

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

KALAMA

PEOPLE

EVENTS

RESEARCH

E ho‘omālamalama i ke ala no ke kaiāulu

FEATURED WRITER:

Danielle Seid



Bringing in 2023 with distinction and innovative scholarship is Assistant Professor Danielle Seid, who was recently awarded a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

More than 5,000 applications were made to the NEH. Of the 204 humanities projects that have been awarded fellowships this year, Dr. Seid's research was one of only two Hawai'i projects to be selected. Dr. Seid generously shared time with Ka Lama to reflect on her fellowship.

Your project is a book-length study on Asian American women in television entitled "Beautiful Empire: The Asian/American Femme of the Televisual Age, 1950–1995." What is one question you are grappling with in your research right now?

"The main question I'm grappling with in my research is the question of femme aesthetics, which is always already linked to the question of femme survival. During the pandemic, we witnessed a sharp increase in racially-motivated attacks on Asian Americans, with Asian American women experiencing some of the most brutal violence—being pushed into oncoming trains in the subway, set on fire, beaten, verbally harassed, and, in Atlanta, murdered by a white conservative Christian man who claims he suffers from sex addiction and wanted to eliminate the "temptation" health spas posed to him. At the same time, in the last few years Asian American women have become increasingly visible in popular culture. Sandra Oh, Awkwafina, Constance Wu, Gemma Chan, Lulu Wang, Chloe Zhao, and Michelle Yeoh have all come into the media and national spotlight in ways that inspire (mostly) good feelings. Even Anna May Wong is newly visible—her face now appears on quarters, so check your coin purses! The film scholar Mila Zuo reminds us that femme beauty always takes our breath away, "perforating our mundane rhythms." In my research, I construct an archive of femme survival and ask how we might engage beautiful Asian/American femme celebrity to critique the logics of TV and celebrity culture, and thus the racial, gender, and sexual ideologies that attend U.S. empire."

FACULTY NEWS AND RESEARCH

Candace Fujikane published an essay on Haunani-Kay Trask in the *Journal of Asian American Studies*. She gave a keynote address at Queen's University and the University of Glasgow and talks on her book *Mapping Abundance* at Tufts University, University of Wellington, UHM, UH Hilo, American University, and University of Kentucky.

Craig Howes's commissioned article on "Life Writing--Genre, Practice, Environment" was published this past May in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Literary Theory*, edited by John Frow. This 15,000+ word entry offers an overview of the field, and a critical and theoretical history covering the past fifty years.

Dr. Craig Santos Perez is featured in the new publication, *We Are Here: 30 Inspiring Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Who Have Shaped the United States*. *We Are Here* is a stunning anthology licensed in partnership with the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center.

