

Acknowledgments

In 1990, a member of our temporary research group — *Identités et transformations des sociétés océaniques* — in the *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique* suggested that each member of the group contribute an article on the theme of identity and transformation. We were all researchers from various cross-cultural ‘laboratories’, that is, more permanent centres of research jointly organised by the CNRS and universities (*Laboratoire d’anthropologie sociale*, *Laboratoire de langues et civilisations orientales*, *Techniques et Cultures*, and so on), who had met through seminars and common research programs. At that time, a permanent multidisciplinary research centre focused on Pacific Studies did not exist (CREDO was not established until 1995). Everyone agreed on the idea, even if some added that they were unlikely to have the time to write an article, while others who had originally committed were later obliged to respond to other priorities. Their contributions were written from 1990 to 1995 and the resulting book was published in French in 1997 as *Le Pacifique-sud aujourd’hui: Identités et transformations culturelles*, by CNRS Press. No significant changes have been introduced in the current translation, although some additional bibliographical references have been given.

Our thanks go to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Comité du Fonds Pacifique), who agreed to fund the translation, to Nora Scott who undertook this immense task, and to our friends and colleagues at the Research School of Asian and Pacific Studies, The Australian National University, who accepted to publish it: David Hegarty, Director of the Centre for Contemporary Pacific and the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Project, and Darrell Tryon, Deputy Director of the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies.

S. Tcherkézoff,
Canberra, October 2004