

a way that we never quite do for Nakayama. He was a man, it seems, who was as reserved in his private life as he was in public.

In the end, this is an important book, and one that needs to serve as a starting point for Micronesian histories and biographies yet to be written. Hanlon himself has expressed his surprise at the relative lack of historical scholarship on Micronesians and their islands, and the last thing he would want is for his work to be the last word on the subject. Rather, he has laid a foundation for future historians of the people of the region who would do well to build upon it.

David W. Kupferman  
University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu  
Kapolei, Hawai'i, USA  
[kupferma@hawaii.edu](mailto:kupferma@hawaii.edu)

---

**Sébastien Larrue (Ed.) (2013). *Biodiversity and societies in the Pacific Islands*. Aix-en-Provence, France: Presses Universitaires de Provence, 248pp, ISBN: 978-285399877-2, €25.**

This volume brings together essays from a variety of natural and social scientists to examine issues relevant to native flora and fauna, along with the interactions of human societies among these biophysical systems. Its subject matter and approach is as diverse as the South Pacific islands that serve as its case studies: from New Caledonia to Rapa Nui (Easter Island), with many sites in between. The topics engaged by the eleven chapters that make up this book range considerably but can be roughly categorized into three main themes, each of which is quite familiar to island biogeographers: invasive species, habitat loss/fragmentation, and human effort to effect conservation. The chapters are not grouped according to these themes; rather, they appear in somewhat random order. This stochasticity was, at first, jarring to me as the reader. However, upon further reflection, I came to appreciate the ordering. Much like during an island-hopping journey, what one encounters next while reading this book may not be fully anticipated. Thus, when reading this book, I recommend readers to trust the editor in setting the itinerary; the read will be more adventurous in this way.

The first chapter (Pouteau et al.) discusses islands within an island, as it were. The spatially discrete, high-elevation refuges of native flora on the island of Moorea – created by the widespread presence of invasive species covering lower elevations – are shown in full colour, based upon remotely sensed satellite data. In focusing upon the issue of native flora surviving only because of vertical zonation, the authors of Chapter 1 show the connection between two of the major threats to biodiversity on islands: invasive species and habitat fragmentation. In fact, this is a case of fragmentation by invasion.

The second (Easby and Compton) and third (Connell) chapters continue on the theme of invasive species, with a case study of Rarotonga starlings in the Cook Islands (an endemic species threatened by invasive birds and rats), and a broad-reaching summary of invasives throughout the South Pacific, respectively. While Chapter 2 provides a detailed methodology that would be instructive to younger researchers planning their own fieldwork, Chapter 3 stands out as a theoretical introduction to the concept of invasions. Taken together, these chapters show the large and small scales of research into invasives in island contexts.

Chapter 4 (Kueffer) attempts to expand upon biogeographical theory of invasive species by showing that the social sciences may be able to offer more insight into our study of this problem. Perhaps I would have been more convinced if the author of this chapter had presented his argument in a more logical progression and had steered away from the graphical “framework” diagrams (pp. 74, 83), which were quite frankly meaningless, at least to me. Still the point remains, and is clearly made in the text, that aspects of human society - especially economic development - can be more predictive than island geography when assessing the potential for biological invasions.

New Caledonia provides the setting for Chapters 5 (Lebigre) and 6 (Dumas), both of which are concerned with that island’s coastal mangrove forests, and to a lesser extent, other ecosystems. Taken together, these chapters illustrate the value of a variety of research methods. The first of these New Caledonia chapters relies upon extensive literature reviews as well as field research, while the second makes use of remotely sensed satellite imagery. The fieldwork-and-literature approach took on the question of invasive species and led to the conclusion that invasives were of minor concern to the mangrove ecosystems. The remote sensing research sought to determine the effects of human activity on large scale coastal habitats showed high levels of fragmentation within much of the New Caledonian coast. Each author convincingly employed the appropriate research method for the question being addressed.

Chapter 7 (Butaud and Jacq) reports on the findings of several field expeditions to remote and uninhabited islands within the Marquesas. Themes of past overgrazing, invasive species, and habitat fragmentation are repeated here; but the unique quality of these islands being (currently) uninhabited by humans gives the reader a perspective on the ability and struggles of natural ecosystems to regenerate, once circumstances of preservation are put into effect. The maps in this chapter are especially of good quality.

