

David Ga'oupu Matthew Palaita, Ph.D. | Curriculum Vitae

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Education

Doctor of Philosophy, Ethnic Studies – University of California, Berkeley, CA	2015
Master of Arts, Ethnic Studies – University of California, Berkeley, CA	2005
Bachelor of Arts, Geography – University of Washington, Seattle, WA	2003
High School Diploma, General Education – Waipahu High School, Waipahu, HI	1997

Languages

Sāmoan—Reading, speaking, and writing.

Dissertation

Title: *“VASA (Ocean)-The Space that is Sacred: Pacific Islanders in Higher Education”*

Abstract: “Vāsā (Ocean)—The Space that is Sacred: Pacific Islanders in Higher Education,” investigates how communities of Pacific Islander students across three college campuses—City College of San Francisco, University of Washington, Seattle, and the University of California, Berkeley—change their schools and their educational experiences through the use of their indigenous cultures, cultural practices, and epistemologies (ocean). Creating a voice for an often invisible community in higher education, students “talk-story” about the challenges and triumphs of their journey through higher education while questioning the politics of knowledge production, identity constructions, indigenous cultural practices, community formations, and inclusion in their schools. The project illustrates how Pacific Islander community movements are critiques of diversity in post-secondary educational institutions and explores students’ engagement with contemporary colonization as a way of understanding their personal lives, their family and community histories, and their worlds.

Dissertation Committee: Patricia Penn Hilden, Ph.D. (chair), Michael Omi, Ph.D. (member), Rick C. Bonus, Ph.D. (member), Waldo Martin, Ph.D. (outside member/Department of History)

Awards & Honors

McNair Scholars Program, McNair Scholar
United States Department of Education
Office of Minority Affairs
University of Washington, Seattle, WA 2001-2003

Dean’s List
Office of the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences
University of Washington, Seattle, WA, summer 2001-spring 2003

Ethnic Studies Fellowship Award, \$20,000.00
Department of Ethnic Studies
University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, 2003-2004

Honorable Mention
National Academy of Sciences
Ford Pre-Dissertation Fellowship

Spring 2004 & Spring 2005

Leadership Certificate, Class of 2006
National Association of Pacific American Leadership Institute
Honolulu, HI, Fall, 2006

Academic Progress Award, \$12,000.00
Graduate Division
University of California, Berkeley, Spring 2006

Dean's Normative Time Fellowship Award, \$17,000.00
Graduate Division
University of California, Berkeley, Fall 2006

Graduate Student Instructor Teaching Award
Department of Ethnic Studies
University of California, Berkeley, Spring 2007

***U.S. National Congressional Award for Educational Achievement
Honorable Representative Eni Faleomavaega
Delegate for American Samoa to the U.S. House of Representatives
Spring 2009***

***U.S. Congressional Award for Community Achievement
Honorable Representative Jackie Speier
Representative of the U.S. 14th District
Spring 2013***

***WESTOP National Award in Education and TRIO Programs
Equity Issues in Higher Education
Fall 2016***

Publications, Films, and Documentaries

Palaita, David G., et al. *Matamai: The Vasa (Ocean) in Us: A Collection of short stories, poems, works of art, and music by students Pacific Islander Studies.* Achiote Press. Berkeley, CA. 2011.

Palaita, David G. et al. *Matamai 2: Intersecting Knowledge across the Diaspora.* Ala Press. Honolulu, HI. 2013

Palaita, David G. et al. *Matamai 3: We Are Ocean: Celebrating Pacific Islands Studies.* Ala Press. Honolulu, HI. (forthcoming)

Lee, Kapi'olani. *Forward: A Story about Pacific Islanders.* Interview. University of Washington. 2003.

Palaita, David G. et al. *Famalaoan ki Moana: Pacific Islander Women in Higher Education.* University of California, Berkeley. 2007.

