Ree Bonyhade earned her doctorate in philosophy at the University of Toronto in 1988. Since joining the Philosophy Department at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, she has served as the department’s graduate chair for fourteen years, and is currently the department chair. She has published four books—three monographs (The Nature of Dignity and Dimensions of the Hermeneutic Circle) and two co-edited anthologies (Blackwell’s Companion to World Philosophies and Justice and Democracy: Cross-Cultural Perspectives). Her main research interests today are in the methodological implications of evolutionary biology.

Craig Hopes has been the Director of the Center for Biographical Research since 1997, the Editor and Co-Editor of Biography: An Interdisciplinary Quarterly since 1984, and a Professor of English at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa since 1983. His book Visions of the Vietnam POWs: Witnesses to Their Fight was a Choice Notable Book for 1996, and his collection Teaching Life Writing Twice co-edited with Minori Fuchs, was published in the Options in Teaching Series by the Modern Language Association in 2006. From 2005 to 2006, he served on the Executive Committee for the Division of Biography, Autobiography, and Life Writing of the Modern Language Association. A co-producer of the television documentary series Biography Hawai‘i, his collection The Value of Modern Language Association. A co-producer of the television documentary series Biography Hawai‘i, his collection The Value of

Gary Pak is a professor at English at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, where he teaches creative writing and Asian American literature. He is a first-generation Korean American whose grandparents, having an acquired Korean, arrived in Hawai‘i in 1956. Pak has published five works of fiction, including the novels A Requiem Atkinson and Children of a Fireland. His most recent publication to Brothers Under a Same Sky is a novel about the Korean War, from the University of Hawai‘i Press.

Manfred B. Steger is Professor of Political Science at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa. He has served as an academic consultant on globalization for the US State Department and as an advisor to the PBS TV series “Heaven on Earth: The Rise and Fall of Socialism.” He is the author or editor of twenty-one books on globalization, global history, and the history of political ideas, including the award-winning Globalisation: The Great World-System of the 21st Century (2nd ed., Rowman & Littlefield, 2009); the bestselling Globalisation: A Very Short Introduction (2nd ed., Oxford University Press, 2008); and Justice and Globalisation (Routledge, 2011).


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THE 34TH ANNUAL
AMERICAN STUDIES FORUM
in a globalizing world
August 6 - 13, 2014

What [Abraham] Lincoln has to Teach us about Political Ethics
Late Strange Twists on the American-Dream—Edward Albee, Hunter Thompson, Stephen Colbert, and other Satirists of the Pageant of the Exceptional Corporations and Life Writing
Domesticating the Pineapple
What Color is American Politics?
The Role of Income Inequality in American Politics
Asian-American Images in Hollywood
The Contemporary Literature of Hawai‘i
American Empire or American Decline

FORUM FACULTY / SPEAKERS

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The 34th Annual American Studies Forum
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WHAT, [Abraham] Lincoln has to Teach us about Political Ethics
By Ron Bontekoe

The paper will focus on the views that distinguished Lincoln's approach to the practice of politics from that of the vast majority of his contemporaries, and indeed, from the vast majority of all practicing politicians. The central question the paper will attempt to answer is how to bring about substantial political change, in the service of a moral ideal, without allowing one's commitment to the ideal to be undermined in the process of compromising with adversaries and accommodating the political realities that define and limit what is achievable.

WHAT Color is American Politics?
By Deane Neuhauser

American states are colored red or blue on an electoral map designating whether they tend to vote Republican or Democratic in elections. However, we know that the so-called “wings” of the parties give them a much more differentiated identity. In this presentation we will look at political differentiation in American politics.

WHAT Is the Role of Income Inequality in American Politics?
By Deane Neuhauser

For the past four decades the United States has witnessed a startling increase in income and wealth inequality. In this presentation we will examine the phenomena historically and ask how the growth of inequality in the current period is affecting American politics.

Asian-American Images in Hollywood
By Gary Pak

Since the early beginnings of Hollywood, Asians and Asian Americans have been portrayed in American films with mixed sensitivities, mainly in negative, stereotypical terms. In this session, these images will be analyzed through the lenses of historical and social contexts.

The Contemporary Literature of Hawai‘i
By Gary Pak

The contemporary writings-fiction, poetry, drama-of Hawai‘i will be discussed through the contexts of history and social movements, beginning with a brief discussion on the early writings of Native Hawaiians as a literary foundation for these writings.

American Empire or American Decline
By Martha Seger

Over the last few years, there have been important global debates over whether the 21st century will see the rise of a “Post-American World Order.” Supposing that there have been three distinct phases of “American Empire” in the 1990s, 2000s, and 2010s, this presentation will discuss the current state of the United States with a special focus on global issues of great relevance for the Asia-Pacific region.

Membership in the pineapple
By Laura Lyons

This seminar will look at how the iconography of the Hawai‘i-grown pineapple helped to shape the US imagination from the turn of the twentieth century to the rise of industrialism and statehood in 1959. We will look at early pineapple can labels, advertisements, elementary school teaching materials, and photographs of cannery workers in Honolulu to trace how the pineapple, an odd and somewhat intimidating fruit, became a crucial part of American cuisine at the same time as the islands were incorporated as part of our national territory.

What Is the American Dream?
By Ron Bontekoe

The American Dream is a nationwide and all-too-familiar term for certain historical, cultural, and aesthetic notions about America's and Americans' unique destiny. This seminar will discuss a number of writers, playwrights, and media performers who subject this familiar idea to extreme forms of critique, yet often at the same time seem to mourn the loss of the ability even to pretend to believe in success, optimism, and strength as quintessential American qualities.

Corporations and Life Writing
By Laura Lyons

Corporations affect our lives in big and small ways, and increasingly in the US, the rights of such companies have come to outstrip those of individuals. This seminar will consider the doctrine of “corporate personhood” enshrined in US law in 1886 in the Santa Clara v. Southern Pacific Railroad case, which used the fourteenth amendment to the US Constitution to grant corporations rights equivalent to people. How does this doctrine shape the stories that we tell about corporations, their founders, their CEOs, and their workers will serve as the focus of our discussion.

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