



EAST-WEST CENTER

Wednesday Evening Seminar Fall 2018 Syllabus Community Connections

Hawai'i Imin International Conference Center
Keoni Auditorium
September 12 - November 7
Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:30 pm HST

Theme

The Wednesday Evening Seminar (WES) for Fall 2018 aims to engage East-West Center participants with diverse communities across the Asia Pacific region and United States. Each week participants will explore different organizations, people, and movements within this broad community. Each session will explore a different theme to unpack how communities function. Namely, what brings people together, and how do people forge group and individual identities within these communities. These topics include indigenous education, performing arts, meditation, and colonization. The Fall 2018 WES team hopes to bring new ideas to our East-West Center participants and to help create opportunities for future personal or professional collaboration.

The Fall 2018 theme of “Community Connections” speaks to the collaborative nature of our WES team. During the upcoming semester, we are excited to share with you a *collectively planned* WES. Our four team members came together through the Leadership Certificate program, and have worked to bring East-West Center participants a wide-ranging array of topics that are all connected through the concept of community.

Goals

- Show how communities are built and create connections for EWC participants related to research and interest in Asia-Pacific regions and the US.
- Discover conceptual connections among community, identity, values and expression.
- Discover and appreciate values in communities in Asia-Pacific and the U.S. that participants may not have encountered before.
- Reflect on health in a holistic sense: body, mind, and community

What is WES?

The Wednesday Evening Seminar 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 participants forge bonds among themselves and relating their personal or community concerns and experiences that ultimately strengthen the Center's diverse global community and the positive impact they can have in the region.

As with many innovative activities at the East-West Center, WES emerged from student recommendations and student-led action. EWC participants 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, ongoing feature of the student program.

Currently, the seminar is planned and organized by East-West Center interns, with the support of the Center's Education Program staff. WES is required for student participants during their first fall and spring semesters. Continuing students are welcome to attend and often continue to participate in the seminar series.

Format

Each evening will feature guest speakers who are leaders in their field, activities for participants related to the theme of the evening, and a time for questions and discussions with the guest speakers. Student participants will be assigned to groups at the first evening event, and these groups will remain constant for the duration of the seminar series. Each group is assigned a volunteer facilitator to help structure and optimize the activities for each group. These groups will be the place where participants have their deepest discussions and interactions throughout the series.

Requirements

East-West Center student participants in their first fall and spring semester at the EWC are required to attend WES sessions and participate in group discussions and activities. The goal is for this to be an enriching experience for all participants. Those with questions, feedback, and suggestions are encouraged to bring their concerns to their program coordinator and the WES planning interns. If a participant is sick and must miss a session, s/he should contact the program coordinator and the WES facilitator intern.

Evaluation

Participants are invited to evaluate and offer feedback for each session to their facilitator.

Website

<http://ewc-wes.weebly.com>

WES Leadership Team

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Schedule

WES Fall 2018 will convene eight sessions. Each session will include presentations by the guest speakers listed here, along with student presentations and group activities.

September 12: Spoken Word Session

Geographic area of focus: Oceania

Speakers: Lyz Soto, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Pacific Tongues; Serena Ngaio Simmons, Poet Facilitator, Pacific Tongues

Session goals:

1. Engage in new ways of self-expression/learn about how others express themselves.
2. Think about other people's experiences of Oceania/growing up in Hawai'i and how this can be expressed through poetry.
3. Engage the EWC community with local poets/spoken word poetry scene that they may wish to be involved with.
4. Learn about Pacific oral traditions and art forms as expressed through language play.

Sept 19: Indigenous Education

Geographic area of focus: Southeast Asia, Hawai'i

Speakers: Manulani Aluli Meyer, Konohiki of Kulana o Kapolei (A Hawaiian Place of Learning at University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu); Butet Manurung, pioneer for indigenous education design in Indonesia

Session goals:

1. Informative sessions about different approaches in education.
2. Think about different perspectives of innovation in education.
3. Learn about education approaches of different cultures.
4. Comprehend cultural-based education

Sept 26: Environmental Conservation

Geographic area of focus: Hawai'i

Speakers: Eric Enos and Kay Fukuda, Ka'ala Farm, Inc.; and Tim Tybuszewski, Director of Conservation, North Shore Community Land Trust

Session goals:

1. Informative sessions about different approaches in environmental conservation.
2. Think about different approaches of community development.
3. Learn about the role of community in land conservation.
4. Understand the role of community in tackling environmental issues.

Oct 3: Performing Arts

Geographic area of focus: Southeast Asia

Speakers: Annie Reynolds, Arts Program Assistant, East-West Center; Yuan-Hsin Tung, Ph.D. student in Ethnomusicology, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Session goals:

1. Connect EWC participant community to the EWC Arts Program
2. Think about how performing arts interact with or reflect community identity
3. Engage with performing arts from different areas in the Asia Pacific / U.S.

Oct 10: Media and political/social change

Geographic area of focus: Taiwan

Speakers: Shawna Yang Ryan, Novelist and Director of the Creative Writing Program, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; and Jim Simon, Managing Editor, Honolulu Civil Beat

Session goals:

1. Understand the power dynamic between the government and the people
2. Compare the similarities and the differences of the freedom of the press among different countries
3. Reflect on what they can do to facilitate the cooperation between the government and the people.

Oct 17: Meditation and Community

Geographic area of focus: Hawai'i and Asia Pacific

Speakers: Jonathan-Philip Nery, Meditation Instructor; and EWC Participants from the Institute for Natural Resource Management and the Asia Pacific Leadership Program.

Sessions goals:

1. Give students time to relax and unwind during the week and to reconnect with their mind and body.
2. Educate students on self-care tips and tricks/learning some basic meditation practice for students to use at any time during the day or night when they need to take a break from study.
3. Learn a meditation practice that is in tune with Hawai'i's environment that will help students to feel more in tune with their new surroundings as well as learn about community building and how this also impacts one's spiritual wellbeing.

Oct 24: Death and Dying

Geographic area of focus: Hawai'i

Speakers: Jeannette G. Kojane, MPH, Executive Director, Kokua Mau; and Regina Hilo, M.A. student in Applied Archaeology and Burial Sites Specialist (Oahu), State Historic Preservation Division

Session Goals:

1. Gain exposure to unfamiliar ways of thinking about death and dying
2. Learn about and connect with resources for end-of-life care in contemporary Hawai'i
3. Learn about contemporary legislation (NAGPRA) and issues surrounding the historic preservation of human remains in Hawai'i

Oct 31: Break (Halloween)**Nov 7: Colonization**

Geographic area of focus: India

Speakers: Sankaran Krishna, Professor of Political Science, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; and Derek Taira, Assistant Professor of History and Educational Policy, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Session goals:

1. Provide theoretical constructs for exploring colonization
2. Encourage people to consider stories behind stories and explore some of the complexity behind the response to colonization
3. Encourage critical thinking about issues between education and colonization