

**Wednesday Evening Seminar  
Spring 2017 Syllabus**

**Positionality:  
Approaching the Asia Pacific through Intercultural Perspectives**

Hawai'i Imin International Conference Center  
January 25 – April 5, 2017  
Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:30 pm HST

**SEMINAR OVERVIEW**

The Wednesday Evening Seminar (WES) is a weekly gathering of East-West Center (EWC) participants in their first fall and spring semester. WES brings together graduate students, researchers, and other professionals from diverse academic disciplines, geographic areas, life experiences, and East-West Center programs to learn and dialogue on issues of common concern that impact the U.S. and the Asia-Pacific region.

While the graduate student experience tends to focus attention on highly specialized fields of study at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, WES challenges EWC participants to explore regional issues that may extend beyond their range of expertise or comfort zones. Issues are explored through invited speakers, performers, films and facilitated small group discussions and activities. Through this process EWC fellows forge bonds among themselves through relating their personal or community concerns and experiences that ultimately strengthen the Center's diverse global community.

As with many innovative activities at the East-West Center, WES emerged from student recommendations and student-led action. EWC fellows perceived the need for a unifying intellectual experience in an increasingly diversified student program. WES began as a series of East-West Center-wide discussions to explore the concept, and emerged as a student leadership project that developed into a distinctive, on-going feature of the student program.

Currently, the seminar is planned and organized by East-West Center degree-fellow interns, with the support of the Center's Education program staff. The Seminar is required for degree student fellows and affiliates during their first fall and spring semesters. Continuing fellows are welcome to attend and often continue to participate in the seminar series.

## GROUNDING PRINCIPLES

*Positionality*, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, means “the fact or quality of having a position (in various senses) in relation to other things.” Drawing upon this concept, this Wednesday Evening Seminar series invites the speakers to present Asia-Pacific-related subjects from their own perspectives. The principles of this seminar series is to provide insights of knowledge and experiences, interconnections between the EWC and the local community, and inspirations for the participants.

## SEMINAR OBJECTIVES

- **Insight:** Learn about Asia-Pacific-related subjects through the speakers’ insights and experiences, and further help EWC participants cultivate critical-thinking skills for broader and deeper understanding of the U.S. and Asia Pacific region.
- **Interconnection:** Build connections and networks between the participants of the East-West Center, as well as their relationships with the alumni of the Center, and local and visiting scholars, as well as artists through diverse subjects.
- **Inspiration:** Inspire participants to ponder and reflect on their own positionalities in relation to other subjects, such as nature and society, and further to contemplate their connections to the Asia Pacific region.

## REQUIREMENTS

**Attendance:** Participants must attend all WES sessions and participate in group discussions and activities. Coming to the WES series should be an engaging and fun way to learn about Asia, Oceania, and the United States. Attendance will be kept; if you are unable to attend a session, please contact your program coordinator.

**Participation & Evaluation:** Plus/Delta is a simple evaluative tool. The evaluation asks questions with regard to experiential learning, seeking to determine successful initiatives and to find areas for improvement. Plus/Delta is an immediate feedback tool that frames critique in a positive way and is useful for adaptive teaching; it also drives program accountability to maximize and enhance student learning. A team Plus/Delta evaluation as an oral report and sign-in will occur at the end of each session.

+ (Plus)	Δ (Delta)
+ What is helping me learn in this WES seminar?	Δ What changes are needed in the seminar to improve learning?
+ What am I doing to improve my learning?	Δ What do I need to do improve my learning in this course?
+ What worked?	Δ What could be improved?

## **WES LEADERSHIP TEAM**

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Mary Kelly Hamilton, United States, MA student in East Asian Studies  
WES Spring 2017 Food Coordinator, Graduate Degree Fellow

## **EWC EDUCATION PROGRAM STAFF**

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## SCHEDULE

WES Spring 2017 will convene eight sessions. In addition to the featured speakers, EWC students will present their research projects to extend the discussion of that week's WES featured speaker(s).

