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Education

Ph.D. English, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, December 2014

Specializations: Hawai‘i-related Literature from the Hawaiian Kingdom and Territorial Eras, Translation (Theory and Practice), Folklore Studies, and Indigenous Theories and Methodologies.

Dissertation: “Facing the Spear of Change: The Life and Legacy of Ioane Kaneiakama Papa ‘Ī‘ī.” Chair: Craig Howes. John Papa ‘Ī‘ī was an important figure in 19th-century Hawai‘i, and his life narrative provides the context for a deeper understanding of Hawaiian history, culture, and religion.

M.A. Hawaiian Language, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, August 2010

B.A. Anthropology, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, June 2007, with distinction

B.A. Hawaiian Language, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, June 2007, with distinction

Research Interests

Nineteenth- and twentieth-century Hawai‘i history and literature (belief-narratives, life-writing, historical treatises) in Hawaiian or English, the politics of translation; settler politics and race-based rhetoric regarding Hawaiians; Indigenous theories and methods for the study of culture, literature, and religion; Hawaiian and other Polynesian religions; North American and Pacific Indigenous life-writing, belief narratives, and fiction.

Professional Positions

- August 2013–Present Assistant Professor Religion Department, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. Nine-month instructional faculty includes teaching, research, and service. Expertise in Hawaiian and other Polynesian religions. The Tenure, Promotion, Contract Renewal Committee gave my tenure dossier a positive assessment on February 20, 2019.
- August 2015–Present Affiliate Faculty for Indigenous Politics, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

Classes Taught

- August 2013–Spring 2019 REL 205 Understanding Hawaiian Religion
I teach this foundational course every semester.
- REL 300 The Study of Religion
Fall 2017
Fall 2016
- REL 390 Hawaiian Gods
Fall 2014
Spring 2013
- REL 492 Polynesian Religions
Spring 2017 with Writing-Intensive (WI) and Hawai‘i-Asia-Pacific (HAP) focuses
Spring 2016 WI and HAP focuses
- REL 495 Seminar in Religion
Fall 2018: Mo‘o deities (online class)
Fall 2015: Deities–forms/functions
Spring 2015: Mo‘o deities
Fall 2014: Mo‘o deities
- REL 663C Topics in Hawaiian Religion
Fall 2019: Hawaiian Understandings of the Sacred
Spring 2015: Survey of Hawaiian Religion
Fall 2015: Ho‘omana Hawai‘i & Protecting the Sacred
- REL 663B Topics in Polynesian Religions
Spring 2018: Mana

REL 625 Applied Methods in the Study of Religion
Fall 2016

Professional Publications

Books

- 2020 *Ka Po'e Mo'o: Hawaiian Reptilian Water Deities.* University of Hawai'i Press.
- October 2019 *A Penguin Book of Mermaids.* Coeditor with Cristina Bacchilega. Penguin Classics.
- 2016 *Facing the Spears of Change: The Life and Legacy of John Papa 'Īī.* University of Hawai'i Press.

Articles

- August 2016 "Mauna Kea: Ho'omana Hawai'i and Protecting the Sacred." Special Issue: *Indigenous Knowledge, Spiritualities, and Science*, Ed. Robin M. Wright, for *The Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture* 10.2 (August 2016): 155–169.
- August 2014 "Mourning the Land: Kanikau in Noho Hewa: The Wrongful Occupation of Hawai'i." *American Indian Quarterly* 38.3 (Summer 2014): 374–395.

Chapters

- April 2019 "The Politics and Poetics of Märchen in Hawaiian-Language Newspapers." *The Fairy Tale World*. Ed. Andrew Teverson. Routledge.

Foreword

- March 2019 *The Past Before Us: Mo'okū'auhau as Methodology.* Ed. Nālani Wilson-Hokuwhitu. University of Hawai'i Press.

