

PACIFIC HISTORY

History 1911

Prof. David Armitage

Fall 2015

Tuesday, 2–4 pm

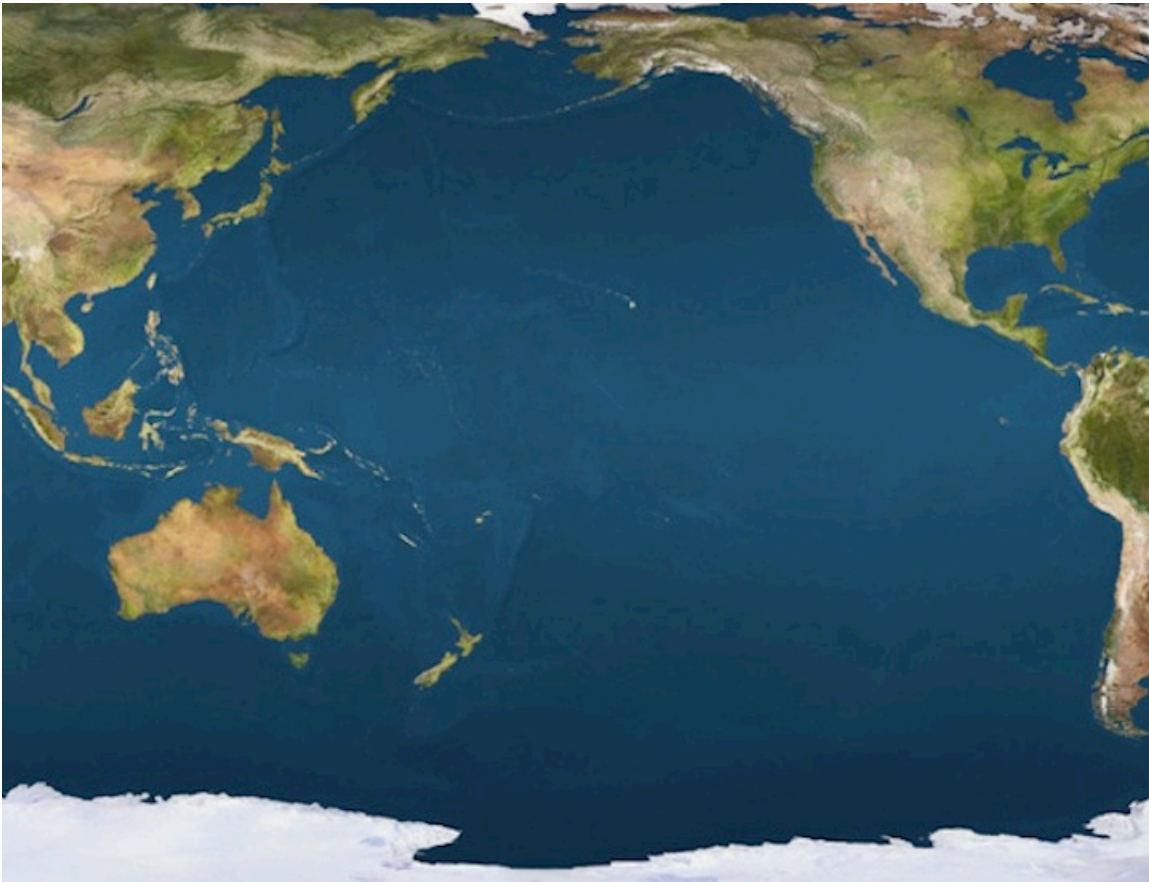
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Lower Library, Robinson Hall

... this mysterious, divine Pacific zones the world's whole bulk about;
makes all coasts one bay to it; seems the tide-beating heart of earth.

Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick* (1851)



The Pacific Ocean forms the world's largest feature and has arguably its most expansive and diverse history. It covers a third of the Earth's surface (63 million square miles), more than the entire land-area of the globe. Humans have inhabited it for over 45,000 years and one-third of humanity lives on its shores and islands. Many rich and well-developed fields cover its history, among them the histories of Pacific Islanders, of Asian and European migration and empire, of settler societies from Russia to New Zealand, of both the North and the South Pacifics, and of the Pacific Rim. Meanwhile, a new historiography is beginning to emerge which attempts a pan-Pacific perspective, bringing these fields together to see the Pacific as a whole.

This conference course—open to both undergraduates and graduate students—will introduce two of the most innovative and challenging strains of contemporary history-writing—the history of oceans and global history—through a focus on the history of the Pacific. The class is aimed at anyone with interests in Russia, Asia, North America, the Pacific Islands, South America, and Australasia, as well as those interested in oceanic, transnational, and global history. By reading across these fields, as well as by engaging with some of the most innovative and challenging recent studies that propose a pan-Pacific vision, participants will be on the cutting edge of an expanding and exciting area of current historical work.

REQUIREMENTS

Participation/presentation	35%
Short papers (2–3 pages; 3 x 10%)	30%
Final paper (12–15 pages, due 5 pm, December 11)	35%

In the short papers, each of you will provide critical assessment of the readings in three weeks of the class. The relevant weeks are asterisked and you will submit your papers at the beginning of each class. The long paper will be a historiographical essay on a topic of your choice in Pacific history, broadly conceived. You should begin thinking about a subject for this paper early in the semester and discuss it with me as soon as possible. You will then write a brief statement (1–2 pages) of your theme, accompanied by a full bibliography (up to five books, or the equivalent number of articles, for undergraduates, ten for graduate students), for submission in class on November 17.

Each student will also make at least one class presentation on a week's readings.

Statement on Collaboration

Discussion and the exchange of ideas are essential to academic work. For assignments in this course, you are encouraged to consult with your classmates on the choice of paper topics and to share sources. You may find it useful to discuss your chosen topic with your peers, particularly if you are working on the same topic as a classmate. However, you should ensure that any written work you submit for evaluation is the result of your own research and writing and that it reflects your own approach to the topic. You must also adhere to standard citation practices in this discipline and properly cite any books, articles, websites, lectures, etc. that have helped you with your work. If you received any help with your writing (feedback on drafts, etc.), you must also acknowledge this assistance.

REQUIRED BOOKS

David Armitage and Alison Bashford, eds., *Pacific Histories: Ocean, Land, People* (New York, 2014). ISBN 9781137001634
Stuart Banner, *Possessing the Pacific: Land, Settlers, and Indigenous People from Australia to Alaska* (Cambridge, Mass., 2007). ISBN 9780674026124

Matt K. Matsuda, *Pacific Worlds: A History of Seas, Peoples and Cultures* (Cambridge, 2011). ISBN 9780521715669

Katerina Martina Teaiwa, *Consuming Ocean Island: Stories of People and Phosphate from Banaba* (Bloomington, 2015). ISBN 9780253014528

Nicholas Thomas, *Islanders: The Pacific in the Age of Empire* (New Haven, 2010). ISBN 9780300180565

All these books (marked † below) will be on reserve at Lamont Library and available for purchase at the Harvard Coop. (Cheaper copies might also be found online.) All other readings will be available electronically for download via Canvas.

CLASS SCHEDULE

1. September 8: INTRODUCTION

*2. September 15: Oceans in History

Why study oceans, rather than other historical units? What different models are available for studying the history of an ocean? Can the Pacific Ocean be studied in the same way as the Atlantic Ocean? What is the contemporary significance of the Pacific region?

Jerry H. Bentley, 'Sea and Ocean Basins as Frameworks of Historical Analysis,' *Geographical Review* 89 (1999), 215–24.

David Armitage, 'Three Concepts of Atlantic History,' in David Armitage and Michael J. Braddick, eds., *The British Atlantic World, 1500–1800*, 2nd edn. (New York, 2009), pp. 13–29, 297–301.

