

BIOGRAPHIES

Alaine Chanter is the Chair of Divisional Research Degrees in the Division of Communication and Education at the University of Canberra. She is also Program Convenor of the University's Bachelor of Arts degree. She teaches in a diverse range of subjects in the core communication program at the School of Creative Communication. Her research focus is the politics of cultural identity. She has published in this area in several international journals. More recently, this focus has developed into research on the manner in which progressive politics is being infused by postmodern culture.

Alumita L. Durutalo is a PhD candidate in the Pacific and Asian History Division of the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at The Australian National University. She is writing a thesis on 'Fijian Political Thinking: Dissent and the Formation of Political Parties (1960–1999)'. Alumita teaches in the Department of History and Politics at the University of the South Pacific, Laucala Campus, Suva, Fiji.

Jon Fraenkel is a Senior Research Fellow in Governance at the Pacific Institute of Advanced Studies in Development and Governance at the University of the South Pacific. He is author of *The Manipulation of Custom: From uprising to intervention in the Solomon Islands* (Victoria University Press and Pandanus Books, 2004). His research and publications focus on the economic history of Oceania, electoral systems and contemporary Pacific politics.

Tarcisius Tara Kabutaulaka is a Fellow at the Pacific Islands Development Program, East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawai'i. Prior to this, he was a lecturer in history and politics at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji. He has a PhD in political science and international relations from The Australian National University in Canberra. Dr Kabutaulaka comes from the Tasimauroi area of Guadalcanal in Solomon Islands.

R. J. May is Emeritus Fellow of The Australian National University and is attached to the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Project in the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies. He was formerly a senior economist with the Reserve Bank of Australia and later foundation director of IASER (now the National Research Institute) in Papua New Guinea. In 1976, he was awarded the Independence Medal for services to banking and research in Papua New Guinea.

Michael G. Morgan earned a BA (Hons 1st Class) from the University of Sydney, and a PhD from The Australian National University. At the time of compiling this volume he was the Acting Director of the Centre for Democratic Institutions and a Research Fellow

of the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the Australian National University. His current research interests are political culture, governance and representation in Melanesia, with a special interest in cabinet and coalition politics. He has undertaken several consultancies on politics and development policy in Melanesia.

Steven Ratuva is a Fijian political sociologist who gained his PhD from the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex. He was a Fellow at The Australian National University and has been a consultant for a number of international institutions, such as the United Nations Development Program, the International Labour Organisation and the Asian Development Bank. His academic and research interests include affirmative action, peace studies, development, governance and sociopolitical change.

Roland Rich is a Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow with the International Forum for Democratic Studies at the National Endowment for Democracy, Washington DC. At the time of compiling and editing this book, he was the Foundation Director of the Centre for Democratic Institutions at The Australian National University. He received his Arts and Law degrees from the University of Sydney and his Masters degree in International Law from The Australian National University. He has served in a number of capacities in the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, including positions as Ambassador to Laos, Legal Advisor and Assistant Secretary for International Organisations.

Joao M. Saldanha is Executive Director of the Timor Institute of Development Studies, Dili, Timor-Leste. He lectures at the National University of East Timor, holds a PhD in economics from the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies at the University of California in San Diego. As a Fulbright Scholar, he has spent time as a visiting scholar at many institutions, including the Harvard Institute for International Development in the US, and The Australian National University. His research interests include economic growth and income distribution, property rights, fiscal and monetary policies, and political institutions.

Asofou So'o is Professor of Samoan Studies and Director of the Centre for Samoan Studies at the National University of Samoa. He graduated with a PhD from the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at The Australian National University in 1997. He has published widely on Samoan politics, culture and history and is currently the president of the International Council for the Study of the Pacific Islands.