



# TAPESTRIES OF RESILIENCE SECURING OUR ISLAND COMMUNITIES

Weaving the intricate approaches to security within the island and the region

PROGRAM BOOKLET



### ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences hosts the 46th Annual Research Conference. This year's theme, "Tapestries of Resilience: Securing Our Island Communities," highlights the intricate ways our island communities weave together our approaches to security in comprehensive and multifaceted ways.

We encourage conference participants to consider how our unique responses to food security, climate change, delicate ecosystems, affordable housing, economic inequality, health, military security, culture, history, identity, education, and more can be thought of as threads in our "tapestries of resilience" as we create resilient communities for our fast-changing world.

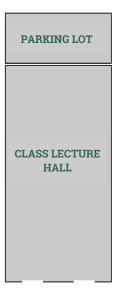
This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Mary Therese Perez Hattori, Director of the Pacific Islands Development Program and affiliate faculty at the East-West Center. In her presentation, "Resilience in Uncertain Times: A Pacific Perspective," Dr. Hattori will highlight some continuing and emerging threats to peace and prosperity in Oceania, including the US-affiliated Pacific, and the opportunities they present.

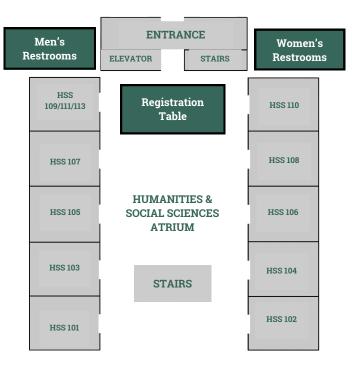
The conference will be held in person on the UOG campus, beginning with our keynote presentation and poster session on the evening of March 6 in the CLASS Lecture Hall. Conference presentations will continue the following day, Friday, March 7, 2025, in the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) Building, followed by the opening of an art exhibit at the Isla Center for the Arts and conference closing.

We welcome local and international scholars, artists, community experts, and students to participate.

## CONFERENCE MAP

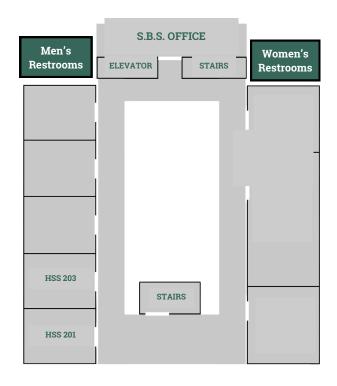


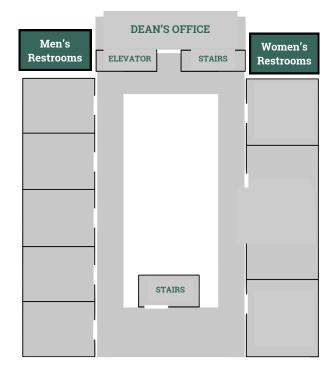




HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES (HSS) BUILDING SECOND FLOOR

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES (HSS) BUILDING THIRD FLOOR





### PROGRAM FLOW

DAY 1 - MARCH 6, 2025 CLASS LECTURE HALL

5:00 PM

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION & CHECK-IN** 

**Q** CLASS LECTURE HALL LOBBY

5:30 PM

**OPENING REMARKS** 

BY DR. JAMES D. SELLMANN

**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION** 

BY DR. MARY THERESE PEREZ HATTORI

POSTER SESSION

**Q** CLASS LECTURE HALL LOBBY

Gender, Ethnic, and Generational Differences in Mental Health Stigma: A Mixed Methods Investigation

BY MARIANA C. CASTRO, DEBRA T. CABRERA, & YOSHITO KAWABATA

**Building Resilient Language Programs: The Role of Evaluation in Sustaining Educational Growth** 

BY REGINALD GENTRY

Academic Persistence Among First and Continuing Generation College Students

BY RONALD ADAME & DEBRA T. CABRERA



#### DR. MARY THERESE PEREZ HATTORI

is a daughter of Guåhan (Guam), of the clan Familian Titang, born to Paul Mitsuo Hattori† of Kalihi, O'ahu and Fermina Leon Guerrero Perez† of the village of Chalan Pago.

She currently serves as Director of the Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP) with the East-West Center and previously enjoyed a long career in various technology and education-related positions. PIDP is regional organization, a founding member of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific and is secretariat of the Pacific Islands Council of Leaders.

She is also affiliate graduate faculty in Pacific Studies, Learning Design and Technology, and several Educational Doctorate programs a community organizer, an advocate for Pacific Islanders in the US, a public speaker, an author, and a poet.

She is co-founder and co-organizer of cultural events such as the Celebrate Micronesia Festival and the Cultural Animation Film Festival.

RESILIENCE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES: A PACIFIC PERSPECTIVE 5:30 PM, CLASS LECTURE HALL

#### **KEYNOTE | Dr. Mary Therese Perez Hattori**

Dr. Hattori will highlight some continuing and emerging threats to peace and prosperity in Oceania, including the US affiliated Pacific, and the opportunities they present. She will share examples from her work with the Pacific Islands Development Program, the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific, and the Hawai'i State Board of Education that leverage ancient indigenous wisdom and leadership to resolve contemporary problems and foster global citizenship and education for peace through local/localised initiatives.

GENDER, ETHNIC, AND GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES IN MENTAL HEALTH
STIGMA: A MIXED METHODS INVESTIGATION CLASS LECTURE HALL

## POSTER | Mariana C. Castro (St. John's School), Debra T. Cabrera (University of Guam), and Yoshito Kawabata (University of Guam)

A lack of validation of people's experiences has contributed to the cumulative effect of silence and the practice of overlooking mental health as a significant issue among the people of Guam. These experiences have promoted a social stigma on mental health.

While awareness has increased, disparities in attitudes and acceptance may be found across different generations, genders, and ethnicities. Differences in access and exposure to new perspectives on mental health may lead to different levels of stigmatization among these various groups. This study sought to explore the level of mental health stigma across different sociodemographic groups.

