Project
Engendering Persons, Transforming Things



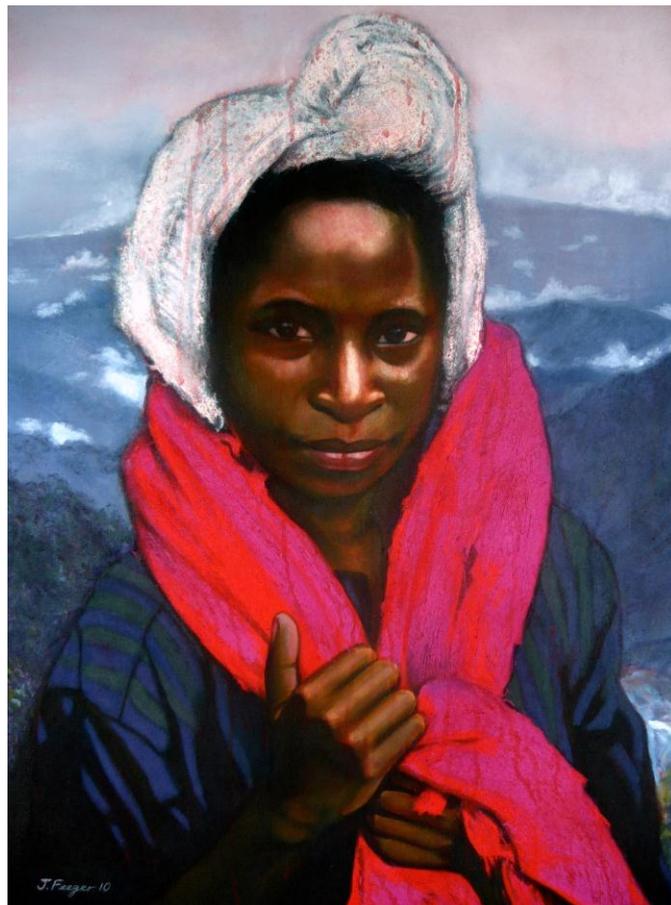
Australian
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PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS

Sexualities, Sexual Rights, and HIV in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific *A workshop symposium with Professor Gilbert Herdt*

Wednesday 11 – Friday 13 July 2012

Room 1.04, H.C. Coombs Extension Building
The Australian National University



The Symbol, Jeffrey Feeger, 2011

ANU College of
Asia & the Pacific

Sexualities, Sexual Rights, and HIV in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific
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Overview

The HIV pandemic has activated the global circulation of discourses on sexuality and has been a key catalyst for rethinking development in terms of human rights, gender equality, and local participation. Rights advocacy has become integral to effective HIV prevention, stigma management, and treatment and care strategies in national programs of response. This workshop symposium brings together researchers, activists, policy makers, and practitioners to explore the interaction between global and local discourses and changing meanings of sexuality, citizenship, and culture in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific with the aim to promote greater understanding of these translational processes in diverse local contexts. Sexual rights are considered through interdisciplinary perspectives on the diversity of gender and sexuality in past and present, the influence of colonialism and Christianity, the processes of contemporary development, law and governance, and relevance for HIV research, policies, and service provision. The concepts and methodologies used to produce evidence, and the processes, practices, and relationships of knowledge exchange in HIV policy development and program implementation are critically examined. The workshop symposium is convened by Professor Gilbert Herdt, an international expert on culture, sexuality, sexual rights and HIV, during his Visiting Fellowship in the School of Culture, History and Language, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, and Dr Katherine Lepani, a senior research associate in the School of Culture, History and Language, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific.

Acknowledgements

The Workshop Symposium has been made possible with generous support from the Australian Research Council (ARC) Laureate Fellowship Project held by Professor Margaret Jolly, *Engendering Persons, Transforming Things: Christianities, Commodities and Individualism in Oceania*. Sponsorship for participants from Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Samoa, and Cook Islands, and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales has been made possible by the ARC Laureate Project, the AusAID International Seminar Support Scheme (ISSS), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pacific Centre. Professor Gilbert Herdt's Visiting Fellowship at the Australian National University is supported by the ARC Laureate Project, the School of Culture, History, and Language, College of Asia and the Pacific, and the ANU Gender Institute. Organisational support for the Workshop Symposium has been provided by Nicholas Mortimer, Laureate Project Administrator.

Grateful acknowledgment is extended to Jeffry Feeger for permission to use the image of his painting, *The Symbol*.

PROGRAM

Wednesday 11 July

8:30 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 9:30 Opening Session

Katherine Lepani
Welcome and overview

Gilbert Herdt
Sexual rights and sexual citizenship in the Pacific

9:30 – 10:30 Introductions and Expectations

10:30 – 11:00 Morning break

11:00 – 12:30 Session One: Accounting for Culture and Context

Chair: Susan Hemer

Katherine Lepani
Fidelity to culture in the Trobriand Islands

Alice Servy
Prevention of sexually transmitted infections and the concept of transactional sexuality in Port-Vila, Vanuatu

Ferdinand Strobel
Qualitative researchers strengthen Fiji's response to HIV and AIDS: A pilot project supported by UNDP Pacific Centre

Stella Kombul
Translational processes regarding sexualities, sexual rights, and HIV: a personal perspective from PNG

Open discussion—all participants

12:30 – 1:30 Lunch

1:30 – 1:45 Making Connections: Overview of ARC Laureate Fellowship Project

***Engendering Persons, Transforming Things:
Christianities, Commodities and Individualism in Oceania***

Professor Margaret Jolly

1:45 – 3:00 Session Two: Homosexuality Laws and Law Reform in the Pacific

Chair: John Ballard

Christine Stewart
Homosexuality laws in the Pacific

Lionel Aingimea
Development of Human Rights based HIV legislation in the Pacific

Reflective comments by Dame Carol Kidu

Open discussion—all participants

3:00 – 5:00 *Free time prior to evening events*

5:00 – 6:00 **Book Launch and Reception**

Engendering Violence in Papua New Guinea

Edited by Margaret Jolly and Christine Stewart with Carolyn Brewer

To be launched by Nicole George, University of Queensland

Hedley Bull atrium

6:00 – 7:00 **Public Lecture**

Professor Gilbert Herdt

From Ritual Sex to Sexual Individuality: Tradition and Modernity in Sambia Sexual Culture

Hedley Bull Lecture Theatre 1

Thursday 12 July

9:00 – 10:30 **Session One: Religion, Culture, and Rights**

Chair: Hilary Gorman

Sr Arnolda Kavanamur

How does the Catholic Church provide a framework for supporting discordant couples within the social and cultural context of PNG?

