'ISLANDS AND BEACHES': THE PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEANS IN THE LONG NINETEENTH CENTURY

Convenor: Dr. Sujit Sivasundaram, Gonville and Caius College, sps20@cam.ac.uk

Sailing Chart of the Marshall Islands, donated to the Royal Colonial Institute, 1875, now in the Royal Commonwealth Society Collection at Cambridge University Library.

'Oceania is vast. Oceania is expanding. Oceania is hospitable and generous. Oceania is humanity rising from the depths of brine and regions of fire deeper still. Oceania is us. We are the sea, we are the oceans, we must wake up to this ancient truth and together use it to overturn all hegemonic views that aim ultimately to confine us again, physically and psychologically, in the tiny spaces which we have resisted accepting as our sole appointed place, and from which we have recently liberated ourselves. We must not allow anyone to belittle us again, and take away our freedom.'

From 'Our Sea of Islands' in Contemporary Pacific, 1994, by Epeli Hau'ofa (1939-2009), Tongan writer and anthropologist.
Islands were critical in birthing our modern world, and yet they have often been forgotten in our accounts of world history. Because of their rigid boundaries and small territories, islands were subject to intensive processes of cultural encounter, political annexation and settlement, making them particularly revealing and tragic places to observe the impact of colonialism and globalisation. This paper returns to the history of the Pacific and Indian Oceans in the long nineteenth century, by viewing these large expanses of water as constellations of islands. In these seas, islands served amongst other things as garrison states, laboratories of science, sites for the exclusion of the diseased and penal colonies. They were violent spaces: connected to regimes of labour servitude and with narratives of depopulation and extinction.

The teaching for this paper starts with the age of exploration at the end of the eighteenth century, which was characterised by an obsession with island cultures and peoples, because of prevalent notions of romanticism, noble savagery, utopianism and scientific inquiry. It picks up on the impact of the global age of revolutions on these islands and seas, where islands were staging points for discourses of rights and freedom, and republican protest as much as imperial rivalry. At the mid-point of its chronology, the paper will construct a connected history of anti-colonial rebellions at the mid nineteenth-century between far flung islands. Along the way, students will study the impact of the law, war, religion, and trade in zoning these oceans and defining island spaces. They will also turn to literary accounts and consider why islands were peculiarly interesting to novelists and artists. The paper will study how islands were important as environmental laboratories and for the origins of ideas of nature consciousness. The narrative of labour, indenture and slavery is critical here, as new systems of plantation labour emerged in these spaces after the abolition of Atlantic slavery. From the perspective of a maritime and technological history, islands were critical nodes in a world of increasing globalisation; these were the points of access to landmasses, via ships and telegraphs, which allowed global forces to do their work, while erasing the islands’ place in the map as the century proceeded. The paper will end with the years before the first World War, when new notions of cosmopolitan nationalism, heritage and attachment emerged on these islands. This marked the demise of the age of the island colony, as Europeans took over the interior of continents, for instance in the Scramble, and as geo-political power was theorised as linked to land routes, rather than sea-lanes. The analytical arc of the paper therefore marks the rise and fall of islands as colonies in world history.

Why look at islands to study world history? In historiographical terms, world history is now awash with a rich literature on oceanic histories which maps connections across water and traces transnational and transregional relations. At the same time, world history is characterised by a highly distinguished tradition of work in area studies, evident in other offerings in the Specified Papers at the Faculty in Indian history, Middle Eastern history, African history and Latin American history. The current paper is an attempt to find a middle plane of analysis, between the globe and the region. It takes the importance of locality firmly into view whilst avoiding the grand generalisations that sometimes characterise world history. It also begins with a commitment to the fact that
tiny places have had significant impacts on the broader contours of world history. For students, it provides an innovative method of understanding how extra-European peoples were caught in the middle of global forces, whilst making them their own. Focusing on islands in the Pacific and Indian Oceans also offers a way of thinking in comparative terms about empires. Yet it is important to underscore that the island histories considered here will open up broader themes, rather than allowing students ‘to island’ their own knowledge. In other words and in summary, this is an attempt to see the world in an island, to see seas as islands, and to see islands as worlds in worlds.

