Welina Mai!

Aloha mai kākou. It is my pleasure to restart our Ethnic Studies Newsletter Ka Maka‘āinana, which ran in earlier years of the program. The name references the common people who are on the land and was also the name of a Hawaiian language newspaper that resisted American imperialism at the end of the 19th century. Recognizing that this is a foundational part of “Our History, Our Way,” we maintain our strong commitments to social justice, service learning, and critical analyses of race, ethnicity, Indigeneity, class, property, land, gender, sexuality, in Hawai‘i, the Pacific and beyond. We look for new ways to prepare our students to take on the kuleana (responsibility) of leadership and stewardship in a globalized world. In that vein, we are excited to announce our conference entitled “Our Future, Our Way: Directions in Oceanic Ethnic Studies” that will be held March 11-14, 2015, and will feature national and international guests, UH faculty and students, and community partners and advocates. The conference will feature two speakers sponsored by the Ah Quon McElrath Fund for Social Change, a number of panels and roundtables on key concepts in the field, and opportunities for service learning and civic engagement. We look forward to hosting you then and at any time throughout the year.

—Ty P. Kāwika Tengan, Department Chair

Come Check Us Out at our ES ‘AWAkea!

Join us for some casual talk story around the ‘awa bowl at George Hall. These gatherings are usually held on Fridays after lunch, but check our Facebook or Website for details on these and other events, including our Fall Open House.
January 21, 2014

Polynesia is a Project, Not a Place: Regenerating Indigenous Futures with Guest speaker Dr. Maile Arvin.

January 22, 2014

To Uplift Mana: International Indigenous Research Partnerships in the Pacific academic units at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Massey University, and the University of Auckland (UoA) have entered into a tripartite indigenous partnership.

February 11, 2014

Legacies of a Hawaiian Generation: From Territorial Subject to American Citizen with Judith Schachter

February 18, 2014

Locating the Asian in Pacific Islander: Japanese Settler Colonial Masculinity and Sexuality in Hawai‘i with Jeffery Yamashita.

March 4, 2014

Oceanic Connections Symposium: Redefining Indigenous Pacific Relations. This symposium focused on the deeper genealogical connections that unite us as Oceanic peoples. See below for more info.

March 11, 2014

Upheaval in the Middle East: Imperialism, Terror and Revolution with Dr. Ibrahim Aoude and PhD candidate Nicole Grove.

April 4, 2014

“Of the Law, but Not Its Spirit:” Immigration Marriage Fraud as Legal Fiction with Dr. Lee Ann Wang. Also that day, Guest speaker Dr. Mary Yu Danico spoke on Social Media’s Role in Propelling KPOP!

April 22, 2014


The speaker series showcased the current research by students, faculty, organizers and advocates that touched upon race and racism in a range of topics, including photography, film and music, public health, immigration and criminalization.

The “Oceanic Connections” symposium brought together community members, educators and students to develop strategies for empowerment through engagement and sharing. Support came from the Diversity and Equity Initiative, Center for Pacific Islands Studies & Pacific Islands Development Program.
This spring, Dr. Jonathan Okamura taught in London in the UH study abroad program at Roehampton University, offering a couple of ES courses with a London spin. After that program ended, Jon continued his international teaching in Tokyo at Sophia University. His latest book, *From Race to Ethnicity: Interpreting Japanese American Experiences in Hawai‘i*, will be published in July by UH Press.


After serving as Department Chair from Spring ’07-Spring ’13, Dr. Ibrahim Aoude took a well-deserved sabbatical in the Fall. He returned in the Spring to continue teaching classes and producing episodes of *Island Connections*, which are now viewable on our YouTube channel. He and Davianna have co-authored an essay on the history of our department in the forthcoming book *A Nation Rising: Hawaiian Movements for Life, Land, and Sovereignty* (*Duke University Press*, October 2014).

Just before Spring Break, Dr. Davianna McGregor took ES students to Kaho‘olawe, where she is working with the Kaho‘olawe Reserve Commission on a strategic plan for the island through 2026. For Kalaupapa National Park, she is also researching the families who lived in Kalaupapa before it was set aside for the quarantine for patients with Hansen’s Disease.

Dr. Noel Kent successfully led the department through its development of student learning outcome measures. He continues to elevate his classes. His ideal classroom features a modicum of rigor, intimacy, relevance to the lives all participants and mutual respect. He remains involved in service activities like Project Citizen in public schools and supports Hawai‘i labor and international human rights.

Congratulations to Dr. Roderick Labrador who won a 2014 Chancellor’s Citation for Meritorious Teaching Award, making this two years in a row that our Department has had this honor. Rod also released, *Empire of Funk*, giving long overdue attention to the most popular cultural art form practiced by recent generations of Filipina/o American youth. The pioneering work, features the voices of artists, scholars, and activists—including ES alum Seph1—who begin a dialogue on Filipina/o American youth culture and the future of Hip Hop itself.