Angela Kelly

Faith, hope and healing: the importance of religious beliefs and practices in the treatment narratives of people living with HIV in PNG

Patti Shih

Between secular and sacred, negotiating global and local: faith-based health services renegotiating HIV prevention in the context of development and mission

Sr Valentina Pozzi

Giving voice to sexuality: perspectives on HIV training from the Trobriand Islands

Reflective comments by Phillip Gibbs

Open discussion—all participants

10:30 – 11:00 **Morning break**

11:00 – 12:30 **Session Two: Shifting Contexts of Development and Modernity**

Chair: Ferdinand Strobel

Agnes Mek

'Mi igris long koins blong em' (I was attracted to him by his coins): The socio-cultural context of women's involvement and experiences of polygamous marriages in the Highlands of PNG

Heather Worth and Philip Gibbs

Moni em everything long hia (money is everything here): mineral resources, sex and HIV in PNG

Kel Browne

Structural challenges and lessons learned from the Rural Enclaves Project, PNG

Open discussion—all participants

12:30 – 1:30 *Lunch and Video Viewing of Love Patrol episodes*

1:30 – 3:00 **Session Three: Sexuality, Media, and Performance**

Chair: Jimmy Peter

Jayline Malverus

Use of drama and peer education in HIV/AIDS awareness

Robyn Drysdale

“It’s who I am”: Harnessing the power of the media to dispel the stigma and discrimination surrounding diverse sexual orientations and expressions

Matupit Darius

Seventh-day Adventist Church’s use of narrative video to disseminate HIV/AIDS messages in PNG

Open discussion—all participants

3:00 – 3:15 ***Afternoon break***

3:15 – 4:45 **Session Four: Sexual Rights and Access to Services**

Chair: Agnes Mek

Karen McMillan

Trafficking, sex work, HIV prevention, and the Fiji Crimes Decree

Veronica Chand

Exploring opportunities to expand services to adequately address the health needs of sex workers

Lanieta Matanatabu

Exploring opportunities to expand services to adequately address the health needs of prisoners and ex-prisoners

Susan Hemer and Jimmy Peter

Silence and confidentiality: responding to HIV in the Lihir Islands, PNG

Open discussion—all participants

4:45 – 5:00 **Links and Reflections**

Chair: Katherine Lepani

Susan Kippax, Discussant

7:00 ***Workshop Symposium Dinner***

Spicy Ginger Café, 25 Childers Street, Canberra

Friday 13 July

9:30 – 11:00 **Session One: Transforming Stigma and Advocating Rights**

Chair: Tenneth Dalipanda

Hilary Gorman

Rights and the development of an emerging attitude towards people living with HIV in the Pacific Islands

Joeli Colati

Stigma is decreasing: results of Stigma Index survey among people living with HIV in Fiji

John Rule and Don Liriope

The application of People Living with HIV Stigma Index in PNG

Fabienne Labbé

Accessing support, managing conflicts: HIV Support Group in Fiji

Reflective comments by Maura Elaripe

Open discussion—all participants

11:00 – 11:30 **Morning break**

11:30 – 1:00 **Session Two: Sexual Diversity and Rights**

Chair: Joeli Colati

Diane Ryan

Behind closed doors: the silenced sexual health and human rights inequalities of young Pacific transgender women and young men who have sex with men

Tim Leach

Community representative structures, community movements and human rights advocacy in PNG

Edward Ken Moala

Pacific Sexual Diversity Network advocates legislative response to reduce the vulnerability to HIV for Pacific MSM (men who have sex with men) and transgender

Christine Stewart

Seizing the moment: towards sexual citizenship in Papua New Guinea

Reflective comments by Stuart Watson

Open discussion—all participants

1:00 – 1:30 **Lunch**

1:30 – 1:45 **Blogging Rights:**

Overview of Pacific Friends of the Global Fund Blog Project

Michael Wong

1:45 – 2:45 Session Three: Generating Evidence for Sexual Rights

Chair: Kel Browne

Panel discussion on research: Tenneth Dalipanda, Angela Kelly, Heather Worth, Hilary Gorman, Philip Gibbs (5 minutes each)

Open discussion—all participants

2:45 – 3:00 *Afternoon break*

3:00 – 3:45 Activating Sexual Rights and Sexual Citizenship

Chair: Gilbert Herdt

Gary Dowsett, Discussant

Summary discussion of workshop symposium themes—all participants

3:45 – 4:00 Closing Remarks

Katherine Lepani

ABSTRACTS

Lionel Aingimea

Advocacy and activism: what are the religious, economic and legal factors that contribute to rights advocacy and action?

This paper looks at contemporary issues facing HIV human rights work in the Pacific region: the influence of religion, economical and legal factors in advancing HIV rights and action. With HIV infections climbing, and the withdrawing of UNAIDS from the Pacific region, the fight against HIV/AIDS has become even more critical for this region. A Pacific region steeped in strong beliefs backed by a culture of silence, laws that are still catching up to international standards, and fragile economies that are more focused on immediate and politically 'hot' issues, HIV is fading into the background. If these factors gather pace, then the attention that HIV receives will wane even further. People living with or affected by HIV/AIDS (PLWH) are often socially marginalized and suffer disproportionately from discriminatory laws and practices. This affects their interaction within their families, community, the ability to get work and legal remedies. Any approach to the fight against HIV, whether it be medical or otherwise, if it is not founded on a human rights based approach not only flies in the face of PLWH rights but undermines and reverses any progress that has been made. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community Regional Rights Resource Team (SPC RRRT) has for a number of years worked towards the promotion of widespread legislative reform to ensure the rights of PLWH are protected and enforced. In three countries in the Pacific, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, SPC RRRT has worked with governments and NGOs to promote and advance these changes. The paper will highlight the impacts and lessons learnt in doing this work, with a focus on the religious, economical and legal rights that have impacted this work.

Kel Browne

Structural challenges and lessons learned from Rural Enclaves Project

The HIV Prevention & Control in Rural Development Enclaves spent USD25 million over six years, through the renovation of 140 buildings at 76 health facilities; the professional development of 600 clinicians; sexual health and relationships skills workshops with 2500 people, including 700 pastors; distribution of five million male and 50,000 female condoms through social marketing and events; eight Behavioural Surveillance Surveys with young people, highway truck drivers, women exchanging sex, and work force in Enclave companies. The paper will critically discuss the lessons learned from this project applicable to the HIV response in PNG, and present relevant data from the work with church leaders, workforce, and clinicians and discuss the structural challenges the project faced in terms of disintegration of the health system, constitutional Christianity, sexual discrimination, and unhelpful beliefs around sexuality, pleasure, and 'safety.'

Veronica Chand

Exploring opportunities to expand services to adequately address the health needs of sex workers

Research has shown that sex workers are exposed to multiple physical and psychological health issues (Alexander, 1998). An American study by Kurtz (2005) revealed that sex workers faced significant barriers accessing health services. Given the relative 'taboo' natures of sex work in the Pacific Islands, it is not surprising that sex workers in Fiji face similar barriers to accessing adequate and effective health care. Coupled with this, there is a significant lack of research pertaining to sex work in the Pacific Islands. This presentation aims to highlight the need for adequate and accessible health care services for sex workers in Fiji, as well as highlighting current barriers to health care provision for sex workers.

