

Connections: Creating Resonance through a Graphic Novel

AP. Patsy Y. Iwasaki
(University of Hawai'i at Hilo)

Date: Friday, 19 April 2024

Time: 3 pm - 4.00 pm (NZST)

Venue: CLL Seminar Room (207-519), UoA

Online available via Zoom: Registration required



Abstract

The Japanese diaspora migration experience to Hawai'i from Japan is presented through the lens of *Hamakua Hero: A True Plantation Story*, a graphic novel written by Dr. Patsy Y. Iwasaki and illustrated by Berido. Katsu Goto arrived in Hawai'i in 1885 on the first shipload of Japanese nationals who were recruited to work on the sugar plantations in Hawai'i under a government labor agreement between Japan and the Kingdom of Hawai'i. Goto, 27, was unfortunately lynched, killed and hung on a telephone pole on October 28, 1889, a short four years after his arrival for being a champion for sugar plantation worker rights and dignity. In addition to migration history, this presentation will explore the universal themes of the graphic novel that feature verisimilitude, details that encourage connections and resonance with people. The lecture will also touch upon cultural hybridity and the K-Diaspora theme of this class, which will lead to a discussion of the Hallyu Wave and the global reach of South Korean popular culture upon Hawai'i and beyond.



About AP. Patsy Y. Iwasaki

Patsy Y. Iwasaki, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of English at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. She received her Ph.D. in Learning Design and Technology from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and also has an M.Ed. in education. Her research interests and teaching practices include instructional design and development, English studies, media writing, migration narratives in graphic novels, documentary film, diversity, place and community-based, culturally relevant resources in education, and cross-cultural exchange and collaboration.

All are warmly welcome to the seminar room. Online joining is also available, but registration is required. Please scan the QR code above. For any inquiries, please contact ch.song@auckland.ac.nz.