Reviews

September 2016

Review of *Voices of Fire: Reweaving the Literary Lei of Pele and Hi'iaka* by ku'ualoha ho'omanawanui (2014) for *The Contemporary Pacific: A Journal of Island Affairs* 28.2 (2016): 502–505.

Translator

July–November 2011

Translator under Dr. M. Puakea Nogelmeier for the HUINA (Hui Unuhi I Nā 'Atikala) project, which entailed translating a selection of nineteenth-century Hawaiian-language newspapers just before and after the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1893.

June 2011

John Clark used an excerpt from my translation of 'Ī'ī's account of Puna'aikoa'e in his *Hawaiian Surfing: Traditions from the Past*. 'Ī'ī was once a kahu (guardian/attendant) for Kihawahine, one of Kamehameha I's powerful war deities. 'Ī'ī tells this story to account for the appearance of two images representing the female deities Kihawahine and Haumea. These images were used in closing rites of the larger complex of ceremonies performed to dedicate a luakini (a structure related to war and politics).

November 2008

Translator under Dr. M. Puakea Nogelmeier for the Awaiaulu Hawaiian Literature Project, which entailed translating articles from nineteenth-century Hawaiian-language newspapers.

Languages

English: advanced proficiency
 Hawaiian: advanced proficiency
 Italian: advanced proficiency
 French: advanced reading proficiency
 Tahitian: intermediate reading proficiency

Professional Honors

Book Award

Ka Palapala Po‘okela Biennial Award 2017.
Facing the Spears of Change: The Life and Legacy of John Papa ‘Īī was awarded the Best Book for the Hawaiian Language, Culture, and History Category.

Doctoral Fellowships

Mellon-Hawai‘i Doctoral Fellow: September 2012–June 2013.

DoRa 5 Grant Doctoral Fellowship: May 2013 – June 2013. European Fellowship: Folklore Department at Tartu University, Estonia. Tartu sponsor: Dr. Ulö Valk. UH Mānoa sponsors: Dr. Cristina Bacchilega and Dr. Craig Howes.

Professional Merit

Nominated for an Excellence in Teaching Award for 2016–2017 and in 2018–2019.

Professional Association Memberships

Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA)

American Academy of Religion

American Studies Association

Referred Paper Presentations

International

2018

Panel Accepted and Presented: International Society for Folk Narrative Research Conference in Ragusa, Italy (June 12-16). Paper: “The Fairy Tale in Hawai‘i—Märchen in Hawaiian-Language Journalism, 1834–1946.” Panel: “Cultural Exchange and Canonicity: Rethinking the Fairy Tale Canon through Regions of Intense Cultural Exchange.” Chair and Convener: Andrew Teverson, Kingston University. Panelists: Marie Alohalani Brown,

Ulrich Marzolph, Donald Haase, and Cristina Bacchilega. Dr. Teverson read my paper.

2015

Panel Accepted: International Auto/Biography Association (IABA): “Locating Lives: The Inaugural Conference for the Asia-Pacific Chapter” in Adelaide, Australia (December 1–4, 2015).
 Paper: “The Poetics and Traditional Genres of Kanaka Maoli (Hawaiian) Strategies for Recording and Celebrating Lives: Process and Issues in Researching, Interpreting, and Recording the Lives of Nineteenth- and Twentieth-century Kānaka Maoli.” Panel: “Process and Issues in Researching, Interpreting, and Recording the Lives of Nineteenth- and Twentieth-century Kānaka Maoli (Hawaiians).”

2013

Paper Accepted and Presented: Native American & Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) in Saskatchewan, Canada (June 13–15): “Othering, Silencing, and Discourse of Sufficiency: Fragmenting the Life and Contributions of John Papa ‘Ī‘ī.” Panel: “Reading Native Intellectuals, Hawai‘i and Ojibwe.”

Paper Accepted: International Society for Folklore Narrative Research (ISFNR) (June 25– 30): Paper: “Fishwives, Queens, and the Not-So- Happily-Ever-After: Reflection on a Nineteenth- Century Hawaiian-Language Translation of ‘The Fisherman and His Wife.’”