Joeli Colati

Stigma is decreasing: Results of Stigma Index survey among People Living with HIV in Fiji

In 2010, the Fiji Network of People Living with HIV (FJN+) conducted a Stigma Index, which provided new insights and a basis for comparison to other countries. This survey provided evidence to argue for either supporting identified cultural strengths or addressing the cultural and social factors that contribute to stigmatization. The survey was conducted in the Central, Northern and Western divisions of Fiji by two PLHIV as principal investigators and three medical officers. Samples of 45 PLHIV were interviewed out of 305 confirmed cases. All respondents were HIV positive, voluntarily recruited and consented to participate. Completed interviews were entered into the STATA data management tool by the Fiji School of Medicine research staff under supervision and guidance of the research team leader. Results indicate that stigmatization is decreasing in Fiji and advocacy by PLHIV who are willing to disclose their status can support this trend. There is a need to ensure that PLHIV are aware of practicing safe sex, and of the legislation in Fiji that protects their rights. PLHIV appear to be socially resilient although under-resourced and dependent on medical support that is not always available or could be withdrawn. The support groups appear to be well accepted, although the high proportion of rural participants indicated some difficulty in accessing services due to travel costs. The information gained from this Stigma Index provided evidence for the success of our current programmes and highlighted neglected areas that require future action. Consequently, this survey is also a powerful advocacy tool to be used by FJN+, the Fiji Ministry of Health, HIV stakeholders, as well as for activists alike to reduce the stigma and discrimination PLHIV. The survey also supported the GIPA (Greater Involvement of People living with HIV) principle through being driven by PLHIV and our networks.

Matupit Darius

Seventh-day Adventist Church's use of narrative video to disseminate HIV/AIDS message in PNG

The Seventh-day Adventist Church (SDA) in PNG has locally produced two DVDs on HIV. These are now being used by Government, NGOs and other stakeholders as part of the effort to prevent HIV in PNG and the Pacific. The first DVD, released in 2006, is entitled "O Papa God, Why Na Olsem" (O God, why is this...). It was about the desperate cry of a young mother who was dying with AIDS related illness. She and her husband were trying to find someone to take care of their two children after they had died. The second DVD is the story of a young college girl who contracts HIV from a business man. The father, a village councillor, rejects her after he finds out that she is HIV positive and leaves her in the jungle to die.

Robyn Drysdale

"It's who I am": Harnessing the power of the media to dispel the stigma and discrimination surrounding diverse sexual orientations and expressions

The media is a powerful agent of socialisation. Besides being a primary source of information, it shapes public opinion and can render significance or silence to important social issues. When the mass media fails to show characters of a particular social group such as men who have sex with men (MSM) or portrays them in a negative or stereotypical fashion then that group is being denied recognition or respect. In Melanesia, the media has traditionally silenced local MSM through lack of representation and promoted imported notions of homosexuality, which have coincided with HIV awareness. This has contributed to a refusal to acknowledge the existence of sexual minorities and the attribution of blame for 'bringing' HIV into communities. In the context of high levels of stigma and homophobia, this paper will investigate how the Pacific's first MSM television character, Andy from the popular Vanuatu TV series Love Patrol, is positively reframing sexual minority in the context of HIV. The positive portrayal of MSM identity in Love Patrol is increasing recognition and legitimacy of sexual minorities. Rather than being a 'carrier,' this character is cast as a prevention agent; he is knowledgeable about preventing HIV/STI and an advocate for safe sex. This characterisation is empowering to other MSM and promotes self-efficacy. Andy's story is breaking down negative stereotypes and providing a positive role model to other MSM, offering an identity to which young MSM aspire and facilitating a sense of community amongst local MSM communities in Fiji, Papua New

Guinea and Vanuatu. Representation on television symbolises power and social recognition. This breakthrough character on a local television series is combating the double stigma of sexual minority and HIV in the Pacific. The positive representation of the Pacific's first MSM television character is an important step in reframing sexual minorities and empowering communities, with the potential to play a significant role in changing attitudes and reducing stigma as part of the HIV response.

Hilary Gorman

Rights and the development of an emerging attitude towards People Living with HIV in the Pacific Islands

The availability of antiretroviral therapy (ART) in the Pacific Islands has transformed HIV prevention and awareness programs, public perceptions of HIV and AIDS and most of all the lives of people living with HIV (PLHIV). However, the effects of stigma and discrimination that are rooted in misinformation about HIV and AIDS and social and religious ideals continue to affect the lives of PLHIV. As well, HIV prevention messages delivered via governments, non-government organizations, faith-based organizations, and media play a key role in shaping people's ideas about HIV and in some cases have perpetuated stigma and discrimination. This paper aims to explore some of the consequences of prevention messages, particularly the effect they have had on shaping attitudes about PLHIV. This paper is based on research findings from a qualitative study of HIV-positive women's perceptions and experiences, a total of 25 in-depth interviews were conducted with eight women in Fiji, and 17 women in Papua New Guinea. This paper is also based on insights gained through working for a regional non-government organization focused on PLHIV in the Pacific Islands. This paper argues that the concept of rights has been used to promote an emerging attitude about PLHIV that defies the existing attitude which is rooted in stigma and discrimination. These two opposing attitudes about PLHIV surfaced as the participants discussed their views towards PLHIV and their own self-perceptions. The existing attitude is based upon perceptions that developed during the pre-treatment era and focuses on fears and death associated with AIDS, while the emerging attitude acknowledges that HIV is a chronic manageable illness and promotes the rights of PLHIV. The emerging attitude also recognizes the valuable contributions that PLHIV can offer in developing and implementing effective HIV policies and programs.

Susan Hemer and Jimmy Peter

Silence and confidentiality: responding to HIV in the Lihir Islands, Papua New Guinea

This paper explores the ways in which various forms of silence characterise the response to HIV/AIDS in the Lihir Islands in Papua New Guinea. The Lihir Islands are the site for a large gold mine, which was constructed in the mid-1990s, and has been in production since 1997. The island group is now home not only to the local population of about 15,000, but also to about 4,000 informal migrants and 3,000 employees. The first case of HIV was detected in 2002, and since that time there are now about 70 confirmed cases. While there have been efforts made to prevent HIV and educate residents, these seem not to have been in proportion to the high-risk situation of transmission given a fly-in-fly-out workforce and a large informal shifting population. This paper explores this paradox of a high-risk transmission environment and an understated response through the lens of forms of silences. These include the lack of visible prevention efforts in the form of posters, the difficulty in ensuring condoms are freely available whether this is due to the reluctance of the mining company or Catholic medical staff, and the emphasis in health education on ABC as the core for prevention efforts, which often closes discussion rather than promoting it. In doing so, the paper asks whether practices of confidentiality in Lihir are another form of silencing which detracts from efforts to emphasise the serious nature of HIV, to promote its prevention and the care of those who live with it. How can we uphold the rights of people living with HIV to confidentiality, while ensuring that silences surrounding HIV are not perpetuated leading to complacency or to fear?