Kären Wigen, 'Introduction' and Matt K. Matsuda, 'The Pacific,' 'AHR Forum: Oceans of History,' *American Historical Review* 111 (2006), 717–21, 758–80.

Damon Salesa, 'Opposite Footers,' in Kate Fullagar, ed., *The Atlantic World in the Antipodes: Effects and Transformations since the Eighteenth Century* (Newcastle upon Tyne, 2012), pp. 283–300.

†David Armitage and Alison Bashford, 'Introduction: The Pacific and its Histories,' in Armitage and Bashford, eds., *Pacific Histories*, pp. 1–28.

Special Report, 'The Pacific Age,' *The Economist* (15 November 2014):

http://www.economist.com/sites/default/files/20141115_the_pacific.pdf.

*3. September 22: The Pacific: What and Where?

How are oceans imagined? Are they natural features or human constructions? Does the Pacific have a non-human history?

O. H. K. Spate, "'South Sea' to 'Pacific Ocean': A Note on Nomenclature,' *Journal of Pacific History* 12 (1977), 205–11.

Donald B. Freeman, *The Pacific* (London, 2010), pp. 8–35.

J. R. McNeill, 'Of Rats and Men: A Synoptic Environmental History of the Island Pacific,' *Journal of World History* 5 (1994), 299–349.

Paul D'Arcy, 'Oceania: The Environmental History of One-Third of the Globe,' in J. R. McNeill and Erin Stewart Mauldin, eds., *A Companion to Global Environmental History* (Oxford, 2012), pp. 196–221.

Ryan Tucker Jones, 'Running into Whales: The History of the North Pacific from below the Waves,' *American Historical Review* 118 (2013), 349–77.

***4. September 29: Whose Pacific?**

Who has the best claim to write the history of the Pacific? How does the Pacific look from different vantage-points? If different groups of humans can claim the Pacific as their own, what about the animals that also inhabit the ocean?

†Damon Salesa, 'The Pacific in Indigenous Time,' in Armitage and Bashford, eds., *Pacific Histories*, pp. 31–52.

Greg Denning, 'History "in" the Pacific,' *The Contemporary Pacific* 1 (1989), 134–39.

Epeli Hau'ofa, 'Our Sea of Islands,' in Eric Waddell, Vijay Naidu, and Epeli Hau'ofa, eds., *A New Oceania: Rediscovering Our Sea of Islands* (Suva, Fiji, 1993), pp. 2–16.

Ben Finney, 'The Other One-Third of the Globe,' *Journal of World History* 5 (1994), 273–97.

Marcia Yonemoto, 'Maps and Metaphors of the "Small Eastern Sea" in Tokugawa Japan,' *Geographical Review* 89 (1999), 169–87.

Bronwen Douglas, 'Terra Australis to Oceania: Racial Geography in the "Fifth Part of the World",' *Journal of Pacific History* 45 (2010), 179–210.

Katerina Martina Teaiwa, 'Reframing Oceania: Lessons from Pacific Studies,' in Hilary E. Kahn and Saskia Sassen, eds., *Framing the Global: Entry Points for Research* (Bloomington, 2014), pp. 67–96.

Ryan Tucker Jones, 'Kelp Highways, Siberian Girls in Maui, and Nuclear Walruses: The North Pacific in a Sea of Islands,' *Journal of Pacific History* 49 (2014), 373–95.

***5. October 6: Pacific Navigation**

How was the Pacific first travelled, explored, and peopled? Who were the first navigators? When and where did they move and settle? What techniques did they use to navigate? How do we now know about them? And what did they carry with them?

'Finding Our Way,' Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments, Science Center (9 am–4 pm, until December 11, 2015): https://chsi.harvard.edu/chsi_specex.html.

†Matt Matsuda, *Pacific Worlds*, pp. 1–63.

