In association with The Talanoa Series of Las Vegas, NV, Salt Lake City, UT, San Mateo, CA, and our newest city, Portland, Oregon, the City College of San Francisco’s (CCSF) Critical Pacific Islands & Oceania Studies Program & VASA Transfer Prep Program, is delighted to present our— 8th Annual Talanoa Series @ CCSF for Fall 2016!

The word “tala” in Pacific languages means “story” while the word “noa” means “to tie or to bind.” When the two words are put together, they form the word “talanoa” which translates to “connecting stories together.” Our strong mission of the Talanoa Series is to bring together our students, guests, and communities to share and connect stories/experiences about topics and issues that shape indigenous Pacific Islander communities across our vast ocean.

In honor of sustaining our oceanic connections, we are pleased to announce our 2nd speaker of our 8th Annual Talanoa Series Fall 2016— Dr. Juliann Anesi, Ph.D.

Dr. Juliann Anesi is a University of California President’s Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley in the department of Gender and Women’s Studies. In 2015, she received her doctoral degree (Ph.D.) in Special Education and Disability Studies from Syracuse University in the state of New York. Her research interests focus on educational policies, indigenous women with disabilities, and intellectual and physical disabilities in the Pacific Islands. Dr. Anesi is a former Board member of the Society of Disability Studies, and has worked with non-profit organizations and schools in American Samoa, California, Hawai’i, New York and Samoa. Currently, she is preparing her book entitled, "Women’s Tautua: Service and Disability Activism in Samoa."

Dr. Anesi’s talk, entitled, “Women’s Tautua, Land and Disability Advocacy in Samoa,” explores how in the mid-1970s, a group of women in Samoa, an independent state in the Pacific came together to advocate for the inclusion of students with disabilities in schools. Representing the main island—Upolu, some of the women were parents of disabled children, disabled themselves, family members, and allies. Their collective goal was to establish educational institutions for people with disabilities. Yet, gathering support from the community was difficult given the popular discourse about people with disabilities as “ulu ka’e” (broken head) or “uneducable.”

This talk focuses on Samoan women organizing and their acquisition of land to build the two schools (Aoga Fiamalamalama and Loto Taumafai) for students with intellectual and physical disabilities. Thus, understanding the implications of the women’s activism is crucial to how we think about decolonizing politics today, given the complexity of neoliberal development, the excavation of resources from land and the disregard for “bodies” and beings in these spaces. What compelled these women to support disabled students? What can we learn about the relationships between disabled people, indigenous land, and educational policies, especially here in San Francisco, the state of California, and the United States?

The Talanoa Series will be held at the Ocean campus of the City College of San Francisco in the Lower Level of the Student Union on Thursday, October 27th from 6:00-9:00pm. Refreshments/dinner will be served. Disability accommodations provided upon request. Parking is available in the student parking lot near the Multi-Use Building (MUB) or in front of Conlan Hall free of charge.

For more information, contact: Dr. David Ga’oupu Palaita, Ph.D. (vika) @ (415) 452-5923 | (206) 250-7468 | dpalaita@ccsf.edu

The 8th Annual Talanoa Series—Fall 2016 is sponsored by the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, the Critical Pacific Islands & Oceania Studies program, the VASA Commission & Transfer Prep Program, the Diversity and Social Justice program, the Critical Middle East Studies/SWANA Program, the CCSF Diversity Collaborative: LGBT Studies, Women’s Studies, Philippine Studies, Latin American and Latino/a Studies, Asian American Studies, Asian Studies, African American Studies, Labor & Community Studies, Disabled Students Programs & Services, Students Supporting Students (SCUBE), the Multicultural Retention Services department, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Development, the Office of the Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences, the Office of the Dean of Student Equity, and the Pacific Islander Club (PIC) @ CCSF.