



**FORUM COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**PACIFIC ISLANDS**

Saturday, May 7, 2016

■ **Oceanic Tongues: Assessing and Documenting Language Vitality in the Contemporary Pacific**  
By Alexander Mawyer

This talk looks at an ongoing regional crisis that parallels the more familiar problem of biological mass extinction both globally and in the Asia-Pacific region, the endangerment and loss of languages within the Pacific Islands over the last century. Issues of language shift and change, and community based supports for language documentation, conservation, and renewal bring into view many facets of Pacific Island history and the contemporary Pacific. With a focus on poetic language as well as the linguistic encoding of local ecological knowledge, this talk explores the diversity and regional linkages that characterize Oceania and observes how issues in language and culture are often connected to other profound issues of the contemporary moment, from cultural identity and community to issues of mobility, globalization, and the political.



**FURTHER INFORMATION**

- Dates**  
 Pacific Islands: May 7, 2016  
 Indonesia: May 14, 2016  
 Singapore: May 21, 2016

\*All sessions take place on Saturday mornings, 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

**INDONESIA**

Saturday, May 14, 2016

■ **Indonesia: Unity in Diversity**  
By Ehito Kimura

This talk will explore the history and politics of Indonesia, one of the most diverse countries in the world. How have government and politics dealt with this diversity over the years, and what impact has it had on the lives of everyday Indonesians? What do we make of Indonesia's transition from a strong authoritarian state to the leading democracy in the region?



- Place**  
 University of Hawaii — Manoa Campus  
 • May 7 – Kuykendall Hall #210  
 • May 14 – Kuykendall Hall #210  
 • May 21 – Kuykendall Hall #210

**Registration**  
 All participants are requested to pre-register. Please complete a registration form and send it to CAPE.

**SINGAPORE**

Saturday, May 21, 2016

■ **Singapore: Development vs. Democracy**  
By Ehito Kimura

Dubbed “The Air Conditioned Nation” Singapore is often portrayed as a country that has sacrificed democracy for development and stability. What are the origins of this trade-off and how can we understand it in the context of today's era of globalization? Is Singapore a model or an exception?



- Fees**  
 Fees are waived for all Hawaii residents.  
**For additional information, contact:**  
 The Center for Asia-Pacific Exchange  
 1616 Makiki Street  
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
 Telephone: (808) 942-8553 Fax: (808) 941-9575  
 E-mail: cape@cape.edu  
 Website: www.cape.edu

- CAPE “Asia Today” Series - Spring 2016**
- Please return this form to:  
 The Center for Asia-Pacific Exchange  
 1616 Makiki Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
  - I want to attend course(s) in:
    - Pacific Islands: May 7, 2016
    - Indonesia: May 14, 2016
    - Singapore: May 21, 2016

**Fees:**  
 Fees are waived for all Hawaii residents.

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*You may assume that you are registered in the series unless otherwise notified. No written confirmation of participation will be given.*



FORUM FACULTY/SPEAKERS



**Ehito Kimura**, Associate Professor of Political Science at UH-Mānoa, is a Swiss-born, American-bred Japanese working in the field of comparative

politics and Southeast Asian politics. He grew up in the Washington, DC, area, and studied at Georgetown University (BSFS), Yale University (MA), and University of Wisconsin-Madison (PhD) before coming to Hawai'i in 2007. His research interests lie in the nexus of political change and Southeast Asian politics. His book *Provincial Proliferation: Territorial Politics in Post-Suharto Indonesia* (Routledge 2012) explores the changing dynamics of territoriality after the fall of authoritarianism and the rise of democracy and decentralization in Indonesia. He has also written several articles on the same topic. More recently, he has been working on a project looking at transitional justice in Indonesia in comparative perspective.



**Alexander Mawyer** is Assistant Professor at the Center for Pacific Islands Studies at UH-Mānoa. He has conducted field-

work with the Mangarevan community in the Gambier and Society Islands of French Polynesia, and with Chuukese and Mortlock communities in the Federated States of Micronesia, focusing on language at the intersection of culture and history. In addition to publishing on a wide variety of topics on culture, language, and history in the region, he has served as co-editor of *Varua Tupu: New Writing from French Polynesia*, the first anthology of Ma'ohi literature to appear in English and winner of the 1997 Hawai'i Book Publishers Award for Excellence in Literature. He is editor for *The Contemporary Pacific: A Journal of Island Affairs*, the leading journal in Pacific Studies. Most recently, he co-edited a special issue of *Ethos: Journal for the Society for Psychological Anthropology* devoted to culture and spatial cognition in Oceania.



Dear Colleague:

This year's "Asia Today" lecture series will cover Indonesia, Singapore and the Pacific Islands. Forum topics will touch upon issues of language and culture in the modern Pacific, including language loss, shift, and change in the Pacific Islands; how political Indonesia deals with the incredible diversity of its people; and Singapore's trade-off of democracy for development and stability.

The Center for Asia-Pacific Exchange invites you to learn more about these issues at our 30th Annual "Asia Today" Series. Scheduled talks are as follows:

Saturday, May 7, 2016:

Dr. Alexander Mawyer: Oceanic Tongues: Assessing and Documenting Language Vitality in the Contemporary Pacific

Saturday, May 14, 2016:

Dr. Ehito Kimura: Indonesia: Unity in Diversity

Saturday, May 21, 2016:

Dr. Ehito Kimura: Singapore: Development vs. Democracy

All sessions take place from 9a.m. to 12noon on three consecutive Saturdays, with all entrance fees waived for local Hawai'i residents.

Previous participant responses to the "Asia Today" Series:

*"Entertaining & Informative!"*

*"Speaker continues to be an intelligent and instructive. Much enjoyed!"*

*"Good content, relaxed atmosphere, good audience with diverse background"*

*"Thorough and well-organized presentations."*

Please share this information with your friends and colleagues and plan to join us for one or more sessions. This opportunity is unique and space is limited, so please let us hear from you soon. All lectures are free to the public, however you are requested to pre-register by returning the registration form to CAPE by April 29, 2016.

With warm Aloha,

The Center for Asia-Pacific Exchange  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**THE CENTER FOR ASIA-PACIFIC EXCHANGE**, a publicly supported, non-profit, educational institution, was established in Honolulu, Hawaii in November 1980.

For additional information, write to:  
The Center for Asia-Pacific Exchange  
1616 Makiki Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

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**ANNUAL  
ASIA-PACIFIC  
STUDIES FORUM**  
"Asia Today" Series  
Spring 2016

