

## **The aftermath of empire: On the linguistic ecology of Spanish in the Pacific**

Steve Pagel

University of Halle-Wittenberg

A field rather unfamiliar to most hispanists, Spanish was and continues to be an influential language also in the Pacific. But what once could be described as a “Spanish lake”<sup>1</sup> has gone through tremendous changes since the end of the Spanish colonial empire in 1898. These changes are echoed by substantial linguistic modifications in the varieties of Spanish in the Pacific and in the different autochthonous languages it has been or is in contact with. This presentation will demonstrate some of these modifications on the Philippines and on Easter Island, and it will show that they are best understood from an ecological-linguistic perspective.

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<sup>1</sup> Spate, Oskar H. K. [1979] 2004: *The Spanish Lake*, Canberra, Australian National University E Press.