Sexualities, sexual rights and HIV in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific

A workshop symposium with Professor Gilbert Herdt

Wednesday 11 - Friday 13 July 2012
Room 1.04, HC Coombs Extension Building
Fellows Road
The Australian National University, Canberra

The HIV pandemic has activated the global circulation of discourses on sexuality and has been a key catalyst for rethinking development in terms of human rights, gender equality, and local participation. Rights advocacy has become integral to effective HIV prevention, stigma management, and treatment and care strategies in national programs of response. This workshop symposium explores the interaction between global and local discourses and changing meanings of sexuality, citizenship, and culture in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific with the aim to promote greater understanding of translational processes in diverse local contexts.

Academics, activists, policy makers, and practitioners with an interest in HIV, sexuality and human rights in the Pacific are invited to participate in the three-day workshop symposium. Papers and discussion will explore sexual rights through interdisciplinary perspectives on the diversity of gender and sexuality in past and present, and the influence of colonialism and Christianity within national and transnational parameters. Issues will be addressed in relation to processes of contemporary development, law and governance, and relevance for HIV research, policies and service provision.

The workshop symposium is supported by the Australian Research Council Laureate Fellowship project held by Professor Margaret Jolly, Engendering Persons, Transforming Things: Christianities, Commodities and Individualism in Oceania. Professor Gilbert Herdt is an international expert on culture, sexuality, sexual rights and HIV. His research on male initiation rites among the Sambia of Papua New Guinea in the early 1970s was among the first major foundational works on sexual identity in the field of anthropology.

Presented by
School of Culture, History and Language
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