



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

Call for Papers

Under the Eye of the Law: Mobile Peoples in the Pacific

Symposium: University of Waikato, 3 December 2010

Law Text Culture: Volume 15 2011

Guest Editors:

Professor Nan Seuffert, Te Piringa Faculty of Law

Dr Tahu Kukutai, Senior Research Fellow, Population Studies Centre

This Call for Papers is for volume 15 of *Law Text Culture*, and a symposium at the University of Waikato investigating mobile peoples and populations who come under the eye of the law in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific from postcolonial perspectives. Different areas of this region experienced settler colonialism in different forms and with different outcomes. Postcolonial theory arises with the fall of grand theory and the destabilisation of history ‘as it actually was’ or chronological ‘facts’, creating space for the theorisation of constructions and dynamics of nations, and of dynamic histories of peoples, colonisation, ‘race’, ethnicity, gender and sexuality. The reference to linear time and the apparent presumption of a period after colonisation in the term ‘postcolonial’ have been critiqued; we see it as usefully indicating engagement with the imprints and effects of colonisation, unpacking the colonial circulating through, and repeating in, the current. Writing against the colonial, and making visible the persistence of the colonial in the concrete and material conditions of everyday life, is integral to postcolonial theory. Foregrounding the histories of colonisation highlights shifting geographical centres and margins in the process of mapping, and of shaping and tracing, mobile peoples.

We seek postcolonial analyses (broadly construed), historical and current, of mobile peoples and populations. To members of the dominant ‘white’ population these mobile peoples seem to be interlopers, out-of-place, a source of anxiety. This proposal is concerned with the ways in which the law (eg. criminal and civil), and other forms of regulation and surveillance (eg. immigration regulation and policy; official state classifications) construct mobile peoples. We are also interested in the shaping of the categories of gender and sexuality in relation to mobile peoples in and through these regimes.

In order to explore these, and other related areas, we seek scholarly articles, artworks, reviews, and creative writing from scholars and practitioners in law, geography, demography, history, gender studies, anthropology and other disciplines on themes and topics including, but not limited to:

- geographically displaced Indigenous peoples, among them Māori and Aboriginal workers;
- Maori and other indigenous peoples' diaspora;
- Indigenous peoples' transnationalism;
- poor whites among European settlers, including labourers;
- the role of institutions, including medical and legal institutions;
- convict movements;
- legal constructions of mobile peoples;
- colonial administrators and officials, and missionaries, as mobile populations
- mobile laws, policies and regulations
- immigration law, policy and reform, including for sexual minorities and couples
- shifting jurisdictional territories, placements and displacements;
- shaping and shape-shifting of nations in and through mobile populations;
- labor movements, including indentured labourers, to, from and within the Pacific region, such as Melanesian indentured workers in Queensland,
- sojourner Chinese;
- post September 11 tightening and whitening, and other shifts in immigration law and policy;
- sex trafficking; and
- refugee and asylum movements, including analyses of homophobia as a basis for these claims.

All scholarly articles will be subject to independent peer review, while all other submissions (artworks, reviews and creative writing) will be considered by the guest editors in consultation with the Managing Editor of *Law Text Culture*.

Deadline for submission of abstracts: Tuesday 31 August 2010

Abstracts may be submitted for the symposium, for volume 15 of *Law Text Culture*, or for both. Please indicate in your abstract whether you are interested in presenting a paper at the symposium. Registration for the symposium is free.

Abstracts should be 300 words. Please also include a 300 word biographical statement and your contact details. Abstracts will be assessed for their appropriateness for the theme of the volume and symposium, and papers will be due in early 2011.

Confirmed Participants

Professor Sally Engle Merry, Director Programme on Law and Society, New York University. Professor Merry is a leader in the field of law and society, and has produced a large body of literature about colonialism, law, and history, mostly focused on Hawai'i as a case study, and using Fiji as a point of comparison (see *Law & Empire in the Pacific: Fiji and Hawa'i* (Merry and Branneis, eds, 2003).

Professor John Taylor, Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at the Australian National University. Professor Taylor's research interests



have revolved around the measurement of demographic change among Indigenous peoples and the assessment of their economic status at local, regional and national scales. A basic tenet of his research is the need to establish key parameters of population change as the basis for evaluating policy impacts in areas such as employment, housing, education and health. He is the author of numerous academic publications and consultancy reports for government, industry and Indigenous organisations. Prior to joining the ANU, John held various university research and teaching positions in Botswana and Nigeria.

Contact person for questions and submission of abstracts:

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