The project aims to establish the history of Pacific archaeology as a new sub-discipline within world archaeology, covering the period from the speculations of early explorers to the present. The often-forgotten role of Australian and New Zealand scholars will be highlighted. Pacific archaeologists, stewards of a third of the World's archaeology, have forgotten so much of that history that the discipline is in a serious conceptual crisis, with current theories about the origins of Pacific peoples mired in outmoded and often racialised assumptions. At the same time, our ideas about the Pacific past are becoming internalised among indigenous Pacific Islanders. There is a need for understanding the disciplinary history in order to move theory forward.

**About Professor Spriggs**
Professor Matthew Spriggs’ research interests include Pacific and Island Southeast Asian archaeology, archaeology and linguistics, subsistence systems and agricultural origins, human-environment interactions, politics and archaeology and Cornish language history.

Professor Spriggs completed his PhD at the ANU in 1981, then took up a position as Assistant and later Associate Professor in the Anthropology Department of University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu. He was appointed as a Research Fellow and then Senior Research Fellow in Archaeology and Natural History at what is now the College of Asia Pacific after re-joining the ANU in 1987, and was appointed Professor of Archaeology in 1997 in what is now the College of Arts and Social Sciences at the ANU.

Professor Spriggs has carried out archaeological research in Indonesia, East Timor, New Guinea, the Bismack Archipelago, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Hawaii and has published widely on Pacific archaeology and archaeological theory.

Find out more about Professor Spriggs and his research by visiting [The Australian National University](https://www.anu.edu.au/) website.

For more information on the *Australian Laureate Fellowships* scheme, visit the [ARC website](https://www.arc.gov.au/).