

Transpacific Connections: Perspectives, Dialogues, Future Visions

As a major arena of imperialist ambitions and decolonial movements, the Pacific region is the site of some of the most consequential developments in recent history. Taking a prominent place in the Western cultural imagination as a projection surface of power and desire, it keeps inspiring escapist fantasies of idyllic seascapes as much as it continues to evoke the collective trauma of the mushroom cloud. Especially today, in a time of Asia reasserting economic and political dominance, escalating climate crises in Oceania, and transnational migration flows in North and South America, the Pacific region stands at the very center of pressing global concerns. And yet, there is often a sense that Western scholarship neglects, if not altogether ignores, perspectives originating from this part of the world. Particularly in the field of American Studies, which has traditionally been approached through a transatlantic lens, transpacific issues remain conspicuously underrepresented vis-à-vis the longstanding cultural fascination with and intense geopolitical involvement in the Pacific region. Moreover, transpacific issues are often handled as affected by an unresolvable, tragic past which neglects the acknowledgement of future-oriented, present, and active regional communities.

The Transpacific Studies Network (TPSN) was established in the fall of 2022 with the goal of providing new impulses in the research of Pacific cultures, ecologies, histories, literatures, politics, and societies in an interdisciplinary, multi-lingual, and, importantly, transregional manner. Following the successful conference *Transcending Boundaries*, held in February 2024 at the University of Mainz, Germany, the TPSN is planning to publish a collected volume on the broadly conceived theme of “Transpacific Connections.” To this purpose, we invite scholars, practitioners, and artists to share their research, art and insights concerning the transpacific to submit proposals for articles or artwork exploring connections across national and regional borders in, along, and related to what has been termed the Pacific Rim. We especially encourage suggestions and applications that entail original and alternative indigenous knowledge and scholarship approaches.

Topics may derive from but are not restricted to the fields of:

- Media and Film Studies
- Indigenous Studies
- Literary Studies
- Social Sciences and Gender Studies
- Blue Humanities
- Environmental Studies
- History and Politics
- (Human) Geography
- Ecological Epistemologies
- Technology and Science

Initially, proposals of no more than 300 words should be submitted along with a 100-word biography to transpacificstudiesnetwork@gmail.com by October 1, 2024. Final article contributions are supposed to be between 6.500 and 7.000 words, including references.