P. S. Bellwood, 'The Peopling of the Pacific,' *Scientific American* 243, 5 (November 1980), 174–85.

Patrick V. Kirch, 'Peopling of the Pacific: A Holistic Anthropological Perspective,' *Annual Review of Anthropology* 39 (2010), 131–48.

David Turnbull, *Masons, Tricksters and Cartographers: Comparative Studies in the Sociology of Scientific and Indigenous Knowledge* (Amsterdam, 2000), pp. 131–60.

Caroline Roullier, Laure Benoit, Doyle B. McKey and Vincent Lebot, 'Historical Collections Reveal Patterns of Diffusion of Sweet Potato in Oceania Obscured by

Modern Plant Movements and Recombination,' *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 110 (2013), 2205–10.

Vicente Diaz, *Sacred Vessels: Navigating Tradition and Identity in Micronesia* (Guam, 1997):

Part 1: www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7nXev2Jt7g;

Part 2: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahpVuw57uwY.

***6. October 13: The European Discovery of the Pacific**

In what sense was the Pacific a 'new world' to European visitors? What visions did they have of the region and its peoples in the eighteenth century? What part did the Pacific play in forming conceptions of race, savagery, and 'civilisation'? And how did sex and gender shape encounters in the Pacific?

†Joyce E. Chaplin, 'The Pacific before Empire, c. 1500–1800' and James Belich, 'Race,' in Armitage and Bashford, eds., *Pacific Histories*, pp. 53–74, 263–81.

†Matt Matsuda, *Pacific Worlds*, pp. 64–87, 113–43, 161–76.

Alan Frost, 'The Pacific Ocean: The Eighteenth Century's "New World",' *Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century* 152 (1976), 779–822.

Bronwen Douglas, 'Seaborne Ethnography and the Natural History of Man,' *Journal of Pacific History* 38 (2003), 3–27.

Katherine A. Hermes, 'Getting Nailed: Re-inventing the European-Pacific Encounter in the Age of Global Capital,' in Karen A. Ritzenhoff and Katherine A. Hermes, eds., *Sex and Sexuality in a Feminist World* (Newcastle upon Tyne, 2009), pp. 372–83.

***7. October 20: The Pacific in the Age of Empire**

How can Pacific history be written to give agency to all the actors who took part in it? What was the nature of the interactions between indigenous peoples and Europeans? How were those interactions shaped by religion, commerce, and warfare? How did the Pacific become a battleground between European empires as well as indigenous polities?

†Nicholas Thomas, 'The Age of Empire in the Pacific,' in Armitage and Bashford, eds., *Pacific Histories*, pp. 75–96.

†Nicholas Thomas, *Islanders: The Pacific in the Age of Empire* (New Haven, 2010).

8. October 27: VISIT TO THE PEABODY MUSEUM (11 Divinity Avenue)

Rubie S. Watson, Nynke J. Dorhout and Juliette R. Rogers, 'Pacific Collections at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University: The Early Years,' *Pacific Arts* 13/14 (1996), 57–68.

Iain McCalman, *The Reef: A Passionate History* (New York, 2014), pp. 187–207.

***9. November 3: Pacific Migrations**

What were the scale and direction of flows of people within the Pacific in the nineteenth

and twentieth centuries? Who moved where, and why? What were the effects of their mobility? Is it helpful to think of Pacific history in terms of movement rather than settlement?

†Adam McKeown, 'Movements,' in Armitage and Bashford, eds., *Pacific Histories*, pp. 143–66.

†Matt Matsuda, *Pacific Worlds*, pp. 216–56.

Damon Salesa, "'Travel-Happy" Samoa: Colonialism, Samoan Migration and a "Brown Pacific",' *New Zealand Journal of History* 37 (2003), 171–88.

Adam McKeown, 'Global Migration, 1846–1940,' *Journal of World History* 15 (2004), 155–89.

Amy Ku'uleialoha Stillman, 'Pacific-ing Asian Pacific American History,' *Journal of Asian American Studies* 7 (2004), 241–70.