The teaching of this paper will be structured into two parts. In Part A, which will involve a course of 10 core lectures, students will be introduced to themes in nineteenth-century oceanic history which touch on islands. In Part B students will attend 10 1.5 hour Faculty classes devoted to particular islands, and some of these classes will be held alongside primary materials in the Archaeology and Anthropology Museum (on Fiji), in the Royal Commonwealth Society Collections (on Sri Lanka) and the Darwin Correspondence Project (on Tierra del Fuego). The examination paper will have c. 24 questions which take on board broader themes as well as individual case studies. A model exam is attached at the end of this reading list. Supervisions for this paper will be arranged by Sujit Sivasundaram. Students will be advised to divide up their supervision topics across Part A and Part B, ensuring coverage and an integrated understanding of the whole paper.

There will be a total of five or six supervisions for this Paper, and students will be asked to choose their supervision topics in advance, so that the right arrangements for teaching can be put in place. A student’s supervision pattern for this paper will include single, paired and grouped supervision, and students will be able to choose from within the wide menu of topics on offer below.

**Indicative general bibliography:**
Anne Salmond, Aphrodite’s Island: The European Discovery of Tahiti (2010).
Bernard Smith, Imagining the Pacific: In the Wake of the Cook Voyages (1992).
Vanessa Smith and Rod Edmond eds. Islands in history and representation (2003).
Nicholas Thomas, Islanders: The Pacific in an Age of Empire (2010).

Reference

Students will find the seventeen-volume series edited by Dennis O. Flynn and Arturo Giraldez, The Pacific World: Lands, Peoples and History of the Pacific, 1500-1900 (Ashgate Press) of use. They may also wish to consult the Oxford History of the British Empire and its Companion Series. The following journals will be directly relevant to this course, and students are encouraged to keep an eye on recent articles: The Journal of Pacific History; The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History; Itinerario; Journal of Global History; Comparative Studies in Society and History; Comparative Studies of South Asia, the Middle East and Africa; Modern Asian Studies; Modern Intellectual History; South Asia; Journal for Maritime Research.

Novels and travel literature:

Lady Isabelle Burton, Arabia, Egypt, India: A Narrative of Travel (1879)
J L Buckhardt Travels in Arabia, (1829)
Joseph Conrad, Typhoon and other Tales (1902).
Daniel Defoe, Robinson Crusoe (1714).
George Windsor Earl, The Eastern Seas, or Voyages and Adventures in the Indian Archipelago in 1832-4 (1837)
Frederick Marryat, The Naval Officer (1829).
Mark Twain, The Great Revolution in Pitcairn (1879) or Following the Equator: A Journey Around the World (1897).
Mizar Abu Taleb Khan, Travels in Asia, Africa and Europe during the years 1799 to 1803 (first published 1814, republished 1972).
Herman Melville, Typee: A Peek at Polynesian Life (1846); Moby Dick (1851).
Jehangir Nowrojee and Hirjeebhooy Merwanjee, Journal of a residence of two years and a half in Great Britain (1841), authors are Parsi naval engineers.
Fanny Parks, Wanderings of a Pilgrim in Search of the Picturesque (1850)
Robert Louis Stevenson, Treasure Island (1887).
G. L. Sullivan, Dhow chasing in Zanzibar waters and on the Eastern coast of Africa: narrative of five years suppression of the slave trade (1873).
PART A
THEMES, linked to core lectures

1. THEORETICAL VIEWS ON OCEANIC HISTORIES

a. What is attractive about the ocean as a framework for historical study?

b. What differences have appeared thus far in the writing of the histories of the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans?

c. Why have imperial historians turned to the study of the oceans?

d. Why has oceanic historiography thus far been concerned primarily with the period before 1750?


Indian Ocean general reading:


*Special issue, History Compass (2013), ‘Tracks and Trails: Indian Ocean Worlds as Method.’

Isabel Hofmeyr, ‘The Complicating Sea: The Indian Ocean as Method’ in Comparative Studies of South Asia, the Middle East and Africa (2012).


