



# Presentation in an nutshell

- Focus: biological diversity & traditional knowledge
  - Global concerns about “bioprospecting”
  - Impacts on the discipline of ethnobiology
  - Influence on contemporary research ethics theory, policy and practice
- Informing our understandings of how to treat one another across diverse social, cultural, economic, political and geographic “borders”.

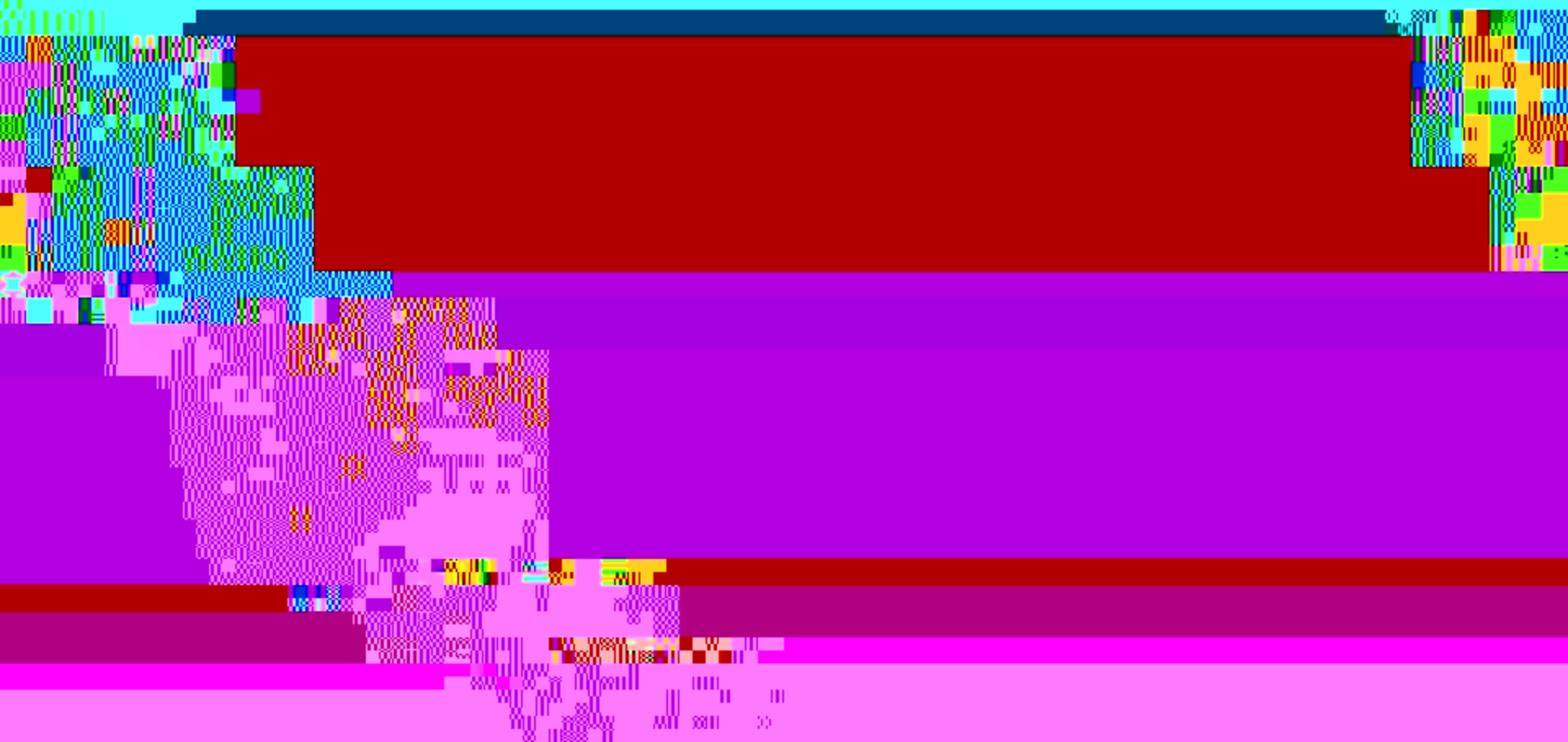
Western drug hunters are swarming over the globe, hoping to gain wisdom from non-Western healers and medicines from non-Western plants.

