Index

abortion, 128
Abu-Lughod, Lila, 34–35
adoption, 142, 144
aesthetics, 165–66
agency, 75, 77–78, 215
and habitus, 94–95
Melanesian, 18, 21, 116
and the person, 20
and sex and gender, 73
in Western-style medicine, 93
'ai'abi, 196–203
aid post, 46, 49, 88, 91
childbirth at, 86–87
clinics at, 83–85, 96
medical supplies and equipment, 88–90
allegory, 17
Alina Nu'ata. See languages
Alotau, 2, 44, 56, 62, 260
hospital, 83
as birthing site, 190–92, 198, 263
prenatal clinic at, 92–93
proximity to Nuakata, 41
alterity, 200–21
ancestors, 214, 220
embodiment of, 234
and guyau, 254
and land, 251
spirits of, 230–31
time of, 250
anthropological imagination, 5
anthropological knowledge creation, 3–4, 31
contingency and, 9
anthropological method. See method;
pieceant participant observation
anthropology. See also feminist
anthropology
ethics of, 3, 42, 222, 247–41, 244, 268
and ethnocentrism, 13, 265–66
and exoticism, 18, 23–24, 120–21, 131–32
and the feminist imaginary, 36
Melanesian, 18–19, 25, 111
nostalgia in, 68
and (post)colonialism, 40–43, 65–66, 113, 243
and postmodernism, 113, 121
and romanticism, 40, 66–71
scope of, 29
and social inequality, 35
anthropology of experience, the, 15–19. See also lived experience
and the search for meaning, 32
Ao’ao. See clans
arrival story, 44
as trope, 49–50
Auhelawa. See languages
Averill, Roger, 1–2, 71, 163, 197
and fictive kinship, 142, 150–51, 174
and first trip to Nuakata, 44–45
and malaria, 224, 259–60, 273
photograph of, 64
and relationships, 268–69
and voyeurism, 224–25, 237
Bataille, Georges, 6
Battaglia, Debbora, 188, 214
and conception beliefs, 114–15
and definition of nuva, 125
and gardening/pregnancy metaphor, 177
and gendered spaces, 168

323
Battaglia, Debbora (continued)
and kinship, 146, 148
and memory, 250–52
and the relational person, 216
bearing, as gendered, 136
belief, 138
and ‘ai’abi, 197
belonging, 141, 152, 266, 269
and kastom, 181
Benhabib, Seyla, 12
Benjamin, Jessica, 5
Benveniste, Emile, 77–78
betel nut, 161, 181, 208
Biersack, Alietta, 18–19
binary pairs, 19
birth. See childbirth
birthdays, 204–5
blood
and growing babies, 117
menstrual, 105–6, 116
in pregnancy and birth, 192–94, 264
body, the, 6–10, 81, 108, 121, 217
in Alina Nua’ata, 215
and Cartesian epistemology, 9
in critical interpretative anthropology, 27
cultural construction of, 26
female, 12, 69, 79
and habitus, 128
maternal, 69, 96–97
and Melanesian personhood, 23,
264
/mind distinction, 10
as partible, 21, 96
parts, names for, 122–25
as separated from spirit, 231
as sexed, 11, 72–73, 100
and social theory, 31–33
as text, 13
Bo’e. See clans
Bordo, Susan, 9
Bourdieu, Pierre, 4, 15, 166
and language, 108
and methodological pluralism, 30
and notion of field, 98–99
and notion of habitus, 94–95, 98–99,
128
and praxis, 95, 99–100
and reflexivity, 28
and subjectivity, 94–95
Braidotti, Rosi, 11, 73–74
breast-feeding, 26, 84–85, 99
breast-milk, significance of, 142–43
Bromilow, William, 59–60
burial feasts. See mortuary practices
Butler, Judith, 81
Bwebweso, Mt., as realm of the dead,
218, 224, 228, 232–33, 245, 249
cannibalism, 18, 59, 60, 229
Caplan, Patricia, 36
Carpenter, 156, 161–62, 164, 170
Carrier, James, 120–21
Cartesian epistemology, 6–10, 24
cat’s cradle. See ‘ai’abi
census, 55–56
childbirth, 26, 66–67, 189–98, 231, 264
attendants, 87–88
and blood, 192–94
and customary practices, 84–88, 178
and gender relations, 82
and health, 83, 88
mortality during, 86, 88, 93
phenomenological renderings of, 68
place of, 87, 92, 99, 263
as represented in ‘ai’abi, 197–203
and susu continuance, 204
Western medicine’s prescriptions
for, 99
women’s understanding of, 54
children, 80
and gender, 79–80
and spirits, 138, 230–31
and yams, 137
Chodorow, Nancy, 70
Christianity, 205–6, 246, 249. See also
missionaries; United Church
and conception beliefs, 103, 105,
107, 117–18, 139
and the creation story, 118
Index 