Sr Arnolda Kavanamur

How does the Catholic Church provide a framework for supporting discordant couples within the social and cultural context of PNG?

Recognizing the severe impact that HIV could have in Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands established the National Catholic AIDS Office (NCAO) in 2004. The Bishops believed that a dedicated Commission responsible for the co-ordination and management of HIV activities within the Catholic network was of great importance. Today, the NCAO oversees a range of services including: VCT, PPTCT, ART, ANC testing, PICT, support of men's and youth clinics, confirmatory testing, public awareness and education, policy and governance, quality control and training. Over the last 30 years PNG society has undergone dramatic transition, from being heavily bound by the culture and traditions practiced for millenia to a place where cultural mores, particularly around marriage and families, have merged with practices more common in other parts of the world. Within this changing social and cultural landscape is the presence of HIV. While traditional structures and beliefs are changing, the Churches remain influential in leadership, particularly around moral issues and service delivery. Generally speaking, the respect from society of the Church gives the NCAO an important entry point in to supporting discordant couples. Three years ago the NCAO introduced a couple counselling program to most parts of the Catholic network. The World Health Organisation has recently issued new guidelines encouraging couples to get counseling, reflecting the importance that counseling has in managing the spread of HIV. Couple counselling enables couples to share their HIV status with one another and, where necessary, begin anti-retroviral therapy. It provides an opportunity to address issues such as family and sexual violence in a supportive and sensitive way, and to address other issues that affect the family such as alcohol, money, attitudes, and the place of men and women in the family. One of the challenges of couple counselling is encouraging both partners to go together to get counselling. Since the NCAO program was introduced, the counsellors have developed strategies relevant to their context that support joint counseling to happen.

Angela Kelly

Faith, hope and healing: the importance of religious beliefs and practices in the treatment narratives of people living with HIV in Papua New Guinea

Cultural understandings of HIV are being shaped by many factors, including science, modernity, morality, tradition and religion. Like other organising principles of a culture, religion has a powerful influence on how people make sense of, and responds to their world. While religion plays an important role in understandings of sexuality and normative sexual behaviour, religion, particularly Christianity in Papua New Guinea (PNG), plays a critical role in how people with HIV live with and engage with biomedicine, namely antiretroviral therapies (ART). This paper examines the importance of religious beliefs in the narratives of people living with HIV (PLHIV) on antiretroviral therapies (ART) in PNG. We show how the availability of ART and HIV-positive people's experience of its efficacy has been incorporated into a pre-existing religious framework for understanding HIV. PLHIV considered themselves responsible for contracting HIV through moral failings and therefore responsible for the repentance and behavioural change necessary in managing their own health. ART is viewed as a divine gift to complement this regime of moral reform, and adherence to treatment has a strong religious element. At the same time, ART has generated a sense of hope for those living with a virus that was previously associated only with death. However, an alternative discourse was also found in those who believed that biomedicine compromised faith and healing, leading to the abandonment of ART. These narratives provide important insights into the meaning of ART and the role of prayer and repentance for people on ART in PNG and offers avenues for improved clinical management of HIV through a complementary relationship between ART and religious beliefs.

Stella Kombul

Translational process regarding sexualities, sexual rights, and HIV: a personal perspective from PNG

The challenges of young nations, such as Papua New Guinea (PNG), signing, unpacking, understanding and localizing international conventions, such as Human Rights and Children's Rights are huge. There are many factors that contribute to these challenges. The cultural context is one such factor through which development issues, such as HIV, gender-based violence and poverty are translated and understood. Culture determines what and how certain issues are discussed publically and what and how some issues are swept under the blanket of silence. Against this backdrop, this paper discusses sexualities, sexual rights and their relationship with HIV in PNG from a cultural perspective. The discussion begins with the definitions of 'sex', and 'sexuality' and proceeds with a discussion on the issues under five sections. Section 1 provides the overview of the context within which the topic is positioned. Factors such as culture (traditional customs), geographic locations of communities, influx of international migrants and contemporary migratory movement are discussed in this section. This provides the background information to the discussion on the general perspectives on the place of sex in PNG communities in section 2. Section 3 is focused on sexual norms and their relationship with issues surrounding polygamy and how HIV is transmitted in PNG. In section 4, sex is discussed within the sphere of sexuality. Issues such as heterosexuality, homosexuality and bisexuality are discussed. The main messages highlighted throughout the discussion in this paper are summarised in the conclusion.

Fabienne Labbé

Accessing support, managing conflicts: HIV Support Group in Fiji

Associations of people living with HIV have become an integral part of national HIV responses. Their involvement in education and advocacy work has contributed to the prevention of HIV and to the challenge of HIV stigma and discrimination. Through their involvement in the providing of care and support services to people living with HIV and their families, these associations have participated to alleviate the adverse effects of HIV on individual and societies. Currently, there are few collectives of people living with HIV in the Pacific Islands region. One such association is the Fiji Network for People Living with HIV and AIDS, or FJN+, a support group located in the capital city of Suva. My aim in this presentation is to explore how FJN+ articulates its role toward its members and how it describes the benefits of belonging to this group. Drawing from different material, particularly 40 interviews with staff, volunteers and members of the association, I argue that, unlike more politically oriented and activist collectives that frame their *raison d'être* in the language of human rights, FJN+ describes its mission toward people living with HIV in terms of the improvement of their quality of life. This enhanced quality of life, according to the association, lies in the meeting of the financial needs of people living with HIV, in the restoration of their sense of identity and belonging, but also in a process of self-transformation. Attitudes labelled as "positive living", rules of healthy lifestyle inspired by the Seventh Day Adventists faith and engagement in the national HIV response, especially through the public disclosure of one's HIV status, are advocated by FJN+ as ways for people living with HIV to change their life "positively". This presentation examines this process of moral reform promoted by FJN+ and considers possible implications for those who resist it.

Tim Leach

Community representative structures, community movements and human rights advocacy in PNG

Igat Hope is the national community-based organisation in PNG representing people living with HIV (PLHIV). Since its inception some eight years ago, Igat Hope has had a partnership with the Australian National Association of People Living With HIV (NAPWA). The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO), the peak organisation representing Australia's community-based response to HIV, has recently embarked on a similar program aimed at building the capacity of the PNG movement of men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgendered persons. In 2011, this movement established its own representative group, Kapul Champions. There are differences between the NAPWA and AFAO programs, but there are also significant similarities, so it is a good moment to

reflect on NAPWA's experiences and the relevance of these to AFAO's future plans. More generally, it is useful to encourage discussion of the role of representative organisations in community movements and the relevance of political structures in sexuality and consumer health movements. This paper presents some reflections on both the NAPWA/Igat Hope and AFAO/Kapul Champions collaborations. The purpose of the paper is to encourage further reflection on the value of representative structures to community movements in PNG and on the role of Australian peaks in supporting these structures. Fostering such structures draws criticisms for attempting to replicate Western models in environments said to need something else. But surely there is a role for these representative structures in PNG?