The groups examined were categorized by age, gender, and ethnicity, with a special focus on the CHamoru culture. Using the mixed-methods approach, the study showed partial support for gender differences. The semi-structured interviews showed no gender differences. The mixed method approach using surveys and semi-structured interviews revealed significant generational differences.

BUILDING RESILIENT LANGUAGE PROGRAMS: THE ROLE OF EVALUATION IN SUSTAINING EDUCATIONAL GROWTH CLASS LECTURE HALL

### **POSTER** | Reginald Gentry (Sophia University)

Evaluation is a critical yet underutilized tool in language programs, providing essential feedback to enhance instructional effectiveness and learner outcomes. This study examines how integrating evaluation fosters resilience by refining pedagogical practices, aligning with learner needs, and supporting educator development. Through instructor-driven feedback, the study highlights evaluation as a sustainable mechanism for continuous improvement in language education. It also discusses future measures to ensure programs remain adaptable and responsive to change. By embedding systematic assessment and feedback mechanisms, institutions can create more resilient, effective, and sustainable learning environments—especially in communities facing educational, economic, or resource-related challenges. This research is particularly relevant to educators, administrators, and policymakers seeking strategies to enhance resilience through data-driven program evaluation.

Keywords: evaluation, assessment, language program, utilization-focused evaluation

ACADEMIC PERSISTENCE AMONG FIRST AND CONTINUING GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS CLASS LECTURE HALL

### POSTER | Ronald Adame (University of Guam) and Debra T. Cabrera, (University of Guam)

The present study examined differences in academic persistence between first-generation and continuing-generation college students on the island of Guam. Utilizing quantitative survey methods alongside thematic analysis of open-ended survey responses, the study explored students' sense of purpose in post-secondary education and the key motivating factors contributing to student retention. The findings indicate that a student's college major significantly impacts first-generation students' sense of purpose within higher education, shaping their motivation and commitment to completing their degrees. Additionally, the study found that students with strong support systems, including supportive peers and mentors, were more likely to persist in their academic journeys. By applying theoretical frameworks related to goal setting in higher education, this study offers valuable insights into factors influencing students' sense of purpose and retention. The findings provide important implications for educators, policymakers, and institutions seeking to improve student persistence and success in higher education.

### PROGRAM FLOW

**DAY 2 - MARCH 7, 2025** 

**Q** HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES (HSS) BUILDING

8:30 AM CONFERENCE REGISTRATION & CHECK-IN

• HSS BUILDING ATRIUM

9:00 AM MORNING SESSIONS

11:45 AM

**♀** SEE PRESENTATION SCHEDULE **○** 9:00 AM - 11:40 AM

**CONFERENCE LUNCHEON** 

**Q** DEAN'S OFFICE, 3RD FLOOR OF HSS BUILDING

1:00 PM AFTERNOON SESSIONS

SEE PRESENTATION SCHEDULE (\( \) 1:00 PM - 3:40 PM

4:00 PM CLOSING CEREMONY & ART SHOWCASE

**♀** ISLA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, HOUSE #15, DEAN'S CIRCLE

# SCHEDULE

THE STATE OF THE S	THE FEBRUARY OF THE PARTY OF TH					
Starts at 8:30 AM	Registration in the HSS Atrium					
	<b>♀</b> HSS101	<b>♀</b> HSS104	<b>♀</b> HSS106	<b>♀</b> HSS201	<b>♀</b> HSS203	
	Tracing the Past and Present: Identity, Colonial Legacies, and Cultural Landscapes	Innovating for Resilience: AI, Technology, and Leadership for the Future	Navigating the Past, Shaping the Future: Student Research in Regional Scholarship	Intersecting Culture, Health, and Psychology: Exploring Mental and Physical Well-Being	The Power of Student Writing: Voices, Challenges, and Conversations	
	PRESENTATIONS	PRESENTATION	PANEL	PANEL	PANEL	
9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	9:00 AM - 9:20 AM White Flag Utopia and Archipelagic Constitution By Dennitza Gabrakova  9:20 AM - 9:40 AM Dissecting the 1940 Guam Census: The Use and Value of Research Tools By Maria Barriga  9:40 AM - 10:00 AM Camino Real. The Lost Trail of 18th Century Guam By Carlos Madrid and Terence Borja Dela Cruz  10:00 AM - 10:15 AM Q&A	Securing Academic Integrity in the Era of Generative AI By Hyun-Jong Hahm	CM340 CHamoru Culture Student Research  Kotturan CHamoru - Representations of the CHamoru Culture in the 21st Century  Presented by students in CM340 CHamoru Culture from Fanuchånan 2024 with Kisha Borja-Quichocho- Calvo	Student Perspectives on Student Health: Analysis of the PICCS Survey  Presented by students in HS451 Research and Report Writing with Francine Naputi	The Role of Student Writing at UOG: A Continuing Conversation  By Royce Camacho, Jose Cruz, Jr., Christopher Garcia-Santos, Teresita Perez, Elizabeth Rutun, and Carol Simpson-Warner	
	<b>♀</b> HSS101	<b>♀</b> HSS104	<b>♥</b> HSS106	<b>♀</b> HSS201	<b>♀</b> HSS203	
	Tracing the Past and Present: Identity, Colonial Legacies, and Cultural Landscapes	Innovating for Resilience: AI, Technology, and Leadership for the Future	Navigating the Past, Shaping the Future: Student Research in Regional Scholarship	Intersecting Culture, Health, and Psychology: Exploring Mental and Physical Well-Being	The Power of Student Writing: Voices, Challenges, and Conversations	
10:25 AM - 11:40 AM	PRESENTATIONS  10:25 AM - 10:45 AM The Post-War Pantry: How Processed Foods Shaped Guam, From 1944-2000's By Hannah Cepeda  10:45AM - 11:05 AM Ecology of Identity: Rethinking Colonial Essentialisms and the CHamoru Identity By Gabriel Lane  11:05 AM - 11:25 AM Femigraphic / Weaving Roots By Irena Keckes and Alyanna Barrera  11:25 AM - 11:40 AM Q&A	PRESENTATIONS  10:25 AM - 10:55 AM Collective Leadership in Addressing Guam's ICT Sector Leadership Needs By James Ji  10:55AM - 11:25 AM Technology Limits on Crisis Communications   Research Sponsored by the Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs Fellowship By Ron McNinch  11:25 AM - 11:40 AM Q&A	PANEL  Beyond Resilience: Building Micronesian Futures through Graduate Research in Language, History, and Community  By Makaelah Blas, Muturwan Choay, and Nolan Flores (MA in Micronesian Studies Program)	PANEL (CONT.)  Student Perspectives on Student Health: Analysis of the PICCS Survey  Presented by students in HS451 Research and Report Writing with Francine Naputi	PANEL  Tired Grad Students Writing Words on Paper (TGSL)  By J-Mae Fernandez, Mika Cabrera, Kathryn Shea, Victoria Revello, and Michael Castro (MA in English Program)	

