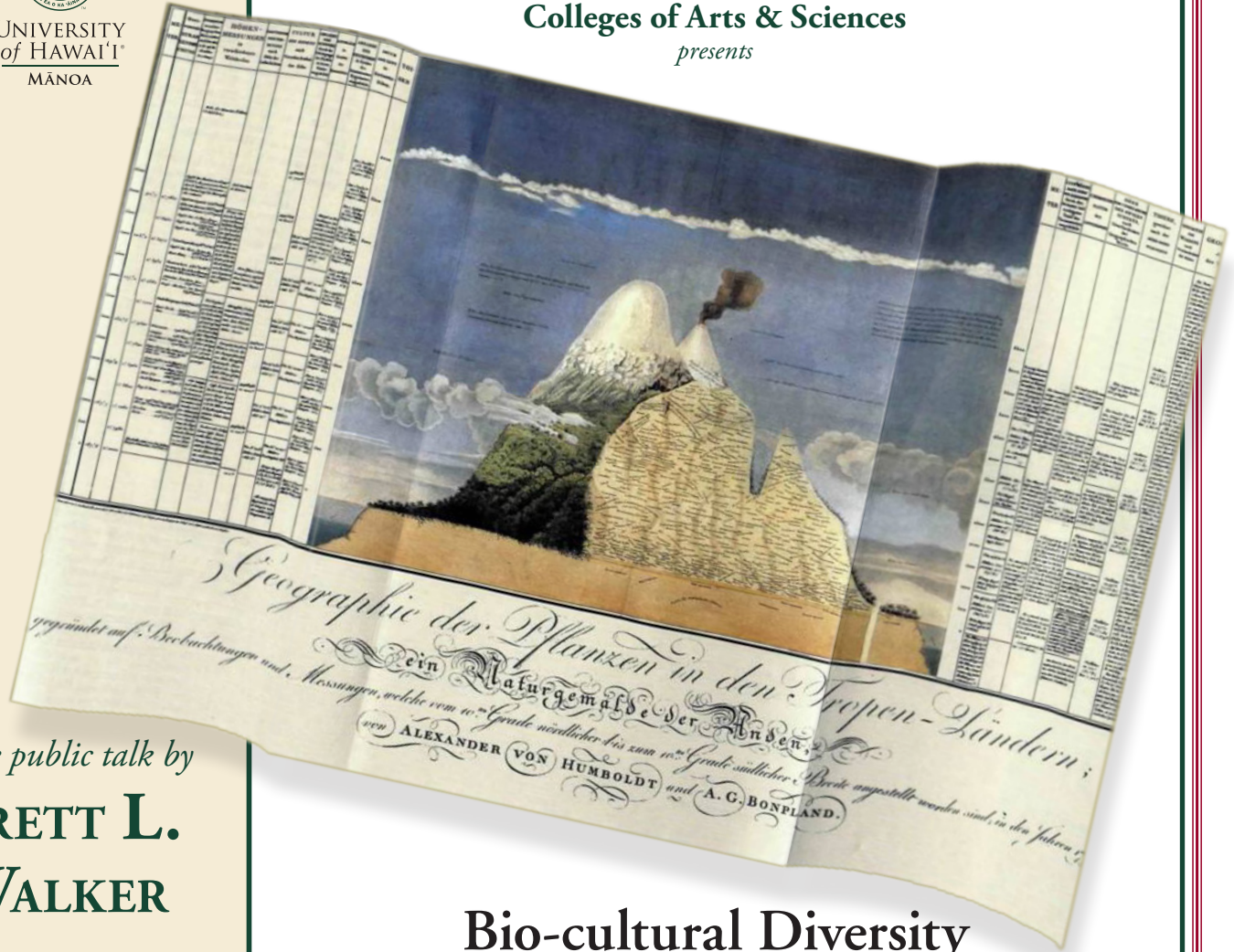




The Dai Ho Chun Endowment for Distinguished Lecturers  
of the  
Colleges of Arts & Sciences  
presents



a free public talk by  
**BRETT L.  
WALKER**



photo by Kelly Gorham

Monday  
March 10, 2014  
3–4:30 p.m.  
Moore Hall  
Tokioka Room (room 319)

Sponsored by the Department of  
History, Department of East Asian  
Languages and Literature, and the  
Center for Japanese Studies

## Bio-cultural Diversity in the Anthropocene

The linking of cultural identities and knowledge creation to local environments has roots in Western science. Alexander von Humboldt, in his “Essay on the Geography of Plants” (1807), developed such connections, as did the geographer Ellen Semple in her *The Influences of Geographic Environment* (1911) and the philosopher Watsuji Tetsurō in his *Fūdo (On Climate)*. For better or worse, scholars have tied the fate of cultural development to environmental and geographic contexts. The advent of the Anthropocene Epoch, however, with its bio-stratigraphic homogenization of Earth’s natural environments, threatens this bio-cultural diversity. In this lecture, I look at case studies from my own research regarding the ways that industrial homogeneity is destroying cultural and biological diversity, including in the micro-biome of our own bodies. Today, we risk undermining the bio-cultural diversity that supports the seeds of future human potential and accomplishments.

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