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WELCOME TO THE SECOND NEWSLETTER FOR 2023

Following our successful series on Slavery and the Black Lives Matter movement we are pleased to confirm details of the next series of lectures titled "Pacific Past, Present and Future".

Details follow of Course Two which commences on **Friday 14 April** and runs on consecutive **Fridays until 12 May**. This topic is particularly relevant to the current and future situation in our immediate neighbourhood – the Pacific - and we encourage you all to hear from leading commentators of the topic.

PLEASE NOTE the first lecture **only on 14 April is at 10 am**, not the usual time. Thereafter the rest of the lectures are at the usual time of 10:30 am.

Friday 14 and 21 April

Professor Steven Ratuva will introduce the series with two very topical lectures

14 April The early Pacific people—where did they come from?

21 April Pacific geopolitics—big and small powers fighting over Oceania

Friday 28 April

Doctor Sam Hampton – Origin of the Pacific

Moananui-a-Kiwa / the Pacific Ocean is a vast seascape peppered with islands connected to the underlying tectonic plates. Island groups have their own distinct connections and processes of formation. This talk delves into the origin of these islands, the sea floor, and tectonic settings. It will cover aspects of the Pacific Ring of Fire, what is behind its formation, volcanism and associated eruptions, trenches, and the variation in the origin of islands of the South Pacific.

Friday 5 May

Madi Williams will deliver a presentation based on her book, *Polynesia 900-1600* which is intended to provide a short, useful overview of the history of South Polynesia during the 'Middle Ages'. It employs a wide range of source material including oral traditions, historiography, and archaeology, and examines how South Polynesians perceived their world and lived during this period.

Polynesia and the Middle Ages may seem like an odd fit but the Middle Ages are a European phenomenon surely? While this is true, much is lost by limiting our perspective to one continent. Europe is not the natural centre of the world: it has been constructed as such, not least by historians. There is much insight to be gained by centering Polynesia and the Pacific in discussions of this era.

Friday 12 May

Professor Steven Ratuva

The climate crisis in the Pacific - are we destroying ourselves?

Venue

St. Mark's Church
150 Withells Rd.,
Avonhead.

Time

First lecture on Friday 14 April only is at 10:00 am with morning tea at 9:30 am. Thereafter the rest of the lectures will be on Friday mornings 10.00 am for morning tea in the lounge followed by the lecture from 10.30 am till 12 noon also in the lounge.

Organised by

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Course Presenters' Bios

Professor Steven Ratuva

Distinguished Professor Steven Ratuva is Pro-Vice Chancellor Pacific and Director of the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies (University of Canterbury); Chair of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) Research Committee on Climate Security and Planetary Politics and former Fulbright Senior Fellow at the University of California (LA), Duke University (North Carolina) and Georgetown University (Washington DC). With a PhD from UK, has led a number of international research projects and networks on climate security, social protection, geopolitical security and other issues. He was co-awarded the University of Canterbury Research Medal in 2019, was recipient of the Metge Medal for social science research excellence by the New Zealand Royal Society and a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

He is a global interdisciplinary scholar with research expertise in various fields such as sociology, anthropology, political science, post-colonial studies, indigenous studies, development studies and history and has carried out research all around the world in Asia, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, US and Pacific. He has worked in universities around the world including Australia, UK, US, New Zealand and Fiji. He has been advisor and consultant for a number of international and regional organizations such as UNDP, International Labour Organisations, World Bank, Pacific Islands Forum, Commonwealth Secretariat, Asian Development Bank and others.

Dr Sam Hampton

Sam Hampton is a physical volcanologist and experienced field educator. He is the Director of VolcanicKED, a learning-based company providing knowledge, education and discovery activities in Aotearoa New Zealand natural environments. He is also Director of Te Pātaka o Rākohaitū / Banks Peninsula Geopark. The Geopark looks to engage people in the landscapes of Banks Peninsula by connecting stories of geology, ecology, communities, and human histories. Sam's research is focused on the volcanic landscape of Banks Peninsula. But his experience extends across the fields of geoeducation, geohazards, engineering geology, and exploration.

Madi Williams

Madi Williams (Ngāti Kuia, Ngāti Kōata, Rangitāne o Wairau, Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō).

Madi is a lecturer at Aotahi - School of Māori and Indigenous Studies, University of Canterbury. Her first book *Polynesia, 900-1600*, looks at the European Middle Ages in South Polynesia. She is currently working on transforming her PhD thesis into a book entitled *Ngāti Kuia: Stories About the Past*.