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Guam River by Ric R. Castro

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Home » College Of Liberal Arts And Social Sciences » Pacific Asia Inquiry » Vol. \bigcirc , Number 1, \bigcirc 1 202 \bigcirc

Pacific Asia Inquiry, Vol. 12, 2021

Home	Pacific Asia Inquiry Multidisciplinary Perspectives Volume 12, Spring 2021	
Volume 12, 2021	CONTENTS	
Volume 11, 2020	1	Cover
Volume 10, Fall 2019	2	Institutional Information
Volume 9, Fall 2018	3	PAI, Volume 12 Editorial Team
Volume 8, Fall 2017	4	PAI Board Members
Volume 7, Fall 2016	5	Table of Contents
Volume 6, 2016	7	List of Contributors
Volume 5, 2014	9	Editor's Note
Volume 4, 2013	14	Call for Papers, Volume 13
Volume 3, 2012	16	Regional • Archaeological • WWII Related /Geographical
Volume 2, 2011	1.6	
Volume 1, 2010	16	Archaeological Survey of WWII Remains at Laderan Kastiyu, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Download Individual Volumes		Boyd Dixon, Robert Jones, Danny Welch, and Isla Nelson
· Olumes	53	Cartographic Anonymity: Towards an Evaluation of Agrigan's Mute Map Thomas Stolz and Nataliya Levkovyeh

- 101 Effects of Colonization on the Music of Chamorro Culture: Transformation and Adaptation
 Lynne Jessup Michael
- 119 Adaptive Strategies to Food Insecurity within the Chuukese Community of Guam Hanna Jugo
- 153 The Benefits of Using Relevant Materials in Cooperative English Classrooms on Yap Akiko Chochol
- 187 From Tourists to Asylum Seekers: Russian Citizens in Guam Christopher Rasmussen
- 215 Wave Riding in Cultural Contexts: *He'e Nalu,* Surfing, Film and Discourse Hunter H. Fine

247 Business/Public Administration

247 Generational Factors of Private Managerial Commitment on Guam James Ji

274 Asian Focus

- 274 The Japanese in Postwar Guam: Towards a ReconciliationMaria Cynthia Barriga
- 305 How Effective is China's Soft Power Diplomacy in FSM? The University of Guam's FSM Students' Perspective Grace Donaldson

325 Women Studies

325 Teaching Women's Histories in Oceania:
Weaving in Indigenous Ways of Knowing and
Being within the Relational Mat of Academic
Discourse
Line-Noue Memea Kruse

339 Book Reviews

- Fukushima Fiction: The Literary Landscape of Japan's Triple DisasterBy Rachel DiNitto. Reviewed by David Gugin.
- 348 The Properties of Perpetual Light By Pep Borja. Reviewed by Paulette Coulter
- 365 What is Japanese Cinema? A History By Inuhiko Yomota Reviewed by Christopher M. Cabrera
- 373 Convenience Store Woman
 By Sayaka Murata;
 Translated by Ginny T. Takemori
 Reviewed by C. S. Schreiner
 and
 The Hole
 By Hiroko Oyamada.
 Translated by David Boyd
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Editor's Note Mary L. Spencer

We hope you noticed. *Pacific Asia Inquiry (PAI)* has a new cover. Dankulo na si Yu'us Ma'asi to Ric R. Castro, Professor of Art, for permitting *PAI* to use his painting, *Guam River*, on both the cover and as a full image in this introduction. More of his work can be viewed at: www.fineartamerica.com.ric-castro. Many thanks also to Laura Warner for designing and contributing the cover design (www.cityworks.biz).

