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# 5th WORLD SUMMIT ON ARTS & CULTURE MELBOURNE 2011

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## **Elise Huffer**

Elise is the Culture Adviser for the Human Development Program of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the oldest intergovernmental regional organization in the Pacific. In this role, Elise is responsible for promoting cultural epistemology, cultural industries and cultural heritage in the Pacific Islands region, working directly with governments, non-governmental organizations and other regional and international agencies. Some of her major areas of work are the protection and promotion of traditional knowledge through legal and non-legal measures; the promotion of contemporary Pacific artists; support for the preservation of cultural heritage, and the advancement of development policy which integrates cultural factors, including Pacific norms related to land and sea.

Prior to joining SPC, Elise designed and coordinated the Pacific Studies Program at the University of the South Pacific (a regional university which has 12 member States) and was responsible for the Institute of Pacific Studies Publications. During her 11 years at the USP, Elise's research was focused on Pacific norms of governance and development.