# SECRETS OF THE SHAMANS

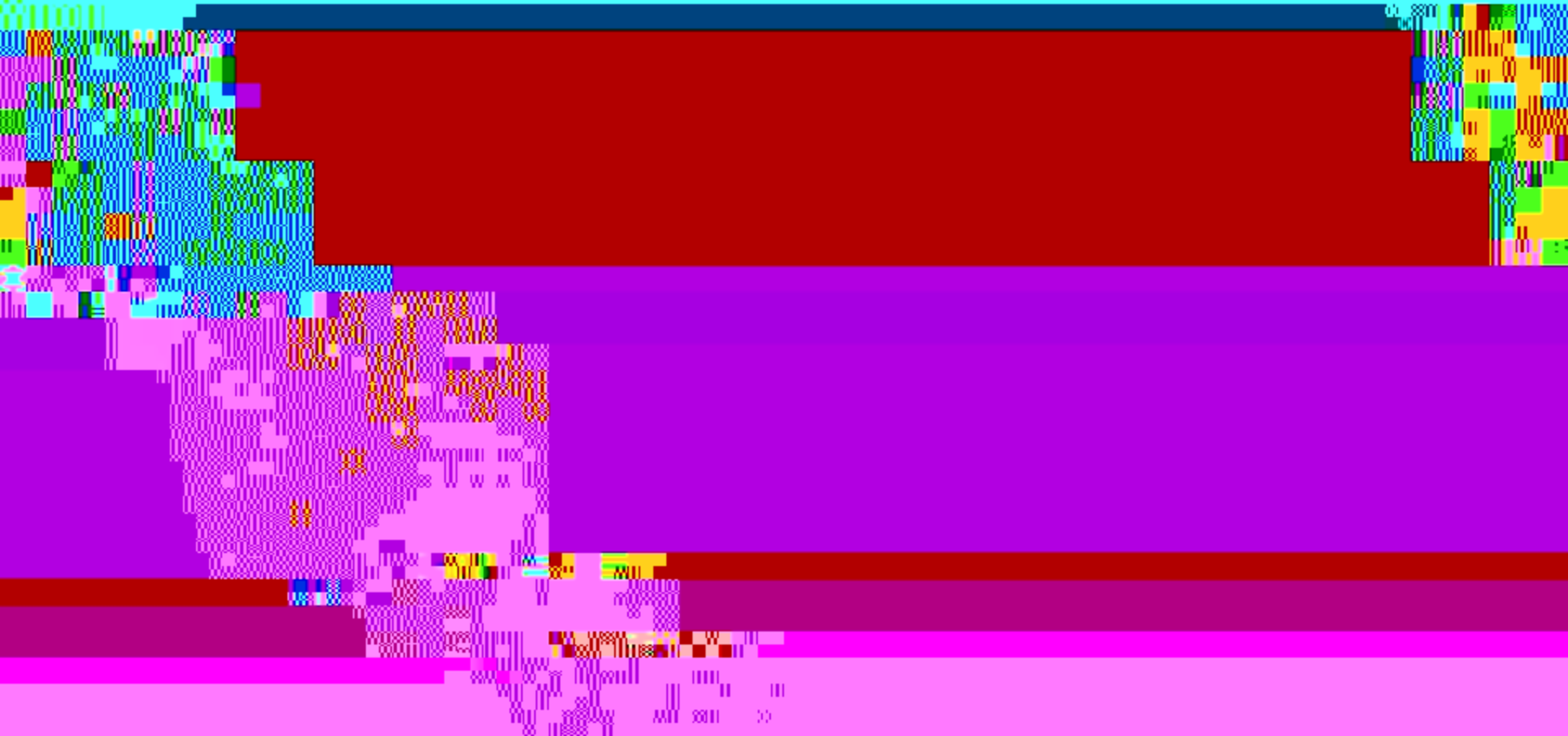
By Mary Roach


PHOTOGRAPHS BY PHILIPPA BICORCIA

No one comes to Olosega, Samoa, for a vacation. The island is a thin two miles wide, with no hotels or restaurants. The village store stocks six varieties of tinned corn beef and scant else. To get from the airstrip, either you walk or make arrangements with the local school bus driver. It's class Third world tropics: the rain comes in torrents; the shower, in trickles. Few white folks come to Olosega at all. This morning's flight, however, brings a motley pack: Brigham Young University Paul, Cox



*“Whatever the will and wishes*





*"Most of the harm in the world is done by good people, and not by accident, lapse, or omission. It is the result of their deliberate actions, long persevered in, which they hold to be motivated by high ideals toward virtuous ends."*

Isabel Paterson (1943: 235)  
*The God of the Machine*

# Key Issues

- Justice/fairness
- Permission/consent
- Access
- Control
- Ownership/rights to cultural and intellectual property
- Cultural responsibilities
- Accuracy/due credit
- Equity/reciprocity
- Benefits (tangible/intangible) from use
- Prevention of harms from misuse

# Responses

## Political activism

- e.g., media, political pressure

## Legal (Western, Indigenous)

- e.g., IPR regime, customary law

## Policy (international, domestic, local)

- e.g., Nagoya Protocol on ABS (2010)

## Ethical guidance (local to international)

- e.g., Ethical codes

→ → Biocultural ethics



# Biocultural Ethics

(Relational ethics, ecological ethics,

# Biocultural Ethics

## Past contributions by POLIS:

- Clayoquot community code of conduct for researchers (2003, 2005)
- CIHR guidelines for Aboriginal health research (2007)

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# Biocultural Ethics

research - education - policy - action

## Current work at CFGS-POLIS:

- Ethics Program – Int. Society of Ethnobiology
  - Code of Ethics review and revisions for 2014
  - Online Ethics Toolkit [ethicstoolkit.net](http://ethicstoolkit.net)
- Intellectual Property Issues in Cultural Heritage
  - SSHRC-MCRI funded project based at SFU

[www.sfu.ca/ipinch/](http://www.sfu.ca/ipinch/)

While nature has no bounds, how do we deal with the governance issues that do?