

Locating Sport Migrants in Structures of Kinship and Indebtedness

Niko Besnier

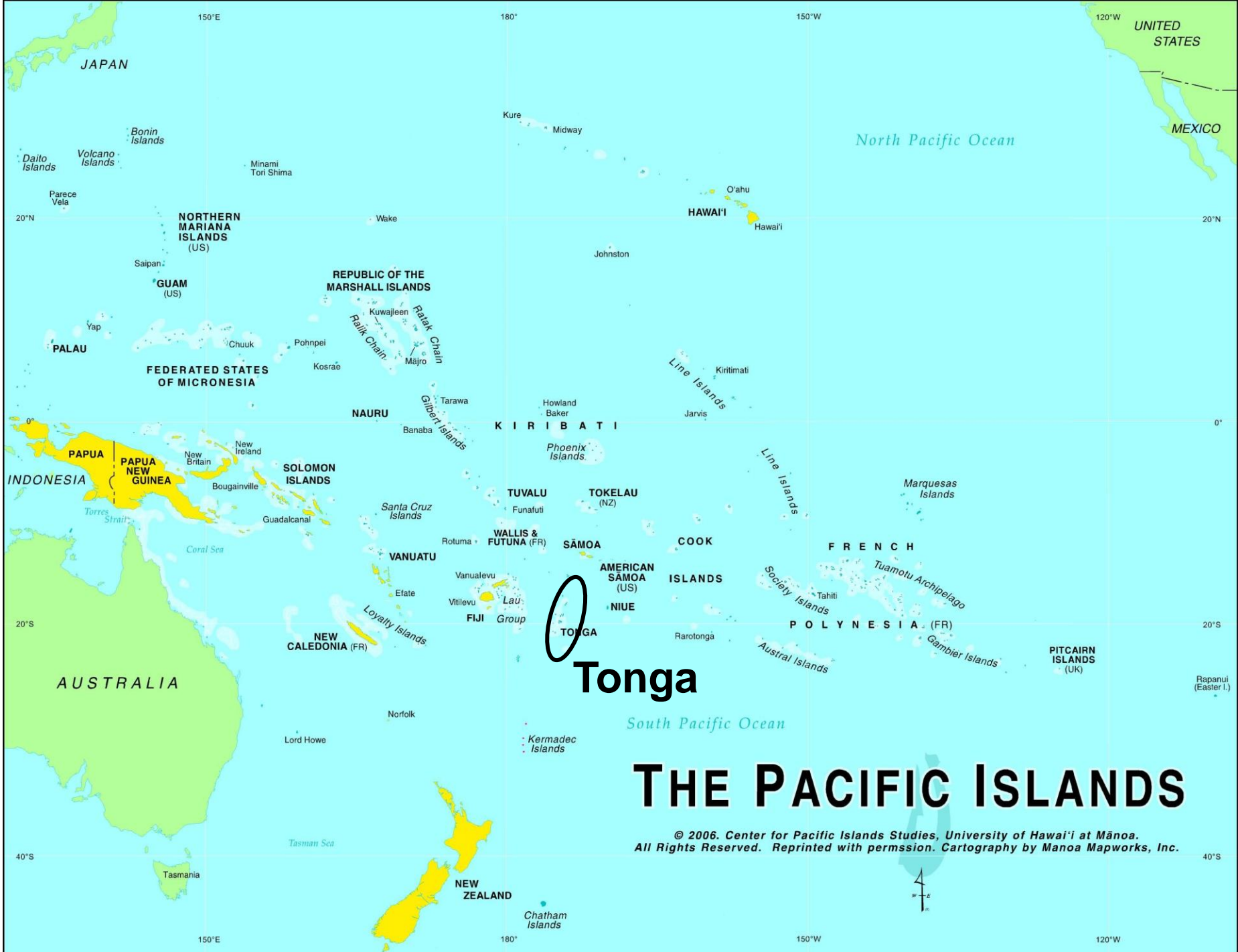
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Play the Game 2015





