

# Navigating Our Sea of Islands

**MĀHEA AHIA**

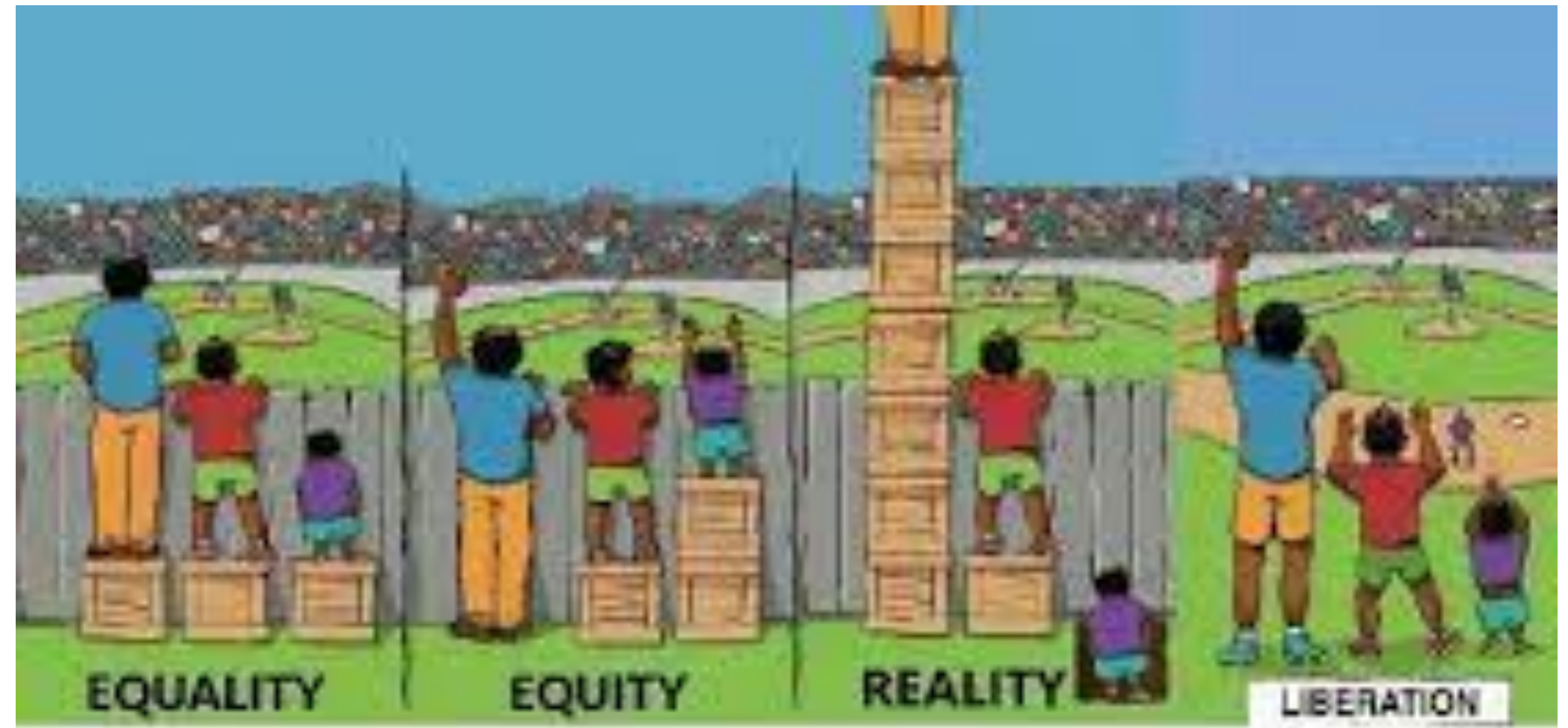
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- Who is the We?
- How do we travel together?
- canoe metaphor - Teresia Teaiwa
  - exploration (process) vs discovery (product)
- brave spaces
  - embodiment - land and bodies as sacred
    - René Descartes 17th c mind/body >Enlightenment
    - affect theory, felt theory, emotions
    - trauma-informed perspectives
  - use your voice with courage and clarity
    - feminist auto-ethnography
  - un-settling (decolonial processes)