and dualisms, 138–39
increased influence of, 180–82
Melanesian, 121
Cixous, Hélène, 12
clans, 56–57, 142, 148, 171, 258
Ao’ao, 229–30
Bo’e, last guyau, 250, 253–57
spirits of, 212
Clifford, James, 15
and anthropology, 40–43, 65–66
and cultures as dynamic, 23
and ethnographic writing, 27–31, 243
and feminist ethnographies, 34
in Melanesia, 23, 25
and missionizing, 40–41, 60
and Western appropriation of space/time, 243
colonial relations, 53, 82, 100–101, 225–26, 228, 239, 267
and fertility control, 186
in fieldwork, 66
and health provision, 89
community health worker. See also Diawasi, Moses
authority of, 91
and gender and service provision, 85, 93, 263
and Primary Health Care policies, 98
role of, 83
conception, 105–7, 127–28
and bearing, 135–36
and gardening metaphor, 209
and identity, 114
and Massim anthropology, 108–16
Nuakatan beliefs about, 103–8, 116–23, 126, 130, 135, 137–39
and Virgin Birth, 111–13
Western beliefs about, 108–10, 114, 135
contraception, 54, 185–88
Western, 189
Crapanzano, Vincent, 15
Critical Interpretative Anthropology, 27
Critical Medical Anthropology, 26–27
cultural evolutionists, 111
cultural studies, 4
culture(s)
as distinct from nature, 19
as dynamic, 23
notion of, 66, 120
Western definitions of, 183
custom, 16, 126. See also kastom
regarding marriage, 158–61
regarding pregnancy and childbirth, 84–85, 90, 97, 178
Danforth, Loring, 243
death, 206–7. See also mortuary practices
and afterlife, 218, 224, 228, 232–33, 245, 249
customs relating to, 211–58
as embodiment of illness, 220
of Eric’s father, 211
as imminent, 196
deconstruction, 24, 28. See also postmodernism
de Lauretis, Teresa, 13
Dening, Greg, 120–21
Derrida, Jacques, 6
Descartes, René, 8, 13, 110–11
desire, 124
Dewey, John, 15, 94–95, 128, 166
dialectical anthropology, 14–15
dialogue
critique of, 15
and ethnography, 14
in fieldwork, 15
in texts, 15
diarrheal diseases, 66, 83, 89
See also community health worker
attitude to kastom, 181
traditional contraception, 186
Diawasi, Moses (continued)
  author’s relationship to, 45–49, 71
  clinical practices of, 82–100
  photograph of, 102
diet, 55, 170
  and breast-feeding, 90
  and contraception, 188–89
  and health, 84
  and postpartum food taboos, 85
  in pregnancy, 90, 92, 178
difference, 82
  accommodation of, 5–6, 14, 49–50, 163
  author’s desire for, 131
  and belonging, 141
  cultural, 25, 45, 48, 119–21, 134, 165, 233
  and possessions, 170–71
  ethnic, 2
  and ethnography, 223
  female, 10
  gender, 22, 107
  and lived experience, 14
  production of, 33
  sexual, 10–11, 14, 17, 72–74
  and similarities, 13, 18, 259, 267
  skin color and, 100–101
Dilthey, Wilhelm, 15
dimdims, 37
disease, 26. See also diarrheal diseases; malaria
disenchantment, and social theory, 31–32
District Health Department, 63
Dobu
  Island, 59
  and kinship, 143–44, 146
  and totems, 57
  language, 51, 229
Dreyfus, Hubert, 95
dualisms, 73
  Christian, 138–39
  as troubled by maternal thinking, 68
Dureau, Christine, 67, 69, 184
  and colonial fertility control, 186
dwelling, 75
East Cape, 41, 47, 51
  language, Tewala, 45, 104
  and local council, 63
  maternal and child health nurses
  from, 89, 97
education, 51
  and Bible colleges, 62
  and culture, 181–82
  and gender, 80, 84
Eipper, Chris
  and ethnographic testimony, 28–29
  and ethnographic trust, 29–31, 223
  and idea of humankind, 5
Eisenstein, Hester, 26
embodiment, 12, 22, 37, 73–74, 81, 100, 167, 252. See also body, the
  of customs, 183
  and death, 227–28
  and epistemology, 32, 116
  and habitus, 94
  of illness, 220
  and maternity, 12, 36
  of matrilineal relations, 257–58
  Melanesian notions of, 23
  of relationships, 234, 269
  and social theory, 31–33
  and subjectivity, 11, 14, 76–78
  and temporality, 196, 220
Emma, 84–85, 188, 194
  and baby Reni, 133–34, 204
  and conception beliefs, 132
empathy
  in ethnography, 223, 271
  and memory, 251