Pacific ocean general reading:
*Greg Dening, Islands and beaches: Discourses on a silent land, Marquesas 1774-1880 (University of Hawaii Press, 1990)
*Epeli Hau‘ofa, ‘Our Sea of Islands’ in Contemporary Pacific, 1994


Nicholas Thomas, Islanders: The Pacific in an Age of Empire (2010).

Matt K Matsuda, Pacific Worlds (2012)


**On oceanic histories and imperial histories:**

**Atlantic ocean general reading:**

**Mediterranean history:**

**2. PACIFIC ISLANDERS AND HISTORIES OF NAVIGATION AND EXPLORATION AFTER 1750**

a. How did Pacific islanders define the Pacific ocean before Europeans?
b. To what extent was there a meeting of traditions of navigation and exploration in the Pacific?
c. How did European voyagers come to terms with the accounts of the migration of islanders?

**On Pacific islanders’ traditions of navigation:**
On European voyagers in the Pacific ocean after 1750:
*Nicholas Thomas, Islanders: The Pacific in an Age of Empire (2011).
John Gascoigne, Encountering the Pacific in the Age of Enlightenment (2014).
Bernard Smith, Imagining the Pacific: in the Wake of the Cook Voyages (New Haven, Yale University Press, 1992)
Jane Samson, Imperial Benevolence: Making British Authority in the Pacific Islands (Honolulu, 1998)
*Greg Dening, Mr. Bligh’s Bad Language: Passion, Power and Theatre on the Bounty (Cambridge: Canto, 1994).
Paul Carter, The Road to Botany Bay (Chicago, 1987)

European views of Pacific migration and race:

On the meeting of epistemologies ‘across the beach’:
A. Salmond, The Trial of the Cannibal Dog: The Remarkable Story of Captain Cook’s Encounters in the South Seas

3. THE TRADING WORLD OF THE INDIAN OCEAN BEFORE AND AFTER 1800
Which groups dominated the trade of the Indian Ocean world until 1800 and how far was this domination changed by 1850?

**General overviews:**


*Tom Metcalf, Imperial Connections: India in the Indian Ocean Arena, 1860-1920*


*E. Tagliocozzo, 'Trade, Production, and Incorporation: The Indian Ocean in Flux, 1600-1900’ in Itinerario (2002).*


4. **THE UTOPIAN ISLAND**

   a. Why was the island a ground of intensive cultural encounter in c.1760-1840?
b. How was the island mythologised and imagined, and did this representation change after 1840?
c. How was the Pacific imagined in the Cook voyages?

Theoretical work on tropicality and utopianism:
Srinivas Aravamudan, *Tropicopolitans: Colonialism and Agency, 1688-1804* Ch2 esp

Traditions of travel c.1760-1840: the picturesque, romanticism, utopianism
Ch5 by Peter Hulme and also chapter by Leonard Bell, ‘Eyeing Samoa.’

Islands in the Pacific and Indian Oceans and Britain as an island

Captain Cook in the Pacific:
Nicholas Thomas *Discoveries: the voyages of Captain Cook* (London: Penguin)

**Comparative Atlantic material and Britain as island:**

5. **THE OCEANIC AGE OF REVOLUTIONS**
a. What does it mean to speak of an age of revolutions in the Indian and Pacific oceans?
b. Was the legacy of the age of revolutions in these seas: authority or liberty, enlightenment or parochialism?


**The global age of revolutions:**
Nicholas Guyatt and Jane Rendall eds. *War, Empire and Slavery, 1770-1830* (2011), especially chapter by Bayly on cantools.

**Pacific and Indian ocean histories:**
Special Issue in *International Review of Social History* (2013) on 'Mutiny and Maritime Radicalism in the Age of Revolution.' Chapters 4, 6, 8, 9 and 11.
Kate Brittlebank, ‘Curiosities, conspicuous piety and the maker of time’ in *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, (2007).
6. **PIRACY AND LEGALITY IN THE INDIAN AND PACIFIC OCEANS**

a. Who counted as a ‘pirate’ in the Indian ocean and why?
b. Which description best serves the status of mutineers and beachcombers in the island world of the Pacific: nativised interlopers or colonial brokers?
c. How did the exercise of the law create zones of control in the Indian and Pacific oceans?

