



**AAAL 2024 Plenary, Kris Aric Knisely
Transcript of Opening Introduction, Presented by AAAL 2024 Conference Chair,
Ryuko Kubota**

Hey, hello everyone. It's great to see you. Welcome to the first Plenary Session of AAAL 2024. I'm Ryuko Kubota the chair of the conference. I'm delighted to see you all virtually today. We are conducting this Plenary Session online to make it accessible to wider audience.

So before proceeding further, further, I would like to acknowledge that the land I'm speaking from is the unceded and traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Srebatuth nations, which are now called Vancouver, Canada. As an uninvited guest and a settler from abroad, I'm extremely privileged to open our 2024 conference here today. I recognize that many of you are located in a traditional and ancestral land of Indigenous peoples, so please acknowledge them and their land. In two weeks, I will see many of you in Houston, Texas, a sacred historical and significant homeland of the Kalanguacadla peoples and relatives. As you visit Houston, please treat their lands and waters with dignity and respect. This year's conference theme is Thinking Otherwise, Acting for Change. I hope the conference will offer you a forum for exploring this theme within your own strand, context, and community.

So today, today we are privileged to invite Dr. Chris Arik Neasley as the first plenary speaker. Before the introduction of the speaker, let me explain how this session is conducted. So this session is recorded until the end of the plenary talk itself. We hope to have a short Q & A session, moderated at the end of this session. our conference planning team member, Rosie David. So please post your question in the chat box. The Q & A session will not be recorded. But the recording will be made available on the Tupuel website for anyone, members and non -members until March 31st.

Another announcement is the new initiative of encouraging presenters to make the presentation more inclusive to embrace visual, auditory, and neurodiversity, as well as other needs of the audience. So please visit the CHIPO -AL website to read the inclusive presenter guidelines. guidelines. Lastly, I would like to remind ourselves that CHIPO -AL aims to foster a safe and welcoming environment for all participants at the conference, including this plenary session. So as a community, we commit to showing respect and compassion to each other and to affirming our solidarity across the world. in language, nationality, religion, ability, and many diverse identities. So that's all from me. I will hand the microphone over to Dr. Janice McGregor, Assistant Professor of German Studies at the University of Arizona for the introduction of our plenary speaker.