# SCHEDULE

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	<b>♀</b> HSS101	<b>♀</b> HSS104	<b>♀</b> HSS106	<b>♀</b> HSS203
	Tracing the Past and Present: Identity, Colonial Legacies, and Cultural Landscapes	Challenging Dominant Narratives: Media, Politics, and the Rise of Populism	Navigating the Past, Shaping the Future: Student Research in Regional Scholarship	Intersecting Culture, Health, and Psychology: Exploring Mental and Physical Well-Being
1:00 PM - 2:15 PM	1:00 PM - 1:20 PM Fate for the Next 100 Years to be Decided in 20 By Donniah Jackson  1:20 PM - 1:40 PM Discourse Markers of Pleading, Pushiness, and Politeness: Lai Nai and Fan in Guam's Colloquial CHamoru English By Clarisa Quan  1:40 PM - 2:00 PM Weaving Culture, Education, and Action: The Bali Field School's Approach to Sustainable Community Development By Kirk Johnson  2:00 PM - 2:15 PM Q&A	Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Populism  By Chris Rasmussen, Kate Yusi, Arvin Boller, and Arun Swamy	Cultivating learning communities: Weaving best practices, research, and regular interaction to bolster student success By Kathrine Gutierrez  1:20 PM - 1:40 PM Research-based Engineering Initiatives in Making Guam's Civil Infrastructures More Sustainable and Resilient By Ernesto Guades  1:40 PM - 2:00 PM Traditional Seafaring Experiences Presented by students in MI599 Readings in Micronesian Studies with Larry Raigetal	1:00 PM - 1:20 PM Through the Lens of Tripartite Influence Model: Investigating High-Risk Pathways to Food Restriction Behaviors in Guam By Sophie Santos and Yoshito Kawabata  1:20 PM - 1:40 PM Exploring Epigenetics of Trauma and Resilience in Indigenous Communities By Camarin Meno  1:40 PM - 2:00 PM Investigating the Influence of Perceptions of abuse among Palauan Adults By Venaure Kanai, Rita Sharma, Yoshito Kawabata, and Sylvia Wally  2:00 PM - 2:15 PM Q&A
	Fracing the Past and Present: Identity, Colonial Legacies, and Cultural Landscapes	♥ HSS104  Challenging Dominant Narratives:  Media, Politics, and the Rise of  Populism		Figure 2018 Physical Well-Being in the Islands  Physical Well-Being in the Islands
	Tracing the Past and Present: Identity, Colonial Legacies, and Cultural Landscapes  PANEL  Examining Social Issues in Guam through a Social Psychological Lens By Samantha Uncangco-Meno, Zoe Surber, Kristoffer Aquino, Lolita Blas, Camille Cosico, Won Joon Han, Paul Mendoza, Ashley Reyes, Sophie Santos, and Marshaley Baquiano	Challenging Dominant Narratives: Media, Politics, and the Rise of Populism  PRESENTATIONS  2:25 PM - 2:45 PM Leveraging AI in Project-Based Learning: Enhancing Critical Thinking to Address the Affordable Housing Crisis By Lei Bao  2:45 PM - 3:30 PM Communication and Media Scholarship and Pluriversal Politics: Unpacking Dominant Paradigms By Katielyn C. Aizon, Paradis Jolie, Francisco Blaz, Mia Perez, and Hunter H. Fine  3:30 PM - 3:40 PM  Q&A	Navigating the Past, Shaping the Future: Student Research in Regional	Intersecting Culture, Health, and Psychology: Exploring Mental and Physical Well-Being in the Islands  PRESENTATIONS

**CLOSING CEREMONY & ART EXHIBITION** 

Light Refreshments will be served at the Isla Center for the Arts, House #15, Dean's Circle

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS >

DAY 2 - MARCH 7

### **SESSION** Tracing the Past and Present: Identity, Colonial Legacies, and Cultural Landscapes

WHITE FLAG UTOPIA AND ARCHIPELAGIC CONSTITUTION 9:00 AM, HSS101

#### By Dennitza Gabrakova

I will focus on the political idea of Constitution in its utopian renderings, inspired by "authentic" voices from the (Japanese) islands, and the primary ecological direction of such thought as reconciliation and peace. Of interest here is Japanese cultural anthropologist Imafuku Ryuta's engagement with Okinawan poet Kawamitsu Shin'ichi's idea of "Ryukyu republic" (1981), as a response to Okinawa's reversion to Japan and integration into the Japanese postwar "Peace Constitution". Kawamitsu's poetic and radical approach to Constitutionalism involves a reevaluation of notions of state and democracy, demilitarization and sovereignty. Renunciation of war by the Japanese Constitution emphasizes radical democracy, a constitutional subconscious and a pledge for dialog. Imafuku reweaves Kawamitsu's proclamatory format into 'Archipelagic Harmony Society Para-Constitution' (2018). There is a resilient pattern that emerges against the background of historical exploitation and inequality; its texture needs to be placed in dialogue with the gloss of SDGs.

