



## Wednesday Evening Seminar Spring 2016 Syllabus

### *PERFORMANCE OF CULTURE: International Perspectives on Personal and Community Identity*

Hawai'i Imin International Conference Center  
Wednesdays, February 3rd - April 6th, 2016  
6:30 - 8:30 pm HAST

#### INTRODUCTION

In this seminar series, invited presenters will discuss the ways in which public presentation reflects both individual identity and cultural context. Presenters will engage participants in a variety of learning styles (visual, aural, kinesthetic) in order to broaden understanding of the topics discussed. Conversations regarding cultural topics will be supplemented with live performance or video. Presentations and discussions will also be expanding the definition of “performance” to include presentation outside of the traditional cultural arts. Ideally these issues of performance and presentation will raise larger issues in facilitated small group discussions. Facilitated group discussions will focus on societal issues and cultural topics that have been raised during the presentation.

#### GROUNDING PRINCIPLES

- ❖ Performance is designed to engage. We hope that these presentations and discussions will encourage you to actively consider the ideas that are raised, rather than to be a passive audience member.
- ❖ Performance, like WES itself, is designed to inform. We hope that you will remain open both to the ideas that are presented and to the ways in which they are communicated, even if the ideas or presentation lie outside your previous experience.
- ❖ Performance (often) is designed to entertain. We hope that you will leave WES each week energized and excited by the experience. Have fun!

## **OVERVIEW OF THE WEDNESDAY EVENING SEMINAR**

The Wednesday Evening Seminar is a weekly gathering of East-West Center participants in the first two semesters of their program. WES brings together graduate students, researchers, and other professionals from diverse academic disciplines, geographic areas, life experiences, and East-West Center programs in order to learn about and discuss 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 and experiences that may extend beyond their range of expertise or comfort zones. Issues this semester are explored through lecture, video, live performance, and facilitated small group discussions and activities. Through these processes, EWC fellows forge bonds among themselves by relating their personal or community concerns and experiences. This ultimately strengthens 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 programs.

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 two semesters, and for Leadership Program fellows during the Fall semester. Continuing fellows are welcome to attend and often continue to participate in the seminar series.

## **SEMINAR OBJECTIVES**

The goal of the East-West Center is to contribute to a peaceful, prosperous, and collaborative Asia-Pacific community, and to serve 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, the Pacific, and other regions who study together at the East-West Center.

Within this context, the objectives of the Wednesday Evening Seminar include:

- ❖ Participant understanding of the role of performance in representing the peoples of Oceania, Asia, and the United States.
- ❖ Understanding modern and expanded definitions of performance in Asia, Oceania, and the U.S.
- ❖ Identification of Oceanic, Asian, and American traditions in both formal and informal learning settings.
- ❖ Sharing of expertise and experience by Participants from the U.S., Oceania, and Asia.
- ❖ Collaboration among Participants and thinking across boundaries.
- ❖ Fostering of understanding between participants from the United States, Oceania, and Asia.
- ❖ Identification of leadership traits and skills needed to foster relations in a borderless world.

**REQUIREMENTS: ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION, and EVALUATION**

**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 question(s) 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 accountability to maximize and enhance student learning. Submission of Plus/Delta evaluations and attendance 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?

**Readings and Outside Activities:** Some of the speakers may provide short articles or other materials for participants. These documents may be sent in a link via email over the East-West Center official listserv. In addition, some activities will be offered in advance that will increase engagement during the seminar. This information will also be sent via the East-West Center listserv. Be sure to check your e-mail for WES announcements!

**WEDNESDAY EVENING SEMINAR TEAM**

The Wednesday Evening Seminar (WES) program is a student-led collaborative effort. We would like to acknowledge all those involved on the front lines and behind the scenes:

**ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM**

Matthew Kelty (New York, USA; PhD Student in Asian Theatre)  
 WES Spring 2016 Coordinator; Graduate Degree Fellow. [mkelty@hawaii.edu](mailto:mkelty@hawaii.edu)

Mohammad Monjurul Habib (Dhaka, Bangladesh; MPA Student in Public Administration)  
 WES Spring 2016 Facilitator Coordinator; Graduate Degree Fellow. [habib@hawaii.edu](mailto:habib@hawaii.edu)

Min Namkoong (Seoul, Korea; MA Student in Second Language Studies)  
 WES Spring 2016 Food Coordinator; Choi Scholar, Ai Scholar; Wong Ohana Scholar.  
[mnamkoon@hawaii.edu](mailto:mnamkoon@hawaii.edu)

Philip Waisen (Goroka, Papua New Guinea; PhD Student in Tropical Plant Pathology)  
 WES Spring 2016 Technical Coordinator; Graduate Degree Fellow. [pwaisen@hawaii.edu](mailto:pwaisen@hawaii.edu)

## **FACILITATORS**

Russell Barlow (Queens [NY], USA; PhD Student in Linguistics; Graduate Degree Fellow.)

Keita Beni (Kobe, Japan; MA Student in Theatre; Miyawaki Scholar and Ai Scholar.)

Monique D’Almeida (Freemansburg [PA], USA. MA Student in Art History; Student Affiliate.)

