

International History and Politics

Academic year 2021-2022

Race, Indigeneity and the Colonial Pacific, 1850-1950

HPI139 - Spring - 6 ECTS

Thursday 08h15 - 10h00 (online)

Course Description

This seminar will explore the modern history of the Pacific world with an emphasis on ideas about race, indigeneity and colonial transformations. In the backdrop of heightened connections between islands and rim states from the mid-nineteenth century, topics of enquiry include settler colonialism and the rise of white nationalisms and masculinities, labour mobilities and plantation economies, mixed-race identities and colonial resistance, and Pan-Pacific mobilisations in the 1920s. Along the way we will consider larger questions about borders, mobilities and the shaping of space within a globalising transoceanic arena.

> PROFESSOR

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Evaluation

Evaluation will be based on

1. **Two reading commentaries of about 1200 words each (30%), due by 24 March and 19 May.** The first commentary will discuss how the readings for **Weeks 1-3** inform your understanding of the Pacific, in particular colonialism and indigeneity. The second commentary will discuss the readings relating to one of the following three themes: **Whiteness (Weeks 5 and 6)**; **Labour (Weeks 7 and 8)**; or **Race and Gender (Weeks 10 and 11)**. You are welcome to submit ahead of the 19 May deadline if your second commentary is about **Whiteness** or **Labour**.
Note: you will not have the space to cover all aspects of the readings in your commentary, nor should it simply be a summary of the readings. Try identifying connecting links between the readings and exploring their main commonalities and differences.
2. **A final paper (50%) of about 3000 words** exploring a topic of historical or historiographical relevance to the course. **Proposals**, comprising a working title or topic, 200-word abstract, and a short initial bibliography due by **24 March**. A **1000-word outline** and sketch of your main puzzle and arguments is due on **25 April**. It will be discussed in class on 28 April. A **2000-word draft** is due on **27 May** for presentation and discussion on 2 June. The final paper is due on Friday, **10 June 2022**.
3. **Class participation (20%)**, based on attendance, readings, and in-class engagement.

Course Schedule

Week 1, Feb 24: Introductions

Background reading

- Epeli Hau'ofa, 'Our sea of islands', *The Contemporary Pacific* 6, 1 (1994), 148-61.

Week 2, Mar 3: Locating and framing the Pacific

Required readings

- David Armitage and Alison Bashford, 'Introduction', in Armitage and Bashford, eds, *Pacific Histories: Ocean, Land, People* (Houndsmills: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), 1-28.
- Review forum on *Pacific Histories: Ocean, Land, People* in *Journal of Pacific History* 50, 2 (2015), 229-40.
- Damon Salesa, 'The World from Oceania', in Douglas Northrup, ed., *A Companion to World History*, (Chichester: Wiley Blackwell, 2012), 389-404.
- Read Hau'ofa (week 1) if you haven't already

Week 3, Mar 10: Indigenous world-making

Required readings

- David A. Chang, *The World and All the Things upon It: Native Hawaiian Geographies of Exploration* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2016), 'Introduction: Making Native Hawaiian global geographies', vii-xix.
- Damon Salesa, "'Travel happy Samoa": Colonialism, Samoan migration and a "brown Pacific"', *New Zealand Journal of History* 37, 2 (2003), 171-88.
- Lachy Paterson, 'Paora Tuhaere's voyage to Rarotonga', in Rachel Standfield, ed., *Indigenous Mobilities Across and Beyond the Antipodes* (Canberra: ANU Press, 2018), 233-54.

Week 4, Mar 17: Reading and writing week

Week 5, Mar 24: Pacific crossings and transnational whiteness (first reading commentary and paper proposals due)

Required readings

- Marilyn Lake, 'The White Man under Siege: New histories of race in the nineteenth century and the advent of White Australia', *History Workshop Journal* 58, 1 (2004), 41-62.
- Anne Rees, 'Treated like Chinamen': United States immigration restriction and white British subjects', *Journal of Global History* 14, 2 (2019), 239-60.
- Judith Bennett, 'Fluid Frontiers and Uncertain Geographies: US Controls on Immigration from the Pacific, c.1880-1950', *Journal of Pacific History* 56, 3 (2021), 236-57.

Week 6, Mar 31: Chinese mobility and belonging

Required readings

- Henry Yu, 'Unbound Space: Migration, aspiration, and the making of time in the Cantonese Pacific,' in Warwick Anderson, Miranda Johnson and Barbara Brookes, eds, *Pacific Futures: Past and Present* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2018), 178-204.
- Kate Bagnall, 'Anglo Chinese and the politics of overseas travel from New South Wales, 1898 to 1925', in Sophie Couchman and Bagnall, eds, *Chinese Australians: Politics, Engagement and Resistance* (Leiden: Brill, 2015), 203-39.
- Peter Prince, 'The "Chinese" always belonged', *History Australia* 15, 3 (2018), 475-98.