**Piracy in the Indian Ocean:**


**Legality and Legal regimes**


P. Howell, ‘Prostitution and the place of empire: regulation and repeal in Hong Kong and the British imperial network’, in Lindsay J. Proudfoot and Michael M. Roche (eds),
Lisa Ford, Settler Sovereignty: Jurisdiction and Indigenous People in America and Australia, 1788-1836 (2010).  

**Beachcombers, buccaneers and Europeans ‘gone native’**  
Glyndwr Williams, Buccaneers, Explorers and Settlers: British enterprise and encounters in the Pacific, 1670-1800 (Burlington, VT, 2005)  
Nicholas Thomas, Islanders: The Pacific in an Age of Empire (2011)  
Greg Dening, Mr. Bligh’s Bad language: Passion, power and theatre on the Bounty (1992).  
Susanne Williams Milcairns, Native Strangers: beachcombers, renegades and castaways in the South Seas (2006)  
Rod Edmond, Representing the South Pacific: Colonial Discourse from Cook to Gauguin (1997).  
Angela Wanhalla, In/visible sight: The mixed descent families of Southern New Zealand (2013).  

**7. ANGLO-FRENCH RIVALRIES IN THE PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEANS**  
a. If Britain dominated the Indian Ocean World by 1815, how did France begin a new programme of colonisation in the later nineteenth century?  
b. How did Anglo-French rivalries accelerate the formal colonisation of the Pacific islands?  
b. What was the difference between French and British modes of engagement with the Pacific in the latter half of the nineteenth century?  

**The Indian Ocean**  
David Armitage and Sanjay Subrahmanyam eds. The Age of Revolutions in Global Context, c.1760-1840 (2010).  
C. A. Bayly, Imperial Meridian: The British Empire and the World; see also David Todd, ‘A French Imperial Meridian’ in Past and Present (2011).  

**The Pacific**
Jane Samson ed. *British Imperial Strategies in the Pacific 1750-1900*

**8. THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY DUTCH EMPIRE STRADDLING OCEANS**
How far did the Dutch empire retain its status as a maritime empire in the nineteenth century?

N. Tarling ed. *The Cambridge History of South-East Asia*, Vol.2 19th and 20th centuries
J.H. Bentley, R. Bridenthal and K. Wigen eds. *Seascapes: Maritime histories, littoral cultures and trans-oceanic exchanges* Chapters by Gaynor and Ward
Eric Tagliocozzo, ‘Hydrography, technology, coercion: Mapping the sea in South-east Asian imperialism, 1850-1900’ in Rigby, Lincoln, Killingray eds. *Maritime empires*
A. Schrikker, *Dutch and British Colonial Intervention in Sri Lanka, 1780-1815*
R Ross, *Status and Respectability in the Cape Colony, A Tragedy of Manners* (1999).
J G Taylor, *The Social World of Batavia*

9. ‘SLAVERY’ IN THE INDIAN AND PACIFIC OCEANS

a. How far did unfree labour continue -- and even come to a new peak -- in the nineteenth-century Indian and Pacific oceans?
b. What were the main types of ‘slavery’ practiced in the Indian and Pacific Oceans in this era?

**Pacific islanders as indentured labourers**

J. Harris and W. Harris, ‘The struggle against Pacific island labour’ *Labour History*, (1968).

**Indian Ocean slavery**

William Gervase Clarence-Smith, The Economics of the Indian Ocean slave trade in the nineteenth-century

**Indentured labour in the Indian and Pacific Oceans and beyond**

James Warren, Ricksham Coolie: A people’s history of Singapore (1986)
D. Northrup, Indentured labour in the age of imperialism 1834-1922
Adam McKeown, Chinese Migrant Networks and Cultural Change 1900-1936
Sunil Amrith, Crossing the Bay of Bengal (2013).

**10. CONNECTIVITY IN MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY REBELLIONS AND WARS AT THE OCEAN RIM**

a. ‘An opening for the extension of colonialism and the colonial state in particular.’ Discuss this view of mid-nineteenth rebellions and wars at the rim of the Indian and Pacific oceans.

b. What was the connection – if any – between rebellions and wars at the edge of the Pacific and Indian oceans?

