

Transnational Asia

Speaker Series

Filipina Abjection: Empire and Fascism in Duterte's Republic



Thursday, April 1, 2021 @ 4 PM CDT
Online via Zoom (registration required)
Free and open to the public.

Filipina abjection is a method for reading colonial and contemporary media about the Philippines. We begin with the notion of abjection as filth, defilement, garbage or “refuse” in its varied meanings: images that are “ugly,” “disgusting,” and “repellent.” But abjection too is “the maternal, the female, or the savage.” Using Victorian postcards from a site for colonial pornography, colonial-era photographs from a museum in Sweden, photographs of the current drug war taken by Manila-based photographers known as The Nightcrawlers, and Alyx Arumpac’s award-winning documentary on the drug war entitled *Aswang (Monster)*, Filipina abjection offers a reading of the continuing horrors of Philippine life after colonialism and at a time of fascism.



NERISSA S. BALCE was born and raised in Manila, Philippines. She received a B.A. in Literature and an M.A. in Philippine Studies from De La Salle University, Manila. She worked as a journalist in Manila, writing articles on Philippine literature, politics, culture, and the arts. She received a Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Berkeley on a Fulbright scholarship. Before joining SUNY Stony Brook’s Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, she received a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Oregon’s Department of Ethnic Studies and taught at the University of Massachusetts Amherst’s Comparative Literature Program. At Stony Brook, she teaches graduate and undergraduate courses on Asian American literature and popular culture. Her essays have appeared in *Journal of Asian American Studies*, *Social Text*, *Peace Review*, *Hitting Critical Mass*, and in anthologies such as *“Positively No Filipinos Allowed”: Building Communities and Discourse* (Temple UP 2006) and *Resource Guide to Asian American Literature* (Modern Language Association 2001). Since 2006, she has given lectures in Philippine universities such as De La Salle University-Manila, Silliman University and Foundation University in Negros Oriental, the University of Santo Tomas-Manila, Ateneo de Manila, Philippine Women’s University and the University of the Philippines-Diliman.

FACULTY HOST: ALDEN SAJOR MARTE-WOOD



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