Bio Sketch

J. Kēhaulani Kauanui is Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) woman born and raised in California with ties to family on the island of Kaua‘i and throughout the islands. She is an Associate Professor of American Studies and Anthropology at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, USA. She earned her Ph.D. in History of Consciousness at the University of California, Santa Cruz, in 2000.

Kauanui is the producer and host of a public affairs radio program, "Indigenous Politics: From Native New England and Beyond," now in its 6th season, which airs each Tuesday from 4-5pm on W.E.S.U., Middletown, CT. Past episodes are archived online: www.indigenouspolitics.com.


She also sits on the following editorial boards: American Indian Quarterly; Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism; Hulili: Multidisciplinary Research on Hawaiian Well-Being; Journal of Pacific History; and Intersections: Gender and Sexuality in Asia and the Pacific.

From 2005-2008, Kauanui was part of a six-person steering committee that worked to found the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (N.A.I.S.A.). From 2008-2009, she served as an acting council member. In May 2009, she was elected as a council member for a three year term.

She serves as a member of the Advisory Board of the U.S. Campaign for the Academic & Cultural Boycott of Israel.

Areas of Expertise

Critical race and whiteness studies
Feminist critique
Sovereignty and decolonization

Current Research Activities

She is currently embarking on two new book projects. One is titled, Hawaiian Nation, Thy Kingdom Come? Colonialism, Gender, and Sexuality—a critical study on gender and sexual politics and the question of Hawaiian indigeneity in relation to state-centered nationalism. The other is a project titled, Hawaiian New England: The Grammar of American Colonialism, about

Two Key Publications
