

# Transnational Asia

## Speaker Series

# Serviceability and Expendability in the Globopolis

MUSEO DE ARTE CONTEMPORÁNEO



**Tuesday, March 8, 2022 @ 4 PM CST**

**Herring Hall, Room 100**

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

In a global political economy where life has become a direct means and source for the extraction of capitalist value, two forms of disposable life, or life as waste, arise: serviceable life and absolutely expendable life. I explore the connections between these two forms of disposability in the transnational context of Philippine social life, specifically linking Filipino/a reproductive work in the global service industries (domestic, care, shipping, Business Process Outsourcing), on the one hand, and the financial enterprise of extrajudicial killings of the urban poor under Philippine President Duterte's "war on drugs," on the other, in the context of a global platform economy. I discuss how together serviceability and expendability uphold the valued and valorizable life of global capital. Finally, I examine the work of Resbak, a coalition of artists critically protesting against this state-sponsored capitalist expenditure of life, in order to reflect on how we might approach life deemed waste without politically redeeming it in the form of valued life. How might remaindered life, as a political-aesthetic heuristic for attending to the excess of living under conditions of disposability, help steer us towards the remaking of our present global mode of life?



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**FACULTY HOST: Alden Sajor Marte-Wood**



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