Previous UC Pacific Worlds Workshops


"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." Literature Building, Room 310 @ Noon.

"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 an extension 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." Literature Building, Room 310 @ Noon

"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."