



EAST-WEST CENTER
COLLABORATION • EXPERTISE • LEADERSHIP



**East-West Center Wednesday Evening Seminar
Spring 2010**

Keoni Auditorium
Imin Conference Center, Jefferson Hall
Wednesday, **February 3, 2010**
6:30pm-8:30pm

"*Wot, Bodda You?* Challenging Stereotypes
about Pidgin in Hawai'i"

Dr. Christina Higgins
Department of Second Language Studies

While overt discrimination based on race, gender, and religious affiliation is no longer tolerated in many societies, it is still the case that many people feel quite comfortable discriminating against people for the language or dialect they speak. This presentation will discuss an ongoing project that is attempting to challenge this form of discrimination, known as *linguicism*, by focusing on efforts to raise awareness about Pidgin (also known as Hawai'i Creole), a stigmatized language spoken by half the population of Hawai'i. The presenter will show the film "*Ha Kam Wi Tawk Pidgin Yet?*" and discuss how the project is attempting to challenge stereotypes through student filmmaking and the development of educational materials for teachers, students, and community members.

Dr. Christina Higgins is an assistant professor in the Department of Second Language Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, where she teaches courses in sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, and intercultural communication. She holds a Ph.D. in English language and linguistics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Higgins has published a monograph on linguistic hybridity in East Africa, titled *English as a local language: Post-colonial identities and multilingual practices*, and she is co-editor of the recently published volume called *Language and HIV/AIDS*. Since she was hired at UH- Mānoa in 2005, she has become increasingly interested in the politics of language in Hawai'i, and she has spent the past year working on a collaborative action research project with public high school students and teachers that is meant to raise awareness and challenge misconceptions about Pidgin.

(Refreshments will be served. Please bring your own cup and utensils. Mahalo!)

The community is welcome to attend this lecture!