

Professor Margaret Jolly: 50 years of research from before independence to the 40th anniversary

Professor Margaret Jolly's first research as a doctoral student was in anthropology in 1970-1971 and 1971-1972. She then went on to have successive visits to Vanuatu throughout the 1970s.

Margaret lived in Bunlap and Pohurur, *kastom* villages in South-East Pentecost, where her work focused on gender relations and ideas of *kastom* in relation and resistance to colonialism and Christian influences.

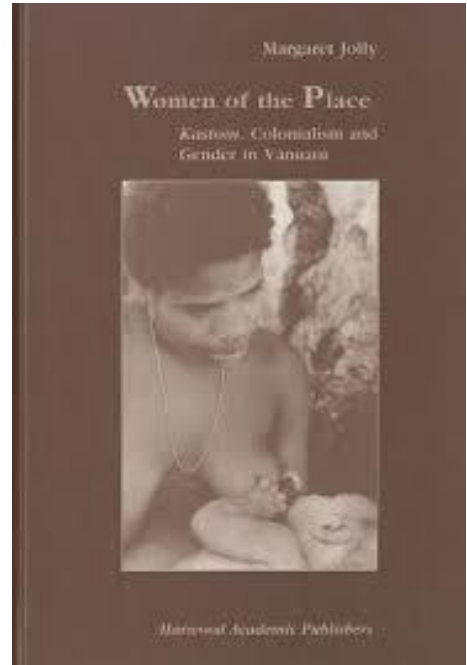
Kastom people in this period were strongly anti-colonial and anti-Christian.

"I learnt and predominantly worked in the Indigenous language, Sa (women were not fluent in Bislama and men were inhibiting their learning it)."

Margaret wrote many articles and her book, *Women of the Place*, was published from her research.

"My ethnographic research stopped by an moratorium introduced after independence in 1980, which I agreed with."

"This led to a redirection of my research to more historical reflections on the labour trade (blackbirding), gender and Christian missions."



During this same period, Margaret had conversations with Grace Mera Molisa, a prominent women's leader and nationalist about the women's movement in Vanuatu and Australia.

Grace had several articles published on her politics and her poetry.

Supervision and mentoring of ANU PhD students working in Vanuatu 1990s-2020

Margaret has mentored and supervised many ANU PhD students in Vanuatu over the past 30 years, including Tim Curtis (Malakula/Toman), Greg Rawlings (Pango, Efate), John (Jack) Taylor (North Pentecost), Michael Morgan (Northern Vanuatu), Sabine Hess (Vanua Lava) Siobhan McDonnell (North Efate, Lelepa) and Paul Mitchell (Malakula).

Details are as follows:

Tim Curtis (ANU, Anthropology, RSPAS, PhD) Supervisor and Chair

Talking about Place: Identities, Histories and Powers among the Na'hai Speakers of Malakula (Vanuatu)

Awarded 2002, Head of Intangible Heritage Division, UNESCO, Paris

Gregory Rawlings (ANU, Anthropology, RSPAS, PhD) Supervisor and Chair

'Once there was a Garden, now there is a Swimming Pool': Inequality, Labour and Land in Pango, a Peri-Urban Village in Vanuatu

Awarded 2002, Senior Lecturer, Anthropology, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand

John Patrick Taylor (ANU, Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, PhD) Supervisor and Chair

Ways of the Place: History, Cosmology and Material Culture in North Pentecost, Vanuatu

Awarded 2003, Senior Lecturer, Anthropology, La Trobe University

Michael Morgan (ANU, History, RSPAS, PhD) Co-supervisor

Politik is Poison: The Politics of Memory among the Churches of Christ in Northern Vanuatu

Awarded 2003, Managing Partner, Kreab Consultants, Canberra

Sabine Hess (ANU, Anthropology, RSPAS, PhD) Supervisor and Chair

Person and Place on Vanua Lava, Vanuatu

Awarded 2006, Honorary Lecturer, School of Culture, History and Language, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU

Siobhan McDonnell (ANU, CHL, College of Asia and the Pacific) Co-supervisor

My Land, My Life: Property, Power and Identity in Land Transformation in Vanuatu

Awarded August 2016, Research Fellow, National Centre for Indigenous Studies and School of Culture, History and Language. Awarded prize for best ANU PhD thesis on gender by Gender Institute 2016 and best Anthropology PhD thesis in Australia, awarded by the Australian Anthropological Society, 2017.

Paul Mitchell (ANU, CHL, College of Asia and the Pacific), Co-supervisor

Nemasien: Mbwotegot Cosmology in Transition

Awarded December 2019.

ARC Laureate Project 2010-2016

Margaret returned to South Pentecost as part of a large Laureate project on gender and individualism in Oceania (and repatriation of photographs). She conducted research with Dr Murray Garde and focused on the emergence of masculine individualism in relation to *kastom* knowledge and practice in particular around the land dive. This included comparative reflections on gender violence and the bride price in Vanuatu and historical reflections on changing masculinities.



ARC Discovery Project



Currently Margaret is working on an ARC Discovery Project on gender and climate change with Siobhan McDonnell and Murray Garde in Vanuatu, and Kathy Jetn̄il-Kijiner in the Marshall Islands.

She recently co-authored an *Inside Story* article with Murray Garde on fund raising and the devastation of TC Harold in central and southern Pentecost.

Read more about Margaret's career and research on her [ANU academic profile](#).