Katherine Lepani

Fidelity to culture in the Trobriand Islands

How does the assertion of cultural identity and knowledge provide a conceptual and moral framework for responding to HIV? What are the values and dynamics of local sexual cultures and how might they activate a greater appreciation and understanding of sexual rights? How might a sex positive culture like that of the Trobriand Islands help engender a national ethos of sexual citizenship and new avenues of participation in responding to HIV in Papua New Guinea? The dominance of quantitative methodologies in the global quest to know local HIV epidemics overshadows the importance of cultural knowledge for informing policies and programs and providing an ethical framework for evidence-based practice. Ethnographic insights on relational personhood, networks of exchange, and the social value of sexual practice offer important ways to understand the dynamic intersections between culture and HIV in PNG. The Trobriand context offers a unique perspective for critically examining these interactions and viewing sexuality not in terms of risk but as a foundation for prevention.

Karen McMillan

Trafficking, sex work, HIV prevention and the Fiji Crimes Decree

A convincing body of international literature has demonstrated the ways that criminalisation of sex work is detrimental to HIV prevention efforts. Recent qualitative research into sex work and HIV prevention in Fiji has documented serious abuses of sex workers that have worked to deter condom distribution and HIV information sharing, as well as the closure of crucial HIV prevention services for sex workers. Both the human rights abuses and the service closures were a direct result of changes to the law – changes that provided for increased penalties and criminalised an extended range of activities associated with sex work. This paper considers the redrafting of Fijian 'Prostitution Offences' against a background of global concerns about sex trafficking, and in particular, U.S. State Department country reports. The use of this framework illustrates the mechanisms through which global trafficking discourse has negative consequences for domestic HIV prevention initiatives. It also indicates the need to critically assess the appropriateness of global definitions of sex trafficking to the Pacific situation.

Jayline Malverus

Use of drama and peer education in HIV/AIDS awareness

Wan Smolbag Theatre has been working the area of HIV/AIDS awareness raising in Vanuatu and around the Pacific for the last 23 years. The group has grown from eight to over forty fulltime employees. Wan Smolbag has produced films specifically aimed at HIV/AIDS awareness. These films come with a guide book that is used together with the film in running workshops. Issues that are covered in the film are discussed in the workshops through the use of drama techniques developed by Wan Smolbag Theatre. Many communities around Vanuatu and the Pacific have seen these films and taken part in workshops using the materials that go with the films. In taking this beyond just awareness, WSB operates reproductive health clinics that provide services to young people in the two urban centres of Vanuatu. This presentation will be divided into two parts. The first part will present a brief history of WSB and its productions in the area of HIV and SRH. Then the presentation will look at the next step which is providing services. This links the awareness to a service to make a complete

package. Services provided include counseling on general SRH matters, provision of family planning services and STI testing and treatment. Our clinic is now also an accredited VCCT centre and provides this service to clients. The client base is young men and women who cannot afford fees at other clinics and vulnerable groups like sex workers and men who have sex with men. To complete the presentation, work with the two groups will be discussed putting forward issues faced and some of the successes of the interventions.

Lanieta Matanatabu

Exploring opportunities to expand services to adequately address the health needs of prisoners and ex-prisoners

Globally, prisoners are known to be a group at high risk of HIV and other STIs, and following release into the community risky behaviours such as unprotected sex and drug use have the potential to spread infection. Drug and alcohol use is known to be associated with risky sexual practices, and alcohol, yaqona and cannabis use are prevalent across Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). A recent situation analysis in Fijian prisons showed that prisoners engage in high levels of risk behaviour including unprotected sex and unsterile tattooing. However, information about the prevalence of HIV and other STIs among prisoners in Fiji is limited. Furthermore, although most prisoners return to the community within a relatively short period of time, little is known about patterns of risk behaviour among ex-prisoners in Fiji. This is important not only in terms of their own health care, but in order to inform strategies to prevent the spread of infectious disease to others in the community. Evidence from around the world suggests that there is considerable potential to improve the health of prisoners and ex-prisoners, and that doing so has the corollary benefits of improving community health and safety. Given this, PCSS is currently involved in research to explore the prevalence of HIV infection amongst prisoners in Fiji. This research project aims to follow a sample of prisoners for four months after release from custody and document changes over time in risk behaviours, health service utilisation and health status. This presentation would focus on the preliminary results of 50 prisoners interviewed and tracked so far.

Agnes Mek

'Mi igris long koins blong em' (I was attracted to him by his coins): The socio-cultural context of women's involvement and experiences of polygamous marriages in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea

Increased attention is being given to the nature of sexual partnering in Papua New Guinea (PNG), especially as it relates to social drivers of the HIV epidemic and gender based violence. One such sexual partnering is polygamy. Polygamous marriages have long been practiced in the Highlands region of PNG, but as a result of evidence that concurrent sexual relationships have fuelled the epidemic in parts of Africa, they have come under the watchful gaze of researchers and policy makers in order to stem the epidemic in PNG. Much is assumed about polygamous marriages in PNG as evident in the conflation of polygamy and concurrency in HIV policy. The literature on polygamy in PNG has tended to focus on the negative impacts of such marriages for women. While this is important, there is still much we do not know about the nature and experiences of polygamous marriages in contemporary PNG. This paper is drawn from 32 semi-structured interviews and ten focus group discussions with women and girls in two Highlands Provinces in PNG involved in a study on masculinity and male sexuality. The women and girls, had different relationships to polygamous marriages, spoke at length about the socio-cultured gendered benefits of these marriages, including for women. Contrary to popular belief, albeit in a restricted way, many women displayed agency by their involvement in these marriages whereby they found a way to meet their own needs and desires. Less common in women's narratives were the negative impacts of polygamous marriages including violence between co-wives. These women's narratives begin to provide a clear context of polygamous marriages as inherently linked to the web of contemporary social status, perceived and real economic advantages for women (and men) and biological reproduction. The information will help to inform work around women's personal choices, sexuality and sexual decisions to enter into polygamous

marriages, violence against women and HIV prevention strategies by informing a more nuanced understanding of polygamy and as a result, debates around concurrent sexual partnerships and HIV risk.