DISSECTING THE 1940 GUAM CENSUS: THE USE AND VALUE OF RESEARCH TOOLS 9:20 AM, HSS101

#### **By Maria Barriga**

This presentation demonstrates the creation, use, and value of research tools in historical writing. Responding to the belief that archival documents produce only colonial histories, my presentation argues that, when handled with discipline, colonial materials too can reveal aspects of native life. To illustrate this, I will share my research tool on the 1940 Guam census manuscripts. Although censuses are a state apparatus for counting and categorizing people into 'races,' their manuscripts nonetheless record personal names and family backgrounds, among others. Moreover, a research tool from these manuscripts allow researchers to infer beyond the individual. For instance, as a postcolonial historian of Japanese diaspora, I see in it the complexity of people: Some persons with Japanese names were classified as "CHamoru," and some persons with CHamoru names were classified as "Japanese." Meaning, numerous source materials with which Guam scholars can craft history exist; the issue is how these are utilized.

Tracing the Past and Present: Identity, Colonial Legacies, and Cultural Landscapes

CAMINO REAL. THE LOST TRAIL OF 18TH CENTURY GUAM 9:40 AM, HSS101

#### By Carlos Madrid and Terence Borja Dela Cruz

The Camino Real has been a subject of interest for many scholars and archaeologists in the past. Due to evolving historical circumstances, this key feature of the early colonial presence in Guam became obsolete in the late Spanish period. However, remnants of this once-critical route are known to exist. Through careful historical analysis and the examination of cartographic records, it is possible to trace the original path of this misunderstood heritage trail and refine its actual path with more precision while shedding light on its significance for the transpacific trade route.

THE POST-WAR PANTRY: HOW PROCESSED FOODS SHAPED GUAM, FROM 1944-2000'S 10:25 AM, HSS101

#### By Hannah Cepeda

The post-World War II period (1944–1950s) marked a turning point in Guam's food landscape, as the introduction of processed, canned, and imported foods disrupted traditional agriculture and reshaped Chamorro diets. This study examines the cultural and health impacts of this dietary transition, analyzing whether the shift constituted a cultural shock or an adaptive process. Through four in-depth interviews with participants aged 21 to mid-60s, alongside participant observation and fieldwork, this research traces the long-term effects of processed food dependency. Findings suggest that while these foods altered traditional eating habits, Chamorros did not experience a cultural rupture but rather an adaptive transformation. The incorporation of processed foods into local diets contributed to evolving health outcomes and cultural practices, demonstrating the resilience and flexibility of Chamorro identity in the face of external influences. This study highlights the interplay between colonial legacies, globalization, and local agency in shaping contemporary foodways.

ECOLOGY OF IDENTITY: RETHINKING COLONIAL ESSENTIALISMS AND THE CHAMORU IDENTITY 10:45 AM, HSS101

#### By Gabriel Lane

In centuries following Guam's colonization a brutal rendering of the Indigenous colonized CHamoru from their pre-colonial identity has left much debate about what it means to be "CHamoru". With the goal of holding a plebiscite for decolonizing Guam, the CHamoru identity was defined as those granted American rights and liberties in accordance with the 1950 Organic Act. This distinctly politicized the CHamoru identity within the system of American and Global identity politics. However, asserting a colonized people's identity as essentially political uptakes the colonizer's system of decolonial justice. Ultimately affirming the colonizer and its means as the correct way in which politics, identity, and freedom should be delegated. This affirmation necessitates America as the predicate for the CHamoru identity. To reaffirm CHamoru identity I propose rethinking identity, not as an essential being but as a rhizomatic weaving of contemporary colonial experience with an emphasis on lived relations and moment-to-moment experiences.

#### FEMIGRAPHIC / WEAVING ROOTS 11:05 AM, HSS101

#### By Irena Keckes and Alyanna Barrera

This presentation discusses the origins of the Femigraphic Print Collective, with a focus on the Femigraphic exhibition in 2024, a collaborative initiative of four artists who met during international printmaking events. The objective of the collective and their last exhibition's objective was to research the graphic medium's potential as a language of process, experiment, and cooperation. Femigraphic is a collaborative international collective of women artists working in a broad range of printmaking media. The printmaking language this group of artists uses combines direct experience and its "reproduction," touch and alienation, repetition, and change while experimenting with technological processes, the potential of the matrix, print, imprint, and trace. Multiplication and editioning result from the identity of printmaking but are not its only meaning and purpose; the traditional identity of printmaking provokes and inspires contemporary artists to explore and emphasize their own feminine perspective, representatives of various artistic canters (Poland, Croatia, and Guam).

#### FATE FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS TO BE DECIDED IN 20 1:00 PM, HSS101

#### By Donniah Jackson

The number of speakers of the CHamoru language is dropping and has been for years. Why is this and what do CHamoru people think about it? How do they feel about the languages slow decline and the subsequent initiatives to revitalize it? Through interviews with four people and building on foundations that previous researchers have built before me, I seek to answer this question in regards to the most commonly experienced form of "CHamoru Language Revitalization," the Guam Department of Education's CHamoru Language program that is mandatory for students attending public school. In the course of my research, I have found that CHamoru people do care about the fate of their language, the issue is the lack of need for CHamoru due to the predominant language on Guam being English and the ineffectiveness of the CHamoru Language program.

DISCOURSE MARKERS OF PLEADING, PUSHINESS, AND POLITENESS: LAI NAI AND FAN IN GUAM'S COLLOQUIAL CHAMORU ENGLISH 1:20 PM, HSS101

#### By Clarisa Quan

This presentation describes the functions of three Chamorro Discourse Markers - Lai, nai, and fan - heard especially among older speakers of Colloquial English that has been labeled Colloquial CHamoru English in previous studies. The three discourse markers are present in Guam's Colloquial Chamorro English because they defy mono morphemic, one-word conventional English translations. Choice and use among them depend on speaker intent, speaker assumptions about the hearer / addressee, speaker/hearer relationship – e.g., rapport or lack thereof, -speaker affect, and context of the situation. They are also used in interjections and other expressions of strong emotion. Finally, lai, nai and fan are part of the repertoire of unique intonational patterns and other lexicon of Guam's Colloquial Chamorro English or GCCE -that mark the speaker as a CHamorro or at least, "local."