  and motherhood, 70
  as way of knowing, 14
  enchantment, 44, 49
  encompassment, 77–78
Enlightenment, the, 6–10, 244
  epistemology, 20
Enslin, Elizabeth, 35
  epistemology, 3–4
  Cartesian, 6–11, 24
Index

and embodiment, 16, 32
and empathy, 14, 223, 271
Enlightenment, 9, 20
feminist, 7
Melanesian, 18–25
relational, 32
and temporality, 16
Eric, 164, 211, 225, 235
as traditional healer, 260
Errington, Frederick, 42–43
essentialism, 69, 73
and ethnography, 42
in feminist theory, 10, 14
ethics, 5, 70
and anthropology, 3, 42, 222, 237–41, 244
and Western-style medical practices, 96
ethnocentrism, 13
in ethnographic writing, 28
ethnographer, 3–4, 53
as author, 27–31, 33
and colonialism, 14, 65–66, 120
as health worker, 100
as witness, 29, 37
ethnographic authority, 4, 6, 15, 27–28, 30, 53
ethnography, 18, 23–25, 239, 241. See also feminist ethnography and authority, 27–28, 30
authorship of, 28, 53
characteristics of, 3–4, 14, 28, 30, 35
dialogue in, 27
and emotion, 240, 242–44, 260
and empathy, 240, 242–44, 260
ethical, 16, 19, 34
as gendered, 71, 91
and imagination, 3
with a partner, 268–69
politics of, 4, 35
reflexivity in, 28, 35
and relational knowing, 54
and subjectivity, 3, 28
as testimony, 29–31, 37
and trust, 29–31, 223
and uncertainty, 31
Eves, Richard, 68, 86, 186, 252
existentialism, 16, 23
exoticism, 18, 23
Fabian, Johannes, 31, 65, 119–20
fathering, 146–47
feeling/emotion, 124–26
and ethnography, 240, 242–44, 260
and thinking and memory, 250–51
feminist anthropology, 17, 35, 67
history of, 26, 33–36
feminist critiques of Western biomedical discourse, 109
feminist ethnography, 33–36, 243
collaboration in, 34
parameters of, 34
politics of, 34
reflexivity in, 28, 35, 243
feminist philosophy, 4–7, 10, 215, 242
Fernandez, James, 132
See also kinship and authenticity, 142
field, the
Bourdieu’s concept of, 98–99
conduct in, 30
dialogue in, 15
and feminist ethnography, 35
as imagined, 1–4, 18, 50, 142, 222, 272
as lived experience, 133, 207
parameters of, 25–26
preparation for, 1
as remembered, 2
as text, 27–31
fieldnotes, 2
fieldwork, 1–4, 18, 27–28
assumptions, 2, 5, 37, 72–74, 82, 119, 261, 266
decision to do, 5, 14, 17
and enchantment, 44
equipment, 2, 36–37, 132
methods, 2, 49, 53, 84, 106, 141–42, 219
relationships, 35, 65–66
gendered, 91
fieldwork (continued)
  remembered, 271
  as rite of passage, 45, 133
  and romanticism, 15, 66–67
  and temporality, 3
Fine, Michelle, 15
fishing, 55
Flax, Jane, 6
food, 204, 208–9, 232. See also mortuary practices
  in pregnancy, 178, 180
  and sociality, 90
  taboos
    for galiyauna, 218, 246–47
    mourning, 213, 227, 235
    postpartum, 85
Fortune, Reo, 57, 115, 157
  and kinship, 143–44, 146
  and yams as humans, 177
Foster, Robert, 23–25
Foucault, Michel, 73–74, 166
  and subjectivity, 6–7
Frankenberg, Ruth, 100
Frazer, James, 111

Gadamer, Hans-Georg, 15
galiyauna, 217, 221, 225
  current duties of, 218, 230
  past practices of, 226–29, 234
  and guyau, 255
  and tau’ala’alahi (resurrection feast), 245–48
gardens, 55, 72, 85, 174, 207–10
  design, 208
  harvesting, 178
  and marriage, 160
  plants in, 208–10
  and pregnancy and birth, 177–78, 185, 209–10
  and susu, 144
Gatens, Moira, 10
Geertz, Clifford, 4
  and ethnographic writing, 27–31
gender
  in Alina Nu’ata, 78
  assumptions about, 26, 71–76, 82
  and bearing, 136
  and category of woman, 17, 264–65
  and children, 79–80
  and diet, 84
  difference, 22, 107–8
  and division of labor, 76, 80–81, 84, 145, 153, 163, 233
  and education, 80, 84
  and ethnocentrism, 12
  and female sustenance of susu, 258, 263
  and knowledge, 261
  Melanesian epistemology of, 18
  Melanesian personhood, 22
  and personhood, 261
  relations and childbirth, 84–86
  and sex, 72, 81–82
  /sex distinction, the, 10–11
  and subjectivity, 4–7, 94–97, 178
Gewertz, Deborah, 42–43
  See also Kula; mulolo
  anthropological, 1