In the 12 years since the inauguration of **PAI** in 2010, the Editorial Board has published 12 volumes in which a total of 117 peer reviewed scholarly articles and 50 book review essays were made universally available via the World Wide Web. During this entire time, Dean James Sellmann has continually stewarded, shepherded, and navigated both opportunities and pitfalls facing the journal's board and authors. The nature and purpose of the journal has been constant: To advance knowledge and understanding of the Pacific Asia region in its continuing intense cultural, political, and economic interaction with other world regions. Multiple disciplines in the liberal arts and social sciences including history, psychology, language and literature, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, visual arts, music, drama, geography, economics, communication, and political science - contribute to the development of the scholarly content in PAI. Ten scholars have previously served in the role of Editor: Amy Owen, Angelina Ames, Nicholas Goetzfridt, Isa Kelley Bowman, James Perez Viernes, Avizia Y. Long, David Gugin, Michael R. Clement, Sharon Mahealani Rowe, and James D. Sellmann.

Following a recent overview of *PAI's* 12 annual issues, I felt certain that a deep study of them could well equip readers with a strong fundamental introduction to the Micronesian region and the surrounding Pacific context. Vice Provost, Dr. Troy McVey, Associate Editor of this issue of *PAI*, has contributed significantly to the work and decision making that have gone into *PAI*, V12, as is also true of the indispensable work of 27 peer reviewers. Again this year, Dr. Chris Schreiner solicited

book reviews and supported the work of the review authors of that section.

We realize that there is still work to be done to deepen the contribution that *PAI* can make. The extent of *PAI* article coverage across the geographic Micronesian region continues to be uneven, suggesting the need to develop an aspirational agenda for the Micronesian region and also for our Asian interests. This may entail efforts to find new ways to assist more regional authors. Looking only at the geographic distribution of *PAI* articles, we see that more research regarding Palau, the Marshall Islands, and all of the FSM states - Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk, and Yap - would be welcome. In Volume 12, we are fortunate to have articles regarding both Guam and CNMI, and some other Pacific coverage. We hope that continues. In this volume, we have *PAI* articles and book reviews focusing on Japan, and would welcome more of these as well as others on Korea, the multiple Chinese countries, and other Asian and Pacific entities. Their interrelationships with entities in the Micronesian region are of particular interest to *PAI* readers.

Beyond mere geographic coverage, the question of defining social science and humanities research agendas looms large. Which topics and populations should the research agendas address across and within the individual and collective entities of the region? To what extent are these gaps filled by research conducted by other research centers and individual researchers? Are we fully exercising our collaborative opportunities? **PAI** is only one of multiple research publication hubs that produce social science, humanities, and other types of research coverage in the region. But the simplistic breakdown provided here asks the question, "What are the regional research agendas? Is PAI doing all it can to stimulate reporting production on these agendas? What else should we be doing? What existing analyses of research should be brought together for discussion, planning, and priority consideration? Is further support or attention needed for the scholars who undertake research on the social, behavioral, humanities, and science priorities about which *PAI* and similar outlets publish? On this final topic, I am pleased to point out

the diversity across the authorship and the topics of the articles in this issue, and across the history of *PAI*'s 11 previous issues.

In the current volume, No. 12, readers will find 11 scholarly articles and 6 book reviews. Three of the articles are research studies centered on the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI): 1) An archaeological study on Tinian (Boyd Dixon, Robert Jones, Danny Welch, & Isla Nelson); 2) a cartographic analysis of Agrigan (Thomas Stolz and Nataliya Levkovych); and 3) a study of the colonization of the Music of the Chamorro culture on Rota (Lynne Jessup Michael).

Guam was the setting for four studies: 1) An analysis of Guam islander and media perceptions and attitudes toward the Japanese in the periods preceding, during, and following WWII, and the events and pressures influencing these (Maria Cynthia Barriga); 2) the fluctuating circumstances that stimulated the arrivals of Russian citizens on Guam between 2012 and 2021, their plights, and how Guam residents have responded to them (Christopher Rasmussen); 3) an analysis of how the Chuukese migrant community of Guam engages in adaptive strategies to cope with the food insecurity they face (Hanna Jugo); 4) and a study of factors across generations regarding private managerial commitments on Guam (James Ji, Jr.).