Dr. Ulla Hasager completes her first year as Director of Civic Engagement for the UHM College of Social Sciences and Department of Ethnic Studies. She is developing the CSS Initiative in Civic Engagement, which includes a number of workshops, and conferences (including the Sustainability Summit and the national Continuum of Service conference). Her research and teaching centers around capacious issues of today in the intersection of natural sciences, traditional Pacific knowledge, and the social sciences - from climate change to ethnic relations.

Dr. Brian Chung recently spoke on the Ethnic Studies Student Association Career Workshop panel. After graduating with his BA in ES from UC San Diego, he held internships with the National Council on Crime and Delinquency/Asian American Youth Violence Prevention Center, Asian American Journalists Association, Prefixmag.com, Sports Blogging Nation before teaching at the University of Hawai‘i. His great youthful spirit and sophisticated swag (style) ads spunk and color to the Department as well as relativity to his students.

The 2013 recipient of a Chancellor’s Citation for Meritorious Teaching Award, Dr. Monisha Das Gupta coauthored with Dr. Jeanne Batalova (Migration Policy Institute) and Sue Haglund the report “Newcomers to the Aloha State: Challenges and Prospects for Mexicans in Hawai‘i.” In February, her article “Don’t Deport Our Daddies: Gendering State Deportation Practices and Immigrant Organizing” was published in *Gender & Society*. 
Affiliate Faculty and Lecturers AY 2013-2014

Anthony Castanha
Liana Petranek
Warren Nishimoto
Lee Ann Wang
Anna Ah Sam
Masahide Kato
Patricia Masters
Laurel Turbin
Jeffrey Yamashita
Ellen Cachola
Vera Parham
Charlene Tomas

Check out the ES page for new and interesting classes such as ES 397: Multiethnic Popular Culture: Hip Hop, which was taught by Prof. Kato and engaged multiethnic and multicultural dimensions of Hip Hop culture in the Indigenous and diaspora communities in the Pacific.

Civic Engagement

Department of Ethnic Studies is founded on the principle of community engagement and is naturally a leader in university-wide civic-engagement initiatives. The two oldest and largest service-learning programs in the UH system are both administered out of Ethnic Studies, which also houses the position and office of the College of Social Sciences’ new director of civic engagement, Dr. Ulla Hasager. With her creative and dynamic team of skillful student assistants, Kanaloa Schrader, Katherine Lobendahn, Leonard Leon, and Megumi Chibana, her office brings in rich and diverse cultural perspectives and adds lots of energy, activities, and color to our department. For more information please see: http://servicelearning.socialsciences.hawaii.edu

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT implies working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes. For students, civic engagement can include community-based learning through service learning, community-based research, or service within the community (~ Thomas Ehrlich, 2000).

Highlights with ESSA

Our Ethnic Studies Student Association (ESSA) has been working hard in the recent fight to allow Pacific Islanders from nations that do not have colleges or universities to pay in-state tuition as they had prior to a 2007 policy that forced them to pay 150% of the Hawai‘i resident tuition rate. On May 6, ESSA also held its 7th Undergraduate Colloquium entitled “Immigration, Autonomy, and Indigenous Health,” with support from the Diversity and Equity Initiative. Finally, Congratulations to majors and certificates who graduated this academic year:

Ashley Akamine, Dwight Armbrust, Dexter Artienda, Jamie Caranto, Charlene Holani, Jared Matsunami, Kaci Onouye, Adriana Quijano, Genesis Shin, Jessica Taira, and Carolina Torres.

Check out ESSA on Facebook!
https://www.facebook.com/HawaiiESSA
Mahalo nui to the AWESOME staff of the Ethnic Studies Department, led by the best secretary ever, Janette Yuasa (2nd from right). The 2013-2014 student assistants (left to right) Datson Nguyen, Shay Chun, Kaiewa Bello, Paul Martin, and Kira Hamamura. Missing: Charlene “Kalena” Holani, newsletter assistant editor and layout designer (awesome job!).

Congratulations to our majors!
This year two of our majors received awards to intern at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. this coming Fall: Louise To from the Sarah and Francis Sogi Smithsonian/Hawai’i Fellowship and Alexa Coules from the National Capital Region Chapter of the University of Hawaii Alumni Association to work at the Museum of American History. The 2014 Robert Kotani Endowment Fund Scholarship went to Kanaloa Schrader to conduct research on his project entitled Assessment of Student Experiences in Service Learning Through the College of Social Sciences at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa.

Alumni kudos!
Ty Sanga (BA ’06) directed the 2014 Emmy-award winning TV series Family Ingredients, which was picked up for a national PBS run. He credits his approach to food, family, and community in part to his experience as an ethnic studies major. This follows his 2011 Hawaiian language short Stones, which showed at the Sundance Film Festival. Ho’omaika‘i!

Please Kokua
Since the establishment of Ethnic Studies in 1970, the community has been our sustaining force. Today Ethnic Studies strives to maintain our involvement and participation within our communities, through research, teaching, and service. With your help we can continue these traditions and help to create publicly oriented students and citizens. Donations have been used for providing airfare for students to go to Kaho‘olawe, funding graduation ceremonies for ES majors and certificates, and sponsoring guest speakers for ES colloquia and conferences. Please consider supporting us as we work to perpetuate pono (justice, righteousness and balance) in our Islands. Mahalo!