2012

Paper Accepted and Presented: 6th Nordic-Celtic-Baltic Folklore Symposium “Supernatural Places” in Tartu, Estonia (June 4–7): Paper: “Here be Dragons: Supernatural Encounters with Mo‘o Deities in Legendary Hawai‘i.”

National

2018

Paper Accepted: Native American & Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) in Los Angeles (May 14–19): “Question, Coopt, and Replace: Settler Shapeshifting Tactics to Undermine Protectors’ Religious Claims in the Mauna Kea Contested Case.” Panel: “S/Citing the Sacred in Law.”

- 2014
 Presider: Angela Riley, U.C.L.A. Law School.
 Panelists: Kristen Carpenter, Marie Alohalani Brown, Michael D. McNally, and Greg Johnson.
Paper Accepted and Presented: Modern Language Association (MLA) in Chicago (January 2014): “*Kanikau in Noho Hewa: The Wrongful Occupation of Hawai‘i.*” Panel: “Native American Memoir in the West: Historical Trauma and Healing.” Panel co-sponsored by the Association for the Study of American Indian Literatures (ASAIL) and the Western Literature Association (WLA).
- 2012
Paper Accepted and Presented: ‘Aha Wahine Kūhinapapa Conference, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i (August 17–18): “Ka Po‘e Mo‘o.” Presented twice: once in English and once in Hawaiian.
Paper Accepted and Presented: First Annual University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Indigenous Studies Student Conference – Ola Nā Iwi: Indigenous Continuity (April 12-14): “Politics of Translation in 19th-Century Hawai‘i: Fairy Tales Are Not Just Bedtime Stories.”
- 2011
Paper Accepted and Presented: Native American Literature Symposium (NALS) 2011: “Water, Seduction and Mana Wahine: Mo‘o Deities Revisited.”
Paper Accepted: Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association (RMMLA) 2011: “Searching for the Fragments of Ioane Papa ‘Ī‘Ī’s Autobiographical Voice.”
- 2010
Paper Accepted and Presented: Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA) 2010: “Puna‘aikoa‘e: Mo‘o in Tradition and in Translation—What do mo‘o have to do with the politics of translation, genre, and silencing the Hawaiian voice?”

Invited Papers and Lectures

International

- 2019 Speaker on Hawaiian Indigenous Knowledge, Thought, and Spirituality for the Chanie Wenjack School for Indigenous Studies at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada (September).
- 2019 Speaker on Hawaiian Indigenous Knowledge, Literature, and Religion for Centre for Indigenous Studies at the University of Toronto, Canada (September).
- 2012 “Ka Po‘e Mo‘o: Hawaiian Reptilian Water Deities” (June 14). Folklore Department, University of Tartu, Estonia.

National

- 2018 “Ethnocentricity and Religious Bias—The Politics and Poetics of Märchen in Hawaiian Newspapers.” Department of Religion, Indiana University (October 23).
- “Hawaiian Understandings of Death and the Afterlife.” Class Lecture for the Department of Religion, Indiana University (October 22).
- 2017 **Keynote:** Mo‘o—Connections and Successions: A Hawaiian Librarianship Symposium (October 20). Keynote title: Mo‘o, Mo‘okū‘auhau, and Mo‘olelo as Models for Theorizing about Intellectual Production and Repositories of Knowledge.”
- “Ho‘omana Hawai‘i and Ka Po‘e Mo‘o.” This talk on Hawaiian Religion and Hawaiian reptilian water deities was for the Hawai‘i Aloha ‘Āina Education Series, organized by Kaho‘okahi Kanuha, for the community of Kona, Hawai‘i Island (August 11).

2016

Lecture on the life John Papa ʻĪʻĪ for the King Kamehameha V Judiciary History Center (October 26).

Lecture on the life John Papa ʻĪʻĪ for the “Talk Story in the Library” series for the University of Hawaiʻi at Hilo (October 21).