Professional Experience & Community Service

VASA Program, Coordinator
City College of San Francisco
Fall 2009-present

Social Justice Studies AA-T Working Group
City College of San Francisco
Department of Interdisciplinary Studies
Fall 2016-present

Critical Middle East Studies Working Group
City College of San Francisco
Department of Interdisciplinary Studies
April 2014-present

Critical Pacific Islands & Oceania Studies Associate's Degree Program
City College of San Francisco
Department of Interdisciplinary Studies
Co-Founder & Coordinator
May 2017-present

Faculty Position & Allocation Committee (FPAC)
City College of San Francisco
Fall 2016-present

CCSF Curriculum Committee
City College of San Francisco
Fall 2016-present

MANA Retention Program
College of San Mateo
Faculty Coordinator & Co-Founder
Fall 2014-Fall 2017

Critical Pacific Islands & Oceania Studies Certificate Program
City College of San Francisco
Department of Interdisciplinary Studies
Co-Founder & Coordinator
January 2014-present

Pacific Voyagers
International Voyaging Society
Gaulofa-Samoa, Crew Member
August 2011-present

Camp Unity Summer Program
Instructor and Mentor
June 2011-present

Critical Pacific Islands & Oceania Studies Advisory Board
City College of San Francisco
Department of Interdisciplinary Studies

Co-Founder & Coordinator
January 2014-present

San Francisco County Jail Advisory Board (5 Keys Program)
City College of San Francisco
Member
Fall 2015-present

Filipino-American Task Force & Tulay Retention Program
City College of San Francisco
Member & Faculty Advisor
Spring 2010-present

VASA (Ocean) National Conference & Assembly
City College of San Francisco
Spring 2010-present

Polynesian & Pacific Islander Club—City College of San Francisco
Advisor
City College of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, Fall 2007-Fall 2014

Famoksaiyan
Pacific Islander Community Organization
University of California, Berkeley, Chapter
Fall 2005-present

Ethnic Studies Graduate Group
Department of Ethnic Studies
University of California, Berkeley, 2003-2015

Pacific Islander Commission
Associated Students of UCB
University of California, Berkeley, 2006-2015

Admissions Search Committee
Graduate Student Member
Department of Ethnic Studies
University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 2005

Pacific Islanders @ CAL
Advisor
Undergraduate Student Organization
University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 2003-2009

Indigenous Action Council
Pacific Islander Member
Faculty and Graduate Student Organization
University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 2004-2015

Indigenous Pacific Islander Alliance (‘IPIA)
Member
Graduate Student Organization and Assembly
University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 2003-2009

Pacific Islander Studies Working Group
Member
Graduate Student Organization
University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 2003-2009

Pacific Islander Student Commission, Commission Director
Washington State Office of Public University Commissions
Associated Students of the University of Washington
University of Washington, Seattle, WA 2002-2003

Pacific Islander Partnerships in Education Program (PIPE), Mentor/Advisor
Office of the President, Richard L. McCormick, Ph.D.
Department of American Ethnic Studies, Enrique C. Bonus, Ph.D.
University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 2000-2003

Pacific Islander Student Commission, Commission Associate Director
Washington State Office of Public University Commissions
Associated Students of the University of Washington
University of Washington, Seattle, WA 2001-2002

President's Commission on Diversity, Student Representative
Office of the President, Richard L. McCormick, Ph.D.
University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 1999-2002

Polynesian Student Alliance, Co-Founder
Ethnic Cultural Center
Pacific Islander Student Commission
University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 1999

Senior Student Assistant to the Vice President
Office of the Vice President, Myron L. Apilado, Ph.D.
University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 1999-2000

Student Assistant to the Director of Outreach and Recruitment
Office of Minority Affairs
University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 1997-1999

Teaching Experience

Course: Anthropology 307/American Ethnic Studies 221: U.S. Pacific Islander Cultures

Department of American Ethnic Studies & Department of Anthropology

University of Washington, Seattle, WA, Rick C. Bonus, Ph.D. (supervisor) **January 2003-June 2003**

Served as an undergraduate teaching assistant taking roll, collecting assignments, providing technical support, mentoring lower-division undergraduate students, and linking Pacific Islander students to campus resources.

