



Wednesday Evening Seminar Fall 2017 Syllabus Creative Community Impact

Hawai'i Imin International Conference Center
Keoni Auditorium
September 6 – November 15, 2017
Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:30 pm HST

Theme

The Fall 2017 Wednesday Evening Seminar (WES) series is about getting East-West Center graduate student participants to turn their interests into action in the community. WES will feature community leaders in many areas of interest – food, education, research, theater arts, and more – and seminar activities will allow participants to go through the process of planning their own projects. Student participants, coming from many areas of Hawai'i, U.S., and the Asia-Pacific region, and bringing with them an amazing diversity of interests and expertise, will discuss their experiences, develop their ideas, and pave the way toward creating rich opportunities to have positive impact in their diverse communities.

Goals

The Fall 2017 WES series will be organized around the following four goals:

- Teach participants about a wide variety of community initiatives in Hawai'i and the Asia-Pacific-US region, covering a variety of fields and interests.
- Give participants tools and skills to turn their own interests into impact.
- Involve participants in current discussions about community well-being.
- Introduce participants to ways they might get involved in the Honolulu community.

Continuing Activity

This WES series will feature a continuing activity: participant groups will each go through the process of planning a project to make an impact in their communities in the areas of their interest. A framework document for the project will be distributed to each group on the first evening; this will include a structure and series of guiding questions to aid groups in forming their plans. Each group will receive

one framework document, but students may request electronic copies for personal use if they wish. Groups will build on this effort from week to week, incorporating the insights, skills, and considerations offered by the speakers. At the end of the series, each group will make a brief presentation about their impact plan for the other groups in the audience. The main goal for this activity is for participants to forge a realistic path from “idea” to “action” in the area they are most interested in. If successful, participants may ultimately be in a position to implement their plans in the Spring semester.

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 fellows forge bonds among themselves through 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 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, ongoing 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 Program staff. WES is required for degree student fellows and affiliates during their first fall and spring semesters. Continuing fellows are welcome to attend and often continue to participate in the seminar series.

Format

Each evening will feature brief presentations by East-West Center students on their ongoing graduate research, 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 teams for the ongoing activity, and they 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 intern. 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 using a feedback portal on the WES website.

Website

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

WES Leadership Team

Robert Moore, Texas, USA, PhD Student in International Management
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Rika Inamine, Okinawa and USA, MS Student in Nursing
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Tagayasu Anzai, Japan, PhD Student in Public Health
WES Fall 2017 Technical/Administration Intern, Graduate Degree Fellow, [tagayasu@hawaii.edu](mailto>tagayasu@hawaii.edu)

Elyssa Santos, Guam, MA Student in Pacific Island Studies
WES Fall 2017 Food Coordinator, Graduate Degree Fellow

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Schedule

WES Fall 2017 will convene nine sessions. Each session will include presentations by the guest speakers listed here, along with student presentations and group activities.

Sept 6: Entrepreneurship and Community Impact – Starting and Maintaining Organizations

Speaker

Meli James, Director of the Hawai'i Venture Capital Association

Goals

- Learn behind-the-scenes skills and requirements for starting a successful organization
- Hear from an expert about the challenges and rewards of starting an organization
- Learn how to raise money for new ideas or ventures
- Outline a business plan for your own idea or interest, and discuss it in groups

September 13: Cultural Impact – Organizations for the Arts

Speakers

Harry Wong III, Artistic Director of the Kumu Kahua Theater

R. Kevin Doyle, Director of Arts at the Mid-Pacific Institute

Goals

- Learn about impactful arts organizations in the Honolulu community
- Discuss how to turn a cultural interest into a successful project
- Learn about cultural research being done by EWC students
- Interact with leaders of successful arts organizations

September 20: Knowledge Impact – You've Done Your Research, Now What?

Speakers

Jefferson Fox, Director of the Research Program at the East-West Center

Andrew Mason, Senior Fellow at the East-West Center and Professor of Economics at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Victoria Keener, Research Fellow at the East-West Center and Principal Investigator of the Pacific Regional Integrated Sciences & Assessments

Goals

- Learn how to take knowledge from active research and apply it in the community
- Discuss with researchers how they engage with the community throughout the research process
- Hear about impactful research being done at the EWC and in the Asia Pacific region
- Brainstorm how you might put your own research into action

September 27: Education Impact – Reaching the Next Generations

Speakers

Mark Hines, Director of the Mid-Pacific eXploratory Program (MPX)

Second speaker TBA

Goals

- Discuss the role of educational institutions in shaping local communities
- Learn about dilemmas in education and innovations to help overcome them
- Hear how to get involved in education-related projects in the local community
- Brainstorm ideas for unit curricula or workshops in your area of interest

October 4: Food Impact – Food in Action

Speakers

Lee Anne Wong, Chef and Partner of the Koko Head Café

Daniel Anthony, Founder and Taro Farmer, Mana Ai

Goals

- Discuss how food production is sustained through the community

- Learn how good relationships between people at various points of the food process can enhance the work at each point
- Hear from a successful chef about how an interest in food and food preparation can lead to community impact through restaurants, books, festivals, and other ventures
- Discuss foods from your hometown and learn from others in groups

October 18: Business Impact – Kuleana of Industry to Community

Speakers

Vic Angoco Jr., Senior Vice President of the Pacific Division of Matson.

Theresa Gattung, former CEO of Telecom New Zealand

Goals

- Learn how established businesses engage with their communities
- Discuss how to engage with businesses on community impact projects
- Explore specific initiatives of established businesses in Honolulu
- Discuss ways you might approach an established business for support for your own projects

October 25: Community Activism

Speakers

Josie Howard, Director of We Are Oceania

Glenn Blumhorst, President and CEO of the National Peace Corps Association

Goals

- Learn from community leaders about organizing and advocating for specific community groups
- Hear from experts about the challenges of maintaining communities through different geographical spaces, including diasporas and worldwide communities around shared experiences
- Discuss under-served communities that you are aware of, and discuss ideas for advocating their well-being
- Learn about nuanced dilemmas that face communities of any size, and discuss ways to reconcile differing views within a community

November 1: Environment Impact – How the Environment Moves People

Speakers

Jeff Mikulina, Executive Director of the Blue Planet Foundation

Scott Atkinson, Technical Advisor with the Coral Triangle Initiative of Conservation International

Goals

- Learn about community efforts to preserve environmental richness in Hawai'i
- Explore ways to get involved in environmental preservation and conservation
- Hear from local environmentalists about current projects
- Consider how your own work affects the environment

November 15: Group Presentations

Speakers

Participant Groups

Goals

- Briefly present the community impact plan created by your WES group
- Learn about community impact plans created by other WES participant groups
- Debrief and evaluate the Fall 2017 seminar series
- Celebrate the conclusion of the Fall 2017 WES series