

The Weight of the Ancestors in the Anthropocene

two case studies from New Caledonia and Hawai'i.

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Starting from an analysis based on the ethnography of two Pacific archipelagos - geographically distant, populated in distinct eras, characterized by different historical events and in which different landscapes have been produced – our contribution analyzes the "**weight of the ancestors**" when talking and managing island-scapes. The methodology that are mobilized are: native geography and indigenous epistemology.

Spirits and ancestors are active actors in the meshwork that formed and still shapes the landscaped. When talking about Anthropocene and the human agency, the presence and the entanglement with the spirits of the ancestors is rarely taken into consideration. This proposal aims to investigate the local, indigenous response to the Anthropocene in the Belep Islands (New Caledonia) and in the island of O'ahu (Hawai'i). How does the weight of the ancestors, that dwell in the natural "scapes" (Appadurai), shapes the local response through practices and storytelling? In the case studies presented spirits guard the memories of the places shaping today's landscapes, recalling landscapes of the past and imagining future's landscapes. Climate change events related to island-scape are interpreted as a lack of something or a wrongdoing in the relationship with the non-human world. The ability of native cultures to see environmental changes in a perspective that holds future, present and the past together, thanks to the presence of the ancestors is frequently underestimated.