Course: Ethnic Studies 123: Filipino American Culture

Department of Ethnic Studies

University of California, Berkeley, CA, Antonio Tiongson, Ph.D.

August 2003-December 2003

Served as a graduate student instructor providing lecture and grading support for 60 students. Delivered lecture presentations linking the Pacific and the Philippines throughout the semester.

Course: Ethnic Studies (ES) 21 American Cultures (AC): Survey of American Ethnic Groups

Department of Ethnic Studies

University of California, Berkeley, CA, Victoria Robinson, Ph.D. **January 2004-December 2005**

Served as a graduate student instructor for two (2) years in this introductory course covering critical terms in Ethnic Studies such as racial formation, immigration policy, race, ethnicity, racism, intersectionality, and colonization. The course covered theories used to study the experiences of ethnic and racial groups in the U.S. In addition to providing lecture and grading support for over 150 students, I delivered lectures on the Pacific and its peoples and cultures.

Course: Native American Studies (NAS) R1B: Writing and Composition in Native American Studies

Department of Native American Studies

University of California, Berkeley, CA, Dorothy Nason, Ph.D. **January 2005-June 2005**

Served as a graduate student instructor providing tutoring, writing, and grading support for 60 students and delivered lectures on comparative literatures between Native America and the Pacific.

Course: Ethnic Studies (ES) 190: Indigenous Pacific Islanders in the U.S.

Department of Ethnic Studies

University of California, Berkeley, CA, Michael Omi, Ph.D. **August 2005-December 2005**

Served as the instructor of record for UC Berkeley's first course in Pacific Islands Studies in the history of the Ethnic Studies program. This allowed me to build a curriculum that catered to Pacific Islanders in the diaspora or U.S.-born islanders which numbered about 50 taking the course.

Course: Ethnic Studies (ES) 150: People of Mixed Race Descent

Department of Ethnic Studies

University of California, Berkeley, CA, Patricia Hilden, Ph.D. **May 2006-August 2006**

Served as the instructor of record for a 6-week summer course providing lectures on the history of racialization and racial formation in the U.S. in relation to the "one-drop" rule. The class covered literature and novels by mixed-race authors and activists to get an insight on the struggles and triumphs of mixed-race peoples in the U.S.

Course: Ethnic Studies (ES) 103: Racialization and Empire—Samoan American History & Culture

Department of Ethnic Studies

University of California, Berkeley, CA, Nelson Maldonado-Torres, Ph.D. **January 2007-May 2008**
Served as the instructor of record for UC Berkeley's first course focusing on Samoan Americans, one of the largest Pacific Islander groups in the U.S. The course, with its 55 students, covered topics ranging from migration, colonization, history of the Samoan islands, contemporary problems in the U.S., and social movements in urban communities.

Course: Ethnic Studies (ES) 122: Race & Ethnicity in Contemporary American Films

Department of Ethnic Studies

University of California, Berkeley, CA, Diane Pearson, Ph.D. **May 2007-August 2007**

Served as a graduate student instructor providing lecture, grading, and mentorship support to 45 students enrolled in the class and introducing students to contemporary films in the Pacific-a region that has not ever been explored in this class.

Course: Anthropology (ANTH) 307: U.S. Pacific Islander Cultures

Department of Anthropology

University of Washington, Seattle, WA, Miriam Kahn, Ph.D. **January 2010-April 2010**

Served as a visiting professor and instructor of record conducting research at the UW collections while teaching the very same course that I had T.A.'d during my undergraduate years in Seattle. Our course was modeled after the curriculum developed for City College of San Francisco.