  and connectedness, 270
  and gift/commodity distinction, 19, 21
  in marriage, 161
  and Melanesian personhood, 24
  and mortuary practices, 236–37
Gilligan, Carol, 70
Gohiya, 151, 154, 158–61, 167, 178
  as location for author’s house, 48, 170
  as Siyae hamlet, 48, 54
Goodenough Island, 49
Gregory, Christopher, 21
Grosz, Elizabeth, 11

habitus, 94–95, 98–99
  and the body, 128
hamlets, 56, 212. See also Gohiya
  as birthing sites, 190–92, 196
  characteristics of, 46
  living arrangements in, 158–61
  pathways connecting, 167–68
Haraway, Donna, 10, 109
Index

health. See also health clinics; maternal and child mortality
cultural constitution of, 26
and gender, 84
preventative strategies for, 88, 97
research on, 26, 41
health clinics
family planning, 189
maternal and child, 66, 82–85, 88–91
attendance patterns, 91
reflections on, 91–92
reflections on, 96
and temporality, 206
health patrol, 82–85, 91, 100
Heidegger, Martin, 15, 17, 95
and dwelling, 75
and the scientific method, 8
Heller, Agnes, 7
Henry, Jennifer, 43–45, 49
house(s)
abandoned on owner’s death, 213
author’s, as communal, 161–62
bachelor, 157
building, 152–54
design, 155
humanism, 5–6
humankind, concept of, 5
humility, 49
identity, 16, 120, 141
and biology, 108–10
clan, 257
and conception, 114
and gender, 107–8, 265
Nuakatan cultural, 269
relational, 145–47
susu, 115, 150, 224, 257
imaginary
anthropological, 5, 18
Cartesian, 8
immunization, 83–85, 89
individualism, 20, 24, 205, 261
lack of concept, on Nuakata, 216
Western concept of, 107–8, 267
intersubjectivity, 14, 16, 65
and temporality, 31
Irigaray, Luce, 11–12
and difference, 12
I’unia, 137–39
Jackson, Michael
and aesthetics, 165–66
and ‘ai’abi, 198
and the anthropology of experience,
15–17
and metaphor, 128–29, 132
and subjectivity, 94–95
and symbols, 163–64
Johnson, Mark, 130
Jolly, Margaret
and anthropological exoticism,
23–24
and colonial fertility control, 186
and postcolonialism, 121
Jorgenson, Dan, 111–13
Josephides, Lisette, 24
kastom, 180–83. See also custom
Keesing, Roger
and anthropological exoticism,
23–24, 120–21, 131–32
and critical interpretative anthropology, 27
and postcolonialism, 121
kinship, 141–48, 267. See also fictive kinship; matrilineage/susu
affinal relationships, 145, 217,
221–22, 236–37
and identity, 224, 257
Euro-American, 110
matrilineal, 18
and pathways, 169
ties, 77
Kirby, Vicki, 36
Knauft, Bruce, 107, 113
knowing
as concept in Alina Nu’a’ata, 106,
126
vs. doing, 117, 126
and embodiment, 116
experiential, 53, 55
knowing (continued)
and identity, 110
intersubjective, 17, 119
materialist theory of, 95
and Melanesian epistemology, 18, 184
performative nature of, 270
relational, 32, 53–54, 65
seeing as mode of, 240–41
Western, 19, 184
knowledge
of bush, 153
customary, 53, 106, 136
entrusted, 270
ethnographic, 243–44
of gardening/birthing practices, 210
as gendered, 261
spectator view of, 166
Kovel, Joel, 5
Kuehling, Susanne, 214
Kula, 18, 51, 171. See also trade, history of
Lakoff, George, 130–31
land
ancestral connections to, 251–52
clearing, 207–8
division of, 46, 58
lived knowledge of, 55
matrilineal ownership of, 144, 150, 208, 210, 237
languages
Alina Nu’ata
definition of “understanding,” 123–26
gender in, 78
learning, 129–30
linguistic features of, 75–78, 104–6
and memory, 250–51
and pregnancy, 178
as taught in schools, 182
translation of, 121–23, 126
word for “bearing,” 136
word for “blood,” 193
word for “contraception,” 187
words relating to the body, 122–26, 215
words relating to the person, 214–15, 266
Auhelawa, 50–52
characteristics of, 51–52
Dobu, as church language, 229
English, 100
definition of “conception,” 109–10, 114
definition of “understanding,” 123
spoken locally, 51, 89, 92, 103
Tewala, 45, 104
Leach, Edmund, 111–13
Leenhardt, Maurice, 246
Lepowsky, Maria, 115, 127, 237
division of life cycle, 207, 209
Lithgow, Daphne, 50, 249
Lithgow, David, 50–52, 123