Edward Ken Moala

Pacific Sexual Diversity Network advocates legislative response to reduce the vulnerability to HIV for Pacific MSM (men who have sex with men) and Transgender

The Pacific Sexual Diversity Network (PSDN) includes representation from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. The PSDN provides concerted effort to reduce stigma and discrimination, calling for the removal of colonial era laws decriminalising sex between men. Since most sex between men in the Pacific is hidden, illegal and denied, it is not addressed properly in most Pacific HIV national plans. Western constructs of homosexuality and identity do not fit in comfortably with Pacific cultures. The PSDN supports its members in the process of advocating the removal of these laws. In Samoa, the Samoa Law Commission has reviewed the Crimes Ordinance 1961 and has been submitted before the Samoan Parliament for consideration for the repeal of the offences of sodomy, indecency between males, transvestite and female impersonation. The PSDN has been involved in building the capacity of Pacific MSM and Transgender Communities to enable them to lobby for legal reform; mobilising lawyers, human rights groups and relevant organisations to assist in the process of legal reform of discriminatory laws affecting MSM and Transgender Communities; and advocating at a regional level for the reform of discriminatory legislation. PSDN lawyers and legal officers are very proactive in initiating the submission process of legal reform. Such is the case of the Samoa Fāafafine Association (SFA) to the Samoa Law Reform. In Samoa, UNESCO, UNDP and UNAIDS have provided resources and technical support in the law reform processes such as the hosting of community consultations. Pacific MSM and Transgender Networks have lobbied and supported law reform. Regional bodies such as the Commission of AIDS in the Pacific have endorsed PSDN Strategic Plan 2010 -2013 which aims for law reform of discriminatory laws. There has been an increase in knowledge and skills amongst MSM and Transgender Networks to address, lobby and change laws that criminalise sexual diversity in the Pacific Region and Pacific countries are starting to include MSM and Transgender focus in their HIV National Plans.

Sister Valentina Pozzi

Giving voice to sexuality: perspectives on HIV training from the Trobriand Islands

The HIV pandemic has activated a good number of interventions in terms of awareness and formation. In many cases training was given without deeper understanding of the cultural background and without adjusting the method to the way of learning of the participant, with the result that the desired feedback of acquired knowledge after few years seems almost zero and the financial investment seems wasted. What were/are our means of prevention? What are their limitations? Sex, sexuality, prostitution and homosexuality are topics emotionally charged. Is it correct and effective to approach them with transmission of information? We need to speak not only to the rational part of our listeners, but also to the emotional part, the part that is often removed, forgotten, underestimated in many training and prevention programs. It is surprising to see a kind of awakening of interest for sexuality and related issues. Of course it is a positive trend this rethinking development in terms of human rights and gender equality. But are we really ready for that? Are we ready to promote such values for themselves and not only as a response to an emergency? Are academics, activists, policy makers, and practitioners with an interest in HIV, sexuality, and human rights in the Pacific carriers of a positive meaning of sexuality? Why is it, generally, so easy to speak about HIV/AIDS and so complicated to speak about sexuality? Is it 'correct' to speak about sexuality mainly with reference to HIV? Is there not the danger, in this way, to associate sex with death, guilt and fear? Here is the challenge: listen to sexuality and give voice to sexuality.

John Rule and Don Liriope

The Application of People Living with HIV Stigma Index in PNG

Igat Hope has invested effort into documenting the ways in which stigma and discrimination are being experienced by using the People Living with HIV Stigma Index. This project is supported through National Aids Council research funding and the first phase of the project has been completed with eighty interviews completed in Chimbu and Mt Hagen. Interviews were conducted by PLHIV trained to administer the questionnaire and the principle investigators are now at the stage of analysing the interview data. Nearly all respondents indicated that they are sexually active although less than a quarter of the respondents say they are married or co-habiting with a partner. Over 10% identified as belonging to the category of sex worker and a small percentage said that they belong to the group MSM or gay. A high percentage said that they had been physically assaulted in the previous twelve months and that it was because of their HIV status. Over 50% said they had not attended social gatherings because of their HIV status. Being gossiped about was identified as a major problem and nearly half the respondents said they had feelings of being ashamed, guilty or blamed themselves because of their HIV status. Stigma and discrimination occur in the context of complex social processes and can also shape those social processes. The effects on health seeking behaviours have been known since the epidemic emerged—the investigators explore what is the most productive way to discuss this in Papua New Guinea in current context/s.

Diane Ryan

Behind closed doors: the silenced sexual health and human rights inequalities of young Pacific MSM and Transgender males

The New Zealand AIDS Foundation is currently managing the ‘Men-who-have-sex-with-men Resiliency Project’ in the Pacific. A three year programme of work, the project aims to reduce the prevalence of undiagnosed HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), prevent onward transmission of HIV, and reduce health inequalities. The target populations include Pacific gay men, bisexual men, non-identifying Pacific Island men who have sex with men, Fa’afafine, Akava’ine, Leitis and other Pacific Transgender (TG) people. We are in a position to reflect on the successes and challenges of the project as it nears its end. One particular issue has been the dearth of data related to young MSM and TG people in the Pacific. Where there is MSM and TG data, data on young MSM and TG is rarely extrapolated. Research on youth sometimes includes MSM, but rarely is there specific reference to TG. As a result of this invisibility in research, young Pacific MSM and TG are usually excluded in policies and strategies related to Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights. This paper is based on the premise that the ‘invisibility’ of young MSM and TG places them at increased risk of contracting STIs, including HIV. Many of these young men experience cross cutting and multidimensional vulnerabilities and their invisibility in research can only contribute negatively to their general health and well-being.

Alice Servy

Prevention of sexually transmitted infections and the concept of transactional sexuality in Port-Vila, Vanuatu

The Melanesian archipelago of Vanuatu records an increasing number of “premature” and unwanted pregnancies and cases of sexually transmitted infections (STI), revealing a high rate of unprotected intercourse. The government officially declared only five cases of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in the country, but detection procedures are rarely put in place, and the presence of HIV among the population of Vanuatu is most probably severely underestimated. Vanuatu’s prevention organisations mainly target groups that international donors consider “at risk” (due to their behaviors) or “vulnerable” (due to their environment) and they use western concepts such as sex-workers. This paper reveals differences in the western and the local conceptions and practices of transactional sexuality. Whereas the development actors use the western category and concept of sex-workers, the practices of transactional sexuality are actually extended along a continuum. They can be understood as practices of gift economy as well as of market economy.

Patti Shih

Between secular and sacred, negotiating global and local: faith-based health services renegotiating HIV prevention in the context of development and mission

Secularism dominates the globally driven development agenda and public health approaches, and confines the role of religion to instrumentality, insofar as religion merely contributes to development and should not define it, and that missionary values such as evangelism should be kept separate from the public work of healthcare and health promotion. However, this approach is limited in fully appreciating the reality in Papua New Guinea where religion has a much more fundamental role in health beliefs, cultural worldviews and social order. In this paper I analyse the impact of secularism in transforming the way in which churches in Papua New Guinea engage with health and HIV in the context of development, which is being negotiated in a middle ground of health service provision, where novel and increasingly fashionable categories such as 'faith-based organisations' (FBOs) are emerging to replace traditional models of missionary medicine. FBOs have a particularly delicate position in balancing the dual roles as healthcare providers and religiously motivated institutions. They are spaces where secular, religious, globally driven and locally formed frameworks of understanding sexual health and morality collide. Drawing from ethnographic fieldwork from my doctoral research, I illustrate the impact of secular public health and development paradigms on two faith-based HIV services and their affiliated churches. Amongst FBOs, the strong recognition that risk-reduction and anti-stigma messages are necessary on a practical level to address HIV coexists with equally strong doctrinal views regarding a disciplined Christian sexual morality. This has resulted in a realignment of organisational and theological orientations towards HIV prevention, and has reproduced different articulations of the role of faith in mission and of the meaning of a Christian approach to development and sexual health.