Course: Career & College Culture (CCOL) 100: College Success

Department of Learning Technologies

Seattle Central Community College, Seattle, WA, Steve Simeona, M.A. **June 2010-August 2010**

Served as instructor of record for a course focused on juveniles housed in the Washington State Department of Corrections. My teaching provided students with resources about college, study skills, learning styles, time, and financial management.

Course: Interdisciplinary Studies (IDST) 45: Pacific Islanders in the U.S.

Department of Interdisciplinary Studies

City College of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, Prof. Lauren Muller **August 2007-present**

Served as the instructor of record for a course that was developed and created by Pacific Islander students, which led to the creation of other courses and a certificate program in Critical Pacific Islands Studies. The course, which saw an average enrollment of about 35 students a semester, covered topics such as "indigenous ways of knowing"/epistemology, social movements for independence, cultural festivals, poetry, and histories of colonization in the Pacific.

Course: Interdisciplinary Studies (IDST) 37: Racial & Ethnic Groups in the U.S.

Department of Interdisciplinary Studies

City College of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, Prof. Lauren Muller **August 2010-present**

Served as the instructor of record for an introductory course in Ethnic Studies covering topics such as theories in the study of race and ethnicity, intersectionality, cultural identities, social movements, media, immigration histories, and colonization. This course was also offered to students of the Gateway to College program.

Course: Interdisciplinary Studies (IDST) 50: College Success

Department of Interdisciplinary Studies

City College of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, Prof. Lauren Muller **August 2009-present**

Served as instructor of record providing and teaching study skills, college culture, learning styles, campus resources, financial management, resumes, job interview preparation, and discussions on diversity, to students enrolled in the multicultural retention programs such as Tulay, APASS, AASP, Gateway to College, and the Guardian Scholar's program. I also had the opportunity to team-teach this course for two (2) semesters.

Course: Interdisciplinary Studies (IDST) 46: Fa'a Pasefika: Oceania & the Arts

Department of Interdisciplinary Studies

City College of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, Prof. Lauren Muller **August 2012-present**

Served as the instructor of record for CCSF's second course in Critical Pacific Islands Studies covering topics such as architecture, dance, poetry, music, film, literature, drama, and art. This class was inspired by Bree Gutu, who had been a strong advocate in the course's design before her passing.

Course: Interdisciplinary Studies (IDST) 80A: Racism

Department of Interdisciplinary Studies

City College of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, Prof. Lauren Muller **August 2012-present**

Served as the instructor of record for a course on "racism" which covered topics such as the history of the formation of race, the biological vs. social constructs of race, and learning how to "call-out" racism. The course is part of the Diversity and Social Justice Certificate program and was offered as a partnership of the 5 Keys program of the San Francisco County Jail.

Course: Ethnic Studies (ES) 21AC-UC Berkeley Upward Bound Program

Department of Educational Partnerships

University of California, Berkeley, CA, Kolondra Harvey **May 2013-August 2013 & May 2014-August 2014**

Served as the instructor of record for Ethnic Studies courses designed for

high school students of the UC Berkeley Upward Bound program, a program I have benefited from during my high school years. Our summer classes covered topics on race, ethnicity, culture, and provided students an opportunity to create a presentation on the cycles of socialization and liberation, which they shared with the community.

Course: Ethic Studies (ETHN) 104: Pacific Islander Cultures and People

Department of Ethnic Studies

College of San Mateo, San Mateo, CA, Frederick Gaines, Ed.D.

August 2014-Fall 2017

Served as instructor of record for a course that follows the curriculum developed for City College of San Francisco's Critical Pacific Islands Studies program.

Course: Ethic Studies (ETHN) 106: Oceania & the Arts

Department of Ethnic Studies

College of San Mateo, San Mateo, CA, Frederick Gaines, Ed.D.

August 2014-Fall 2017

Served as instructor of record for a course that follows the curriculum developed for City College of San Francisco's Critical Pacific Islands Studies program.

Course: Learning Center (LCTR) 240: College and Academic Success

Learning Technologies Division & Student Equity

College of San Mateo, San Mateo, CA, Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza, Ph.D.