Tonga

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

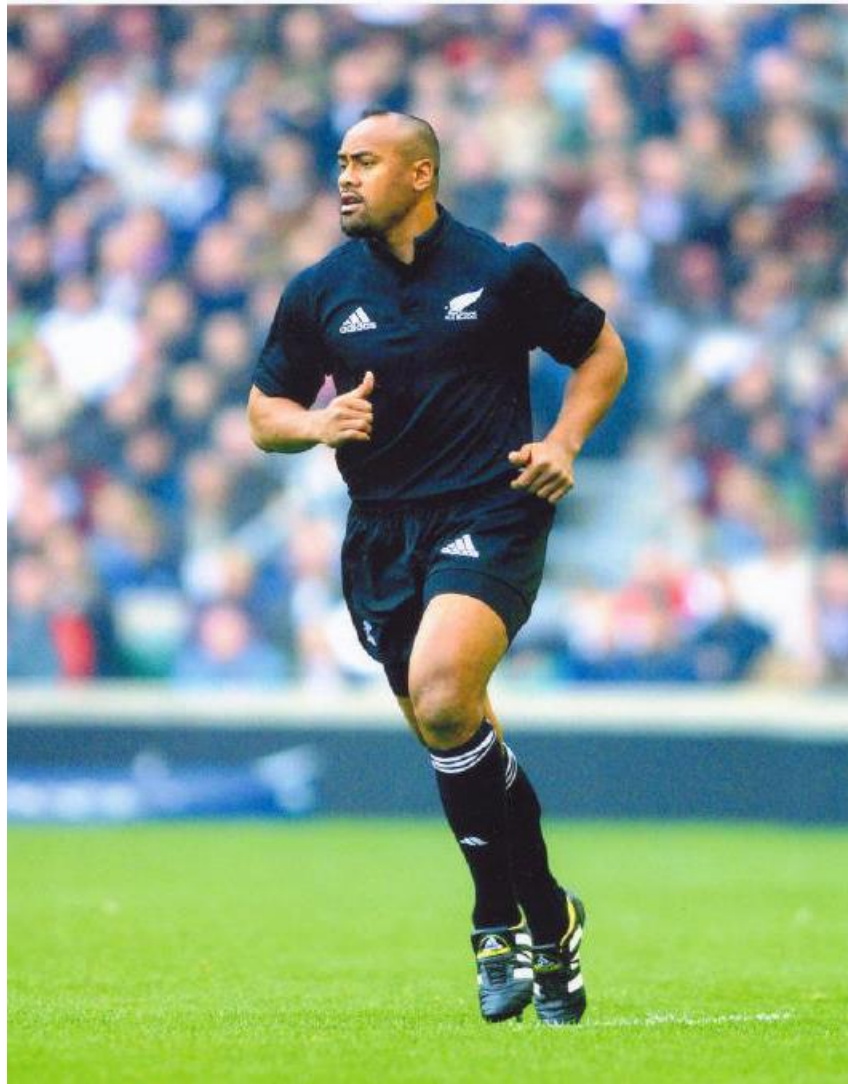
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Waiting for new passports at the Immigration Office,
Nuku'alofa, Tonga (March 2008)



Remittances (2000)



Tongan-New Zealander Jonah Lomu, one of the most celebrated athletes in the history of rugby



Jeux de rugby « touch » informel au village de Ha'ateiho, Tonga, août 2008 (photo: Kitahara Takuya)



GLOBALIZATION, SPORT AND THE PRECARIY OF MASCULINITY

DAKAR WRESTLING MATCH - IMAGE BY MARK HANN



GLOBALSPORT

In the last few decades, the erosion of the social and economic structures that previously provided a straightforward *raison d'être* to men have transformed, in all societies of the world, masculinity into a problematic category. In the Global South, deepening economic, political and social insecurities have further compounded the fragility of masculinity. Younger men in particular find it increasingly difficult to secure a productive role in local economies, and many in the world's more destitute countries are investing their hopes in the possibility of becoming a successful professional athlete. But athletic talent can only translate into economic productivity in the industrial North, and athletic migrations have become, for a large number of boys, young men, families, villages, nations and states in the Global South, the solution for a masculinity under threat, the way out of economic precarity, and the embodiment of millenarian hope. At the same time, athletic bodies are

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The above video is an attempt to depict a Senegalese lamb (wrestling with punches) combat from the perspective of one of its protagonists, Modou Lô 2...

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Sinali Lātū leading Daitō Bunka University to its first national championship victory, 1988 (source: 大東文化大学)



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★ Featured Player ★



Thomas Afrifa Ouadu

Nickname: Bosingwa
Date of Birth: 07.08.1991
Height: 1.70 meters
Weight: 67 KG
Place of Birth: Accra
Position: Midfielder

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Emmanuel Ebou of Arsenal

Emmanuel Ebou of Arsenal Football Club has recently thrown his moral support behind our Youth Academy project. He is proving a real inspiration for our players and many like them in West Africa.

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MFAT launches pilot programme to support Fiji's athletes

New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will pilot a sports diplomacy programme in Fiji where \$650,000 will be invested over the next three years to improve recruitment and athlete/player wellbeing.

The programme has been developed, in partnership with the Pacific Islands Player Association (PIPA), after many "horror stories" were revealed of how Fijian students have been recruited by NZ schools and clubs to play rugby, and then treated poorly if they do not reach the professional ranks.

Ambassador for the Pacific Honourable Matua Shane Jones revealed the pilot programme at the Pasifika Futures Seminar about sports diplomacy in the region last week at Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT), with Laauli Michael Jones, who is also a Pacific Cooperation Foundation board member as the keynote speaker.

A panel of speakers contributing to the seminar included former All Blacks Saveatama Eroni Clark, NZ Rugby Union Chairman Brent Impey, Dr Rochelle Stewart-Withers and former Kiwi and coach Tony Kemp.

The discussion covered issues such as player wellbeing and health; remittances; ensuring player financial literacy; and the treatment of players who transfer from their homeland to a foreign country to play sport.

There were many issues that surfaced from the discussion, giving MFAT plenty of food for thought as they look at how to frame a programme using sport as a development tool within the Pacific.



Tongan siblings Toetu'u & Tafia Tāufa, playing for the Kintetsu Liners Rugby Club, Hanazono Rugby Stadium, Ōsaka, Japan, July 2009