

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of
the Free Speech Movement



**The Nuclear University and
U.S. Power in the Pacific:
*Time for a New Free Speech Movement?***

Thursday, October. 23, 6 – 9:30 pm
University of California, Berkeley Campus,
Room/Building 60-Evans

Presenters:

Corinna Gould, Ohlone elder;
Dr. Gray Brechin, author “Imperial San Francisco”
Paul O’toko, Chuuk Elder
Arnie Saiki, Moana Nui Network
Christine Hong, Assistant Professor, UC Santa Cruz
Stephen McNeil, American Friends Service Committee
Andrew Lichterman, Western States Legal Foundation
Jackie Cabasso, Western States Legal Foundation

Sponsors: American Friends Service Committee, Western States Legal Foundation; Working Group for Peace and Demilitarization in Asia and the Pacific; San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility; Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies Program, Department of Ethnic Studies, University of California at Berkeley

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The U.S. “strategic pivot” to the Asia-Pacific region, creates growing risks of great power wars in the 21st century, and the University of California shares a role and responsibility in the historic and continuing role of U.S. imperial aspirations and the military-industrial complex. The University of California has managed the U.S. nuclear weapons laboratories at Livermore and Los Alamos since their inception, and today is part of a management team that includes Bechtel, Babcock and Wilcox, URS Corporation, and Battelle.

This event commemorates the 50th anniversary of the “free speech movement” and will examine the U.S history of “nuclear colonialism” in the Asia-Pacific region and will highlight landmark litigation filed earlier this year by the tiny Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), used as a U.S. nuclear test site for 12 years, against the nine nuclear weapons states for their failure to disarm under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and customary international law. The RMI also filed a separate case against the U.S. in Federal Court in San Francisco. The complaint specifically cites Livermore Lab’s activities to modernize the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile as a breach of the NPT and violation of international law.

Program:

6 p.m. Opening/welcome

Welcome, Corrina Gould (Indian People Organizing for Change)
Program overview, Jackie Cabasso (Western States Legal Foundation)

6:15 p.m. Universities: Intellectual Arsenals for U.S. Power

“The University as Contested Terrain: The Origins of Ethnic Studies and Resistance to Empire,” Christine Hong (UC Santa Cruz)

6:30 p.m. The Pacific Pivot

“Is the Pacific Pivot the Empire in New Clothes?,” Stephen McNeil (American Friends Service Committee)
“The Pacific Pivot in a Global Context: Great Power War Risk in the 21st Century,” Andy Lichterman (Western States Legal Foundation)

7:15 p.m. The Marshall Islands: Ground Zero for Nuclear Colonialism

Film clips of historical footage of nuclear testing on Marshall Islands and Tony DeBrum, Foreign Minister of the Marshall Islands, at the Sept. 21 People’s Climate March in NYC
“The Mouse That Roared: The Marshall Islands Lawsuits,” Jackie Cabasso (Western States Legal Foundation)
Paul O’toko (Indigenous Stewards), “From Kwajelein to California: Nuclear Colonialism Begins at Home”

8 p.m. California, U.S. Power in the Pacific, and the University:

“The United States as a Maritime Power and the Struggle for Economic and Military Primacy in the Pacific,” Arnie Saiki (Moana Nui Network)

“The Nuclear University and the Military-Industrial Complex,” Gray Brechin (author of *Imperial San Francisco* and Visiting Scholar, Geography, UC Berkeley)

8:50 p.m. Closing Discussion: Role of Education, Reflection, and Action

Presenters:

Corrina Gould is a Chochenyo and Karkin Ohlone woman, born and raised in Oakland, CA, the village of Huichin. She is the mother of three children and grandmother to two. She is the Co-Founder and a Lead Organizer for Indian People Organizing for Change, a small Native run organization that works on Indigenous people issues as well as sponsoring an annual Shellmound Peace Walk to bring about education and awareness of the desecration of the sacred sites in the greater Bay Area, 2005-2009. She is the Title VII Coordinator for the Office of Indian Education at the American Indian Child Resource Center, and also sits on the California Indigenous Environmental Association Board.

Dr. Gray Brechin is the founder and Project Scholar of the Living New Deal based at UC Berkeley’s Department of Geography. He was an environmental writer and TV producer in San Francisco before returning to that Department to write his dissertation which became the best-selling book *Imperial San Francisco: Urban Power, Earthly Ruin* which uses the example of one city to illustrate how cities degrade vast hinterlands for the benefit of dynamic elites. In San Francisco’s case, the University of California has played a little-known but starring role in the creation and promotion of nuclear weapons which have had a devastating impact on the Pacific Basin. Those deadly impacts quickly returned to the Bay Area and continue to haunt us today as do the weapons themselves.

Paul O’toko (*Chuukese*, Federated States of Micronesia), Director of Indigenous Stewards International, is an Ocean and Canoe steward. Until 2012, he was the director of Institute for Indigenous Studies at William Carey International University, in Pasadena, California. He travels to Micronesian communities across the U.S., helping to provide community support on unresolved immigration issues under the Compact of Free Association (COFA), including advocating for the rights of Micronesians to access healthcare and cancer treatment resulting from decades of U.S. nuclear testing.

Arnie Saiki (Hawai‘i) is the Coordinator of Moana Nui Network. He received a 2008, We the People, National Endowment for the Humanities grant for his research, presentation and program, “Statehood and Hawaii: Correspondences between the State Department, Congress and the United Nations,” which has informed his current work on militarization and trade in the Pacific. He lives in Los Angeles with his family.

Christine Hong specializes in transnational Asian American, Korean diaspora, and critical Pacific Rim studies at UC Santa Cruz, where she has organized for Critical Race and Ethnic Studies. Her current book project, “Blurring the Color Line: Racial Fictions, Militarized Humanity, and the Pax Americana in the Pacific Rim,” examines the double-fronted nature of U.S. Cold War counterrevolutionary violence in the wake of Japan’s Pacific War defeat. She is on the executive board of the Korea Policy Institute, the coordinating committee of the National Campaign to End the Korean War, and part of the Working Group on Peace and Demilitarization in Asia and the Pacific.

Andrew Lichterman is a policy analyst and lawyer with the Oakland-based Western States Legal Foundation. As a lawyer, he has represented peace and environmental activists in a variety of settings, and also taught at alternative law schools for many years. In recent years his work has focused on the purposes and impacts of U.S. nuclear and other strategic weapons programs, including their effect on global disarmament efforts, and on the relationship between nuclear technologies, militarism, and the global economy. He is a member of the Global Council of the Abolition 2000 Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons and serves on the Coordinating Committee of United for Peace and Justice.

Jackie Cabasso has been Executive Director of Western States Legal Foundation since 1984. An internationally recognized leading voice for nuclear abolition, she has been involved in nuclear disarmament, peace and environmental advocacy at the local, national and international levels for over 30 years. She was a “founding mother” of the Abolition 2000 Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons in 1995. Since 2007, she has served as North American Coordinator for Mayors for Peace. She also serves as National Co-convenor for United for Peace and Justice and convenes its Nuclear Disarmament & Redefining Security working group. She received the International Peace Bureau’s 2008 Sean MacBride Peace Award.

Stephen McNeil is Director for Peacebuilding work with American Friends Service Committee, U.S. West Region. Currently on the board of Volunteers in Asia which supports young adult exchanges and placements in Asia, since 2004 he has served with the San Francisco Bay Area Darfur Coalition, an anti-genocide coalition of genocide survivors, descendants, and anti-genocide activists who seek to prevent genocide now. Along with several of the other speakers, he is a member of the Working Group for Peace and Demilitarization in Asia and the Pacific.