Lecture on the life of John Papa ʻĪʻĪ for Hawaiian Historical Society (October 13).

Lecture on the life of John Papa ʻĪʻĪ for the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa English Department Brown Bag (October 7).

“What is Mana?” for the Maui Arts and Cultural Center and the Hawaiʻi Council for the Humanities. Kumu hula and educator Hōkūlani Holt-Padilla, who facilitated the discussion, invited me to participate in this panel, along with Rev. Kealahou Clifford Alika, pastor of Keawalaʻi Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Maui, and Dr. Kamanaʻopono Crabbe, CEO of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. (March 20)

2015

Talk: “Facing the Spears of Change: The Life and Legacy of John Papa ʻĪʻĪ” for the Center for Biographical Research’s Brown Bag Biography Series at the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa. (November 19)

Talk: “The Roots Run Deep: Hoʻomana Hawaiʻi and Protecting the Sacred” for the Indigenous Politics Brown Bag Lectures at the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa. (October 30).

Panelist for conference “Creating Futures Rooted in Wonder: Bridges between Indigenous, Science Fiction, and Fairy Tale Studies,” at the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa. (September 16–19)

2012

Talk: “Facing the Spears of Change: The Life and Legacy of John Papa ʻĪʻĪ” for the Kohala Center for Mellon-Hawaiʻi at the Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort, Hawaiʻi. (November 12)

“What is a Mo‘olelo?” for the ‘Aha Mo‘olelo Symposium, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. (October 18, 19)

“Othering, Silencing, and Discourse of Sufficiency: The Life and Legacy of John Papa ‘Ī‘Ī” for the ‘Aha Mo‘olelo Symposium, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. (October 18, 19)

Respondent for Dr. Chadwick Allen’s presentation of his book: *Trans-Indigenous Methodologies for Global Native Literary Studies* for the ‘Aha Mo‘olelo Symposium, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. (October 18, 19)

“Ka Po‘e Mo‘o: Hawaiian Reptilian Water Deities” for the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa English Department Colloquium. (March 22)

“Ka Po‘e Mo‘o Akua: Hawaiian Reptilian Water Deities” for the Kohala Center for the Puana Ka ‘Ike Series. (February 24)

“Ka Po‘e Mo‘o Akua: Hawaiian Reptilian Water Deities” for the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo for the Eia Hawai‘i Series. (February 23)

2011

“Kino Lau—Shifting Shapes and Legendary Lizard Deities” for the Pacific Series Lectures for the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, Hawai‘i. (August 2011)

Professional Service

Conference organization

Core member of the local host committee under the leadership of Dr. Hokulani Aikau for the Native American and Indigenous Studies conference held at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, May 18–21, 2016.

Academic Journal Service

American Quarterly Editorial Board Member: three-year appointment (2017–2020). Since I became a member of the editorial board in August 2017, I have reviewed 84 manuscripts.

External Advisory Committee Member for *Revista de Dioses y Hombres: Estudios sobre Religiones y Mitología / Journal of Gods and Men: Studies on Religions and Mythology*. Invited October 2018.

Peer Review

Hūlili: Multidisciplinary Research on Hawaiian Well-Being (2012, 2015).

Guest Lecturer

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Dr. Craig Howes invited me to lecture on my research and scholarship for his section on Hawaiian Literature in English (ENG 773), which introduces students to the non-fiction texts of the past one-hundred-and-fifty years and to the theory and scholarship that has contributed to making these texts, whether in translation or in Hawaiian, accessible and relevant in new and important ways. English Department, on September 13, 2018.

Dr. Ku'ualoha Ho'omanawanui invited me to lecture on Hawaiian aesthetics as literary theory for her section Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) Ka Piko Palapala Hawai'i: Foundations of Hawaiian Literature Seminar (ENG 773), English Department, on August 29, 2017.

Dr. Brandy Nālani McDougall invited me to discuss my book *Facing the Spears of Change: The Life and Legacy of John Papa 'Ī'ī* for her class on Indigenous Identity (AMST 620), American Studies Department, on September 12, 2016.