lived experience, 14–17, 28. See also anthropology of experience, the
the author’s, 2, 133
and Cartesian epistemology, 9
and difference, 14, 113
and embodiment, 12
as gendered, 72
of Nuakata, 50
phenomenological theory of, 11, 16
and place and space, 55
and relational knowing, 54
and research, 14
and the sexed body, 73
and social theory, 32
as way of understanding, 15, 104, 127
living/staying, 205–7
Lloyd, Genevieve, 8–9
local council, 63
London Missionary Society, 59. See also missionaries
Lutz, Catherine, 54, 130
Macintyre, Martha
and author, 17–18, 132
and blood metaphor, 194
and colonial administrators, 59
Index

and conception, 115
and emotion, 124
and garden design, 208
and guyau (soi), 255
and kinship, 143–44, 147, 150
and Kula, 51, 171
and marriage customs, 161
and Melanesian personhood, 22–24, 138–39
and memory, 252
and totems, 57
and Tubetube, 124–26
magic, 182
and journey to Bwebweso, 233
words (‘oba), 218
malaria, 82–84
as health issue on Nuakata, 66
prevention of, 90, 157
prophylaxis for, 82–84
treatment of, 89, 100
Malinowski, Bronislaw, 42, 130, 133
and Trobriand conception beliefs, 111–13
Mallett, Frank
experiences of World War II, 39
memories of Milne Bay, 17–18
Mari, 179–80, 183
and baby, 198, 204
and childbirth, 190–91
photograph of, 102
marriage, 134, 158–61
Marriot, McKim, 20
Martin, Emily, 109
Marx, Karl, 95
Massim
definition of, 44
depopulation in, 67
ethnographies, 17, 120, 124–26, 143, 158, 177, 252, 269–70
importance of death in, 206–7
languages, 124
missionaries in, 59, 86, 148
and susu, 143
maternal and child health clinics. See health clinics
in childbirth, 86, 88, 93
maternalism, as expression of neocolonialism, 69
maternity, 146
and birth mothers, 195
and embodiment, 36
Melanesian, 67
pragmatics of, 69–70
and ways of thinking, 68
Western, 67
matrilineage/susu, 56–57, 167–68
and belonging, 142–48, 152
and blood, 194
female sustenance of, 258, 263
hamlet spaces, 168
and identity, 115, 144, 150, 224, 257
and maternal and child health care, 97, 179
and mortuary practices, 211–12, 236
naming and, 148, 151
relations, 257–58
and seed yams, 177
Mauss, Marcel, 128
and the person, 5–6, 94–95
Mead, Margaret, 67
medicine
preventative, 88, 90, 97
traditional, 41, 67, 82–88
and contraception, 185–88
and pregnancy, 97
Western-style, 26, 41, 67, 70, 82–88, 186, 259
availability of, 189, 191
knowledge, 93, 96–99, 139
Moses Diawasi as embodiment of, 92–94
and pregnancy, 97
and space, 88, 91–99
spatial and power relations in, 91–92
and temporality, 93
Melanesia, 17
anthropological writing on, 18–19, 25, 111
identity, 113–16
Melanesia (continued)
colonialism in, 23, 25
status of women in, 18
Melanesian personhood. See also person, the
and agent/person distinction, 21–22
and the body, 23
and gender difference, 22
notions of, 18–25
and reproduction, 22, 264
as social microcosm, 21
memory, 250–51
menstruation, 105–7, 116, 128, 194–95, 264
and female identity, 265
Merleau-Ponty, Maurice, 17, 164
and subjectivity, 94–95
and theory of sexuality, 11–12
Merrett-Balkos, Leanne, 69
metaphor(s), 16–17
discussion of, 128–32, 213–14
postmodern, for self, 24
method. See also participant observation
and difference, 223
ethnographic, 2, 28–29, 49, 53, 84, 106, 141–42, 219, 222–23, 260, 266
traditional model of, 55
intersubjective, 14–15
and lived experience, 16–17
and pluralism, 30
relation of the subject to, 9
and scientific empiricism, 8, 15
Meyau, Antiya, 54, 56, 59, 63
and knowledge of body parts, 123–25
and mortuary practices, 212–13, 217, 221, 226–34, 236
last guyau, 250, 252–57
tau’ala’alabi (resurrection feast), 245–48
Meyau, Malida, 54, 146, 149, 171
and childbirth, 192
and contraception, 185–88
and gardens, 207
Meyau, Roger, 142, 149, 150, 217, 223–24
Meyau, Sinetana, 191, 217
Milne Bay, 39
fieldwork in, 18, 132–33
Giligili airbase, 17
Health Department, 83, 88
Province, first Methodist mission in, 47
miscarriage, 128