C. A. Bayly, The Birth of the Modern World Chapter 4.

**The Java War, 1825-30**
C. A. Bayly, ‘Two colonial revolts: The Java War and the Indian Revolt of 1857’ in C Bayly & DHA Kolff (eds), *Two Colonial Empires*

**The New Zealand Wars, 1845-72**

**The Ceylon Rebellion of 1848 and other uprisings in 1848**

**Taiping Rebellion**
J. Spence *Search for Modern China*

**The global/regional history of the Indian rebellion of 1857-8**
C. A. Bayly, *Empire and Information: Intelligence gathering and social communication in India*
Eric Stokes *The Peasant and the Raj*
Thomas Metcalf *Aftermath of the Revolt.*
11. RACE IN THE OCEANIC REPUBLIC OF LETTERS
a. Was the idea of race created across oceans?
b. What was distinctive about the imagination of race in the Indian and Pacific oceans?

Please read across on ‘Slavery’

The Indian ocean circuit:
Ann L Stoler, Carnal knowledge and imperial power: race and the intimate in colonial rule (2002).
Harriet Deacon, ‘Racial categories and psychiatry in Africa: the asylum on Robben island in the nineteenth century’ in Ernst and Harris eds. Race, science and medicine, 1700-1960
Thomas Trautmann, Aryans and British India (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997).
R. Buschmann, Anthropology’s global histories: the ethnographic frontier in German New Guinea 2009
Sujit Sivasundaram, ‘Race, empire and biology before Darwin’ in Ron Numbers and Denis Alexander eds. Biology and ideology (Chicago, 2010).

The Pacific ocean circuit:
Roy MacLeod and Philip F. Rehbock, eds., Darwin’s Laboratory: Evolutionary Theory and Natural History in the Pacific (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1994).
W. Anderson, Colonial Pathologies: American tropical medicine, race and hygiene in the Philippines
R. Eves, ‘Black and white, a significant contrast: race, humanism and missionary photography in the Pacific’ in Ethnic and Racial Studies, 2006

12. SCIENCE’S MOST EXPANSIVE LABORATORIES

‘The expansive laboratories which gave birth to modern science.’ Discuss this view of the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Simon Schaffer et. al eds. *The Brokered World: Go-Betweens and Global Intelligence, 1770-1820*
Miranda Hughes, ‘Philosophical Travellers at the ends of the earth: Baudin, Péron and the Tasmanians’ in Rod Home (editor) *Australian Science in the Making*, (Cambridge, 1988).
Andreas Webber, ‘Encountering the Netherland Indies: Caspar G.C. Reinwardt’s Field Trip to the East (1816–1822)’ in *Intinerario* (2009), also the entire issue, esp. Introduction by Lissa Roberts,’Situating Science in Global History.’
Bernard Smith, *European Vision and the South Pacific*
13. MARINE TECHNOLOGIES AND THE CHALLENGE OF THE GREAT SEAS

a. How far did new technologies make the seas disappear in the long nineteenth century?

b. With what consequences did Indian ocean peoples continue to work on the ships in their seas through the course of the nineteenth century?

Read across on 'Science'

Frances Steel, Oceania under Steam: Sea Transport and the Cultures of Colonialism, c.1870-1914 (2011).
D G Burnett, 'Hydrographic discipline', in J Ackerman (ed.) The imperial map (Chicago, 2009)
R. Sorrenson, 'The ship as scientific instrument' in Osiris (1996).

MN Pearson, The Indian Ocean, Chapter 7
PM Kennedy, 'Imperial cable communications and strategy, 1870-1914' in English Historical Review, 1971, pp. 728-752.
Daniel Headrick, Tentacles of Progress: Technology transfer in the age of imperialism, 1850-1940 (1988);
Bruce Hunt, 'The Ohm is where the art is: British Telegraph Engineers and the development of electrical standards' in *Osiris*, 2nd series, 1994, pp.48-63.
Ralph Kingston, 'A not so Pacific voyage: the `floating laboratory' of Nicolas Baudin' in *Endeavour* 2007 online.
D. Cannadine, eds *Empire, the sea and Global History*, (2007).

