

SPEAKERS

Stephen Acabado

Stephen Acabado is professor of anthropology at UCLA, where he also serves as chair of the Archaeology Interdepartmental Program and director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. His research focuses on human-environment dynamics, Indigenous landscapes, and archaeological methods in Southeast Asia, with a special emphasis on Ifugao heritage and community engagement. He develops international collaborations and capacity-building programs that integrate climate research, heritage studies, and Indigenous knowledge. Acabado writes for both academic and public audiences, contributes to heritage education initiatives, and leads field training programs in the Philippines, Taiwan, Morocco, and Cambodia.

alejandro t. acierto

alejandro t. acierto produces creative projects, exhibitions, and performances highlighting the impact of colonial legacies across technologies, material culture, and the environment. His works have been shown internationally, including at the Havana Biennial (Matanzas, Cuba), Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (San Francisco), and MCA Chicago. His writing has been featured in *Hyperallergic*; *Asian Diasporic Cultures in the Americas*; and *Resonance: The Journal of Sound and Culture*. He is an assistant professor of digital art at Wayne State University, located in Waawiyaataanong on the ceded lands of the Three Fires Confederacy, including the Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi, and Wyandot peoples.

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Almira Astudillo Gilles

Almira Astudillo Gilles specializes in Indigenous cultural knowledge and biodiversity conservation. Her most memorable cultural heritage project was an international artist exchange funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation called *Art and Anthropology: Portrait of the Object as Filipino* at the Field Museum. Her most fulfilling biodiversity initiative was *Hotspot, Cool Country: Biodiversity in the Philippines* (Anvil Publishing, Manila), a finalist at the Philippine National Book Development Board Awards in the science category. She has received a Pamana ng Pilipino Philippine Presidential Award from then-President Benigno Aquino III.

Kerstin Barndt

Kerstin Barndt, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Michigan, is a museum and literary scholar who studies the history of museums and exhibition culture in Europe and globally. Barndt has co-curated a number of exhibition projects in Berlin, Dresden, Grand Rapids, and Ann Arbor, where *Object Lessons. Recollecting Museum Histories* at Michigan showed at U-M's Museum of Natural History. From 2021 to 2023, she served as faculty member on U-M's ReConnect/ReCollect team while also directing the Museum Studies Program.

Grace Buenaventura

Grace Buenaventura earned her master's degree following an archiving track from the University of the Philippines School of Library and Information Studies in 2022 with a capstone project titled "St. Mary's Arch Phase - 1: The establishment of a community archive in Sagada, Mountain Province, Philippines." She is currently completing her PhD in anthropology at the UP College of Social Sciences and Philosophy. She has also been involved in numerous projects that deal with archive and database development and has presented papers on the management and preservation of ethnographic materials at local and international conferences.

Elizabeth R. Cole

Elizabeth R. Cole is the University Diversity and Social Transformation Professor of Psychology, Women's and Gender Studies, and Afroamerican and African Studies at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. Cole has served as the associate dean for Social Sciences and the interim dean of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA), and is currently the director of the National Center for Institutional Diversity (NCID). She also serves as a co-chair of the Inclusive History Project. Her scholarship applies feminist theory on intersectionality to social science research on race, gender, and social justice.

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Kiri Dalena

Kiri Dalena is a multimedia artist who lives and works in the Philippines. She studied human ecology at the University of the Philippines, Los Baños, and 16mm filmmaking at the Mowelfund Film Institute. Her practice is rooted in the belief that art is a vocation that fulfills an indispensable role in inspiring change by triggering connections and shifts in how we read history, the environment, and society. She works both as an individual artist and as part of collectives. She co-founded the artist-activist collectives Southern Tagalog Exposure (2001) and Respond and Break the Silence Against the Killings (2016–present).

Francisco Datar

Francisco Datar is the former chair of the University of the Philippines Anthropology Department. He has served as the Field School Director for more than 10 seasons, overseeing methodologies for the four subfields of anthropology. He has developed and taught courses on fieldwork, research methods, evolution and genetics, human biology, human osteology, and forensic anthropology. His research areas are Behia (Bikol), Batanes (Ivatan), Northern Samar (Abaknon), and Ifugao. He has conducted fieldwork with several Negrito groups, as well as Bajau, Kankana-ey, and Kalinga groups. Finally, he has worked as an advocate for MTB-MLE (Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education).

