

Call for Papers: Spring 2017 Special Issue, ADVA Journal

*Island Worlds, Oceanic Diasporas, & Global Flows*

Whether thought of as a geographic position or a social formation, the island has gained increasing attention as conceptually important for thinking about the dynamics of contemporary globalization—this is of course especially true for a region like Pacific Asia. Although perhaps given less attention, the idea of a diaspora has a similar role within the world now; both the island, and the diaspora, are figures of community that do not easily fit within the discourses of either of nationalism or transnationalism. Both are key concepts, and both are seemingly now in play.

This special issue will take up the idea of the island and the diaspora, as related, and in this case specifically to see what Pacific Asia can tell us. Islands might traditionally be thought at once to be very localized communities or yet only part of a larger region; isolating and bounded, and/or just elements within flows and exchange; defined by insularity and indigeneity, or the ground of mixing; and in some cases part of a postindustrial and depopulated landscape, or the ground of generative possibility. Diasporas, similarly, might be thought of as the definition of dispersal, or an example of tenacious clinging to identities; and a community of exiles, or a site of opportunity. Both the island and the diaspora are identities that are not only historical, but are now being produced and defined in new ways by global forces of capital, technology, and politics.

What then are the contemporary ecologies of Pacific Asian island and diasporic life? The aim, in taking up this focus, is both to gain new perspective on how one might think about Pacific Asia and the Americas, and at least implicitly to use Pacific Asia as an example of ways in which globalization is developing more generally. We are accordingly calling for papers that in any number of ways, including those described here, might address the visual cultures and contemporary artistic production of Pacific Asia in terms of this rubric of islands and diasporas. This might include examination of how themes associated with island and oceanic imaginaries are part of efforts to engage conceptions of place, trans-oceanic connections, cross-cultural exchange, and diaspora that have developed over centuries of trans-Pacific exploration, travel,

trade, colonialism, warfare, migration, and settlement—and/or, how islands (in relation to the oceanic, or not), and islanding, have become a newer mode of envisioning life, emerging out of new social and economic conditions within the globalizing world, that may also shift the very terms of diaspora. What work does the idea of the island do, including in relation to the frame of diasporic life? How does these frames operate, or play, in the visual arts and cultures related to Pacific Asia?

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Deadline for submission of abstracts: 30 August 2015

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