



---

## WEDNESDAY EVENING SEMINAR

---

*Education Program Presents*

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC: MAKING CONNECTIONS AROUND THE 'SINGLE OCEAN'

Dr. Barbara Watson Andaya, Professor, Asian Studies Program  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

---

Wednesday, April 9th, 2014

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Makana Room, Imin International Conference Center

---

In recent weeks our attention has been very much directed towards the ocean, and to the fact that its sheer extent defies the present state of human technology. The difficulties in organizing international co-operation in the search for MH 370 also reminds us that the globe is still divided into five oceans—the Pacific, the Indian, the Atlantic, the Southern and the Arctic – and the land into subsets (East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australasia, the Pacific, South Asia) that subsume separate nationalities. In countering such divisions, it is useful to think of a “single ocean” that connects the coast of Africa to the Americas and where littoral societies had much in common. This presentation focuses specifically on the ways in which coastal societies traditionally conceptualized the sea’s supernatural powers. Sometimes beneficial, sometimes threatening, ocean deities were always treated with respect, for they had the power over life and death. In this regard, despite cultural and linguistic differences, people whose lives are oriented towards the sea shared attitudes that in the past facilitated cooperation in a range of activities. Unfortunately, in our modern world national interests and lack of communication too often impede the extent to which the “single ocean” can operate as a domain of effective transnational collaboration.

Barbara Watson Andaya is Professor of Asian Studies at the University of Hawai'i, and in 2005-06 she was President of the American Association of Asian Studies. Educated at the University of Sydney, she received her MA in history at the University of Hawai'i supported by an East-West Center grant and her Ph.D. at Cornell University with a specialization in Southeast Asian history. She has lived and taught in Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, the Netherlands, and the United States, and has been in her current position since 1994. She maintains an active teaching and research interest across all Southeast Asia, but her specific area of expertise is the western Malay-Indonesia archipelago on which she has published extensively. In 2000 she received a John Simon Guggenheim Award for research on women's history in Southeast Asia, and in 2010 she received the University of Hawai'i Regents Medal for Excellence in Research. Her most recent and co-authored publication is a *History of Early Modern Southeast Asia* (Cambridge, 2014).

**To help make WES a sustainable gathering, please bring your own cup for a hot beverage and small plate for light refreshments. The public is invited to attend.**