***Pacifique(s)* – 4th, 5th & 6th November 2015**

**Le Havre University,** **Normandy, in collaboration with ESADHaR (Ecole Supérieure d’Art et Design Le Havre et Rouen) and the Musée d’Histoire Naturelle, Le Havre.**

This 3 day international interdisciplinary conference entitled *Pacifique(s)* at the University of Le Havre will coincide with *Pacifique(s) Contemporain*, a curatorial project featuring 13 internationally famous Maori and Pasifika artists in 9 galleries and public spaces in Le Havre and Rouen. The exhibitions explore and reconsider relationships between Europe and the Pacific.

Some of the participating artists have been asked by the curators to create new works for the exhibition that focus on either the historical backgrounds of Le Havre and Rouen or their surrounding environments. This is to focalize the exhibition on the links that connected the two towns to the Pacific in the past and which highlight the era of colonisation in the Pacific from the end of the 18th century to its legacy today.

In connection with this project, the conference will focus on the region of the Pacific: New Zealand, Australia and the small insular nations, including French Polynesia and New Caledonia, developing dialogue and critical explorations on the following themes:

1. Curatorial politics in France and in the Pacific;
2. Indigenous artistic expression from the Pacific: tradition, expressions of dissent and postcolonial visions;
3. Colonization, indigenous diasporas, identity politics in the Pacific from the 18th century to the contemporary period.

Please send an abstract of up to 250 words and a short biography to Jacqueline Charles-Rault (Le Havre University) and to Corinne David-Ives (University Rennes 2).

Email: jacqueline.charles-rault@univ-lehavre.fr and corinne.david-ives@uhb.fr

Deadline for abstracts: 10th September 2015.

**Organizers**: Dr. Jacqueline Charles-Rault (GRIC : Groupe de Recherche Identités Cultures,Le Havre University) and Dr. Caroline Vercoe (Faculty of Arts, University of Auckland, New Zealand). Coordination of conference workshops and papers: Corinne David-Ives, University of Rennes 2.

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