



EAST-WEST CENTER
COLLABORATION • EXPERTISE • LEADERSHIP

Wednesday Evening Seminar
Fall 2014 Syllabus
The Art of Regional Literacy:
Connecting Kīpuka in the Asia-Pacific Region
Keoni Auditorium
Hawai'i Imin International Conference Center
September 17 - November 19, 2014
Wednesdays at 6:30 - 8:30 pm

INTRODUCTION

A volcanic eruption is an extremely destructive event, one that sends out lahars and lava that obliterate virtually everything in their path, leaving behind a barren landscape. Only a few areas remain untouched, protected by the contours of the land from the destructive flows of debris and lava. Hawaiians call these protected areas *kīpuka*: safe havens and windows into the past that rejuvenate possibilities for the future. They hold the collective memory of our places, and serve as natural laboratories for experimentation and learning. Over time these *kīpuka* begin to spread out and connect, healing the landscape and providing new pathways into the future. They are spaces of life, resilience, and hope.

In this Wednesday Evening Seminar we investigate the theme of *kīpuka* as a metaphor for understanding the past, illuminating the present, and expanding our vision for a better future. We are committed to finding and exploring together the multiple meanings of *kīpuka*, to extend and enrich our understandings of the people, places, histories, and possibilities that define the Asia-Pacific region. This is the Art of Regional Literacy: a process of deepening our familiarity with the vast diversity of the region, and cultivating our ability to recognize and strengthen the ties among us. We see regional literacy as a core leadership skill for our time.

As we delve into various forms of *kīpuka* throughout this semester, we hope to discover the lessons and opportunities they impart for synergy and new directions in the region. Our aim in this seminar series is to nurture within our own East-West Center community the ideals of multiculturalism by providing the intellectual stimulation and spaces for learning, conversation, and connection with each other. We will reach across time, space, traditions, and disciplines in search of *kīpuka* - from social movements, cultural renaissance, and artistic creation, to international political change and scientific discovery. In finding ways to link these *kīpuka* to our own experiences and to each other, we will practice the art of regional literacy.

Regional literacy opens up paths for confronting the difficult challenges that separate us in the region, and building trust around the things that bring us together. It fosters

the necessary capacity to perceive and understand our differences, search for common ground, and link ourselves and others into networks that enlighten, enrich, and empower our imaginations for a more peaceful, prosperous, and just future. It is our hope that East-West Center participants will carry these lessons of multiculturalism well beyond this seminar, and act as the glue for connecting *kīpuka* in the region.

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We at the Wednesday Evening Seminar are firm believers in food based learning. Excellent refreshments and pupus will be provided, as well as opportunities to mingle and participate in groups.

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OVERVIEW OF THE WEDNESDAY EVENING SEMINAR

The Wednesday Evening Seminar (WES) is a weekly gathering of East-West Center 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 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, the 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, 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 and Research program staff. The Seminar is required for degree student fellows and affiliates during their first fall and spring semesters, and for Asia Pacific Leadership Program fellows during the fall semester. Continuing fellows are welcome to attend and often continue to participate in the seminar series.

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OBJECTIVES

The goal of the East-West Center is to contribute to a peaceful, prosperous, and just Asia-Pacific community, thus serving as a vigorous hub for cooperative research, education, and dialogue on critical issues of common concern to the Asia-Pacific region and the United States. The Wednesday Evening Seminar helps reach this goal by facilitating dialogue and mutual understanding among the students of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific who study together at the East-West Center.

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REQUIREMENTS: ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

Students must attend all WES sessions and participate in group discussions and activities. If you are unable to attend a session, please contact Mendl Djunaidy (DjunaidM@eastwestcenter.org). Attendance will be kept.

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