



## Public Lecture and Panel Discussion

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# Activism, Art and Atolls: Communicating the Oceanic Anthropocene

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3 December, 2015. 18:00–19:30

Alter Seminarraum, Deutsches Museum, Museumsinsel 1, 80538 Munich.

### Dr Jenny Newell, American Museum of Natural History

How are activists and artists of the Pacific Ocean engaging in issues of the Anthropocene? Oceania is a region often framed as the world's "canary in the coalmine", with people and places already experiencing deep impacts from climate change, globalization and loss of homelands. This talk explores the ways that Islanders across the region are using artworks, museum programs, YouTube videos and print media to raise awareness and to garner support for the struggle to maintain places where they can, in the words of Marshallese poet Kathy Jetnil Kijiner, "not just survive but thrive".

Dr Jenny Newell is curator of Pacific ethnography at the American Museum of Natural History, New York. She has previously worked at the British Museum and the National Museum of Australia. Her particular fields of study are Pacific environmental history, museums and material culture; she has published two books: *Trading Nature: Tahitians, Europeans and Ecological Exchange* and *Pacific Art in Detail*. Her current project focuses on exploring the cultural impacts of climate change.