

7th International TransLIT Seminar

March 31, 2022

VENUE: Sala de Juntas de Filología Inglesa, Francesa y Alemana / Online

De/romanticizing the Pacific:

Imperial Legacies and Decolonial Endeavors

**We are not drowning!
We are fighting!**



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Universidad de Oviedo

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Objectives

The Pacific region has been endlessly represented through a romantic lens: idyllic blue waters, white sand beaches, swinging palm trees and friendly peoples welcoming visitors to their small, pristine and untouched islands. These exoticist visions of paradise have historically served to frame and justify western imperial practices and colonial activities in the region and continue to be employed in a wide range of texts and discourses, from popular literature and television, to tourism and advertising.

In more recent times, romanticized visions of the region have also coexisted with stories depicting the darker side of paradise: sinking islands fighting the effects of climate change, environmental refugees fleeing their home islands, and whole nations enduring health problems and struggling to survive the toxic legacies of nuclearization, militarization and ocean pollution.

The objective of this seminar is to explore the tensions between the romanticized representational legacy which continues to be capitalized from the west and the more drastic realities affecting Pacific peoples, looking at the continuities between former colonial practices and ongoing neocolonial legacies. To do so we propose to engage with some of the diverse decolonial projects undertaken by Indigenous activists, writers, artists and scholars from the region and which can be understood as a form of collective intervention to fight back both pervasive and insidious romanticized representations of the region and ongoing economic, military, political or cultural forms of control.



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PROGRAM

9:30 am	Opening	Pilar García Cuetos (Vice-rector for University Extension) Jesús Daniel Santos Rodríguez (Vice-rector for Internacionalization) José Antonio Gómez Rodríguez (Faculty Dean) Alejandra Moreno Álvarez (Head of the Department) Paloma Fresno Calleja and Carolina Fernández Rodríguez (Coordinators)
10 am	Poetry performance	Brandy Nālani McDougall (University of Hawai‘i) <i>Aloha ‘Āina and Hawaiian Decolonial Poetry</i>
11 am	Poetry performance	Craig Santos Perez (University of Hawai‘i) <i>Inafa’maolek and Chamoru Decolonial Poetry</i>
12 pm	Keynote speaker	Michelle Keown (University of Edinburgh) <i>‘We looked upon Polluted Waters’: Critiques of the Toxic Legacies of US Military Imperialism in the Pacific in Poetry and Visual Art from Micronesia</i>
12:45 pm		Coffee break
13 pm	Paper	Elena Avanzas Álvarez (University of Oviedo) <i>Chillax and Crime in Hawai'i: Race, Gender, and Capitalism in HBO's The White Lotus</i>
13:20 pm	Paper	Paloma Fresno Calleja (University of the Balearic Islands) <i>Biting Back: Literary Responses to Gastrocolonialism in the Pacific</i>
13:40 pm	Paper	Gaia Cottino (University of Genoa) <i>Beauty in a Tin: Imperial Embodied Legacies in the Island Kingdom of Tonga</i>

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