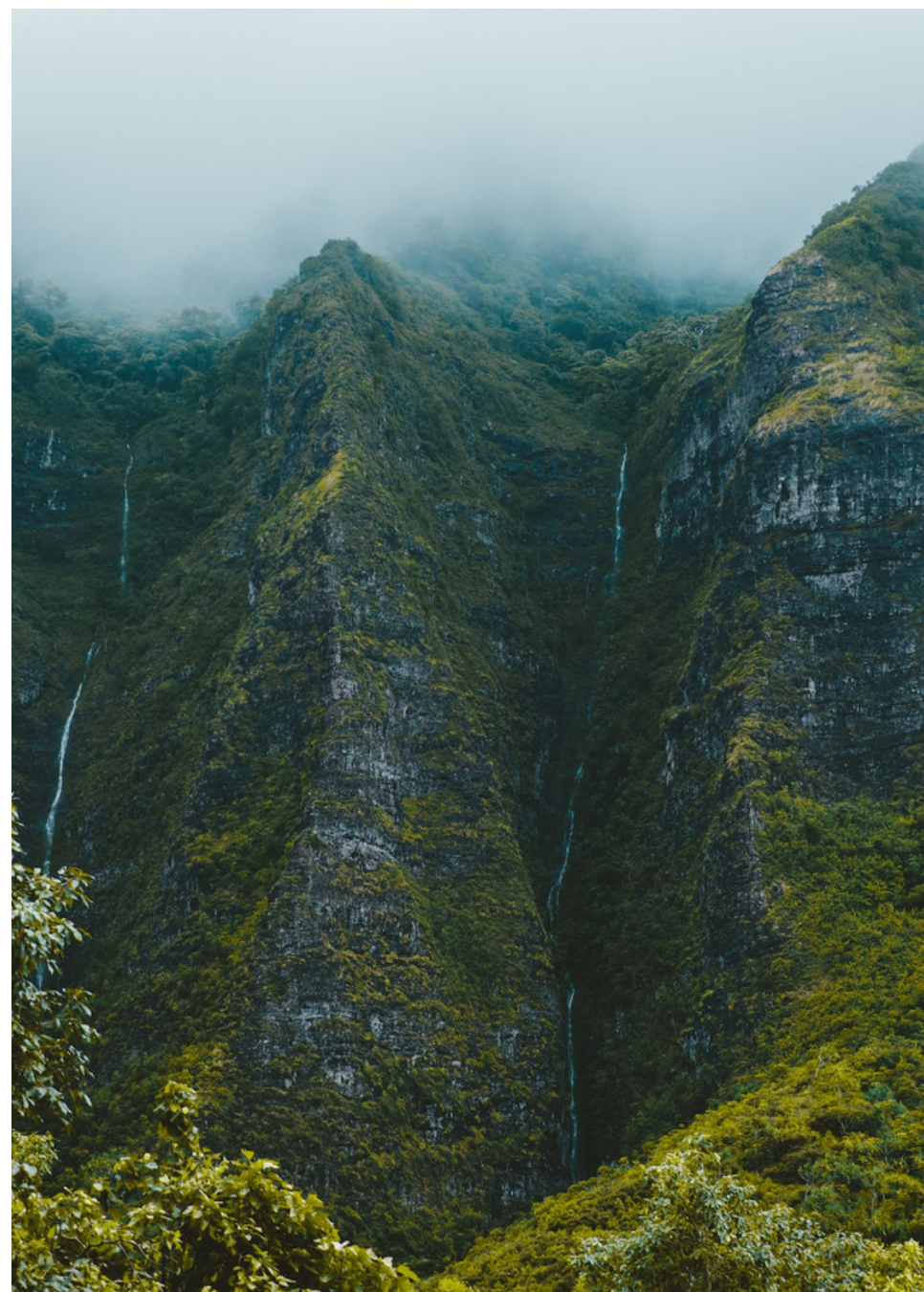
DANIELLE
SEID
(CONTINUED)

What is a source of joy or inspiration for you right now?

"Movie nights with friends, dim sum in Chinatown, and femme gossip are all major sources of joy for me. Of course, music is always a source of joy. I've been listening a lot to Jackie Shane, Jackie McLean, and Jackie Wilson—the Jackie trifecta! I'm inspired by women and femmes who survive and learn to articulate their boundaries."

What are you especially looking forward to in your fellowship?

"For me, the pandemic introduced a lot of noise. During my fellowship year, I'm looking forward to more quiet and space for reflection."



NEWS FROM
RECENT ALUMNI

MEJELYNE SIMON

BA Grad, '20



MejeLyne is currently a 9th grade English teacher at Farrington High School, her alma mater. MejeLyne works with students and families within the Kalihi area in order to help create lesson plans that help students achieve the English Common Core standards. These lesson plans include creating tests and projects that allow the students to best show their understanding of the content. MejeLyne also attends literacy professional developments that allow her to gain more knowledge on strategies that will help build literacy in the students. MejeLyne's English degree has helped to better assist these students understand the content and says that it has been an excellent resource in finding short stories and novels pertaining to Indigenous cultures. It has also been helpful in teaching students grammar, diction, spelling, and composition of essays.