August 2015-Fall 2017

Served as the instructor of record for the college's newest retention program for Pacific Islander students. The course covers learning styles, campus resources, cultural events, financial and time management.

Presented Conference Papers

"Ua Matou Nofo i Nei: Sāmoan Enclaves in Seattle": 4th Annual McNair Scholars Conference, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 2001

"Sāmoan Migrations": Annual McNair Scholars Conference, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, 2001

"Sāmoan Enclaves in the Making": Hawai'i's International Conference, University of Hawai'i, Mānoa, Honolulu, HI, 2002

"Destructive Savages from America: Critiquing the Master Narratives of "American" Sāmoa": New Voices in Indigenous Studies Conference, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, Spring 2004

"Imprisoned Souls: The Case of Hawai'i Inmate Transfers to the U.S. Mainland"

Center for Race and Gender Studies Conference, University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, fall 2004

"E"X"cluded Voices: The Re-E"X"aming of the Anne"X"ation of American Sāmoa"

Association for Asian American Studies, Annual Conference

Atlanta, Georgia, Spring 2005

"The Oceans in the School"

Department of Native American and Indigenous Studies
Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO, Spring 2013

Invited Guest Lectures

Introduction to Pacific Studies.

"U.S. Pacific Islander Cultures"

Anthropology 360

Anthony Tiongson, Ph.D.

Seattle, WA Winter 2012

Filipino Americans in the U.S.

"Filipinos and Pacific Islanders"

Ethnic Studies 124

Anthony Tiongson, Ph.D.

Berkeley, CA Fall 2003

Pacific Islander Student Organization

"Pacific Islanders towards College"

Grant High School

Sacramento, CA Fall 2003 and Fall 2004

Upward Bound Math and Science Program

"The Challenges of Higher Education"

Berkeley, CA Spring & Fall 2004

City College of San Francisco

"Students in Transition"

Amber Strauss, Instructor

San Francisco, CA Fall 2005

City College of San Francisco

"Pacific Islanders and Samoan Americans in the U.S."

Fuifuilupe Niumeitolu, Instructor

San Francisco, CA Fall 2005

Polynesian Student Organization

"Pacific Islanders and Polynesians in Higher Education"

Claremont High School

San Mateo, CA Spring 2005

College Track Outreach Program

"Underrepresented Groups in Higher Education"

East Palo Alto, CA Summer 2005

Polynesian Student Alliance

"Navigating the Future"

Annual Spring Poly Day Festivities

Seattle, WA Spring 2005

Pacific Islander Student Commission

Key Note Address
PIONEER Program
Seattle, WA Spring 2005

Famoksaiyan
"Our Time to Paddle Forward"
Workshop Lead and Speaker
Pacific Islander Commission
University of California, Berkeley, Spring 2007

1st Annual Pacific Islander Conference
Workshop Lead and Speaker
Pacific Islander Club
College of San Mateo, San Mateo, CA, Spring 2007

Polynesian Connection—UC Davis
Student Panel Address
Pacific Islander Outreach
Davis, CA, Spring 2007

Asian American Studies Health Course
Pacific Islanders in Health
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA Fall 2013-present

"We Are Ocean"
Pacific Islanders in Higher Education
Portland State University
Portland, OR Spring 2017

"We Are Ocean"
Pacific Islanders in Higher Education
National University of Samoa
Apia, Samoa, Summer 2017

"Indigenous Studies at a Time of Conflict"
Native American Studies Program
University of South Dakota
February, Spring 2019 (Forthcoming)

References

Rick C. Bonus, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of American Ethnic Studies
University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Toeutu Fa'aleava, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of University Studies
Portland State University, Portland, OR

Patricia P. Hilden, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Ethnic Studies
University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

Michael Omi, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Ethnic Studies
University of California, Berkeley, CA

Waldo Martin, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of History
University of California, Berkeley, CA

Ardel Thomas, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Studies
City College of San Francisco