Lizza May David

Lizza May David's multidisciplinary practice is anchored in painting, expanded through research, collaborations, and diverse formats. She is interested in gaps and silences in personal and institutional archives, often tied to Philippine contexts. Earlier video projects explored labor migration and memory. Recent exhibitions include *Close to Home* (Savvy Contemporary, Berlin), *As We See Us: A Decolonial Salon des Refusés* (MHAS, Berlin), *Forgive Us Our Trespases* (House of the World Cultures, Berlin), and *Snare for Birds* (Ateneo Art Gallery, Manila). Currently, she serves as a visiting professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Nuremberg, Germany.

Deirdre de la Cruz

Deirdre de la Cruz is an historian and cultural anthropologist of the Philippines, with an interest in the transformation of religious sensibilities, beliefs, and phenomena in modernity. Her work examines different varieties of Filipino Christianity through their material, textual, and technological mediations. Her current project, *God's Magicians: Philippine Centers of the Global Occult*, investigates alternative spiritual and religious movements in the Philippines as they intersect with and influence "occult" and "new age" discourses and practices worldwide. For the last several years, she has served as co-principal investigator of *ReConnect/ReCollect: Reparative Connections to Philippine Collections* at the University of Michigan.

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Lisa Decenteceo

Lisa Decenteceo is an ethnomusicologist who studies the cultural politics of Philippine Indigenous music. She earned her doctorate in ethnomusicology at the University of Michigan, writing her dissertation “From Being to Becoming: Protests, Festivals, and Musical Mediations of Igorot Indigeneity.” Decenteceo has presented at various international conferences and is a contributing author for the book *Indigeneity in the Philippines: Studies on Knowledge, Identity, and Rights*, by the University of Hawai’i Press. She serves as assistant professor of ethnomusicology at the University of the Philippines College of Music and as director of the University of the Philippines Center for Ethnomusicology.

Ashley Dequilla

Ashley Dequilla is an artist-filmmaker and archivist of Negrense, Tagalog and Ilonggo descent. She holds an MFA in Moving Image (‘23) and is completing her MA in Art History (‘25) from the University of Illinois Chicago. She is a co-curator partner and researcher for the Philippine Heritage Collection at the Field Museum of Natural History. Ashley is the de facto archivist and collection manager for the Filipino American Historical Society of Chicago. Ashley works primarily on 16mm film, exploring themes of memory, diaspora, and resistance. Her award-winning films are selected at festivals across the U.S. and internationally.

Robert Diaz

Robert Diaz is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History at the University of Michigan. In his dissertation, "Progress Marches on the Feet of Little Children: U.S. Imperialism in the Philippines and the Sciences of Human Development, 1898-1946," he argues that fluctuating scientific and social concepts of childhood were essential frameworks through which U.S. and Filipina/o officials shaped public welfare policies in the Philippines. At the same time, he contends, Filipina/o children lived anything but congruent and static lives, playing active roles in shaping these discourses and policies in ways that regularly conflicted with officials' expectations.

Tiffany Fryer

Tiffany Fryer teaches and writes on colonialism and political violence; research methods, praxis, and politics in historical archaeology and anthropology; and museums, cultural heritage, and collective memory. Her research agenda focuses broadly on the durabilities of colonialism and other forms of political violence in the Americas. Employing methods and theories from across anthropology and adjacent fields, she explores how such violence, the things and places it generates, and the memories that result from its experience yield collective notions of heritage and sociopolitical consciousness across time.

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David Gowey

David Gowey is a doctoral candidate in sociocultural anthropology at Arizona State University. His dissertation focuses on cultural education and epic poetry (sugidanon) among Indigenous Panay Bukidnon communities in Calinog, Philippines. His research interests include comparative linguistics, ethnic performance, and ethnohistory of the early modern Spanish Empire. Most recently, his work has been published in *Colonial Latin American Review*, *Ethnohistory*, and *Journal of Asian Studies*.

