

# PARADOXES OF HAWAIIAN SOVEREIGNTY

and the Contradictions of Indigenous Self-Determination

J. Kēhaulani Kauanui

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

114 Flanner Hall

3:30 PM



THIS TALK OFFERS AN OVERVIEW OF THE FRAUGHT POLITICS OF CONTEMPORARY HAWAIIAN SOVEREIGNTY CLAIMS WITH A FOCUS ON THE CONTESTATION OVER INDIGENEITY AND INDEPENDENT STATEHOOD. THE HAWAIIAN CASE IS PARTICULARLY INSTRUCTIVE FOR SHOWING BOTH THE POSSIBILITIES AND LIMITATIONS OF INDIGENOUS PRACTICES WITHIN AND AGAINST U.S. SETTLER COLONIALISM AND IMPERIALISM. EXPLORING THE WAYS HAWAI'I IS APPREHENDED WITHIN CONFLICTING PARADIGMS FOR COMPREHENDING ITS HYBRID STATUS – SIMPLY SEEN AS THE 50TH STATE UNDER THE DOMESTIC JURISDICTION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, AS AN OCCUPIED INDEPENDENT KINGDOM, AND AS THE HOMELAND OF AN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WHO ARE SUPPOSEDLY AWAITING U.S. RECOGNITION AS A NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNING ENTITY - THE LECTURE ADVANCES A CRITIQUE OF STATIST NATIONALISM.

J. Kēhaulani Kauanui is Professor of American Studies and affiliate faculty in Anthropology at Wesleyan University, where she teaches courses on indigenous studies, critical race studies, settler colonial studies, and anarchist studies. She is the author of *Hawaiian Blood: Colonialism and the Politics of Sovereignty and Indigeneity* (Duke University Press 2008) and *Paradoxes of Hawaiian Sovereignty: Land, Sex, and the Colonial Politics of State Nationalism* (Duke University Press 2018).

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