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Editorial

This special edited issue of the *Journal of Pacific Archaeology* comes from a session at the Australian Archaeology Association Conference ‘*On the Edge*’, held in December 2015 in Fremantle, Western Australia. The session was entitled *On the Edge of Archaeology: The Historiography of Australian, Pacific and Southeast Asian Archaeology*. It was organised by Emilie Dotte-Sarout and Matthew Spriggs as an initiative of the Australian Research Council Laureate Project ‘*the Collective Biography of Archaeology in the Pacific (CBAP)*’, directed by Professor Matthew Spriggs at The Australian National University.

The nine articles published here represent revised versions of papers delivered at the Conference. There were two other papers in this session that unfortunately couldn’t be included here: one by Caroline Philips on *The Development of Historic Archaeology in New Zealand*, and the other by Sven Ouzman, entitled *Colonial Circuits and Post-Colonial Challenges: Comparing the Archaeological Research Histories and Trajectories of Southern Africa and Northern Australia*.

The papers in this issue provide for the first time in the region a diverse range of case studies in the historiography

of our discipline, from Western Australia to the Eastern Pacific and from the mid-19th century up to the 1960s. Importantly, they cover not only the Anglophone literature on the topic, but also the essential German-speaking and Francophone ones. Accordingly, given the important minority of francophone islanders in the Pacific today, we have included here a French translation of the titles and abstracts for each of the articles. Despite the diversity of the themes explored by the papers, there exist some fascinating parallels and cross-overs between the intellectual and personal histories analysed. To follow more easily these many paths, we have opted for a general chronological order of the papers.

The special issue editors would like to thank JPA editor Tim Thomas for accepting our approach to publish the papers here, and for his and Les O’Neill’s help with the editing process. We would also like to acknowledge all of the participants in the original session, the authors and the reviewers of the papers, as well as Catherine Fitzgerald of CBAP for administrative and logistic support.

Emilie Dotte-Sarout
Matthew Spriggs