### Jan 25 **Media of Creative Storytelling**

**Jay Hubert**, Director of Media Center, Academy for Creative Media, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

#### Goals

- Introduce the process of cinematic and narrative production.
- Learn the function of language, including Chinese and other Asian languages, in film and its importance as an extra layer in film.
- Examine the principles of film-making and how it represents the real.  
Learn how the ideas and ideologies of films circulate and function in society.

### Feb 1 **Finding Our Way: Navigation and Technology**

**Greg Milner**, Author of *Pinpoint: How GPS Is Changing Technology, Culture, and Our Minds*

#### Goals

- Learn the human history of navigation, including Polynesian navigation, and its interplay with technology.
- Learn the history, philosophy and the principles of GPS.
- Learn how GPS's impacts on human behavior and cognitive process.

### Feb 8 **International Organization and Future Leadership**

**Dr. Arun Kashyap**, Principal at the Kashyap Development Associates  
**EWC Staff Panel**

#### Goals

- Learn how global agreements are made and what are the principles and strategies to achieve agreements.
- Learn the leadership role and impacts of international organizations with case studies of the United Nations and the EWC.
- Connect current EWC participants with EWC staff, visiting scholars, and local alumni.
- Cultivate an opportunity for current participants to envision their impacts in the future.

### Feb 22 **Kanikapila: Building the Hawaiian Music and Dance Community**

**Kimo Hussey**, President of Ukulele Guild of Hawaii  
**Michael Pili Pang**, Kumu Hula, Director of Hālau Hula Ka No'eau Mu'olaulani

#### Goals

- Enjoy a Hawaiian *kanikapila* style music and dance gathering. *Kanikapila* refers to an informal jam session where the most important aspect is to have fun. It is never considered to be a performance and proficiency levels mean nothing. It is how a lot of people in Hawai'i learn about music.
- Learn the speakers' personal stories and cultural experiences in their communities.

Mar 1 **Cosmology and Skywatchers**

**Dr. Roy R. Gal**, Assistant Astronomer, Institute for Astronomy, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Goals

- Introduce the evolution of astronomy.
- Understand the historical change of human conceptualization of the Universe.
- Learn the development of telescope and the construction of the Mauna Kea Observatory of University of Hawai‘i.
- Approach Mauna Kea from the Hawaiian cultural perspective.

Mar 8 **Power of Images**

**Dr. Paul Lavy**, Associate Professor, Department of Art and Art History, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

**Dr. Heather Diamond**, Former Curator of the Iolani Palace

Goals

- Learn the art history of Cambodia.
- Through identifying the creation and manipulation of signs in arts, analyze how the artifacts represent history, places, and people.
- Explore how ethnography and museology lead to a greater understanding of self and others.

Mar 15 **Art of Strength**

**Alan Lee**, Senior Instructor of Karate, Head of the Senbukai Goju Ryu Karate Hawaii Shibu Dojo

**Dong Zeng Chen**, Grand Master of Taijiquan, Director of the Dong Taijiquan Dao Academy

**Charles Boyer**, Head Instructor of the Lokahi Ki Society

Goals

- Learn the histories, concepts and philosophies of martial arts of different cultural traditions.
- Enjoy positioning yourself and interacting with others through the kinesthetic activities of martial arts.
- Develop the awareness of self and others through group activities.

Apr 5 **A Different Historiography for “a handful of chickpeas flung over the sea;”  
Approaching the Federated States of Micronesia’s Deeper Past**

**Dr. David Hanlon**, Professor and Department Chair, Department of History, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Goals

- Introduce the methodology of historiography and the notion of “deep time.”
- Examine the differences between the colonial project and the local history.
- Understand the Federated States of Micronesia as a localized nation-state form, instead of an American dependency.

**WES Closing Dinner Celebration**