**PARTICIPANT BIOS FOR PHILIPPINE LIVES UNDER EARLY SPANISH RULE**

**John D. (Jody) Blanco** researches and teaches the colonial and post-colonial literatures and cultures of the Philippines, Latin America, and the Pacific, with a focus on the early modern (16th-18th c.) periods. He has taught at UCSD as a member of the Literature faculty since 2001. He is the author of [*Frontier Constitutions: Christianity and Colonial Empire in the 19th Century Philippines*](https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520255197/frontier-constitutions) (UC Press, 2009); and [*Counter-Hispanization in the Colonial Philippines: Literature, Law, Religion, and Native Custom*](https://www.aup.nl/en/book/9789463725880/counter-hispanization-in-the-colonial-philippines) (Amsterdam University Press, 2023). He also translated Julio Ramos’s book *Desencuentros de la modernidad en América Latina: cultura y política del siglo XIX*, which was published as *Divergent Modernities of Latin America: Culture and Politics of the Nineteenth Century* by Duke University Press in 1999.

In addition to research and teaching, Professor Blanco has served as the Director of Latin American Studies at UC San Diego; as well as the Associate Dean for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the Division of Arts and Humanities (2016-18). He currently serves on the Advisory editorial boards of the Journal of Early Modern Cultural Studies, the Philippine journal Unitas, and Perspectives in the Arts & Humanities Asia. He also serves on the collective board of the Tepoztlán Institute, which hosts an annual conference in Tepoztlán, México.

**Grace Liza Y. Concepcion** is Assistant Professor of History at the University of the Philippines Diliman. She holds a PhD in History from UP, an MA from Universidad de Navarra, and undergraduate degrees from the University of the Witwatersrand and the University of Asia and the Pacific. Her research focuses on colonial Philippine history, particularly land tenure, indigenous agency, and Asian entanglements in 17th- and 18th-century pueblos.

**Will Hansen** is the Roger and Julie Baskes Vice President for Collections and Library Services, and Curator of Americana at the Newberry Library. He began his career in libraries at the Newberry in 2003 as a Circulation Assistant and then, in 2004, as the library’s Reference Assistant. From 2007 to May 2014 he was Assistant Curator of Collections at Duke University’s David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, and he returned to the Newberry in June 2014 as Director of Reader Services and Curator of Americana. Mr. Hansen has published articles on Herman Melville, active learning with primary source materials, archives of “born-digital” materials, library services for Indigenous Studies, and other topics. His curated exhibitions at the Newberry include “Hamilton: The History Behind the Musical” in 2017; “Melville: Finding America at Sea” in 2019; “¡Viva la Libertad! Latin America and the Age of Revolutions” in 2021; “Indigenous Portraits Unbound” in 2024; and “Native Pop!” in 2025.

For more than 50 years, **Regalado Trota José** has researched, written, and mentored on Philippine cultural heritage. During his studies at the University of the Philippines Diliman (AB Anthropology and MA Philippine Studies, Major in Art History), he also concertized with the U.P. Madrigal Singers in local and international concerts. José has served actively in numerous local public and private organizations especially the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines, the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the Ayala Museum, and the Philippine National Historical Society. He was the founding president of the Philippine chapter of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). In 1992, Jose’s book *Simbahan* was given the National Book Award for Art History. In 1999, José was recognized by the Cultural Center of the Philippines as one of 100 Filipinos who helped build the Filipino nation through art and culture during the last 100 years. José taught at the Cultural Heritage Studies Program of the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School (2000-2021). In the field of archives, José has assisted in the setting up of ecclesiastical archives in different dioceses of the country, and was the first lay archivist of the 400-year-old archives of the University of Santo Tomás (2010-2021). In July 2024, José was elected Chairperson of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines.

**Maria Cristina Juan** is a curator and senior research faculty at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. She specializes in transnational Philippine cultural studies, focusing on digital and material repatriation, ethical restitution, and Indigenous knowledge systems. She is Principal Investigator on several AHRC-funded Digital Humanities projects, including the *Mapping Philippine Material Culture* project. She leads Philippine Studies at SOAS and directs its research and impact programmes, which facilitate dialogue between Philippine cultural heritage, source cultures, and local scholars.