Lucia Halder

Lucia Halder has led the Photographic Collection at the Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum in Cologne since 2015. She studied history and art history and focuses on the accessibility and visibility of colonial image archives. Since 2020, she has published the exhibition series *Counter Images | Gegenbilder*, which critically examines photography and offers a platform for international artists and curators to explore decolonial perspectives. Halder is chair of the History and Archives Section of the German Photographic Society (DGPh), serves on the editorial board of www.visual-history.de, and since 2024 has been a member of the Artistic Board of the Internationale Photoszene Köln.

Regalado Trota José

Regalado Trota José studied anthropology and Philippine studies (Art History) at the University of the Philippines (U.P.). During his studies, he also performed with the U.P. Madrigal Singers in local and international concerts. For 50 years he has researched, written, and collaborated with various local and international organizations, and mentored on Philippine cultural heritage during the Spanish colonial period. He was the only lay archivist of the 400-year-old University of Santo Tomás in Manila (2010-2021). In July 2024, he was elected chairperson of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines.

Maria Cristina Juan

Maria Cristina Juan is a scholar and curator specializing in transnational Philippine cultural studies, with a focus on digital and material repatriation. Head of Philippine Studies at SOAS, she leads projects that digitally reunite heritage with communities, including Mapping Philippine Material Culture and AHRC-funded initiatives on decolonizing Southeast Asian sound archives and reconstructing the 1762 Lost Library of San Pablo. Her work foregrounds provenance research, ethical restitution, and Indigenous knowledge systems, exemplified in repatriation-focused exhibitions such as BUGKÓS. She has authored white papers, edited five volumes, and holds an MA in Museum Studies (SOAS) and a PhD (U.P. Diliman).

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Jamie Kelly

As part of a collections and curation team, Jamie Kelly helps care for the roughly 1.5 million cultural items at the Field Museum, and connects descendant communities, researchers, educators, and the general public to these collections through community partnerships, behind-the-scenes visits and tours, community-driven programs, museum education initiatives, public events, loans, and exhibitions. Since 2011, he has worked with community partners to help steward the cultural collections from the Philippines. This has included the digitization of a portion of the collections from the Philippines for an online curation portal.

Christina H. Lee

Christina H. Lee is professor of Spanish and Portuguese and the acting chair of the Humanities Council at Princeton University. Her research is focused on the early modern Iberian and Transpacific worlds. Most recently, she authored *Saints of Resistance: Devotions in the Philippines under Early Spanish Rule* (Oxford UP, 2021) and co-edited the two volumes of *The Spanish Pacific, 1521-1815: A Reader of Primary Sources* (Amsterdam UP, 2020 and 2025) and *The Routledge Companion to Race in Early Modern Artistic, Material, and Visual Production* (2025). She is also the co-director, with Maria Cristina Juan, of the NEH-AHRC-Princeton funded digital repatriation project 1762archive.org.

Gabbie Mangaser

Gabbie Mangaser is an emerging museum professional with a background in anthropology and museum studies. She's currently a collections assistant for Oceanic and Asian arts and cultures at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture at the University of Washington in Seattle. Passionate about bridging arts and heritage to communities, she has a special interest in working with the global Philippine and Filipino American community and is a project lead for an emerging digital humanities project called Barangay, as well as Knowledge Kapamilya, a research cohort of Filipino undergraduates who use cultural collections to learn about their heritage.

Marlon Martin

Marlon Martin is the chief operating officer of the Save the Ifugao Terraces Movement (SITMo), a local conservation agency in Ifugao. He spearheaded the establishment of the Ifugao Community Heritage Galleries, which serve both as a venue for cultural education and as a repository of Ifugao material culture for heritage learning. Through his partnerships with academic institutions, he facilitated the return of significant Ifugao objects, fostered scholarly works on Ifugao history, and organized community programs highlighting their meaning in contemporary cultural life.

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Bryan Miller

Bryan Miller is assistant curator of Asian Archaeology at the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology and assistant professor of Central Asian Art & Archaeology in History of Art. He engages historical archaeological research to investigate the dynamics of Asian empires and the politics of material culture. His work in Eurasian steppe regions challenges normative constructs of nomadic societies, and the arts, institutions and politics they create - themes which are brought to bear in his recent book *Xiongnu: The World's First Nomadic Empire*. His research emphasizes the roles of steppe nomadic societies in the greater 'Silk Road' exchanges and interactions across the Eurasian continent.

