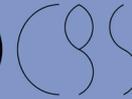


ESFO 2010

EXCHANGING KNOWLEDGE IN OCEANIA



5TH - 8TH JULY
UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS



CENTRE FOR
PACIFIC
STUDIES

EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR OCEANISTS, 8TH CONFERENCE ST ANDREWS, SCOTLAND, 5-8TH JULY 2010

Conference Announcement

The University of St Andrews Centre for Pacific Studies invites delegates to gather for the 8th Conference of the European Society for Oceanists, to be held on 5th-8th July, 2010.

St Andrews is Scotland's first university and the third oldest in the English speaking world, founded in 1413. Set on a sandy coast, 50 miles from Edinburgh, St Andrews is a small medieval town with a population of 20,000, a third of whom are students. St Andrews is also, famously, the 'Home of Golf', and is well provided with pubs, cafes and restaurants.

Conference Theme: Exchanging Knowledge in Oceania

At the end of the 7th ESfO conference, Verona 2008, a round-table of Pacific Islands academics forcefully urged their colleagues to take seriously the consequences of the theme '*putting people first*': they wanted academics to acknowledge the obligations activated by their relations in Oceania, and to recognize the responsibilities to Oceanic peoples, to the Academy and to Civil Society that come with the exchange of expert knowledge. Simply put, knowledge transfers work both ways, and *they wanted academics to act*.

Academics face similar calls from Governments, Research Councils, Industry and Policy-Makers to demonstrate explicitly the usefulness of their expert knowledge, and increasingly, 'Knowledge Transfer' or 'Knowledge Exchange' activities, such as user relevance and public engagement, are key conditions of research funding. Demand for exchanging knowledge into useful activities from all sides entails new conceptual frames and working relations that derive their force from different rationales. Consequently, the exchange value of academic knowledge is becoming determined by the use value others see in it. These moves risk instrumentalizing knowledge and envision re-making anthropology as a science of prescription, rather than a technique of description that acts through re-writing concepts.

Clearly, the moment creates an opportunity for new kinds of social relations in Oceania for the twenty-first century. But these various calls to act will involve facing up to serious questions in re-imagining the continuities of our own academic traditions, and of our relations in Oceania. Can we imagine new collaborative forms of academic practice? How might we best re-describe anthropological methods, relations and knowledge to respond to the aspirations of the

'knowledge transfer' agenda? Whether from a position inside or outside a University, what forms of academic practices, relations, ethics and roles are emerging in contemporary Oceania?

Perhaps we might look for answers by addressing a contemporary dilemma that Oceanic peoples and Oceanist academics share: How to re-describe and transfer knowledge and so make their cultural resources useful, effective and resilient in the contemporary world? We might begin by looking at the kinds of 'knowledge' at stake.

Questions arise for peoples in the region over the paths to take in creating social forms relevant to current contexts. Development ambitions and legal terminologies are shaping and eliciting new forms of indigenous social life—through which people also continue to act out their own social analyses of these encounters. What kinds of cultural connections are being made by Oceanic peoples growing up in such a 'post-tradition' epoch? What transfers, transformations and appropriations are people making between old and new sources of cultural knowledge?

Questions also arise for academics who have bodies of traditional cultural resources of their own to deal with. What uses are perceived for detailed literatures when research subjects appear increasingly to share fewer continuities with those peoples, practices or places? What kinds of connections between contemporary theories of social life and the rich ethnographic record are anthropologists claiming?

Knowledge exchange in Oceania has always involved two-way traffic. In asking about the emergent properties of reciprocity, responsibility and obligation constituted in academic research relations with Oceanic peoples, what leads and lessons can we draw from the solutions that Oceanic peoples are fashioning for themselves out of this contemporary dilemma? Equally, what roles and capacities are Oceanic peoples fashioning for academics who are interested in the region?

ESfO conferences are renowned for gathering together academics based in different regions of the world: *Exchanging Knowledge in Oceania* aims to put this gathering of inter-personal and conceptual relations to work in examining what kinds of knowledge transfers between bodies of knowledge are currently going on in Oceania, and what kinds of emergent relations are being formed.

Call for Panel Proposals

Proposals are invited for panels - 'Working Sessions' - addressing some aspect of the conference rubric or addressing some topical issue of interest to Oceanists. The ESfO 2010 conference schedule provides for holding up to seven panels in parallel, and on each of the three days. Panels will comprise, and be restricted to, ten thirty-minute slots - which may be used for presentations or discussion as desired.

Our aim in opening up the proposal of panels is to accommodate the interests of conference delegates, and a selection process may be required to ensure a good range of topics and issues, and to ensure that as many delegates as possible can find a suitable panel.

At this stage then, those proposing a panel may wish to approach potential participants but should be mindful that other delegates may also wish to propose a paper for inclusion once the panel has been accepted and announced. At that stage, panel organizers will have discretion over the selection of papers best suited to their focus.

Proposals of up to 400 words are invited, should include the name(s) and affiliations of (co)-organizers, and should be submitted to esfo2010@st-andrews.ac.uk.

Deadline for submission: 19th October 2009.

Call for Papers

The selected panels - 'Working Sessions' - will be announced by the end of October and a call for papers made at that time. Delegates should plan for presentations of up to twenty minutes long, leaving ten minutes for discussion. Proposals for a paper should include name, affiliation, an abstract of up to 250 words and indicate a choice of panel.

Deadline for submission: 14th December 2009.

Registration

Registration will open with the Call for Papers. Delegates will be able to register, book accommodation, meals and events etc and make payments through an on-line shop. Delegates are reminded that registration and the acceptance of a paper are separate matters.

Conference Package

The University of St Andrews operates a 3-Star Hotel during the vacations, and ample accommodation in en suite double rooms has been block booked for conference delegates, and negotiated at a favourable rate. An all-inclusive conference package will be available at £90 per person per day including bed, breakfast, optional dinner and a daily delegate rate element covering refreshments, lunch and a contribution to room and equipment hire.

The British Open golf tournament is due to take place immediately following the ESfO 2010 conference, and preparations will be in full swing and the town full with visitors. Delegates are advised that any remaining alternative accommodation vacancies will already be at a premium.

Conference Fee

As usual, a conference fee is also payable as a contribution towards the organizational costs: early-registration rates of £125 (Full) and £70 (Reduced), will rise to £150 and £80, respectively, at the end of January 2010.

Getting to St Andrews

See www.st-andrews.ac.uk/visiting/GettingtoStAndrews/

University of St Andrews homepage

www.st-andrews.ac.uk

Conference Website

See www.besite-productions.com/esfo2010

Enquiries:

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