

# Assembling the Transpacific: History, Theory, Ethnography

A Presentation by Philipp Schorch

Wednesday, November 5, 6:00-7:30 pm  
Kama 201, Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies,  
University of Hawai‘i at Manoa



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This presentation approaches the Transpacific as a relational space to complicate the Euro-American distinction between ‘centre’ and ‘rim’. It argues for a synthesis of history, theory and ethnography to investigate how the Transpacific continuously becomes assembled, disassembled and reassembled. Historically, the talk draws on collaborative research on the Cook/Forster collection held at the Georg-August-University Göttingen, Germany, which deployed the Māori concept *Mana Taonga* to frame and analyze globalizing processes from an indigenous perspective. Conceptually, the paper introduces an edited volume, *Transpacific Americas*, which places a systematic focus on contemporary and historical linkages between the Americas and the South Pacific. Ethnographically, it sketches out an ongoing collaborative research project conducted at the Bishop Museum, Hawai‘i, on indigenous curatorial practices that are aimed at, and informed by, the (re)development of indigenous skills and the (re)formation of transpacific indigenous networks.

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