



Ethnography & Social Theory Colloquium
Department of Anthropology
Yale University

A white outline map of Australia and the surrounding Pacific region is set against a light blue background. The map shows the continent of Australia, New Guinea, and parts of the Pacific islands.

DISPOSSESSION AND DISAPPEARANCE IN THE POST SOVEREIGN PACIFIC: CLIMATE, CHANGE, AND OUR ANTHROPOCENTRIC FUTURE

a talk by

PAIGE WEST

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

4:00-5:30PM

10 SACHEM STREET, ROOM 105

On July 19, 2013 the Prime Ministers of Australia and Papua New Guinea agreed to the *Regional Resettlement Arrangement between Australia and Papua New Guinea* (colloquially known as “The Papua New Guinea Solution” or the RRA), an international agreement that diverts asylum seekers who attempt to reach Australia by boat to Papua New Guinea, for immediate detention and processing and then eventual resettlement in Papua New Guinea - a country that did not have a national refugee policy until October 2015. In this talk, the author will describe the lives of the people who have been affected by the RRA ethnographically, placing their lives within the larger story of the RRA. The talk will end with some questions for all of us, as anthropologists, about how we are to approach the socio-ecological present today as scholars and as humans, and about the value of ethnographic anthropology, something that has recently been loudly critiqued and roundly discounted by some of the more irritating members of our discipline.