

The UCI Center for Ethnography

cordially invites you to a

TALK

BY

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**‘A Couple of Things I Know About Improvisation
from Hanging Out with Samoan Orators and Jazz
Musicians’**

Abstract

The ethnographer is a sympathetic agent of literacy/the written in contexts where oral performance, or other kinds of performance, are dynamic. Is there any sense in which the management of fieldwork and its uncertainties/surprises themselves can be construed as an 'art' of improvisation or, is this mere ideology (imperialist nostalgia even) given what` improvisation really is --in jazz, in samoan oratory in their historical situations? What is at stake in thinking about the contingencies of fieldwork and the ethnographic accounts that are often built up from them as relying on the craft and creativity of improvisation?

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2009
SSPB 4250 (Anthropology Library)
12:00-2:30pm**

Light Lunch Provided

Please RSVP by January 8, 2009 to

Sandy Cushman – 949-824-3344 or scushman@uci.edu

For more information about the Center and its events, go to:

www.socsci.uci.edu/~ethnog