Four other papers had more distant regional focal points: 1) The first of these involves research with FSM students residing at the University of Guam, regarding their perspectives and knowledge of China's soft power diplomacy as it is being exercised in their respective FSM states and islands (Grace Donaldson). 2) A second paper with regional import that includes all of Oceania, examines the circumstances surrounding the teaching of women's histories in Oceania (Line-Noue Memea Kruse). The author provides examples and explains some of the challenges of this work. 3) The third paper in this group addresses language and linguistics issues arising from instructional approaches in cooperative English classrooms on Yap Main Islands, Yap State, FSM (Akika Chochol). 4) The final paper in this group examines the history of wave riding – surfing – in the cultural contexts of Oceania; with an

analysis of changes and variations across time and in the context of film, literary analysis, and contemporary public event influences (Hunter Fine).

Two of the six in-depth book review essays in this issue are set on Guam: Paulette Coulter reviews, *The Properties of Perpetual Light*, by Julian Aguon; and *Dry Nights*, by Pep Borja. Both were published by the University of Guam Press. The remaining four books are all set in Japan. C. S. Schreiner reviews *Convenience Store Woman*, by Sayaka Murata, published by Grove Press; and *The Hole*, by Hiroko Oyamada, published by New Directions. David Gugin reviews, *Fukushima Fiction: The Literary Landscape of Japan's Triple Disaster*, by Rachel DiNitto and published by the University of Hawai'i Press. Christopher M. Cabrera reviews, *What is Japanese Cinema? A History*, by Inuhiko Yomoto, translated by Philip Kaffen, and published by Columbia University Press.

Now, a few words about where **PAI** has been and where it is going. The practice of providing editor's notes for the PAI issues began with Volume 3 in 2012, focusing mainly on acknowledgements of scholarly contributions. Then, the editorial comments in Volume 4 expressed more commentary on the journal's purpose and literary stance; e.g., the role of modernism and activism. Volume 5 authors and editors did a deep dive into divergent yet related analyses of regional historical events; e.g., the early Christian campaign with Chamorro communities; the trajectory of the Chamorro language and the powerful historical impact in the region of literacy: "The book;" and the suffering and changes experienced by Palauans during the World War II siege by the Japanese military. America's past and future roles with the Pacific are considered. In Volume 6, the editorial commentary asked readers to consider social justice and ethical consciousness in order to, "...undergird the stronger architecture of our studies in Pacific futurity," and to consider these in the long view of, "...our lived and inherited experience of deep time and deep place." The Volume 7 Editor emphasized the importance of increasing awareness on Guam, "...about the potential for cultivating greater connections with neighboring islands and societies," and to facilitate regard, understanding, and "...to provoke ongoing critical

inquiry and examination of the research, fascinating and complex worlds that are Pacific and Asia regions." Volume 8 reflected efforts to address the needs for a broader regional focus, and Volume 9 crystalized in my mind the value of PAI chapters becoming important assigned readings in student syllabi. In Volume 10, we find consideration of Guam's role and position across history in regional and geopolitical concerns, with one author examining how Guam and other entities in Micronesia are interconnected with world politics and influence via monetary stimuli and strategy. Other authors extend the notion by looking at the contextual educational, social, and psychological challenges for the regional youth emerging into these times of growth and change in the region; i.e., with considerations of migration, social revisions, and economic change. Against this background, Volume 11 marks the break of normal regional life due to the Covid 19 assault on the region and the world...a story still unraveling...and also contributes articles of cultural and historical interest: Climate change in the Marshall Islands; early Micronesian castaways in Japan; the epistemology of Hawaiian hula; and an exploration into island reasoning and correlative thinking.

The current issue, Volume 12, will be the last issue – we hope – before the decline of the Covid epidemic. We look forward to future issues when authors will be able to document some of the realities of the epidemic across the Micronesian region, and explore the implications for the future. But beyond that mission, we expect that authors will also address the broad and continuing research agendas of the region.

All submissions and editorial inquiries should be addressed to the editor of the next volume, Dr. Paul Fleming, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, University of Guam, UOG Station, Mangilao, Guam 96923, email: flemingp@triton.uog.edu.