Workshop:
(Re)mapping “the Pacific”: Cartographies, disciplines, languages

Staatliches Museum für Völkerkunde Munich).
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www.pacific-credo.fr et https://www.indigen.eu

Philipp Schorch, Diego Muñoz and Serge Tcherkézoff

CREDO, Campus Saint-Charles, September 12-13, 2023
The labels “Pacific” or “Oceania” are Euro-American inventions, and the associated “foreign representations” deriving from and feeding into visionary attempts at imagining the Pacific or Oceania continue to be contested through Indigenous perspectives, concepts, and paradigms. “Melanesia”, invented by Jean Baptiste Bory de Saint-Vincent, “Micronesia”, coined by Bartolomeo Borghi, and “Polynesia”, termed by Charles de Brosses, as categories of history, remain controversial to this day. Recent research has paid close attention to life worlds and cultural practices to highlight the moment and processes of reimagining. This has facilitated the reimagining of Oceania on the analytical plane through empirical insights into insider conceptualizations, such as Te-moana-nui-o-Kiwa or Hawai‘i-nui-akea, instead of perpetuating the predominant imposition of outsider cartographies, maps, and other visions and imaginaries.

In this project, we focus on the relationship between (re)imagining and (re)mapping the Pacific through cartographies, disciplines and languages. This includes transpacific ‘cartographic incursions’ into the Americas, such as those associated with the colonial incorporation of Hawai‘i into the USA and Rapa Nui into Chile, as well as those linked to scientific ambitions to prove the “Amerindian” origin of “Polynesian” people. On the cartographic level, the workshop will examine the tensions between Indigenous cosmologies and sacred geographies, on the one hand, and Cartesian logics and hegemonic cartographies, on the other. In what ways have geographic sensibilities configured ways of being and moving in historical and contemporary contexts? How have Indigenous knowledges and non-Euclidean cartographic practices challenged, disrupted, and bent to modern forms of scientific production? On the level of the disciplinary, we ask how anthropology, archaeology, art history, geography, history etc. have each remapped their own Pacific, e.g. through aesthetic and material geographies. How have those disciplinary interventions responded to and engaged with cross-disciplinary re-framings and Indigenous re-articulations? Last but not least, we consider languages - both Indigenous and colonial - as fundamentally important dimensions to engage in order to trace ancient conceptualizations and reactivate those for contemporary concerns and future (re)imaginations and (re)mappings. What happens when, for example, Rapanui and Sāmoan genealogical relations and cosmological foundations are inscribed in French and German archival records? And what does it take bring multilingual and trans-media resources back to life? To find answer to these and related questions, we assemble a group of scholars who work in different languages, disciplines and cartographic registers, and who are united in their effort to (re)map “the Pacific”, once again.
September 12

0900-0930 Introduction: Serge Serge Tcherkézoff (CREDO), Philipp Schorch (LMU Munich) and Diego Muñoz (LMU Munich, all in person)

0930-1000 Albert Refiti (Auckland University of Technology, via zoom)

Maps of crucibles and dislocations: From Pulotu to Lagituiva to Hawaiki, from Polynesia to Pasifika to Moananui, and from Oceanians to Pacific diaspora to Moana cosmopolitans

1000-1030 Alexander Mawyer (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, via zoom)

Words of the sea: Language and everyday geographies in Oceania’s seascape

1030-1100 Coffee

1100-1130 Safua Akeli Amaama (Museum of Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, via zoom)

O se va'aiga mamao: Remapping Sāmoa collections

1130-1200 Gordon Winder (LMU Munich, via zoom)

Disruptive remappings: Efforts to remap the Pacific in the natural sciences

1200-1230 Serge Tcherkézoff (CREDO, in person)

Remapping the global space: Pacific, Oceania, Pasifika (1521, 1993, 1989)

1230-1400 Lunch

1400-1430 Philipp Schorch (LMU Munich, in person)

(Re)mapping ‘the Pacific’: Collections, exhibitions, languages

1430-1500 Melissa Nayral (Université Toulouse Jean Jaurès, in person)

3 districts and 21 tribes? 5 districts and 22 tribes? No districts, no tribes and hundreds of clans? Welcome to Ouvea, New Caledonia

1500-1530 Richard Cagnasso (CREDO, in person)

19th-century geographers, their mapping of an Oceanic and Indo-Pacific region, and today’s approach.
1530-1600 Coffee

1600-1630 Diego Muñoz (LMU Munich, in person)

*Te Taimana o te Moana Nui a Kiva: Rapanui’s appropriation of the ‘Polynesian triangle’*

1630-1700 Cristián Moreno Pakarati (Rapanui Pioneers Society, via zoom)

*Rapanui versus colonial place names. Cartographic conundrums of the relationship between Chile and Easter Island*

1800-1930 Book launch: Diego Muñoz

*Le Nombril du Monde: sur les chemins de la diaspora rapanui*  
(Paris, publications de la SDO)

and reception

2000 Dinner

**September 13**

1000-1200 Grant workshop