missionaries. See also Christianity;
London Missionary Society
and Bible translation, 50–51, 123, 148
and colonialism, 40–41, 120–21, 267
and fertility control, 186
and local pastors, 61, 62
and maternal practices, changes to, 67–68
and mortuary practices, changes to, 225–26, 228
Polynesian, 59
relationships with anthropologists, 39–41
and sexual propriety, 86
Mona, 128, 130, 133
and beliefs about conception, 103–8, 114, 116–22, 137–39
and birth, 194, 196
Moore, Henrietta, 26, 69, 73–74
and belonging, 141
and cultural meanings and values, 94
and the cultural relativism of humanism, 6
and difference, 13
and reflexivity in ethnography, 28
Mortimer, Lorraine, and embodied social theory, 31–33
mortuary practices, 18, 211–58. See also death
burial feasts, 225–37
guyau, 249–58
tau’ala’alabi (resurrection feast), 244–49
Mosko, Mark, 21, 77
mourning, 211–13, 219–22, 225
as performance, 236
mulolo, 146–47
and mortuary practices, 237
and yams, 138
Munn, Nancy, 127, 154, 157, 252
and matriclans, 57
as remembered by Moses Diawasi,
66
and susu belonging, 144
names
nick-, 51
as relational, 148, 151
and waligehe, 142, 148
National Health Plans, 97–98
Neumann, Klaus, 31, 121
New Melanesian Anthropology, 23–25
New Melanesian History, 23–25
Normanby Island, 41, 49–50, 214
Bunama region of, 58, 159
Bwasiyayai region of, 58
distance from Nuakata, 46
Duau region of, 58
burial feasts in, 245
conception beliefs in, 136–38
and kinship, 147
links with Nuakata, 63
Nuakata
arrival at, 43–44
climate of, 173
daily rhythms on, 53
eyear weeks there, 99
economy of, 55
geographical division of, 46, 169
health risks on, 70
intended research of, 41–42
isolation of, 48, 70, 89
landscape of, 46, 55
lived experience of, 50
location of, 41, 55
population of, 56
regional status of, 63
seascape of, 46, 55
seasons on, 206
settlement of, 58–59
trip around, 45–49
nuwa-, 123–26
occidentalism, 23
other, the, 101, 120–21
and cannibalism, 229
and subjectivity, 16
Papua New Guinea, 41–43, 55
anthropologists in, 87
colonial medical administrators in,
68
education in, 51 (see also education)
infant deaths in, 71
languages of, 125
rural places in, 87
Southern Highlands, birth in, 69
participant observation, 3, 14–15, 54,
142, 222–23, 262
ethics of, 237–41, 268
and ethnographic writing, 28
pathways, 236
connecting hamlets, 167–68
and kinship, 169
as personal inscriptions, 213, 216–17
Pelz, Werner, 8, 123
person, the. See also Melanesian per-
sonhood
and agency, 116
anthropological quest for, 131
and gender, 178, 261
and primary health care, 26
inalienable aspects of, 52
notions of, 5–6
Nuakatan, 69
as partible, 18–25
and pathways, 213–14
and postmodernism, 7
as relational, 5, 7–8, 10, 75–78, 210,
216
in relation to self, 5
semi-alienable aspects of, 52, 106
and the sex/gender distinction, 10
and Western individual, 20, 24,
107–8
word for, in Alina Nu’ata, 75
personality, 213–14
phallogocentrism, 13
phenomenology, 11, 14–15
philosophy
  existentialism, 16
  feminist, 4–7
  phenomenology, 11, 14–16
  Western, 15, 17
Pile, Steve, 4
place(s), 62–63
  and anthropology, 46
  of birthing, 87, 92, 99, 190–92
  cooking, 162–63
dwelling, 75
embodiment of, 167
and housing, 46, 152–69
and pathways, 169
and susu, 144
and temporality, 206
population of Nuakata, 56
postcolonialism, 113, 120–21
postmodernism, 4. See also deconstruction
  and anthropology, 113, 121
  and multiplicity, 24
  and partibility, 24
  and person, 7
  and representation, 7
pragmatism, 69–70
Melanesian, 135
Pratt, Mary Louise, 49
praxis
  Bourdieu’s theory of, 95
  regarding pregnancy, 99
pregnancy, 26, 41, 66, 184–85
  and ‘ai’abi, 197–203
  as analogue for gardening, 177–78,
  185
  and blood, 192–94
customary practices regarding, 97, 178
experiences of, 189–91
and health, 84
  risks, 97
  and hospitalization, 83
husbands’ role in, 97
  phenomenological renderings of, 68
  treated as health issue, 83