Erika Enomoto (Mililani [HI], USA; MA Student in Art History; Alumni Scholar.)

Billie Lee (Queens [NY], USA; PhD Student in American Studies; Student Affiliate.)

Tomoaki Morikawa (Tokyo, Japan; PhD Student in American Studies; Graduate Degree Fellow.)

Mahdi Motalleb (Tehran, Iran; PhD Student in Electrical Engineering; Student Affiliate.)

Hieu Phung (Hanoi, Vietnam; PhD Student in History; Richard and Hester Cox Scholar.)

Dilliaur Tellei (Melekeok, Palau; MS Student in Computer Science; Graduate Degree Fellow.)

Uyen Vu (Vietnam; PhD Student in Educational Psychology; Richard and Hester Cox Scholar.)

## **FALL 2016 WES TEAM**

Chris Molina (Boston [MA], USA; PhD Student in Music Composition).  
WES Fall 2016 Coordinator; Graduate Degree Fellow.

Nisha Pinjani (Karachi, Pakistan; MFA Student in Fine Art)  
WES Fall 2016 Facilitator Coordinator; Graduate Degree Fellow.

Sokunthearith Makara (Phnom Penh, Cambodia; MEd Student in Learning Design and Technology)  
WES Fall 2016 Technical Coordinator; Graduate Degree Fellow.

## **EDUCATION PROGRAM STAFF**

Mary Hammond (Dean and Interim Director, Education Program)  
hammondm@eastwestcenter.org

Kuhio Vogeler (International Programs Specialist, Education Program)  
vogelers@eastwestcenter.org

Carl Polley (Programs Specialist, Education Program)  
polleyc@eastwestcenter.org

## **We would also like to thank the following individuals who help behind the scenes:**

Mendl Djunaidy (Adjunct Student Program Specialist, EWC)

Marshal Kingsbury (Manager, Conference Center, EWC)

Kanika Mak-Lavy (Specialist, Education Program, EWC)

Mona Nakihei (Program Assistant, Education Program, EWC)

Mayitta L. Penoliar (Program Assistant, Education Program, EWC)

Phyllis Tabusa (Information Specialist, EWC)

## SCHEDULE

- February 03: Performing Welcome**  
Introduction to the Semester and Welcoming Event  
A discussion of the topics to be considered over the course of the semester, and introduction of a semester-long project. The evening will include performances from the EWC community and guest artist Jen Shyu.
- February 10: No WES**  
Preparation for the EWC International Student Graduate Conference
- February 17: Performing Ethnography**  
Documentary Theatre and Personal Identity  
How do we gather stories? How do people reveal themselves to each other? What are the differences between personal revelation and autobiographical performance? Can performance create cultural or political change? EWC alumnus Ron Gilliam will discuss his work with the documentary theatre company PlayBuilders, focusing on their mission and their methods of gathering data. The evening will feature a special performance by a PlayBuilders company member.
- February 24: Performing Politics**  
Social and Political Engagement in Classical and Contemporary Nō and Kyōgen  
UHM Professor of Japanese Theatre Julie Iezzi will discuss the ways in which these two classical Japanese theatre forms addressed their social and political contexts — and how contemporary work in these forms continues to address political issues. The evening will feature video examples and personal demonstrations.
- March 02: Performing Empathy**  
Teaching Skills in Dealing with Illness and Death  
Alex Munro, graduate director of the UHM School of Nursing's HEALTHCast program, will discuss the program's use of actors to help nursing students develop empathy and gain skills in patient interaction. Issues of cultural differences in dealing with illness and death will be addressed. The evening will feature an example of the work done in HEALTHCast training.
- March 09: Performing Modernity**  
Evolution and Adaptation in Contemporary Balinese Performance  
Two of the creators of Kennedy Theatre's *Subali-Sugriva: Battle of the Monkey Kings* will join us to discuss the evolution of traditional performance in contemporary Indonesia. Anna Reynolds will discuss performance traditions and their adaptation; she and I Made Widana will provide examples of both traditional and contemporary performance styles.

- March 16:**        **Performing Resistance**  
Hula and Mele as Resistance to Colonialism and Oppression  
Hula Kumu Vicky Holt Takamine will discuss the use of hula and mele as methods of resisting colonialist suppression of Hawaiian culture and language. Kumu Takamine and her students will perform representative pieces in order to illustrate points from the discussion.
- March 23:**        **No WES**  
Enjoy Spring Break!
- March 30:**        **Performing Happiness**  
GNH in Bhutan and GPI in Hawai'i  
How do we demonstrate and define happiness? Is it a feeling or a mode of living? Is it something to be sought out, or something that comes to you? Can we tangibly measure changes in happiness and general wellbeing over time individually and across a society? EWC Education Programs Specialist Carl Polley will introduce the use of Gross National Happiness as an indicator for national progress in Bhutan, as well as recent shifts in the State of Hawai'i to adapt a similar measurement, the Genuine Progress Indicator.
- April 06:**        **Performing Community**  
Final Projects, Seminar Evaluation, and Community Banquet  
Presentation of projects that groups have worked on throughout the semester, followed by written evaluation of the semester and a closing meal together.