WEAVING CULTURE, EDUCATION, AND ACTION: THE BALI FIELD SCHOOL'S APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY 1:40 PM, HSS101

#### By Kirk Johnson

Embedded within the capstone senior-level course on Community Development at the University of Guam, the Bali Field School is designed to explore the values of respect, compassion, and community—principles deeply rooted in Micronesian culture—while also engaging with the broader Pacific Asia region. Through direct interaction with local organizations and participation in an international field experience in Bali, Indonesia, students are empowered to develop practical skills for addressing the challenges and opportunities within their own communities. This presentation will critically analyze the educational value and pedagogical strategies that shape the Bali Field School's unique approach to community development. We will explore how the field school's objectives transcend traditional learning methods by emphasizing experiential, place-based learning, intercultural dialogue, and collaborative action. By engaging with local communities in Bali, particularly in the town of Ubud, students not only gain insight into the local culture but also develop a deep understanding of how various global forces—such as tourism, environmental change, and economic shifts—impact community resilience.

EXAMINING SOCIAL ISSUES IN GUAM THROUGH A SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL LENS 2:25 PM, HSS101

### By Samantha Uncangco-Meno, Zoe Surber, Kristoffer Aquino, Lolita Blas, Camille Cosico, Won Joon Han, Paul Mendoza, Ashley Reyes, Sophie Santos, and Marshaley Baquiano

This collection of studies investigates pressing social issues in Guam through a social psychological framework, offering insight into the unique lived experiences of CHamoru families, unhoused women, and the broader local community. The first study explores the impact of substance use disorders on CHamoru families, revealing a four-stage journey of discovery, struggle, acceptance, and healing. The second study examines the lived experiences of unhoused women in Guam struggling with substance use problems, highlighting the interplay of systemic barriers, trauma, and resilience. Lastly, the third study analyzes the social representations of the U.S. military presence in Guam, uncovering polarized perceptions of the U.S. as both a savior and a colonizing force. Together, these studies offer a nuanced understanding of Guam's social challenges, as well as useful recommendations for promoting resilience and meaningful change.

DAY 2 - MARCH 7

## SESSION Innovating for Resilience: AI, Technology, and Leadership for the Future

SECURING ACADEMIC INTEGRITY IN THE ERA OF GENERATIVE AI 9:00 AM, HSS104

#### By Hyun-Jong Hahm

The advent of generative artificial intelligence (AI) has revolutionized various sectors, including academia, by introducing innovative tools that aid in content creation and knowledge dissemination. However, these advancements bring forth challenges to academic integrity, primarily due to issues such as AI hallucinations—the generation of plausible but incorrect information—and the misuse of AI tools by students and researchers. This paper explores the implications of generative AI on academic integrity, examines the mechanisms behind AI hallucinations, and considers strategies for mitigating these challenges to uphold the principles of academic honesty and rigor.

COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP IN ADDRESSING GUAM'S ICT SECTOR LEADERSHIP NEEDS 10:25 AM, HSS104

### By James Ji

Although leadership remains a key factor in business success and transformation, maintaining a pipeline for succession is a significant challenge for many organizations. The purpose of this case study was to explore why the Guam ICT industry had not addressed the current shortage of qualified leaders in the sector. The conceptual framework for this study was Savage et al.'s. (2011) stakeholder collaboration (SC) model, highlighting appreciative linkages, structural, organizational features, and processual challenges. The study involved a qualitative research method and a single case study design focusing on the phenomena of ICT leadership within a bounded space of Guam's ICT industry, including private organizations, workforce development agencies, and governmental stakeholders. Although this case study was specific to Guam's ICT sector, the data and findings supported the literature review related to stakeholder collaboration associated with appreciative linkages, structural features, processual challenges, collaborative development, and human resource and industry enhancement.

DAY 2 - MARCH 7

TECHNOLOGY LIMITS ON CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS | RESEARCH SPONSORED BY THE TAIWAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLOWSHIP 10:55 AM, HSS104

#### By Ron McNinch

This study addresses lessons learned following Typhoon Marwar from May 24-30, 2023. It was found that due to a shift in technology and an over-reliance on smartphones, crisis response and recovery were made very difficult. This presentation will cover critical parts of this question.

RESEARCH-BASED ENGINEERING INITIATIVES IN MAKING GUAM'S CIVIL INFRASTRUCTURES MORE SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT 1:20 PM, HSS106

### **By Ernesto Guades**

As Guam continues to invest funds to improve critical infrastructures, it is expected that massive construction materials will be utilized. While the focus is on the construction of new civil infrastructures including roads, bridges, buildings, and energy-related facilities; it is also significant that the structural integrity of the existing structures needs to be safeguarded. Therefore, it is imperative that Guam's natural resources and built environment need to be protected. In this presentation, the initiatives undertaken by the author gearing towards sustainability and resiliency of Guam's civil infrastructures will be reported. The research project proposals submitted in the area of sustainable construction material will be discussed. A research to convert industrial and household recyclable wastes into an effective and efficient material will also be presented. Future plan and additional interventions focused on research-based solutions in Guam civil infrastructures' sustainability and resiliency efforts likewise be discussed.

DAY 2 - MARCH 7

LEVERAGING AI IN PROJECT-BASED LEARNING: ENHANCING CRITICAL THINKING TO ADDRESS THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS

2:25 PM, HSS104

### By Lei Bao

This presentation explores the integration of AI tools in project-based learning to enhance critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Focusing on the affordable housing crisis, the session demonstrates how students can leverage AI to research, analyze, and propose innovative solutions. Through structured projects, students design and refine AI prompts, critically evaluate outputs, and synthesize data into actionable strategies. This method fosters active engagement, digital literacy, and ethical awareness by encouraging students to navigate AI's strengths and limitations. By blending real-world challenges with cutting-edge technology, the approach prepares learners for future workplaces while addressing pressing societal issues. Practical examples will showcase how AI-driven learning can deepen understanding, promote engagement, and empower students to tackle global challenges effectively.