***10. November 10: Law and Empire in the Pacific**

What effect have legal regimes had on integrating the Pacific world? How far was law an instrument of empire? What are the lingering legal effects of empire in the Pacific?

†Lisa Ford, 'Law,' in Armitage and Bashford, eds., *Pacific Histories*, pp. 216–36.

†Stuart Banner, *Possessing the Pacific: Land, Settlers, and Indigenous People from Australia to Alaska* (Cambridge, Mass., 2007).

***11. November 17: The Pacific Laboratory PAPER PROPOSAL DUE**

What contribution did the Pacific make to the history of science? What were the scientific motivations behind European and American exploration in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries? How has the Pacific been a testing-ground for the sciences from the age of Enlightenment to the present?

†Sujit Sivasundaram, 'Science,' in Armitage and Bashford, eds., *Pacific Histories*, pp. 237–60.

Richard Sorrenson, 'The Ship as a Scientific Instrument in the Eighteenth Century,' *Osiris*, 2nd ser. 110 (1996), 221–36.

E. Alison Kay, 'Darwin's Biogeography and the Oceanic Islands of the Central Pacific, 1859–1909,' in Roy Macleod and Philip F. Rehbock, eds., *Darwin's Laboratory: Evolutionary Theory and Natural History in the Pacific* (Honolulu, 1994), pp. 49–69.

David Iglar, *The Great Ocean: Pacific Worlds from Captain Cook to the Gold Rush* (Oxford, 2013), pp. 155–85.

Gregory T. Cushman, *Guano and the Opening of the Pacific World: A Global Ecological History* (Cambridge, 2013), pp. 329–50.

Helen C. Bostock, David J. Lowe, Richard Gillespie, Rebecca Priestley, Rewi M. Newnham and Scott D. Mooney, 'The Advent of the Anthropocene in Australasia,' *Quaternary Australasia* 32 (2015), 7–16.

***12 November 24: The Local and the Global in Pacific History**

How can an integrated history of the Pacific be written without losing the specificity of local contexts and experiences? How has Pacific history unfolded in particular places?

†Katerina Martina Teaiwa, *Consuming Ocean Island: Stories of People and Phosphate from Banaba* (Bloomington, 2015).

Paul Wolfram, 'Te Eitei: The Banaban Story' (New Zealand, 2007):

http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:hul.ebookbatch.ASP_batch:ASP1779534ant1

***13. December 1: The 'Pacific Rim' in a New 'Pacific Century'?**

Are the ideas of a 'Pacific Rim' and a 'Pacific Century' useful ones for thinking about the past and the future of the Pacific? Which different groups have used them and why? Are we now entering a new 'Pacific Century' in response to the rise of China?

†Akira Iriye, 'A Pacific Century?' and Kaoru Sugihara, 'The Pacific Economy since 1800,' in Armitage and Bashford, eds., *Pacific Histories*, pp. 97–117, 166–90.

Matt Matsuda, *Pacific Worlds*, pp. 355–78.

R. Gerard Ward, 'Earth's Empty Quarter? The Pacific Islands in a Pacific Century,' *The Geographical Journal* 155 (1989), 235–46.

Pekka Korhonen, 'The Pacific Age in World History,' *Journal of World History* 7 (1996), 41–70.

Gary Y. Okihiro, 'Toward a Pacific Civilization,' *Japanese Journal of American Studies* 18 (2007), 73–85.

Bruce Cumings, *Dominion from Sea to Sea: Pacific Ascendancy and American Power* (New Haven, 2009), pp. 471–500.

Hillary Clinton, 'America's Pacific Century,' *Foreign Policy* (November 2011):

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/10/11/americas_pacific_century.

Barack Obama, 'Remarks by President Obama to the Australian Parliament' (17 November 2011): <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/11/17/remarks-president-obama-australian-parliament>.

December 11: LONG PAPER DUE (5 pm)