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Towards an Eco-poetics of Oceania: Thinking With, and Beyond, Epele Hau'ofa's Asian Pacific Imaginary

The aim of this talk will be to invoke the Pacific subaltern regional category and/or global-local vision of ocean commons called "Oceania." The talk would open "Oceania" towards modes of trans-local solidarity and world belonging. At the core is an environmental eco-poetics, articulated via thinking with and beyond the Pacific and Asia imaginary of Epele Hau'ofa's works, is the attempt to overcome national or more absolutely racialized and/or bordered frameworks of Asia and Pacific identity. Eco-poetics would reframe sites (like Hawai'i, Taiwan, Fiji, and Okinawa in Japan, even South Korea) towards an affiliated poetics of trans-regional worlding, bioregion, and trans-local solidarity that has been there all along in "transpacific dharma wanderers" & writers like Albert Saijo, Gary Snyder, Wayne Kaumualii Westlake, Nanao Sakaki, Robert Sullivan, Susan Schultz, Craig Santos Perez et al.