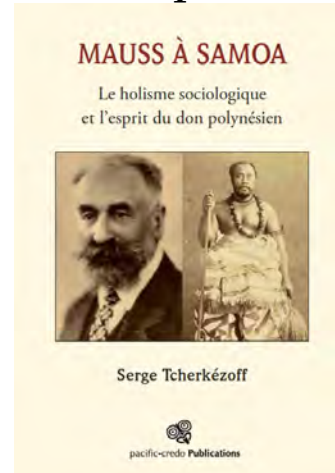


UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO
ANTHROPOLOGY PROGRAMME SEMINAR

Professor Serge Tcherkézoff

**THE GIFT IN POLYNESIA:
Variations on a Theme**

Thursday 17 November 2016, 3.10 – 5.00 pm



Anthropological studies of western Polynesia have long held that what Samoans call *'oloa* and Tongans call *koloa* are, despite their linguistic similarity, not only different but entirely contradictory categories of gift-giving and designations for the valued objects involved in such exchanges. This observation prompts a number of questions:

- Are there similarities in the kinds of objects exchanged and do these indicate a model confined to western Polynesia or found throughout Polynesia as a whole?
- If there is a recurrent pattern at either of these levels, how can we explain the apparent reversal that occurs in the designation of these categories?
- Are there implications for the analysis of gift-giving elsewhere in Polynesia, including the related Maori category referred to as *taonga*?

Professor Serge Tcherkézoff is a researcher in Pacific anthropology and history, based primarily at l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Marseille (CREDO: AMU/CNRS/EHESS). In addition to ethnographic research in Samoa, mainly in the 1980-1990s, he has made major contributions to the history of encounters between Polynesians and Europeans in the 18th century.

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