**Indian ocean seamen**

'cultures of protest in transnational contexts: Indian seamen abroad' in *Transforming Cultures ejournal*, 2008 special issue, available online
A Jan Qaisar, 'From Port to Port: Life on Indian ships in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries' in A Das Gupta and MN Pearson eds. *India and the Indian Ocean* 1500-1800

### 14. Christianity across waters

a. How and why did Pacific islanders accelerate the process of Christian evangelism?
b. Did conversion give rise to particularly 'hybrid Christianities' in locations close to the sea?

* E Elbourne, *Blood Ground: Colonialism, Missions and the contest for Christianity in the Cape Colony and Britain*
J and J Comaroff, Of revelation and revolution 2vols
Neil Gunson, Messengers of Grace: Evangelical Missionaries in the South Seas
(Oxford, 1978)
J Blanco, Frontier Constitutions: Christianity and colonial empire in the nineteenth-
century Philippines (2009)
Anna Johnston, Missionary writing and empire (2003), Chapters on the Pacific
*Sujit Sivasundaram, Nature and the Godly Empire: Science and Evangelical Mission in the
Pacific (Cambridge, 2005).
Doug Munro and A Thornley eds. The Covenant Makers: Islander Missionaries in the
Pacific (1996)
Jane Samson, 'Ethnology and Theology: Nineteenth-Century Mission Dilemmas in
the South Pacific' in Brian Stanley, ed., Christian Missions and the Enlightenment
Christine Wier, The Work of Missions: Race, Labour and Christian humanitarianism in the
south-west Pacific 1870-1930
Vanessa Smith, Literary Culture and the Pacific (Cambridge, 1998)
Nicholas Thomas, Entangled Objects (1991)
R. Eves, 'Black and white, a significant contrast': Race, humanism and missionary
Rod Edmond, Representing the South Pacific: Colonial Discourse from Cook to
Gauguin (1997)
Jane Samson, Imperial Benevolence: Making British Authority in the South Pacific
(1998)
J. Garrett, Footsteps in the sea: Christianity in Oceania to World War II (1992)

15. PILGRIMAGE AND RELIGIOUS MODERNITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

a. What was the impact of being separated by the sea on the emergence of religious
modernity for Muslims and Buddhists in the Indian Ocean world?
b. What was the role of pilgrimage in sustaining religious connections?

Islam, the sea and the hajj
Edward Simpson and Kai Kresse, eds. Struggling with history: Islam and cosmopolitanism
in the western Indian Ocean (2008).
Eric Tagliacozzo, The Longest Journey: Southeast Asians and the Pilgrimage to Mecca
(2013).
Nile Green, Bombay Islam: The Religious Economy of the West Indian Ocean, 1840-1915
(2011) and 'The Hajj as its Own Undoing: Infrastructure & Integration on the Muslim
Roundtable, 'The Indian Ocean and other Middle Easts' in Comparative Studies of South
Asia, Middle East and Africa (2014).
Felicitas Becker, Becoming Muslim in Mainland Tanzania (2008) Chapters 6,7,8
K Kresse, Philosophizing in Mombasa: Knowledge, Islam and intellectual practice on the
Swahili coast (2007).
John Slight, British Imperial rule and the Hajj’, in D. Motadel (ed.), Islam and the
European Empires (2014), 53-72
A Bang, Sufis and Scholars in the sea: family networks in East Africa
Engseng Ho, Graves of Tarim: genealogy and mobility across the Indian ocean
U Freitag and W. G. Clarence-Smith, eds. Hadhrami traders, scholars and statement in the
Indian ocean 1750s-1960s (1997)

*The Theravada Buddhist world of South and South-east Asia*
David K Wyatt, *Thailand: A Short History* (Yale, reprinted 2002), Ch 5,6,7
Anne Blackburn, *Locations of Buddhism: Colonialism and Modernity in Sri Lanka* (2010) and also *Buddhist Learning and Textual Practice in 18th Lankan Monastic Culture*
C. Hallisley, ‘Roads not taken in the study of Theravada Buddhism’ in D. Lopez, ed. *Curators of the Buddha*.
16. AMERICAN EMPIRE IN THE PACIFIC

‘Another westward expansion or the origins of a new empire?’ Discuss in relation to American engagement with the Pacific islands in the nineteenth century.