STEPHANIE ROBERTSON

MA Grad, '19



Upon graduating with her MA in English from UH, Stephanie came back to campus to get her emphasis in Academic Librarianship. In January 2022, Stephanie joined the faculty at BYU–Hawaii as an Outreach Librarian/Assistant Professor. She uses her English MA weekly in that role,

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Cynthia Franklin's ms. "Narrating Humanity: Life Writing and Movement Politics from Palestine to Mauna Kea" was accepted by Fordham University Press and is forthcoming in June 2023.

For the 42nd annual Hawai'i International Film Festival, **Danielle Seid** directed the Film for Thought Series, a curated selection of films, essays, and panel discussions in partnership between HIFF and the Hawai'i Council for the Humanities.

Daphne Desser received \$11,000 in grants to develop course curricula and bring in speakers. Her article "My Mother is a Sabra and Other Inconvenient Truths" appeared in the *Interdisciplinary Humanities Journal*. She gave six invited presentations—over Zoom, in Honolulu, and in London—and she presented at two additional international conferences.

Darin Payne published an article titled "Remaking the Humanities: Neoliberal Logics, Wicked Problems, and Survival Post-Covid" in *The Journal of Arts and Humanities*; he also presented research from the article in UH Manoa's History Forum speaker series. He is presently revising an article for publication in the journal *enculturation* titled "Rhetorical Tribalism and the Polemic Public Sphere."

NEWS FROM RECENT ALUMNI

(CONTINUED)

... continuing to teach a section of ENG 101 each semester, Children's Literature for Elementary Schools each Spring term, and Community Engagement as Adjunct Faculty in the Library and Information Science Graduate Program at UHM. She also accesses her professional copy editing skills from the program each week in her role as Book Review Editor for The International Journal of Inclusion, Diversity, & Information. Finally, Stephanie's role as Assistant Professor requires research and publication for tenure and promotion that she feels well-equipped to do thanks to all she has learned from our program

AIKO YAMASHIRO

PhD Grad, '20



Aiko Yamashiro earned her PhD from the department of English in May 2020.

Yet her career as the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Council for the Humanities officially began in January 2019. "Our mission is to support the public humanities," she shared with Ka Lama, "and we began 50 years ago as a bridge organization between the university and the public. In our best role, we can help the flow of mana and inspiration between the community and higher-ed institutions. This creates the best kind of scholarship and unleashes really impactful public work. My time in the English ...

Department at UHM helped me to believe the university can change—creating more space for research and teaching driven by Native and queer and people of color, rooted in kuleana to our community. I am grateful for leaders in the English Department who had this vision and commitment, and for new leaders and students who carry on this legacy."

JANET GRAHAM

PhD Grad, '21



Janet is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Nebraska at Kearney where she divides her time between teaching contemporary American literature, postcolonial literature, and secondary English pedagogy to undergraduate and graduate students. Her students value the chance to broaden their knowledge about the world through reading, discussing and writing about the texts she shares with them. She recently published an article based on chapter three of her dissertation in *Crossings: Journal of Migration and Culture*. What she absorbed from Candace Fujikane and Jack Taylor about reading with acuity, intellectual fire, and ethical care influence the decisions she make as a teacher and scholar on a daily basis. A fond memory from her years in the department is the way so many of her mentors sprang into action to help her with the interview and campus visit that enabled her to get this job that she loves.

Georganne Nordstrom co-chaired and presented at the 2022 IWCA Conference, published "He Inoa no ke Kanaka ("In the Name of the Person"): Mele Inoa as Rhetorical Continuity" (with k. ho'omananwanui) in *Global Rhetorics* (Parlor Press, 2022), and is in the 2nd of a 3-year NSF-Funded grant in Engineering (team teaching with 2 MTAs in Engineering).

Hannah Manshel published an article in *American Literature* about Harriet Jacobs & Layli Long Soldier. This summer, she was selected to workshop her manuscript-in-progress as part of the First Book Institute at the Penn State Center for American Literary Studies.

