

Tahiti Paradis sur terre?

La présence coloniale française
vécue par les Tahitiens.

Tahiti est renommé comme une destination de vacance que les européens ont colonisé dans le 18ième siècle, mais pour certains Tahitiens la présence coloniale de la France en Polynésie signifie un changement radical qui ne cesse pas de bouleverser les esprits et les coutumes des îliens. Par conséquent, une croissance en littérature tahitienne accompagne l'accroissement de la population d'origine française. Les écrivains racontent leurs soucis, décrivent de manière plus ou moins poignante, ce qu'ils voient dans leur petit pays qui change sans arrêt à cause des Français.

On observe l'impact social, culturel, politique et de la présence française à Tahiti avec les livres tahitiens. Nous verrons à travers la littérature et la poésie tahitienne comment cette société lointaine voit sa dépendance sur la France, le mélange des races et son rapport à la langue française. Ces relations ne sont pas toujours agréables et l'Éden, que cherchaient autrefois les Français, est devenu une situation précaire, complexe et souvent ambivalente pour la plupart des auteurs tahitiens.

Tahiti

Behind the earthly paradise

Tahitian experience of French colonialism

Presenter Noah Sabich, M.A., Ph.D. (ABD)

Tahiti is best known as a vacation island in French Polynesia, first colonized by Europeans in the 18th century. For some native islanders however, the colonial presence of France challenges their customs and thoughts. An increasing population of French metropolises has been accompanied by a growth in native Tahitian literature. The writers speak of their concerns and poignantly describe the constant changes they see the foreign influence having on their small country.

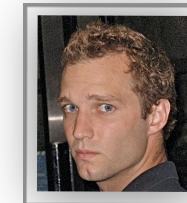
These literary works give insight into the ideas and attitudes of contemporary indigenous Tahitians as well as the social, cultural and political impact of the French. An examination of literature and poetry shows how this society views its dependance on France, the mix of races and its relationship with the French language. These associations are not always easy nor amicable, and the Eden that the first French settlers sought has become a situation much more precarious, complex and often ambivalent for most native Tahitian authors.

(The talk will be in French).

Sundays @ 3 • Conférence (F)
February 21
RSVP by Feb. 18

Our Conférence présentateur

Noah Sabich has earned a B.A. from



Bates College in French and History; Middlebury College School in France, an M.A.; and University of

Connecticut, an M.A. and a Ph.D. (ABD). Noah has lived, studied, and traveled extensively in France and throughout Europe. He has studied at the University of Poitiers and the Sorbonne. Drawn by literature and culture, he opted to study French post-colonialism. As part of his Ph.D. dissertation, he intends to show how indigenous Tahitians navigate their often opposing, combative identities (French/Tahitian) in a colonial island society. Noah teaches at Trinity College as the Graduate Fellow for the French Department