Charles Wilkes, *Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition* (1845)

B. Cumings, *Dominion from sea to sea* (2009)
Noenoe Silva, *Aloha betrayed: native Hawaiian resistance to American colonialism*
Sally Merry, *Colonizing Hawai‘i: the cultural power of law*
Ronald Takaki, *Pau hana: plantation life and labor in Hawaii, 1835-1920*
Gary Y. Okihiro, *Island world: a history of Hawai‘i and the United States*
F. Gibney, *The Pacific Century*

17. THE PACIFIC IN THE LITERARY IMAGINATION

a. Why was the Pacific such a fertile field of literary production and inspiration?
b. In the midst of a redefinition of imperial priorities, how far did literature sustain a Western interest in Pacific island communities?

Herman Melville, *Omoo: A Narrative of Adventures in the South Seas* (1847, republished 2007)
Herman Melville, *Typee: A Peep at Polynesian Life* (1846, republished 2001)

Rod Edmond, *Representing the South Pacific: Colonial Discourse from Cook to Gauguin* (Cambridge, 1997).


**Contemporary/Asian Pacific literature**


### 18. COSMOPOLITANISM AND NATIONALISM IN THE INDIAN OCEAN WORLD

a. What was the link between cosmopolitanism and nationalism in the Indian Ocean World before 1914?

b. What imagined political topographies were open to the peoples of the Indian Ocean world by 1914?


Sugata Bose, *A Hundred Horizons: The Indian Ocean in the Age of Global Empire*.


Sugata Bose and K. Manjapra, eds. *Cosmopolitan Thought Zones: South Asia and the Global Circulation of Ideas* (2010), esp. essay by Hofmeyr

19. THE TURN AWAY FROM THE OCEANS?

a. How had European empire moved ‘inland’ by the First World War?
b. How did the sea lose its significance in political terms?


James Scott, Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition have failed (1998).
Daniel Headrick, Power over peoples: Technology, Environments and Western Imperialism (2009).
Dominic Lieven, Empire: The Russian Empire and its Rivals
Robert Holland, 'The British Empire and the Great War' in Oxford History of the British Empire, Vol IV.;
PART B – READINGS FOR CLASSES ON ISLANDS

Students should complete a selection of these readings for the Faculty classes. The readings have been kept short. In writing supervision essays on the topics that follow, students should utilise the readings in Part A as well. They should ensure that their essays in Part B focus in on particular islands.

Tahiti

How did Tahiti become the paradise island of the late eighteenth century?

Roy Porter, ‘The erotic as exotic: Captain Cook in Tahiti’ in Rousseau and Porter eds. *Exoticism in the Enlightenment*
Bernard Smith, *European Vision and the South Pacific*
P. O’Brien, ‘Think of me as a woman’: Queen Pomare of Tahiti and Anglo-French Imperial Contest in the 1840s Pacific’ in *Gender and History*, 2006.

Madagascar

Why was the history of Christianity on Madagascar so contested?


Sri Lanka (At the Royal Commonwealth Society Collections in the University Library)

How and with what costs was Sri Lanka transformed into a plantation colony?

Sujit Sivasundaram, ‘Islanded: Natural History in the British Colonisation of Ceylon’

**Fiji (At the Archaeology and Anthropology Museum Collections)**

*Did the British administration in Fiji protect indigenous Fijian rights? If so, in what ways and to what cost?*


**Zanzibar**

*How did Zanzibar serve as an island node in the Western Indian Ocean?*

G. L. Sullivan, *Dhow chasing in Zanzibar waters and on the Eastern coast of Africa: narrative of five years suppression of the slave trade* (1873).
Java

How much was transformed in the repeated regime changes of Java?


P. Carey, 'Waiting for the 'Just King': The Agrarian World of South-Central Java from Giyanti (1755) to the Java War (1825-30)', Modern Asian Studies 20 (1986), pp.59-137.


U. Bosma and R. Raben, Being "Dutch" in the Indies: A History of Creolisation and Empire, 1500-1920 (Singapore, 2008), chapter 1 (on the "Indies" world) and chapter 3 (on the shrinkage of that world).