DAY 2 - MARCH 7

## SESSION Navigating the Past, Shaping the Future: Student Research in Regional Scholarship

PANEL | KOTTURAN CHAMORU - REPRESENTATIONS OF THE CHAMORU CULTURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY 9:00 AM, HSS106

### By CM340 CHamoru Culture students with Kisha Borja-Quichocho-Calvo (Fanuchånan 2024)

The CHamoru culture has transformed over time, both naturally and out of necessity. After centuries of colonization and the need for CHamorus to adapt to the different colonial realities, the CHamoru culture remains, despite all that continues to threaten its existence. With the advent of technology in addition to a wave of interest in the CHamoru culture and language, it is important to consider the ways in which the CHamoru culture continues to be maintained. It is also important to think about how the CHamoru culture is represented or misrepresented and how these representations and misrepresentations affect the CHamoru community. In this panel, students from the CM340 CHamoru Culture class (Fanuchånan 2024) will share some of their research related to representations and misrepresentations of the CHamoru culture in social media, music, and clothing brands.

PANEL | BEYOND RESILIENCE: BUILDING MICRONESIAN FUTURES THROUGH GRADUATE RESEARCH IN LANGUAGE, HISTORY, AND COMMUNITY 10:25 AM, HSS106

#### By Makaelah Blas, Muturwan Choay, and Nolan Flores

This panel, consisting of three MSP thesis projects, challenges narratives of mere survival & resilience, instead highlighting Micronesian agency & the need to dismantle structures that perpetuate cultural, historical, & social legacies rooted in colonialism. I Fuetsan i Fino' Mañaina-ta explores the relationships between CHamoru native speakers & new learners to advance language revitalization as an act of intergenerational healing & cultural reclamation. Resetting the Margins reframes Guam's historical narrative by centering Nasión CHamoru to reject colonial erasure and assert marginalized perspectives. From Campus to Community examines first-year college students' experiences of belonging in higher education to address systemic barriers & foster pathways toward inclusion & empowerment. Together, these projects highlight that our narratives transcend survival & resilience, focusing instead on reclaiming language, history, education, & community as tools to envision & build Micronesian futures on our own terms. [MA in Micronesian Studies Program]

CULTIVATING LEARNING COMMUNITIES: WEAVING BEST PRACTICES, RESEARCH, AND REGULAR INTERACTION TO BOLSTER STUDENT SUCCESS 1:00 PM, HSS106

### By Kathrine Gutierrez

This presentation will describe the importance of cultivating learning communities to bolster student success. An explanation of the phrase "learning communities" and the educational context will be conveyed. Further, the presentation will provide examples of weaving best practices, research, and regular interaction with a focus on learner engagement and the learning community.

TRADITIONAL SEAFARING EXPERIENCES 1:40 PM, HSS106

## By MI599 Readings in Micronesian Studies students with Larry Raigetal

Two or three students will be sharing their experiences in the MI599 reading courses on traditional canoe building and traditional navigation. I will be facilitating the discussion. To kick start the discussion, I will be presenting on the significance of the coconut tree to voyaging and demonstrating the making of coconut senit ropes.

PANEL | HI492 SENIOR THESIS CAPSTONES IN HISTORY 2:25 PM, HSS106

## "The Colony Chat and Governor Coontz: Orientalist Discourse in Naval Era Guam" By Marveanne Olalia

Although scholars have often presented the conditions of the early Naval period on the island of Guam as in need of Americanization and modernization, a very different picture emerges in the social column titled the "Colony Chat." In looking at column the "Colony Chat" found in the Navy's Guam News Letter, the American Naval personnel and dependents portray the island as a tropical paradise fit for leisure, relaxation, luxury, and social climbing. I compare these writings with the memoir of Governor Coontz, showing the complexity of white discourse about Guam and the Chamorro people during these years. I examine these writings in the context of Edward Said's notion of Orientalism. Both Coontz and the Colony Chat exemplify how colonial writers construct inaccurate representations of colonized people over which they have power. Building on the scholars including Hattori, DeLisle, and Camacho, I critically analyze Naval Era discourse about the Chamorro people.

DAY 2 - MARCH 7

PANEL | HI492 SENIOR THESIS CAPSTONES IN HISTORY 2:25 PM, HSS106

## "Commerce, Culture, and Colonialism: The Enduring Legacy of Atkins Kroll on Guam" By Isabella Clement

This paper explores the central role of Atkins Kroll on Guam's Naval Era history. While many scholars focus on resistance to Americanization at this time, I highlight how some locals adapted to these changes and embraced opportunities that the company created. I explore evidence that the Navy may have chosen Atkins Kroll because its business supported the Navy's goals on Guam. Atkins Kroll helped rapidly modernize Guam's economy, supported U.S. national security efforts, and fueled the island's Americanization while building strong ties with the local community and creating jobs. Through the use of primary sources including shipping records, newspaper advertisements, and archived interviews, I show how Atkins Kroll helped transform Guam.

DAY 2 - MARCH 7

### **SESSION** Challenging Dominant Narratives: Media, Politics, and the Rise of Populism

INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES ON POPULISM 1:00 PM, HSS104

### By Chris Rasmussen, Kate Yusi, Arvin Boller, and Arun Swam

In 1969, Ionescu and Gellner introduced their classic collection of essays on populism with an ironic reference to Karl Marx's Communist Manifesto 'A spectre' they declared 'is haunting the world - populism.' Over the decades this specter receded from view only, apparently to re-emerge at regular intervals, first in the 1990s and in the current period. What, if anything, have scholars learned about the phenomena we lump under the label of 'populism?' This panel will draw on scholars from a variety of disciplines and traditions - comparative politics, history,. political philosophy and psychology - to shed light on contemporary populisms from their various vantage points.

COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA SCHOLARSHIP AND PLURIVERSAL POLITICS: UNPACKING DOMINANT PARADIGMS 2:45 PM, HSS104

### By Katielyn C. Aizon, Paradis Jolie, Francisco Blaz, Mia Perez, and Hunter H. Fine

This panel assembles five Communication and Media majors from UOG to present their recent Communication scholarship surrounding the theme of pluriversal politics. The University of Guam is situated in a vibrant and unique cultural communication context, where students often draw from alternative epistemologies to Western dominant paradigms. This panel draws from the placed-based projects of multiple student class projects in exploration of various cultural perspectives. To decolonize thought and engage in what N. Maldanaldo-Torres refers to as the decolonial turn and encourage what A. Escobar calls for a 'pluriverse,' which advocates for multiple approaches to liberal arts frameworks, each presenter will examine communication phenomenon from a unique cultural perspective. From local and global topics such as Automotive Culture and Cultural Independence, Mental Health and Identity, Remix Culture and Meaning, and others, the presenters will combine to create a multiple-faceted rebuttal to Western universality within and outside the academy.

DAY 2 - MARCH 7

### **SESSION** The Power of Student Writing: Voices, Challenges, and Conversations

PANEL | THE ROLE OF STUDENT WRITING AT UOG: A CONTINUING CONVERSATION 9:00 AM, HSS203

### By Royce Camacho, Jose Cruz, Jr., Christopher Garcia-Santos, Teresita Perez, Elizabeth Rutun, and Carol Simpson-Warner

Throughout students' university experience, they develop their academic writing voices and their identities as academic researchers. Building upon "Conversations on Writing" at the 45th CLASS ARC, Composition faculty offer a presentation on the curriculum designed for UOG freshman as they begin their journey with college writing. The presenters also touch on strategies used to engage student writers from diverse backgrounds and varying skills in composition. After the presentation, participants are invited to a conversation about the role of writing in academic disciplines, how students build on their first-year writing, and what support they need. We hope to use this opportunity as a springboard to further collaboration that will enhance our students' preparation for the writing they do in their coursework and as professionals after their studies at UOG.

PANEL | TIRED GRAD STUDENTS WRITING WORDS ON PAPER (TGSL) 10:45 AM, HSS203

### By J-Mae Fernandez, Mika Cabrera, Kathryn Shea, Victoria Revello, and Michael Castro

In this time of misinformation, propaganda, and anti-intellectualism, graduate students of the English department will demonstrate their resilience by speaking up against these factors. During this panel, they weave the three main divisions of English literacy/education, Literature, and Linguistics by sharing their work in a trial thesis defense. They use this research space to present their progress and invite audiences to ask questions and discuss ideas. [MA in English Program]

DAY 2 - MARCH 7

## **SESSION** Intersecting Culture, Health, and Psychology: Exploring Mental and Physical Well-Being

PANEL | STUDENT PERSPECTIVES ON STUDENT HEALTH: ANALYSIS OF THE PICCS SURVEY 9:00 AM, HSS203

## By HS451 Research and Report Writing students with Francine Naputi

This panel will discuss the results of the Pacific Islands Cohort of College Students (PICCS) survey administered by Health Sciences majors. The PICCS survey was developed in 2010 as a response to the non-communicable disease (NCD) epidemic amongst Pacific Islanders. The survey is administered annually to students at the University of Guam to measure various health behaviors to include, but not limited to cigarette and vaping use, alcohol consumption, and nutrition habits. In this panel, five student groups will each present on a research question based on their analysis of the PICCS data. They will explore variable relationships such as, fast food consumption and academic performance or sleep quality and feelings of distress. The panel is not only student-led research but the results will directly impact the health of the university overall. The analyses conducted can aid us in building health interventions that will positively impact University of Guam students.

THROUGH THE LENS OF TRIPARTITE INFLUENCE MODEL: INVESTIGATING HIGH-RISK PATHWAYS TO FOOD RESTRICTION BEHAVIORS IN GUAM 1:00 PM, HSS203

### By Sophie Santos and Yoshito Kawabata

Disordered eating is non-normative eating behaviors that negatively impact physical & psychological wellbeing. To explain disordered eating onset- particularly food restriction- in young women, the Tripartite Influence Model proposes a high-risk pathway from media appearance pressures, thin-ideal internalization, social comparison of appearance, & body dissatisfaction. Studying this pathway is critical given the increasing impact of Western beauty standards. Female undergraduate students of Asian/Pacific Islander descent took an online survey using the SATAQ-4R, PACS-3, EDI-3, and EAT-26 scales. Regression analysis found that body dissatisfaction consistently predicted food restriction across all pathways. Serial mediation analysis found that the pathway of media pressures, social comparison direction, body dissatisfaction, & food restriction demonstrated significance—and hence, greatest potential for inducing food restriction behaviors. The findings reveal critical intervention points to prevent disordered eating in young women in Guam.

Intersecting Culture, Health, and Psychology: Exploring Mental and Physical Well-Being

EXPLORING EPIGENETICS OF TRAUMA AND RESILIENCE IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES 1:20 PM, HSS203

#### By Camarin Meno

Despite centuries of colonization, Indigenous peoples continue to live and thrive today, balancing the burden of historical and ongoing traumas, while also engaging in practices promoting resiliency and well-being. Historical trauma and epigenetic research may shed further light on these processes within Indigenous communities and ultimately support the development of prevention and intervention programs that promote Indigenous well-being (Keaney et al., 2023). This paper will explore the relationship between epigenetics, historical trauma, and resilience. Starting with an overview of the effects of prolonged stress, this paper will provide a review of the research examining both trauma and resiliency processes and the impact of environmental influences on the epigenome and on associated adverse and favorable outcomes. Discussion will focus on a review of the research on historical trauma and Indigenous resilience, highlighting limitations and possible new directions for research and intervention promoting health and wellbeing in Indigenous communities.