# Agreements

- Active Listening
- Step Up, Step Back when speaking
- Respect for multiple view points
- Be generous with your feedback
- No discrimination or hate speech (spoken, written, behavior, images)
- Each of our stories exhibits expertise and plenty to learn
- Chat as valid contribution



Liberation

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# Storytelling

- meta, context, genre, aesthetic values
  - core sequence of actions by characters (individual and in myth cycles)
  - transformation, lesson learned, cultural protocols passed down
  - orality
    - tailored to audience - responsibilities of listener (cultural literacy)
  - repetition, reinforcement, new perspective
  - reception, interpretation, understanding
  - re-telling it yourself
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# birth of islands

- Papahānaumoku - Papa who births islands
- moku - divided, cut, severed in 2 parts
  - land division, island
- piko - umbilical cord, point of connection, peak of mountain, symbolic center
- Papa (Mother Earth) + Wākea (Father Sky)  
Ho'ohōkūkalani
- Hāloanakalaukapalili (elder kalo/taro plant) Hāloa (younger, first Kanaka)



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# Terms - Power of Naming

- Oceania
  - Pacific Islands - Pasifika
  - Moananui
  - Jules Dumont d'Urville (French botanist, cartographer 1790-1842)
    - Polynesia
    - Micronesia
    - Melanesia
  - Hawai'i (Sandwich Islands, Hawai'i Island-centric)
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# Epeli Hau'ofa

Tongan-Fijian anthropologist  
founder of Oceania Centre for the Arts at  
University of the South Pacific



- Under the aegis of Pele, and before my very eyes, the Big Island was growing, rising from the depths of a mighty sea. The world of Oceania is not small; it is huge and growing bigger every day” (Hau‘ofa 151).
- The idea that the countries of Polynesia and Micronesia are too small, too poor, and too isolated to develop any meaningful degree of autonomy...” (Hau‘ofa 151).
- “But if we look at myths, legends, and oral traditions, and the cosmologies of the peoples of Oceania, it becomes evident that they did not conceive of their world in such microscopic proportions. Their universe comprised not only land surfaces, but the surrounding ocean as far as they could traverse and exploit it, the underworld with its fire-controlling and earth-shaking denizens, and the heavens above with their hierarchies of powerful gods and named stars and constellations that people could count on to guide their ways across the seas. Their world was anything but tiny. They thought big and recounted their deeds in epic proportions” (Hau‘ofa 152).
- There is a world of difference between viewing the Pacific as “islands in a far sea” and as “a sea of islands.” The first emphasizes dry surfaces in a vast ocean far from the centers of power. Focusing in this way stresses the smallness and remoteness of the islands” (Hau‘ofa 152).



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# First Assignment - “Terms” Paper

- In 500+ words (2 double-spaced pages), thoroughly examine a term related to this course.
  - Provide the origins, intellectual genealogy, historical context, changes in meaning over time, reception/rejection by various communities, political currency, how it applies to Island world views, and relevance to our classwork
  - Submit via Laulima Assignments and I will collate into class reference document
  - Sign-up for terms via google.doc
  - Due end of Unit One: Sunday 9/12 by 11:55pm (Word doc, no Pdf or Google.docs)
    - Follow proper MLA formatting (see Writing Checklist pdf and PurdueOWL link under Weekly > Resources)
    - [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KGJA395ineNZ6NfRk3NpDY5m\\_Zu-sYwpTnLTVLMdYR8/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KGJA395ineNZ6NfRk3NpDY5m_Zu-sYwpTnLTVLMdYR8/edit?usp=sharing)
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# Breakout Rooms

- Introduce your first name
- Discussion Prompt:
  - What does it mean to live cooperatively on islands? How can you envision/imagine it done [differently/better] in the future? What would you like to see? What are the challenges to creating this reality?

