

Transnational Asia

Speaker Series

PHILIPPINE REFUGEE
PROCESSING CENTER
SABANG, MORONG, BATAAN
FUNDED BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
ADMINISTERED BY THE GOV'T. OF THE REP. OF THE PHILIPPINES

Configuring the Philippine Refugee Processing Center

Wednesday, March 29, 2023 @ 4 PM CDT

Sewall Hall, Room 309

Also online via Zoom ([registration required](#))

Exploring the politics of the Philippine Refugee Processing Center in Morong, Bataan, this talk considers the Filipino English teacher as a critical figure in the U.S. program for refugee rehabilitation. Recruited as an ideal figure of instruction and rehabilitation, the teacher illuminates the intersections of colonial language instruction, state development, and international human rights discourse. The US-based English language training journal *Passage* offers insight into the critical role that English language training played in the transformation of the refugee for eventual relocation. I analyze one piece published in that journal: an epistolary text by instructor Ruby Ibañez in which the teacher assumes the voice of the refugee student in ways that conform to and confound the proposed vertical relations of the processing center. This talk focuses on one chapter of *Postcolonial Configurations: Dictatorship, the Racial Cold War, and Filipino America* (Duke University Press, 2023), which theorizes a configuration as the racial and gender formation that comes into visibility at the intersections of transpacific multistate collaborations. The book reconceptualizes the meanings of Filipino America during the period and the politics of unmaking that people practiced to move beyond narrow ideas of subjectivity prescribed by a new world order.



JOSEN MASANGKAY DIAZ (she/they) is Associate Professor in the Department of Ethnic Studies and Affiliated Faculty in the Program in Women's and Gender Studies at the University of San Diego. Her research and teaching focus on race, gender, colonialism, liberalism, and authoritarianism. Her work has been published in *Critical Ethnic Studies Journal*, *Signs*, *Journal of Asian American Studies*, and *Kritika Kultura*. Her recent book, *Postcolonial Configurations: Dictatorship, the Racial Cold War, and Filipino America*, analyzes the formation of Filipino American subjectivity at the intersections of liberalism and authoritarianism. Her next book project considers Filipinx labor as vehicle for studying crisis across time and place.

FACULTY HOST: Alden Sajor Marte-Wood

COVID-19 POLICY: While masks are no longer required on the Rice campus, we ask our in-person guests to wear one and have selected a venue to facilitate social distancing during the event.



RICE HUMANITIES

Chao Center for Asian Studies

The Transnational Asia Speaker Series is made possible through the generosity of the Ting Tsung and Wei Fong Chao Foundation.

Register at ow.ly/1p3050MUwyt
or scan the QR code above.