The remaining chapters examine the role of human societies in the destruction, distribution, or conservation of insular floral biodiversity in the South Pacific. Chapter 8 (Hunt and Lipo) challenges the theory popularized by Jared Diamond and others of an ‘ecocide’ having taken place on Rapa Nui (Easter Island). The authors introduce compelling evidence for locally derived conservation strategies that actually promoted biodiversity, instead of causing its collapse. They attribute Rapa Nui’s decline not to unrestrained and purposeless deforestation by its native inhabitants, but to a common refrain from the annals of island ecology: invasive species, here at both the macro and micro scales as the authors implicate both invasive rats and introduced disease pathogens in the collapse of that island’s environment and society. Chapter 9 (Larrue and Meyer) sets out to determine the provenance of Banyan fig trees on Tahiti. Were they planted intentionally on ritualistically significant sites, or were they simply opportunistic colonizers of anthropogenic spaces? The authors demonstrate a correlation between the trees and the sites; but their assumption of causation lacks support. Chapter 10 (Bourdeix et al.) is my favourite in this volume. Its thorough approach to a narrowed topic – the contribution of traditional ecological knowledge to the conservation of unique coconut varieties – is supported by striking photographs and, in my opinion, the book’s best cartography: a hand-drawn map of Tetiaroa, the atoll designated by actor Marlon Brando as a site where environmental stewardship should be prioritized. Finally, Chapter 11 (Vougioukalou) offers an anthropological ‘kitchen garden’ study from the Cook Islands. As the author points out, there exists an abundant literature in this vein based in other geographical regions, but in which the tropical Pacific is underrepresented. The point is well taken and this contribution, while not theoretically game-changing, is a welcome addition to this literature.

Overall, this book integrates its diverse chapters well. There are several points of discontinuity, however, that remind the reader that this is an edited volume and not a cohesive work from a single research team. If the avoidance of this realization had been a priority to the editor, it could have been achieved through some simple, primarily aesthetic, efforts. First, the graphics - maps, photographs and charts - could have been standardized, if not in style, at least in quality. As it stands, the reader is presented with small, gray-scale photographs in one chapter (5) and larger, full-colour photographs in others (2, 8 and 10). Even more extreme is the variation in cartography within this book. Chapters 2, 6, 7 include useful, well-made maps. The maps in Chapters 5, 8, 9, 10 are less aesthetically and cartographically appealing. Chapter 1 does not include a map, per se, but does join Chapters 6, 7, and 10 in the spatial display of remotely-sensed or other satellite data spatially: technically maps, but appearing along a wide spectrum of quality and usefulness. Chapters 3, 4, and 11 are devoid of any maps whatsoever. Perhaps a small-scale map of the entire region, spanning two pages at the overleaf or centrefold of the book, could have marked each of the chapters' field sites. Such a small effort would have contributed mightily to the book's cohesiveness.

Another point along the theme of integrating the chapters: throughout the book, there are several instances where the citation of another chapter within the same volume would have been appropriate. Since individual chapter authors are often unaware of the precise topics of their co-contributors until after publication, the task falls to the editor to notice these opportunities for cross-citation and to alert contributing authors, and readers, of these possibilities. It is always pleasing, at least to me, to see in a footnote or parenthetical citation, "[another chapter], this volume." It enhances edited volumes as integrated endeavours.

*Russell Fielding*  
*The University of the South*  
*Sewanee, TN, USA*  
[russell.fielding@sewanee.edu](mailto:russell.fielding@sewanee.edu)

---

**Mark P. Hampton (2013). *Backpacker tourism and economic development: Perspectives from the less economic developed world*. London: Routledge. 166pp. ISBN: 978-0-415-59418-9 (hbk). £80. Mark P. Hampton & Julia Jeyacheya (2013). *Tourism and inclusive growth in small island developing states*. London: Commonwealth Secretariat. 104pp. ISBN: 978-1-84929-107-1 (pbk). £20.**

Mark Hampton has been at the forefront of economic analyses of backpacker tourism for the past fifteen years or so and the first book under review here synthesizes much of his previous work on this subject in a coherent and manageable introduction to the field. In doing so, he brings together a wide range of case studies, including from Indonesia and Malaysia, based upon his own and others' empirical field research in order to better elucidate his argument that backpacker tourism need not be viewed as directly negative by host governments but rather as a means for further direct and indirect economic development in a positive manner. He outlines the historical background to backpacker tourism and proceeds to briefly examine the culture of backpacking or independent travel. The crux of the matter for Hampton though remains his focus on the economic aspects of backpacker tourism and for this he must be applauded for developing a valuable message for students, researchers and policy makers. His work also