



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES

Center for East Asian  
Studies



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Center for Latin  
American Studies

# Paths Across the Pacific Speaker Series

## Climates across the Pacific:

### How El Niño, La Niña, and Climate Change Connect Pacific World History

Oceanic change of the Pacific Ocean is one of the most important factors connecting the histories of Asia, the Americas, Antipodes, and Pacific Islands in recent centuries. This presentation will explain how trans-Pacific connectivities between Indigenous peoples and scientists resulted in the historical discovery of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon, and how La Niña events and the Global Little Ice Age directly contributed to the decline of Peruvian silver exports, fall of the Ming Dynasty, and catastrophe on Easter Island.

Such insights can help us understand the challenges we will face together as human-caused climate change further perturbs the Pacific environment, but also ways that past societies have faced disaster and learned to prosper again.

**Time: Tuesday April 16, 2024, 5:00-7:00 pm**

**Location: ILC 140**

*Open to the public. All is welcome!*



#### Speaker

**Dr. Gregory T. Cushman** is an Associate Professor of History. He is a global environmental historian, specializing in the Andean and Pacific Worlds and in 2015-17 received a Carnegie Fellowship.



#### Discussant

**Dr. Scott Gregory** is an Associate Professor of Chinese literature, with special interest in late imperial vernacular fiction and its intersection with the culture of print. He is the co-director of the Center for East Asian Studies

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This event is free and open to the public,

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