J.J. Stockdale, Sketches, Civil and Military, of the Island of Java and Its Immediate Dependencies (London, 1812). Preface, Book 3 Chapter 4, Book 3 Chapter 5.

Tasmania/New Zealand

'A dying race, or an Aryan race?' How were such divergent representations and realities possible for neighbouring islanders?


HL Roth, The Aborigines of Tasmania (1899).


Judith Binney, Stories without end (2010).

J. Boyce, Van Diemen's Land (2008).

Tierra del Fuego (At the Darwin Correspondence Project in the University Library)
How did the islanders of Tierra del Fuego impact on scientific thought?

Robert Fitzroy, Narrative of the Surveying Voyages of His Majesty's Ships Adventure and Beagle Between the Yars 1826 and 1836, 3 vols (1839), vol. 2, ch. 9 and 10.
Michael Bravo, 'Ethnological Encounters', in N. Jardine, J. A. Secord and E. Spary (eds), Cultures of Natural History (1996), pp. 338-357.
Anne Chapman, European Encounters with the Yamana People of Cape Horn, Before and After Darwin (2010).

Mauritius

What changed in Mauritius between slavery, apprenticeship and indenture?

Anthony Barker, Slavery and anti-slavery in Mauritius 1810-1833 (1996)


Andaman islands

Why were the Andaman islands seen to be suited as a site for prisoners?

E. H. Man, 'On the Andaman islands and their inhabitants' in Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain 1885, jstor
S Sen, 'Savage Bodies: MV Portman and the Adamanse' in American Ethnologist 2009
A. Vaidik, Imperial Andamans: Colonial Encounter and Island History (2010).
Singapore

*How did Singapore become a maritime cross-road and with what effect?*


The ship as a laboratory? --taught by Prof Simon Schaffer

‘Floating islands.’ How revealing is this description of the European vessels that undertook the passage across the Indian and Pacific oceans?

Simon Schaffer, ‘On seeing me write’: Inscription devices in the South Seas’ *Representations* 2007
Richard Sorrenson, ‘The ship as scientific instrument’ in *Osiris* 1996.
Answer three questions

1. Who defined the unity of the Pacific Ocean after 1750?

2. ‘Europeans never achieved complete hegemony over the Indian Ocean trading system prior to 1914.’ Discuss.

3. EITHER (a) How did islands become discrete units of the colonial imagination prior to 1840? OR (b) ‘It was Cook who heralded the obsession with islands.’ Discuss.

3. How far did the age of revolutions follow divergent patterns in the various regions of the Indian and Pacific Ocean worlds?

4. How did Europeans utilise the discourse of piracy between 1750 and 1850?

5. EITHER (a) ‘The racialisation of the Tasmanian and the Maori should be interpreted as resulting from divergent attempts on the part of Europeans to annex territory.’ Discuss. OR (b) What did maritime peoples contribute to European racial ideas?

6. Was the ship an ‘in-between space’, between Europe and the island societies of the Pacific and Indian Oceans?

7. How pluralised was the colonial project enacted on the Andaman islands?

8. Was there a Scramble for colonies in the Pacific AND/OR Indian Oceans at any point of the nineteenth century?

9. EITHER (a) How far was Christianity ‘vernacularised’ in the Indian and Pacific Oceans? OR (b) Why were there so many Christianities in Madagascar in the nineteenth century?

10. EITHER (a) What was the impact of sugar on Mauritius? OR (b) How multiple were the regimes of labour in the nineteenth century Indian Ocean world?

11. How ethnicised was the plantation system of Sri Lanka?

12. ‘The British attempt to protect Fijian culture did more harm than good to the Fijians.’ Discuss.

13. How far did Realism overtake the literature of the Pacific after 1850?
14. How did the Indian Ocean allow the circulation of Islamic ideas in the nineteenth century?

15. EITHER (a) Why was voyaging in the Pacific and Indian Oceans critical to the modernisation of science? OR (b) What role did the Tierra del Fuegians play in the history of science?

16. Who controlled the vital node of Zanzibar in the nineteenth century?

17. Was there a cosmopolitan public sphere in the Indian and Pacific Oceans after 1870?

18. ‘The Oceans have never receded from view and have sustained their place as terrains of globalisation.’ Discuss.