

Abstract

In dialogue with Dipesh Chakrabarty's essays on climate change, this paper challenges how dominant representations of climate change in Oceania represent Pacific peoples as passive victims of a crisis to which they have contributed the least but suffer the most.

The notion of the Anthropocene dissolves the Eurocentric binary of nature and culture, yet introduced environmental sciences still often make a distinction between the natural and the cultural which is foreign to most Oceanic peoples. As well as revaluing the Indigenous knowledge Oceanic people bring to this crisis, we need to stress their agency in fighting against and not just 'adapting' to climate change. This is explored in political fora leading up to COP21 in Paris and beyond, in regional organisations and in creative combinations of politics and performing arts in Oceania.