

## **Previous UC Pacific Worlds Workshops**

**October 16th, 2017: Nancy Kwak, Profess of History, UC San Diego, "Pacific World and the Development Agenda."**

"By 1945, the US actively positioned itself as a preeminent global power - one that was armed with a development agenda and that prioritized democratic capitalism and a free market. In so doing, it mobilized distinct Pacific crossings, from US engagements with Taiwan, Korea, Malaysia, and Singapore, to Hawaii, Peru, and Mexico. Can these international and transnational engagements be collectively remembered as "Pacific worlds," however? This talk explores some of the possibilities and limitations of an oceanic framework in understanding this mid-twentieth century moment."

**November 27th, 2017: Mark B. Kelley, Ph.D. Candidate in Literature, UC San Diego, "Sentimental Seamen: Structures of Labor, Feeling and Bondage in an American Age of Sail."**

"This papers analyzes logbooks, journals, portage bills, sailors' memoirs, and maritime fiction to track shipboard cultures of sympathy in an age of sail. As he argues, a sailing vessel's arrangement—including its closed quarters, its coordinated labors, and its hierarchical organization—both fostered sailors' fellow feeling and structured that unity for economic ends. The fluid nature of genre in maritime writing, Kelley concludes, is anextension of sailors' attempts to find an aesthetic form that best encapsulates their lives' material and affective singularly."

**December 4th, 2017: Simeon Man, Professor of History, UC San Diego, "Soldiering through Empire: Race and the Making of the Decolonizing Pacific."**

"In the decades after World War II, tens of thousands of soldiers and civilian contractors across Asia and the Pacific found work through the U.S. military. Recently liberated from colonial rule, these workers were drawn to the opportunities the military offered and became active participants of the U.S. empire, most centrally during the U.S. war in Vietnam. Through their military deployments, Man argues, these soldiers took part in the making of a new Pacific world—a decolonizing Pacific—in which the imperatives of U.S. empire collided with insurgent calls for decolonization, producing often surprising political alliances, imperial tactics of suppression, and new visions of radical democracy."

**February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018: Sarah Schneewind, Professor of History, UC San Diego, "The Truth about the Early Fifteenth Century Chinese Ocean Voyages."**

The pre-Columbian state-sponsored ocean voyages of early Ming times are sometimes called "voyages of exploration." Eurocentrists (of all political stripes and nationalities) sometimes attribute China's failure to develop sufficiently in a modern direction, leaving it open to 19th c. Western imperialism, to the short-sighted Ming bureaucracy's decision to stop funding the voyages after 1431. Meanwhile, the current Chinese government is promoting the achievements of the voyages to stoke nationalist pride, focusing for instance on the enormous size of the

vessels. This talk will explain why the voyages were begun, why they were ended, and how big those ships really were, placing the voyages in a non-teleological historical framework.

**March 5th, 2018: Cristela Garcia-Spitz, Curator of the Tuzin Archive for Melanesian Anthropology, UC San Diego, "Patrolling the Past: Bringing the Papua New Guinea Colonial-Era Reports into the Digital Realm."**

Patrolling the Past: Bringing the Papua New Guinea Colonial-Era Reports into the Digital Realm  
The Papua New Guinea (PNG) patrol reports contain first-hand accounts written by patrol officers (kiaps) as they patrolled rural areas of PNG. The reports are important primary sources for the pre-independence history of the country and continue to be useful in contemporary PNG. In the 1980s, the UC San Diego Library initiated and supported a project to provide better access to the reports housed in the National Archives of Papua New Guinea, resulting in production by the Archives of a large set of microfiche, with copies that were eventually purchased by institutions in Australia, New Zealand and the US. Over the last several years, UCSD's Digital Library Development Program has been engaged in a project to digitize the reports and make them accessible online. This presentation will provide an overview of the patrol reports, the intricacies of the organizational structure, research interest, and use of the collection, and the processes used to bring the project to fruition.

Cristela Garcia-Spitz recently became the Curator of the Tuzin Archive for Melanesian Anthropology at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) Library. In her former role as Project Manager in the Digital Library Development Program at UCSD, she worked on several digital projects within the Oceania Collection. She has a background in archives at Princeton University before coming to the UCSD Library. She earned her Masters in Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh.

**March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018: David Pedersen, Professor of Anthropology, UC San Diego, "Thinking like a Port: Capitalism and Nature in San Diego."**

This presentation takes up a phenomenon that is surprisingly common worldwide: ethnically diverse working-class people regularly catching and consuming toxin-laden seafood from an urban embayment. The talk focuses on San Diego Bay and explores the way that mainstream academic knowledge production has carved up this complex issue according to several well-worn distinctions: natural/socio-cultural; material/meaningful; and past/present. Drawing on recent critical scholarship at the cross-roads of anthropology and history, the talk develops a more holistic and inclusive modality meant to overcome the distortions and reifications yielded by our inherited discipline-specific division of labor. In this way, the presentation seeks to contribute to knowledge production appropriate for ensuring the flourishing of life on the planet, which may or may not be coterminous with the flourishing of academic disciplines.