We will revisit debates about universalism and relativism, nature and culture, personhood and identity, in understanding the differences between women, men, and transgendered persons. Combining anthropology and history, we will witness transformations of gender and sexuality in the Pacific through the successive encounters of exploratory voyages, Christian missions, labour trade and plantation development, World War II and militarism, mobility and the diaspora. Key thematic areas include women’s influence and participation in church and state; changing masculinities; gendered economies, kinship and land; transnational and regional feminisms and human rights; gender violence; gender, sexuality, health and HIV; and gender and sexual identities.

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Embrace on a six-day intensive journey exploring encounters between Oceanic and Western experiences of gender and sexuality.

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