women’s understanding of, 54
Primary Health Care policy, 26, 98
Probyn, Elspeth, 4
pronouns, possessive, 51
Rabinow, Paul, 95
reason
  and Cartesian epistemology, 9
  as Enlightenment metanarrative, 6–10
reflexivity
  in ethnographic writing, 28, 243
  feminist, 35
  in modernism, 29
  in romanticism, 29
relativism, 6–10
  cultural, and critical interpretative anthropology, 27
remembering, 269–71
representation, crisis of, 4
research
  approval for, 41, 45, 49
  assistant, role of, 48, 53 (see also Siyae, Wycliffe)
  intentions, 41, 65
  plan, 2
respect, 79, 91, 142, 145
Rich, Adrienne, 73
Roda, 85
romanticism
  and anthropology, 40, 66–71
  of fieldwork, 15
  and reflexivity, 29
Rorty, Richard, 15–16, 130
Rosaldo, Michelle, 3–4, 130, 243
Rosaldo, Renato, 66–67
Rosemary, 185–88
Ross, Malcolm, 51
Roth, Paul, 111
Rozario, Santi, 70
Ruddick, Sara, 70
Rumsey, Alan, 77–78
Sabarl
conception beliefs on, 114–15
and definition of nuwa, 125
and memory, 250–51
Sahlins, Marshall, and encompassment, 77
sailing canoes, 47, 147
salvage ethnography, 66–68
Scheper-Hughes, Nancy
and the ethics of ethnography, 240–42
and the ethnographic field, 3
and the pragmatics of motherhood, 69–70
school, Community Primary, 47
self/I, the
and Cartesian epistemology, 9
and commodity logic, 184
as contingent, 72–73
and ethnocentrism, 13
embodiment of, 6–10
Melanesian epistemology of, 18
and the Melanesian person, 21
Nuakatan notions of, 69, 106
as processual, 72–74
and reason, 8
as relational, 5, 7–8, 10, 75–78, 210, 265, 269
as substantive, 72–73
sex
assumptions about, 82
as discursive phenomenon, 74
and ethnocentrism, 13
and gender, 72, 81–82
/gender distinction, the, 10–11, 265
and subjectivity, 95–97
sexual intercourse
and blood, 193
and growing babies, 115–17, 127
sexuality, Merleau-Ponty’s theory of, 11–12
sexual liaisons, 157
sickness
 cultural constitution of, 26
research on, 26
Sideia Island, 47
Sineliko, 178, 210
Singer, Merrill, 26
Siyae, Douglas, 149, 173
Siyae, Eba, at high school in Alotau, 54, 172
and childbirth, 192
and ‘ai’abi, 197–98
photographs, 199–203
and contraception, 188
and marriage customs, 158–61
and parenting, 146
and pregnancy, 178
Siyae, Geteli, 54, 150, 160, 204–5, 250
and gardens, 175, 178, 207–10
and pregnancy, 184
Siyae, Jane, 54, 149, 207–8
Siyae, Misako, 2, 172
Siyae, Noah, 54, 56, 123–24, 145, 151, 172, 174–75
as Bible translator, 50, 156
letter from, 259–60, 271–73
and marriage customs, 159–61
and mortuary practices, 212–13, 226, 230–31, 236, 250
tau’ala’alahi (resurrection feast), 245–48
Siyae, Nowel, 142, 144, 159–61, 172
Siyae, Roger, 2, 150, 172
Siyae, Washington, 2, 37, 172
Siyae, Wycliffe, 2, 37, 56, 147–48, 151, 164, 170–74, 177, 209
and ‘ai’abi, 197
and belief, 138
as Bible translator, 50, 156
and birthdays, 204–5
and ethics of fieldwork, 238
ethnographic sensibility of, 262
and conception beliefs, 121–23, 136
and knowledge of customary practices, 53, 183
and marriage customs, 159–61
and mortuary practices, 211–13, 217, 221, 225–37, 250
Siyae, Wycliffe (continued)
guyau, 253–57
tau’ala’alahi (resurrection feast), 245–48
photograph of, 64
as research assistant, 48, 53–54, 129–30, 186, 262
and susu, 141–48
Siyae susu, 54, 149–50, 171–75
soccer, 46–47
social construction metaphor, 10
sociality
Melanesian, 19–24
Nuakatan, 118
social theory
and disenchantment, 31–32
and embodiment, 31–33
society
Melanesian, 19
in relation to the individual, 10, 19
solipsism, 4
sorcery, 18, 226–27, 248
space
and colonialism, 31
communal, 60, 161–62, 167, 244
and health clinics, 96
lived, 46, 166
sleeping, 157
as socially structured, 94, 99
and temporality, 206
and Western-style medicine, 88, 91–99
spirit(s)
ancestral, 127, 230–31, 236
Bulelala, story of, 137–39, 177
and children, 138, 230–31
of clans, 212
of Mt. Tanalabwa (Silopan), 127
of yams, 137–38
Spiro, Melford, 112
sport, 260
social and organizational role of, 46–47, 63, 81
