Small is Viable: The Global Ebbs and Flows of a Pacific Atoll Nation

Gerard A. Finin

Tuvalu is a Pacific Island Nation of some 10,000 citizens that offers a fascinating example of how small island states can overcome a broad array of resource constraints in asserting nationhood within the global community. Tuvalu’s achievements over the past three decades are nothing less than extraordinary. Its recent history offers some useful albeit unorthodox, uncommon and unheard of insights about nation building. The seminar will present an overview of Tuvalu’s uplifting voyage towards greater self reliance/sustainability.

Jerry Finin came to the EWC in 1990 after completing his doctoral degree in Urban & Regional Planning and Asian Studies at Cornell University. Current research includes a Ford Foundation funded project called Islands of Globalization which seeks to enhance our understandings of the origins, nature and consequences of globalization from the perspective of small island societies, and in the context of changing notions of "islandness." in the Caribbean and Pacific regions. His recent book, The Making of the Igorot, about American colonial policy and practice in the Philippines, was a Manila Critics Circle finalist in 2006 for Best Book in the Social Sciences. Jerry’s research in Tuvalu was prompted in part by interactions with Tuvaluan students participating in the Center’s South Pacific Scholarship Program, which he helped to establish in 1992.

This seminar is open to the public.
(Kindly bring your own cup to make our seminar more sustainable!)