Week 7, Apr 7: Plantation labour regimes and historical silences

Required readings

- Gregory Rosenthal, *Beyond Hawai'i: Native Labor in the Pacific World* (Oakland: University of California Press, 2018), Chap 6: 'Beckwith's Piliikia: 'Kanakas' and 'Coolies' on Haiku Plantation', 166-202.
- Martin Dusinberre, 'Writing the on-board: Meiji Japan in transit and transition', *Journal of Global History* 11, 2 (2016), 271-94.
- Margaret Mishra, 'The Curious Case of Montowinie (Emigration Pass 887½)', *Journal of Pacific History*, 55, 4 (2020), 475-91.

Week 8, Apr 14: Domestic service, intimacies and mobilities

Required readings

- Julia Martinez, Claire Lowrie, Frances Steel and Victoria Haskins, eds, *Colonialism and Male Domestic Service across the Asia Pacific* (London: Bloomsbury, 2018), Introduction, 1-24.
- Frances Steel, 'Servant Mobilities between Fiji and New Zealand: The transcolonial politics of domestic work and immigration restriction, c. 1870-1910,' *History Australia* 15, 3 (2018), 519-39.
- Lucy Davies, 'A Regulated Labour Trade across the Torres Strait: Papuan and New Guinean domestic workers in Australia, 1901–50', in Victoria Stead and Jon Altman, eds, *Labour Lines and Colonial Power: Indigenous and Pacific Islander Labour Mobility in Australia* (Canberra: ANU Press, 2019), 75-102.

April 25: Deadline for paper outlines

Week 9, Apr 28: Representing and debating violence (brief presentation and discussion of paper outlines)

Required readings

- Tracey Banivanua Mar, 'Cannibalism and Colonialism: Charting colonies and frontiers in nineteenth century Fiji,' *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 52, 2 (2010), 255-81.
- Adrian Muckle, 'Contesting Colonial Violence in New Caledonia,' in Philip Dwyer and Amanda Nettelbeck eds, *Violence, Colonialism and Empire in the Modern World* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018), 221-41.
- Patty O'Brien, 'Reactions to Australian Colonial Violence in New Guinea: The 1926 Nakanai massacre in a global context', *Australian Historical Studies*, 43, 2 (2012), 191-209.

Week 10, May 5: Race-mixing in comparative and connected frames

Required readings

- Damon Salesa, 'Half-castes between the wars: Colonial categories in New Zealand and Samoa', *New Zealand Journal of History*, 34, 1 (2000), 98-116.
- Vicki Luker, 'The half-caste in Australia, New Zealand, and Western Samoa between the wars: different problem, different places?', in Bronwen Douglas and Chris Ballard, eds, *Foreign Bodies: Oceania and the science of race 1750–1940* (Canberra: ANU Press, 2008), 307–35.
- Warwick Anderson, 'Ambiguities of Race: Science on the Reproductive Frontier of Australia and the Pacific between the Wars', *Australian Historical Studies*, 40, 2 (2009), 143-60.

Week 11, May 12: Pan-Pacific movements and interwar internationalism

Required readings

- Fiona Paisley, *Glamour in the Pacific: Cultural Internationalism and Race Politics in the Women's Pan-Pacific* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2009), chaps 1 and 2.

- Warwick Anderson, 'Liberal Intellectuals as Pacific Supercargo: White Australian masculinity and racial thought on the Boarder-Lands', *Australian Historical Studies*, 46, 3 (2015), 425-39.

Week 12, May 19: The Pacific War and its aftermaths (second reading commentary due)

Required readings

- Tracey Banivanua Mar, *Decolonisation and the Pacific: Indigenous Globalisation and the Ends of Empire* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016), Chap 4: 'Saltwater: the separation of people and territory', 114-46.
- Heather Goodall, 'Damage and Dispossession: Indigenous people and nuclear weapons on Bikini Atoll and the Pitjantjatjara lands, 1946 to 1988', in Lynette Russell and Ann McGrath, eds, *The Routledge Companion to Global Indigenous History* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2022), 419-42.
- Holly Barker, 'Unsettling SpongeBob and the Legacies of Violence on Bikini Bottom', *Contemporary Pacific*, 31, 2 (2019), 345-79.

Week 13, May 26: Public Holiday, no class

May 27: Deadline for preliminary drafts

Week 14, June 2: Presentation and discussion of preliminary draft papers; concluding discussions

June 10: Deadline for final paper