Dr. Noenoe Silva invited me to discuss my book *Facing the Spears of Change: The Life and Legacy of John Papa 'Ī'ī* for her class on politics in Hawaiian news, (HAW 445 Na Politika Ma Ka Nuhou Hawaii), Indigenous Politics Department, on April 27, 2016.

Dr. Georganne Nordstrom invited me to discuss indigenous methodologies and my experiences doing archival research for my book *Facing the Spears of Change: The Life and Legacy of John Papa 'Ī'ī* for her class on Research Methodologies in Composition and Rhetoric (ENG 705), English Department, on February 16, 2016.

Dr. Forrest Young invited me to lecture on the continuity and dynamism of Ho‘omana Hawai‘i and efforts to protect Mauna a Wākea for his Indigenous Politics section (POLS 304), Political Science Department, on January 19, 2016.

Dr. Amanda Christie invited me to lecture on my article about Anne Keala Kelly’s documentary Noho Hewa: The Wrongful Occupation of Hawai‘i for her Pacific Literature section (ENG 272), English Department, on July 17, 2015.

Dr. Cristina Bacchilega invited me to lecture on Pele (volcanic deity) narratives for her Folklore and Oral Tradition section (ENG 380), English Department, on March 17, 2015.

Dr. Daniel Harris-McCoy invited me to lecture on the Kumulipo (an important cosmogonic chant with more than 2,100 lines) for his World Myth section (LLEA 151), Languages and Literature of Europe and the Americas, on December 1, 2014.

Dr. Cristina Bacchilega invited me to lecture on Hawaiian ghost stories for her Folklore and Oral Tradition section (ENG 380), English Department, on May 19, 2013.

Department Service

Acting Chair (Spring 2019), Undergraduate Chair (2016–present), Curriculum Chair (Spring 2019, Fall 2018, Spring 2015).

Community Service

For several years now, I have offered my services as a photographer to the ‘Ōiwi community to document our events and causes—whether political marches, religious gatherings, protests, conferences, demonstrations, testimonies, poetry readings, or celebrations. I take thousands of photos and distribute the best ones free of charge through social media networks, and to scholars who request them for their books, articles, or classroom instruction.

On occasion, I offer my research and translation services free of charge to Hawaiian projects that further the wellbeing of our community.

I have offered expert testimony on Hawaiian religious practices for the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation (April 2016, August 2017).

The Culture Education team at the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum Education Department invited me to meet with them on June 4, 2014 regarding my expertise on mo‘o deities to ask my feedback on a screenplay they were writing named *Kū Ā Mo‘o* in conjunction with the Honolulu Theatre for Youth. The play opened on October 17, 2014.

International University Collaboration

I participated in the Mount Royal University Indigenous Hawai‘i Field School in June 2018, which organized by Dr. Renae Watchman (Mount Royal University, Canada) and Dr. Robert Innes (University of Saskatchewan, Canada).

I lectured on Hawaiian religion to thirty visiting students from Taisho University (Tokyo, Japan) on February 18, 2015.

Honor Societies

I was a member of the selection committee for candidates for the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Phi Beta Kappa Chapter on one occasion, and I have twice offered the welcoming chant in Hawaiian for the induction ceremony.

Professional Development

Workshops on Hawaiian Religion

Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation Papakū Makawalu workshop on the god Kū: Jan. 25–26, 2014.

Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation Papakū Makawalu workshop on the god Māui: Feb. 16–17, 2013.

Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation Papakū Makawalu workshop for Mellon-Hawai‘i Fellows on the god Hina: July 20, 2012.

Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation Papakū Makawalu
workshop on the god Lono: Feb.18–19, 2012.

Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation Ki‘i Makawalu
workshop Hawaiian understanding of the
environment: Nov. 11–13, 2011.

Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation Papakū Makawalu
workshop on the god Haumea: Feb. 11–13, 2011.