Christine Stewart

Seizing the moment: towards sexual citizenship in Papua New Guinea

Jeffrey Weeks, when first exploring the concept of sexual citizenship, noted that new sexual movements have two characteristic elements. The first, the 'moment of transgression', deploys subversive public displays designed to challenge established institutions and draw attention to the second, the 'moment of citizenship', which involves claims to the protection of the law and equal rights for sexual minorities. In Papua New Guinea, as in many other former British Commonwealth colonies, prostitution and sodomy are criminal offences, thereby making criminals of those who sell sex, usually understood to be females, and of males who have same-sex relations, whether or not they are consenting adults. Over the past decade, positive steps towards decriminalisation have been spearheaded by the Minister for Community Development, the sole woman parliamentarian, but this has met strong resistance from increasingly conservative Christianity coupled with fears surrounding the HIV epidemic. Meanwhile, widespread stigma, discrimination and persecution have held many back from overt displays of transgression. But some 'resistive subjects' have taken bold steps. My paper studies two of these 'moments of transgression': the closure in 2006 of a DVD store which served as a focal point for sexual networking, prompting the teenage girls who worked there to claim compensation from the government for loss of income; and the pioneering work of singer Moses Tau, who appeared gaudily cross-dressed in the video clips he designed and staged, took part in Sydney's Mardi Gras parade of 2001 as the 'Pacific Queen', and then founded the popular Port Moresby drag shows.

Ferdinand Strobel

Qualitative researchers Strengthen Fiji's Response to HIV and AIDS: A pilot project supported by UNDP Pacific Centre

Fiji remains a "low prevalence" country in terms of HIV. The epidemiology of the first 400 cases of HIV infection remains unclear, migration is common, sexual networks are dense, the caseload of untreated sexually transmitted infections (STIs) is large, and interpersonal, often intimate partner violence is common. Each of these singly and in combination increases the likelihood of STI and HIV transmission.

Qualitative research capacity sufficient to understand their related transmission dynamics, however, remains poorly developed in Fiji. The pilot project led by Dr Lawrence Hammar consisted of two parts. Part 1 was a research training workshop during which researchers from the community learned ethnographic, sociological, public health and epidemiological approaches to HIV as well as data collection and management methods over a five weeks period. Part 2 was a formative, exploratory research effort that used mixed methods focusing on people's understandings of the relative risks of HIV and STI transmission in the context of intimate, companionate relationships, including but not limited to formal marriages, de-facto marriages, and other sanctioned (and unsanctioned) relationships. They enrolled 74 participants from 6 population sub groups: Health Workers, University Students, Religious Leaders, Taxi-Drivers, LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, and Transgender persons), People in Sex Work. Eight local co-researchers were trained in qualitative research methods; this lessens dependency on external consultants. This was the first ever Fijian study of qualitative self-assessments of HIV and STI transmission risks in the context of intimate companionate relationships (Based on 15 audiotaped Focus Group Discussions, 74 in-depth one-on-one interviews, 142 drawings and body maps addressing "Me, My Intimate Partner, and HIV" and "How I try to Prevent HIV Transmission"; and 20 key informants interviewed). The project produced important research findings and analysis of the socio-cultural context that shape behaviors and risks perception related to HIV risk vulnerability to guide further research and prevention strategies. Training community members to use qualitative research methods and then conducting HIV social research with them is cost-effective and life affirming. Qualitative research aiming at a better understanding of why people take risks and of the contexts, experiences and the environments that determine these behaviors is critical to shape better performing HIV prevention interventions. A good grasp of these societal factors is often lacking and/or insufficiently taken into consideration for the development of HIV prevention strategies in the Pacific, which are too often "adopted" and derived from standardized messages promoting specific and pre-determined HIV prevention outcomes instead of being produced "in context."

Heather Worth and Philip Gibbs

Moni em everything long hia (money is everything here): mineral resources, sex and HIV in Papua New Guinea

Since the 1970s mining industry has dominated PNG's economy due to worldwide increasing demand for base and precious metals. Mineral revenue increased roughly seven-fold, from just over US\$100 million in 2002 to about US\$700 million in 2007; these revenues are now equivalent to about three times Australia's aid to PNG. Mining contributed 36 per cent of GoPNG's total revenue in 2008. While the mines are owned by multinational companies income flows into PNG through labour, royalties and taxes on mining profits. Large-scale mining has dramatically changed the social landscape around mine sites but in a more general sense in PNG. HIV in Papua New Guinea is enmeshed in the ongoing dialectic of history and power, capital and geopolitics of the mining 'project' and its values and interests. The structures of sexual and social relations that have grown out of mining in PNG have particular importance in our understanding the dynamics of HIV in that country. Conceptualising HIV risk around the structures and power of the mining sector challenges the emphasis on individual actions inherent in risk group positionings, in favour of a political economy of the virus, but one that is sited in local historical and social specificities. In this paper we draw on a number of empirical studies in order to attempt to take up the challenge involved in grasping, ethnographically, what Jean and John Comaroff call "the processes by which those world-historical forces were being made meaningful and tractable by the human beings in question" (2003, p153).

Participants

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Susan Hemer is an anthropologist who conducted her PhD fieldwork on Lihir and then went on to conduct research on community health in Lihir and more recently on HIV. In 2012 she was awarded a PNG National AIDS Council Secretariat grant for research into HIV in Lihir, with a particular focus on the ability of women and youth to act as 'agents' in the prevention of HIV. With her co-contributor, Susan and Jimmy bring a blend between an academic anthropological and an applied perspective in a high-risk transmission context of mining. susan.hemer@adelaide.edu.au

Sr Arnolda Kavanamur comes from the matrilineal society of East New Britain Province, PNG. She joined the Congregation of the Missionary Sister of the Holy Spirit shortly after completing her high school education. She achieved a diploma in PNG Arts from the Divine Word University, Madang, in 2004. Sr Arnolda formally became involved in the HIV response in 2008. However, her involvement can be traced back to 2001 after she completed a counselling course. Following that course Sr Arnolda spent two years providing general counseling and support in Enga Province, a province that has a high prevalence of HIV. Following that experience Sr Arnolda spent a year in the Philippines where she prepared for her Final Profession into religious life. On her return to PNG, Sr Arnolda moved to a VCT centre in Madang where she took on a fulltime HIV counselling and testing role for a year. Since 2009, Sr Arnolda has been based at the National Catholic AIDS Office in Port Moresby. Sr Arnolda is now the Manager of the Catholic Church in PNG's HIV, Counselling and Testing (HCT) and Training programs. akavanamur@catholic aids.org.pg

