

Returning to the Region: Philippine History and the Contingencies of Southeast Asia



Wednesday, April 7, 9:00-11:45 PM (Manila)

Friday, April 9, 9:00-11:45 PM (Manila)

Zoom workshop hosted by Yale-NUS College

Zoom link for Apr 7, 2021:

<https://yale-nus-edu-sg.zoom.us/j/81683538793?pwd=RkNmVWRXVnhpM0E4WDRuUHN5NHkvZz09>

Meeting ID: 816 8353 8793

Passcode: 782350

Zoom link for Apr 9, 2021:

<https://yale-nus-edu-sg.zoom.us/j/81396902067?pwd=aEZPRzZmWXloWG1ZWekwbVZqdU5Kdz09>

Meeting ID: 813 9690 2067

Passcode: 180229

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Early post-war/Cold War Southeast Asian studies, such as D.G.E. Hall's *A History of Southeast Asia* (1955), excluded the Philippines from Southeast Asia. Meanwhile, Philippine historiography's regional analytical complexity has thus far centered not on its Southeast Asian environs, but rather on its local, domestic regionalization. This sub-national regional complexity is due in large part to Alfred W. McCoy and Ed. C. De Jesus's *Philippine Social History: Global Trade and Local Transformations* (1982), which heralded the turn toward the Philippines' internal region. Their sub-national focus also prepared the ground for the more recent rise of international, transnational, and global historical writing, sharing the aim of decentering the nation-state. This latter turn, however, has tended to analyze the Philippines with and against its former Western colonizers and their other former colonies/sites of conquest—whether Puerto Rico, Cuba, or Iraq. What of the Philippines' more proximate, natural regional context?

Building upon and paying homage to *Philippine Social History's* regional turn inward, our special issue seeks to effect a regional turn outward, examining the Philippines within the contingencies of Southeast Asia. While recognizing Southeast Asian regionality as a political product as well as a tangible biotic zone—stretching from the Bay of Bengal to the Marianas Trench—this special issue shows how ideas of Southeast Asian regional space have existed in ways that complicate the 'area studies' imaginary. Excavating these spaces, this workshop and edited volume seek to return the Philippines to its more fluid, regional context. We do this to locate the study of the Philippines not at the edge of Southeast Asia but embedded within it.

Workshop convenors and volume editors:

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Wednesday, 7 April 2021

- 9:00 – 09:15 Welcome Remarks
- 9:15 – 10:00 *Contributor:* Pedro Luengo, “Early-Modern Philippine Architecture: Between Latin American and Southeast Asian Studies” | *Commentator:* Jose Gomez, University of the Philippines-Diliman
- 10:00 – 10:45 *Contributor:* Ruel Pagunsan, “Regionalizing Natures: Locating Philippine Identity in the Biological Geographies of Southeast Asia” | *Commentator:* Jo Marie Acebes, National Museum of the Philippines
- 10:45 – 11:30 *Contributors:* Elsa Clave and Arlo Griffiths, “The Laguna Copperplate Inscription: Java, Luzon and the notion of a Malay World” | *Commentator:* Nicholas Sy, University of the Philippines-Diliman
- 11:30 – 11:45 End of Night 1

Friday, 9 April 2021

- 9:00 – 9:45 *Contributor:* Kerby Alvarez, “The Observatorio Meteorológico de Manila and the Pacific Belt of Observatories, 1870s-1940s” | *Commentator:* Fiona Williamson, Singapore Management University
- 9:45 – 10:30 *Contributor:* Joshua Gedacht, “Colonial Zamboanga: Returning ‘Moro Province’ to the Wider Asian Region” | *Commentator:* Jely Galang, University of the Philippines-Diliman
- 10:30 – 11:15 *Contributor:* Michael Leadbetter, “Making the Philippines, Remaking of Southeast Asia: Perspectives from Archaeology and Deep History” | *Commentator:* Grace Barretto-Tesoro, University of the Philippines-Diliman
- 11:15 – 12:00 *Contributor:* Anthony Medrano, “Science from Below: Domantay, Trepang, and the Centering of Philippines Waters, 1912-1953” | *Commentator:* Francis Gealogo, Ateneo de Manila University
- 12:00 – 12:15 End of Workshop

Contributor	Commentator
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