

BROWN BAG BIOGRAPHY FALL 2022

ATOLL DEPTH: THE CASE OF THE FUNAFUTI EXPEDITION, 1896–98



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Carla Manfredi is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Winnipeg. She is the author of multiple articles on Robert Louis Stevenson and the Pacific as well as the 2018 monograph, *Robert Louis Stevenson's Pacific Impressions: Photography and Travel Writing*. Her current research focuses on 19th century science in the Pacific Islands.

In 1896, The Royal Society of London mounted a scientific expedition to Funafuti Atoll (Tuvalu) to study the composition of coral atolls and to answer Darwin's 1842 question: if atolls are low islands that reach barely above sea level, then what is the depth of their foundations?

The focus of this paper is The Royal Society's report, *The Atoll of Funafuti: Borings into a Coral Reef and the Results* (1904), specifically, "Section 5: The Geology of Funafuti" by Edgeworth David and George Sweet and the 14 large scale maps that accompany it.

Thursday, November 10

BIOMED B-104 & Zoom / 12 to 1:15 PM HST

MEETING ID: 977 9339 5796 PASSWORD: 921205