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Agnes Mek is currently working with the PNG Institute of Medical Research (IMR) as the National AIDS Council Masculinity Study Project Coordinator in the Eastern Highlands and Western Highlands of PNG. Baseline study is currently being coded while the longitudinal study started in 2012 with in school youths and out of school youths. From 2008 to 2010, Agnes worked with Catholic AIDS in Mt Hagen Diocese coordinating HIV clinical and non-clinical programs, after completing two years of the IMR research cadetship program learning about HIV Social and Behavioural Research. The cadetship program allowed her to understand the theoretical aspect of social research. As a research cadet, she participated in two innovative and team based studies, *Young people's attitudes towards sex and HIV in the Eastern Highlands of PNG* (2008) and *The ART of living: the social experience of treatments for people living with HIV in Papua New Guinea* (2009). agnes.mek@pngimr.org.pg

Edward Ken Moala is a Samoan national and member of a marginalised community known as the Fa'afafine of Samoa. He has been involved in the response to HIV for nearly twenty years in Samoa and the Pacific and Australasia. In 2004, he co-founded the Samoa AIDS Foundation, which arose out of the need to educate the community to remove stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and for greater awareness for people, especially young people, in making the right choices and practising safe sex. In 2007, he co-founded the Pacific Sexual Diversity Network (PSDN), which is a network of organisations from various Pacific Island countries, including Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu, which highlights the needs of marginalised and stigmatised men who have sex with men and transgender populations. The goal of PSDN is to involve all 22 Pacific Island States and Territories. Edward is also on the board of the Gay and Lesbian International Sports Association–Asia Pacific (GLISA–AP), incorporating sports and human rights conferences. Since 2009, he has served as advisor to the PSDN, which is primarily a mentoring role to build the capacity of its leaders in all areas. kenmoala@hotmail.com

Jimmy Peter comes from Milne Bay Province in PNG. He is an employee of Newcrest Mining and a long-term member of the Lihir Red Cross. In these roles he has worked tirelessly to educate Lihirians and other Papua New Guineans about HIV/AIDS and safe sexual practices, and to ensure appropriate prevention is available, often in the face of considerable complacency. Jimmy has a wealth of on-the-ground experience with HIV prevention with both employees and village-based Papua New Guineans. Jimmy.Peter@newcrest.com.au

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Diane Ryan is Programme Coordinator International Development with the New Zealand AIDS Foundation. She oversees the management of the three year project in the Pacific, Men who have Sex with Men Resiliency Project. It aims to reduce prevalence of undiagnosed HIV and sexually transmitted infections, prevent onward transmission of HIV, and reduce health inequalities for Pacific gay men, bisexual men, non-identifying Pacific Island men who have sex with men, Fa'afafine, Akava'ine, Leitis and other Pacific transgender people. Prior to this Diane worked with New Zealand Family Planning International, where for five years she coordinated a component of a project in Papua New Guinea, working with men and boys on behaviour change related to HIV and sexually transmitted infections. The project was called COMPASS—Clinical Outreach, Men and Boys Behaviour Change, Advocacy and Sexual Health Services Strengthening. It was funded by the AusAID Papua New Guinea Australia Sexual Health Improvement Programme. She also coordinated a partnership with the Solomon Islands Planned Parenthood Association in the implementation of the Men Improving Sexual Health in Malaita project, with a focus on prevention of HIV and STI transmission. Diane.Ryan@nzaf.org.nz

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Discussants

Gary Dowsett, PhD, is Acting Director at the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society at La Trobe University and is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. From 2002 to 2005, he was Associate Professor in the Department of Sociomedical Sciences at Columbia University in New York, and Associate Professor in Clinical Sociomedical Sciences from 2005 to 2009. A sociologist, Gary has long been interested in sexuality research, particularly in relation to the rise of modern gay communities. Since 1986, he has been researching the HIV epidemic, particularly in Australia's gay communities, and has worked on many international HIV/AIDS and sexual health projects since the late 1980s. Since the 1990s, he has focused on HIV and AIDS internationally with research and community-based organisations in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Fiji, the US and UK, and other regional associations that focus on men who have sex with men. He has worked as a consultant and advisor to WHO, UNDP and UNAIDS. He is author, co-author or co-editor of six books, more than 80 book chapters and academic papers, and over 90 other publications. In 2003, he was elected to the International Academy of Sex Research, and in 2005, he was awarded a five-year Victorian Health Promotion Foundation Senior Research Fellowship researching masculinity, sexuality and health. He was appointed to a Personal Chair in Sex, Health and Society at La Trobe University in 2006.

Susan Kippax has a PhD in Social Psychology and is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences of Australia. She is Emeritus Professor in the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia having retired from the position of Director of the National Centre in HIV Social Research (1995-2007). She has published extensively in HIV/AIDS social research and through her research, teaching and policy advisory roles has played a central role in the framing of Australia's response to HIV/AIDS. Professor Kippax is currently joint Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of the International AIDS Society*, a founding Editor of *Culture, Health and Sexuality: an International Journal*, and is a member of the Global HIV Prevention Working Group. s.kippax@unsw.edu.au

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Gilbert Herdt is a cultural anthropologist, Professor of Human Sexuality Studies and Anthropology, Founder of the Department of Sexuality Studies at San Francisco State University, and Founder Emeritus of the National Sexuality Resource Center (NSRC) in the United States. He is an international expert on sexuality and gender, child and adolescent sexual identity development, sexual orientation, lesbian gay bisexual transgender aging, sexual literacy and sexual rights. Professor Herdt has conducted major fieldwork in Papua New Guinea, Chicago, and the Bay Area of California on issues of sexuality, sexual orientation development, sexual health and policy. He has published thirty-three books and edited anthologies and over one hundred peer-reviewed journal articles, chapters, and scholarly reports. Professor Herdt's research on male initiation rites among the Sambia of Papua New Guinea in the early 1970s was among the first major foundational works on sexual identity in the field of anthropology. He returned to PNG in 2010 to research the changing conditions of sexuality, gender, HIV, and modernity among the Sambia people and is at work on his new book, *The Singers Are Gone*, an account of these changes over the last thirty-five years. gil@gilbertherdt.com

Margaret Jolly is an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow and Professor in Anthropology, Gender and Cultural Studies and Pacific Studies in the School of Culture, History and Language in the College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University. She is an historical anthropologist who has written extensively on gender in the Pacific, on exploratory voyages and travel writing, missions and contemporary Christianity, maternity and sexuality, cinema and art. The ARC Laureate Fellowship Project held by Professor Margaret Jolly explores the historical interaction between Oceanic and Western constructs of gender and the person. It critically evaluates the role of Christianity in the emergence of modern individualism, particularly in relation to the commoditization of land, labour and consumption, biomedical systems of health, and introduced legal regimes. margaret.jolly@anu.edu.au

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