Oona Paredes

Oona Paredes is an anthropologist and ethnohistorian specializing in the study of Indigenous minorities in Southeast Asia. She is associate professor of Southeast Asian Studies in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures and associate director of the CMRS-Center for Early Global Studies at UCLA. She is the author of *A Mountain of Difference: The Lumad in Early Colonial Mindanao* (Cornell SEAP, 2013). Working with the same community of Higaunon Lumad since 1994, she is now managing a community effort to preserve and revitalize Higaunon oral traditions. She was born and raised in the Philippines.

Kili Piluden

Kili Europa Piluden is a social studies teacher at St. Mary's School of Sagada, Mountain Province, where she also teaches research and politics in senior high school. She is pursuing a Master's degree in history at the University of the Philippines Baguio, focusing on ethnohistory and local history. Her research interests include decolonizing research methods, pedagogy, and environmental history, guided by a commitment to cultural and environmental sustainability. She previously worked as a research assistant at Museo Kordilyera, contributing to a study on material culture with a focus on heirloom beads in the Cordillera region.

Ricky Punzalan

Dr. Ricky Punzalan (he/him) is an associate professor at the School of Information and director of the Museum Studies Program at the University of Michigan. He is a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists, the highest honor bestowed on individuals by SAA for outstanding contributions to the organization and to the archives profession. He is currently co-chair of the SAA Archival Repatriation Committee and serves on the Board of Trustees of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center. He is the co-principal investigator for the ReConnect/ReCollect: Reparative Connections to Philippine Collections at the University of Michigan.

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Analyn Salvador-Amores

Analyn Salvador-Amores is professor of anthropology and former director of the Museo Kordilyera, the ethnographic museum of the University of the Philippines Baguio. She earned her doctorate in social and cultural anthropology from Oxford University, UK. Her research interests include non-Western aesthetics, material culture, ethnographic museums and colonial photography in the Philippine Cordillera. She authored the award-winning book *Tapping Ink, Tattooing Identities: Tradition and Modernity in Contemporary Kalinga Society*, published by the University of the Philippines Press in 2013. A public service professor, she continues to engage Indigenous communities in her work, promoting Indigenous knowledge in different platforms.

LG Sebayán

LG Sebayán is a PhD English and creative writing student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she researches the American colonization of the Philippines, and where her work was selected for the Creative Writing Faculty Legacy Award for Poetry. Her poem, "For the Indigenous Girl in Fig. 7," won honorable mention in the 2025 Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) Intro Journals Project literary competition. Her poems are published in *Pleiades*, *CALYX Journal*, *Midwest Review*, and elsewhere.

Nicholas C. Sy

Nicholas C. Sy is assistant professor at the Department of History, University of the Philippines Diliman. He is pursuing his doctorate at Radboud University Nijmegen under the supervision of Professor Jan Kok and Dries Lyna. His project looks demographically and culturally at enslaved experiences from the 16th through mid-18th centuries, problematizing the reductive views with which scholars have conceptualized slavery in the Philippines and the global Spanish Empire. In fall 2023, he served as a visiting student research collaborator under Christina Lee of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Princeton University.

Stephanie Syjuco

Stephanie Syjuco works in photography, sculpture, and installation, moving from handmade and craft-inspired mediums to digital editing and archive excavations. Recently, she has focused on how photography and image-based processes are implicated in the construction of exclusionary narratives of history and citizenship. Born in the Philippines, she is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and is in collections at The Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum in New York, The Getty Museum, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. She is a professor in art practice at the University of California, Berkeley, and resides in Oakland, California.

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Alicia Ventresca-Miller

Alicia Ventresca-Miller applies biomolecular techniques to investigate how shifts in food production intersect with the emergence of complex societies. As part of a multi-species anthropological approach, she explores the mechanisms fueling urbanization including residential mobility, settlement provisioning, and the adoption of domesticates such as millet and livestock. Although focused on Central and Inner Asia, her work has global implications as it integrates science and anthropology to intercede in narratives that consider pastoralists inherently nomadic and lacking urbanization. Her current fieldwork focuses on a proto-urban site in central Kazakhstan and salvaging a looted Mongol era cemetery in northern Mongolia.