INVESTIGATING THE INFLUENCE OF PERCEPTIONS OF ABUSE AMONG PALAUAN ADULTS 1:40 PM, HSS203

## By Venaure Kanai, Rita Sharma, Yoshito Kawabata, and Sylvia Wally

The long-term effects of childhood maltreatment have been widely studied around the world and with various clinical populations. However, research on this risk factor in Micronesian populations has yet to be explored. The literature suggests that child maltreatment is strongly linked to numerous adult mental health problems, such as trauma-related disorders, anxiety disorders, and depressive disorders, among others. This relationship is shown not only in Western areas but also in Asia. However, cultural variations exist in perceptions and patterns of abusive behavior, such as the normalization of corporal punishment. Whether or not these variations affect child maltreatment as a predictor of mental health outcomes is still unknown. Therefore, this study aimed to explore the effects that individual perceptions have on the link between child maltreatment and mental health diagnoses in Palauan adults.

SCHIZOPHRENIA IN GUAM: UTILIZING AN INTEGRATIVE AND CULTURALLY INFORMED APPROACH IN TREATMENT 2:25 PM, HSS203

### By Rita Sharma

While the diagnosis of schizophrenia adheres to the standardized criteria outlined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th Edition, Text Revision (DSM-5-TR; American Psychiatric Association, 2022), and pharmacological treatment remains consistent globally, symptom expression, particularly delusions and hallucinations, is significantly shaped by cultural contexts. This presentation utilizes epidemiological data from the author's research on first-episode schizophrenia incidence rates in Guam (Sharma, R. 2010, 2011). Further, the author reflects on personal observations of three Chamorro individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia spectrum disorders, emphasizing the efficacy of augmenting conventional treatment with culturally informed interventions, highlighting an integrated approach to treatment within indigenous populations.

DEVELOPMENT OF CANCER SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE GUAM COMMUNITY 2:45 PM, HSS203

By Iain Twaddle, Marie Benito, Jeanine Quinto, Maree Saloma, Camille Maestrecampo, Camarin Meno, and Angelica Rose Rico (Payless Markets Community Foundation - Circle of Care)

This presentation outlines the development of a cancer support program for the Guam community. The authors will discuss the rationale for the program and outline the services provided, including cancer support groups, individual and family psycho-oncology counseling, integrative oncology health and wellness services, psycho-oncology services for children and adolescents, and peer support services.

DAY 2 - MARCH 7

NARRATIVE RESEARCH IN FORENSIC, HEALTH, AND CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY 3:05 PM, HSS203

### By Maree Saloma, Nikolas Gutierrez, Lauren Villanueva, Camille Maestrecampo, Jeanine Quinto, and Iain Twaddle

This presentation outlines the development of a cancer support program for the Guam community. The authors will discuss the rationale for the program and outline the services provided, including cancer support groups, individual and family psycho-oncology counseling, integrative oncology health and wellness services, psycho-oncology services for children and adolescents, and peer support services.

### ART EXHIBITION

## **♥** ISLA CENTER FOR THE ARTS HOUSE #15, DEAN'S CIRCLE, UNIVERSITY OF GUAM







### TAPESTRIES OF RESILIENCE

#### WOVEN THROUGH DIVERISTY

#### CONFERENCE ART EXHIBITION

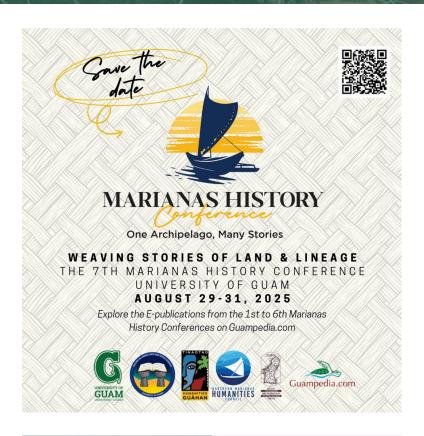
Throughout history, the Pacific region has faced immense challenges—from colonization to natural disasters. Yet, like a finely woven tapestry, our island communities have remained steadfast, interwoven with strength, support for one another, and resilience. Each thread represents a story, a connection, and a shared identity that continues to shape our future.

This exhibition features artists and creatives exploring the ways we cultivate security, unity, and hope in a rapidly evolving world. Submissions range in all media, technologies, platforms, and creative expressions. The artwork lets their visions and voices add to this dynamic conversation.

How do we weave together diverse approaches to resilience? How do we sustain a future that is inclusive, bright, and secure?

Closing Ceremony & Art Exhibition at 4:00 PM.
Light Refreshments will be served.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**





#### UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

### FINE ARTS EVENTS

**SPRING SEASON 2025** 

#### CREATIVE HANDS:

SELECTED WORKS BY PACIFIC ARTISTS
December 5, 2024 - January 24, 2025
Isla Center for the Arts

#### 26TH ISLA-ART-A-THON EXHIBITION

February 6 - 21, 2025 Isla Center for the Arts

#### THE LAST FIVE YEARS

February 20 - 21, 27 - 28 | 7:00 PM February 22, March 1 | 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM February 23, March 2 | 2:00 PM UOG Theatre with Three Blind Mice Studios

#### TAPESTRIES OF RESILIENCE, THE 46TH ANNUAL CLASS RESEARCH CONFERENCE ART EXHIBITION

March 6 | Charter Day | 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM March 7 | CLASS ARC Closing Reception | 4:00 PM March 6 - 21, 2025 Isla Center for the Arts

#### SPRING CONCERT

MARCH 15 | 7:00 PM UOG Music

#### UOG UNDERGRADUATE EXHIBITION

April 3 - 25, 2025

#### GASLIGHT

April 10 - 12 | 7:00 PM April 13 | 2:00 PM UOG Theatre

#### FINALE CONCERT

May 10 | 7:00 PM UOG Music

#### STUDENT RECITAL

May 21 | 7:00 PM UOG Music

#### AMALGAM: UOG SENIOR EXHIBITION

May 8 - June 27, 2025 Isla Center for the Arts

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

#### 46TH ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Michael Clement (Chair), Royce Camacho, Kate Yusi, Richard Castro, Jerrold Castro, Velma Yamashita, and the Staff of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

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# NOTES

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