VISS 599 Spring 2018 Guest Lecturers
Picturing the Pacific Past & Present: Visual Studies in the Wake of Bernard Smith’s “European Vison and the South Pacific”

February 21, 2-5pm

Julia Lum, Doctoral Candidate, Yale University
‘Views of the South Seas’: the Pacific as Panorama
A discussion of Lisa Reihana’s panoramic video work In Pursuit of Venus [Infected] in relation to the history of the display, organization and visualization of Pacific cultures in the wake of the Cook voyages.
Link to Reihana’s work at Venice: http://www.nzatvenice.com/


March 21, Public Lecture 12:30-2pm, SOS 250, Seminar 2-5pm

Vilsoni Hereniko, University of Hawaii
Edvard Hviding, University of Bergen
Making Moana the Pacific Way: Rising Seas and Nowhere to Go
Filmmaker and writer, Vilsoni Hereniko and cultural anthropologist, Edvard Hviding, discuss their cross-cultural collaboration that resulted in the theatrical performance “Moana,” performed by singers and dancers from the Oceania Centre for Arts and Culture, Suva, Fiji, and the subsequent film “Moana Rua.” Hereniko will also discuss his artistic vision and sources of inspiration from various Pacific Island cultural traditions that shaped his creation of the performance’s dramatic narrative about climate change, the rising of the seas, and the potential loss not only of land but of Oceanic cultures and their rich oral traditions and material practices.

March 28, Public Lecture 12:30-2pm, SOS 250, Seminar 2-5pm

Fred R. Myers, New York University
Recalibrating the Visual Field: Indigenous Curators and Contemporary Art
This talk, a contribution to a multi-stranded collective project on Australian Fields of Cultural Production, represents some thoughts about the significance of Indigeneity in Australia – in one such field, namely that of the visual arts. Myers is particularly interested in what the experiences and histories of the growing cohorts of Indigenous Australian curators can tell us about the frictions in the field of art with both growing circulation of Indigenous work within Australia and internationally along with significant economic changes after the financial crisis of 2009.

April 11, 2-5pm

Jean-François Staszak, Université de Genève
Through Gauguin’s Eye: Tahiti, Now and Then
This talk will deal with Gauguin and Western geographical imagination regarding Polynesia. Stanszek will discuss Gauguin’s expectations and visual culture when he planned his stay in Tahiti, his vision of Polynesia when he was there and the image of the Islands in his work, how his work has influenced Western geographical imagination regarding Tahiti (and still does, quite problematically), and how Gauguin’s images have transformed the place he envisioned.
Paul Gauguin, The Bathers, 1897, Huile sur toile 60.4 x 93.4 cm, Washington, National Gallery of Art.

RSVP to vsri@usc.edu