Stacey, Judith, and feminist ethnography, 34–36
Strathern, Marilyn
and blood metaphor, 194
and commodity logic, 183–84
and conception, 113
and Euro-American kinship, 110
and feminist anthropology, 35–36
and gender, 74
and Melanesian agency, 116
and Melanesian epistemology, 18–26
and Melanesian personhood, 264
and partibility, 24, 26, 77
and the relational person, 216
subject, the
and agency, 5, 10, 116
and being, 75
Bourdieu’s philosophy of, 94
Cartesian, 7
and commodity logic, 184
as contingent, 72–73
definitions of, 7
discursive positions and, 78
as distinct from object, 19
as female, 12
feminist critiques of, 11
as gendered, 4–7, 13
and partibility, 77–78
as processual, 72–73
relatedness of, in Auhelawa, 51–52
relation of knowing and method
to, 9
in relation to the other, 16
as substantive, 72–73
as text, 12
as unitary, 194
subjectivity
and the body, 215
as discursive, 94–95
embodied, 11, 14, 73–74
as gendered, 95
and the other, 16
subu
description of, 43
trip in, 43–45
Summer Institute of Linguistics
and Bible translation, 50
Diwala Center, 39
Susan, 178, 180, 183, 188, 191
susu. See matrilineage/susu

Tanalabwa, Mt., 44, 47
Silopan as spirit of, 127–28

Taylor, Charles, 9, 95
temporality, 3, 60, 119, 206, 210, 244, 251
and embodiment, 220, 258
of human action, 94
and intersubjectivity, 31
Nuakatan notions of, 52
and phenomenology, 16
and the sexed body, 74
and Western-style medical practice, 91, 93
testimony, ethnography as, 29–31, 133
Tewala. See languages
Thomas, Nicholas, 121
Thrift, Nigel, 4
Thune, Carl, 41, 115, 214, 252
and gardening/pregnancy metaphor, 177
and kinship, 143–44, 147
tithing. See mulolo
totems, 57–58
trade, history of, 57. See also Kula tradition, 16
transport, lack of, 63
trunk, as metaphor, 1–2, 36–37
trust
and the ethnographer, 29–30
and witnessing, 29
truth
as absolute, 7
Cartesian pursuit of, 8
ethnographic, 34
in Western philosophy, 15
Tubetube
and conception beliefs, 115
and garden design, 208
and guyau (soi), 255
and kinship, 143–44, 147
language of, 124–26
marriage customs, 161
notions of personhood, 138–39
as site of Macintyre’s fieldwork, 24, 132
and totems, 57
understanding
allegory, role in, 17
definitions of, 123, 127
experience as a means to, 15, 104
metaphor, role in, 17
narrative, role in, 17
as processual, 25
as relational, 25, 53–54
as revelation, 126
UNICEF, 98
United Church, 77, 180, 257. See also Wesleyan Methodist Christian Mission
Bunama circuit, 62
and kwato, 62
on Nuakata, 60, 257
gender roles within, 61–62
hierarchical relationships within, 60–62
influence on communal life, 60
location of, 46–47
pastors of, 229
Urban, Greg, 78
visualization, 15
Visweswaran, Kamala, 34–36
voice, 120
politics of, 4, 7
Wacquant, Loïc, 4
and reflexivity, 28
and subjectivity, 94–95
Wagner, Roy, 113, 121
warfare, 18, 57, 127
Weiner, Annette, 67, 137
Wesleyan Methodist Christian Mission, 18
centenary celebration of, 59
West, the, 13
as problematic construct, 42
Wheatley, Elizabeth, 36
whiteness, as marker of difference, 100–101
witchcraft, 18, 79, 127, 137, 164, 231, 248
witnessing
and ethnography, 37, 55
and the “I-witness,” 28
Wittgenstein, Ludwig, 95, 129
woman/women
assumptions about, 71–76
because I am a, 75–76
category of, 264–65
concept of, 78–79
and contraception, 185–89
in feminist theory, 10
as mother, 12
shyness of, 91, 100, 104
and social theory, 31–33
talking as, 31–33
as universal, 11, 33
Women’s Fellowship, 60, 72, 103, 133, 180, 204, 229
workboats, 44, 48, 49
World Health Organization (WHO), 98
World War II, 17–18, 39, 47
yam(s), 136–38, 156–57, 207, 209–10, 220
and ‘ai’abi, 197–98
in burial, 231–32
as child metaphor, 137, 177
as gifts, 161, 207
and guyau, 254, 256
harvest, 172, 210
Yamesi, 217, 221, 226–34, 245–48
discussing Christianity, 249
and guyau, 256
Young, Iris, 11–12
Young, Michael
and the history of Milne Bay missions, 59
and inalienable aspects of the person, 52