

2026

7.22 (wed.) 12:10
12:50

12:10-12:15

◆ Introduction

12:15-12:40

◆ Seminar
(Presentation)

12:40-12:50

◆ Q&A

Online
(Zoom)Scan here for
Registration ▶▶https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pyCZ5EFsQqW_UPEHTEDoTA

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The Storied Deep: Three Island Worlds of our Ocean Planet

**Key Words**

Ocean

Blue Humanities

Deep Sea Mining

Polymetallic Nodules

Mythology

Ecology

Multispecies Ethnography

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Britton Elliott Brooks is an author, public speaker, and associate professor at Kyushu University. He attained his DPhil (PhD) in Medieval English Literature at the University of Oxford. His research centres on early medieval English literature, the environmental humanities, and the blue humanities. He is currently engaged in a five-year research project funded by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), titled *Knowing Oceans: The Early Medieval English North Sea*, which will investigate human interaction with the North Sea in the British Archipelago throughout the early Medieval period (c. 500–1200). This current talk reflects his upcoming multimedia public humanities project *The Storied Deep: Three Island Worlds*, which seeks to explore how the deep ocean both acts upon humanity and is acted upon by humanity, by looking at three island chains, Japan, Hawai'i, and the United Kingdom and Ireland, in the past, present, and projected future.

The deep ocean is the largest and least explored biome on Earth. For most of human history, it was untouched by all but our imagination. Now it is at the forefront of environmental, cultural, economic, and political futures. Yet for most of us, it is a place we can never encounter in person. Instead, it is a storied environment, its planet-circling expanse known through the narratives we make about it. This talk examines how many of our current debates, policies, and agreements between nations rest largely on the stories told about the deep ocean. To do so, it explores narratives about the deep from three island worlds: Japan, Hawai'i, and the British Isles. These three archipelagos all share entwined histories with their surrounding seas, yet the stories they have told and are telling about the deep ocean are surprisingly different.