John David Zuern and Laurie McNeill (University of British Columbia) co-edited "Comic Lives," a special issue of the journal *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies* that will appear in December 2022.

Karyl Garland was part of the first UHM cohort to complete the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) course on improving gateway courses. Karyl earned a Certificate in Effective College Instruction and a UH Certificate of Appreciation.

ENGLISH MAJORS ASSOCIATION

The English Majors Association promotes interaction amongst the students and faculty within the English Department. EMA creates an active literary community and increases participation in both on-campus and off-campus English-related events and activities. Recently, the association held an open-mic event on climate change and hosted a movie night with the film, *The Swimmers*, bringing awareness to the struggle of Syrian refugees in the Olympics. The association also co-hosted a Graduate Application workshop with Thomas Tsutsumoto of the Mānoa Career Center. For the 2023 spring semester, the association will give potential English graduating students a free cord, will host another movie night, conduct a scavenger hunt, and provide another English-related workshop. The association is also hosting a book club throughout the semester with Joseph Han's book *Nuclear Family: A Novel*. The association also introduced their own bookmark—feel free to grab one at the English Department main office in Kuykendall 402. To keep up to date with the latest events, follow their IG @ema_hawaii or email them at emaatuhm@hawaii.edu.

ĀNUENUE REVIEW

Ānuenue Review is an undergraduate creative writing journal run by undergraduate students at UH Mānoa. They are currently working on selecting submissions to be published in Volume II of the journal this Spring after publishing their first ever issue last year. This is the first year that they have opened up submissions to undergraduate students outside of UH Mānoa—they have received a plethora of submissions from out-of-state universities that they are excited to review and potentially publish in their journal. They are also currently looking to open up a submission cycle for visual works and photography to be included in this year's volume. Visit their website, <http://www.anuenuereview.com/>, to read Volume I or learn more about the journal. Stay tuned for the next volume coming this spring and any future call for submissions!

RECENT EVENTS



Annual 625 presentations by graduate students

MA students presented original research and creative writing in the annual ENG 625 mini-conference, which was guided by the theme “Genealogies of Scholarship.” Mahalo to Candace Fujikane, Kristiana Kahakauwila, and Sarah Allen for organizing alongside your students.



Craft(y) Wāhine: Literary Craft in 21st Century 'Ōiwi Storytelling

ku'ualoha ho'omanawanui, Kristiana Kahakauwila, Brandy Nālani McDougall, and No'u Revilla presented micro-talks on 'Ōiwi literary craft, discussing haku mele, play, kaona, and what it means to decolonize failure.



Graduate Student Showcase

Voices from Korean war survivors, Appalachian coal miners, a west side house party, erasure poems, and "gay Paris come to Wai'anae" -- the Graduate Student Creative Writing Showcase celebrated these voices in November 2022. Mahalo to Micah Lau for organizing the event.

ku'ualoha ho'omanawanui published poetry in three separate projects, was honored to give a keynote at the Kaua'i King Kaumuali'i Celebration, participated in a discussion with Homi K. Bhaba at the East-West Center, and presented at the International Literature et Politique en Oceanie Conference at the University of French Polynesia.

Sarah Allen's book, *Kairotic Inspiration: Imagining the Future in the Sixth Extinction*, is coming out in November.

S. Shankar published two substantial essays in 2022, including "The Ruse of Freedom: A Comparative Essay on Ahimsa and Freedom of Expression" (Cultural Critique). He continues to serve on the Board of External Experts for the Nobel Prize for Literature, and was invited to nominate for the Fukuoka Prize (Japan).

As president of Children's Literature Hawai'i, **Todd Sammons** helped put on virtually the Twenty-First Biennial Conference on Literature and Hawai'i's Children, June 3-5, 2022, more than ably assisted by ENG 495 undergraduate interns Austin Bourcier and James Davenport and former ENG 495 undergraduate interns Lea Haertwig and Kelly Murashige.