**Dana Leibsohn** is the Alice Pratt Brown Professor of Art at Smith College. Her research addresses colonialism and visual culture in the early modern Americas and Pacific world. Along with single-authored publications on Indigenous manuscript painting, the trade between China and Mexico, and cartography in Manila, she co-directed the project, “Pacific America” (Terra Foundation) and has co-authored essays on hybridity and visual culture, subaltern fidelity and colonialism in the Philippines, shipwrecks, and constructions of Indigeneity in New Spain. The ACLS, Andrew Mellon Foundation, and National Endowment for the Humanities have supported her research. Currently she is General Editor of the interdisciplinary journal, *Colonial Latin American Review.*

**Analú María López** (Huachichil/Xi'úi) is the Ayer librarian and assistant curator of American Indian and Indigenous studies at the Newberry Library. She helps steward the Indigenous studies collection while guiding library users through, connecting them with, and interpreting materials linked to the Indigenous studies collection. She is interested in the preservation, revitalization, and instruction of Indigenous languages, decolonial theory (within libraries), and intentional community collaborations for access to materials within colonial institutions. She has published articles on Indigenous Librarianship, Archival theory, languages, and active learning with primary source materials, and other topics. She has led hundreds of hands-on instructional sessions with rare books and other primary sources and co-curated exhibitions at the Newberry: “What is the Midwest?” in 2018 and “Indigenous Chicago,” in 2024. She is also the co-Director of the “Indigenous Chicago” project, a multifaceted project exploring these histories, centering Indigenous voices, laying bare stories of settler-colonial harm, and gesturing toward Indigenous futures. She holds a master’s degree of library and information sciences with a certificate in archives and cultural heritage resources and services from Dominican University and a bachelor of arts in photography with a minor in Latin American studies from Columbia College Chicago. She began her career with the Newberry in 2004. After working for other libraries and museums in Chicago for thirteen years, she returned to the library in her current role in September 2017.

**Diego Javier Luis** is the Rohrbaugh Family Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Johns Hopkins University. He specializes in Spanish Pacific and colonial Latin American histories and is the author of the award-winning *The First Asians in the Americas: A Transpacific History* (Harvard University Press, 2024). He also co-created *The Historian’s Table* podcast and is the developer of *Obraje*, an educational board game that will be produced by Central Michigan University Press.

**Victorino Manalo** is Chair of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts or the NCCA, the Philippines *de facto* Ministry of Culture. He also heads the National Archives. He studied at the University of the Philippines, Columbia University and Hong Kong University. He received the Carlos Palanca Award for Literature three times.

**Miguel Martínez** is Professor of Spanish Literature at the University of Chicago. His research and teaching focus on the cultural and literary histories of early modern Spain, colonial Latin America, and the Philippines. He is the author of *Front Lines. Soldiers’ Writing in the Early Modern Hispanic World* (2016), *Comuneros. El rayo y la semilla* *(1520-1521)* (2021) and of a critical edition of Catalina/Antonio de Erauso’s *Vida y sucesos de la Monja Alférez* (2021). His current book project explores the literary culture of colonial Manila.

**Jorge Mojarro** is a professor of literature and missionary linguistics, and researcher at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila. His research focuses on history of the book, colonial literature, and Philippine Literature in Spanish. His last book is a co-edition of Francisco Combes’ early geostrategic treatises on the Philippines and the Moluccas (Polifemo, 2024).

**Ambeth R. Ocampo** is Senator Gil J. Puyat Professor, Department of History, Ateneo de Manila University and has served as Chairman of both the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the National Historical Commission of the Philippines. His research covers the colonial Philippines its art, culture, and the people who figure in the emergence of the Filipino nation. He maintains the longest-running editorial page column on history for the *Philippines Daily Inquirer*, and has published 35 books. A public historian, he moderates growing Facebook, Instagram and YouTube channels.

**Ricardo Padrón** is Professor of Spanish at the University of Virginia, where he conducts research on early modern Hispanic literature and culture. He has published on the historiography, cartography, and poetry of the period. His latest monograph, *The Indies of the Setting Sun* (Chicago, 2020), explores the ways that Spanish geopolitical imagination imagined East Asia as a far western extension of Spain’s empire in the New World. He is the founding president of the Society for Early Transpacific Studies.

**Ruel V. Pagunsan** is an associate professor at the Department of History, University of the Philippines Diliman. His research focuses on nature-making and the nationalization of ecological spaces. He explored these themes for his PhD History project at the National University of Singapore. He has published articles in journals such as the *Philippine Studies: Historical and Ethnographic Viewpoints* and the *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*. Currently, he is working on a book project examining the environmental history of nation-building in the Philippines.

**Stephanie Porras** is Professor of Art History at Tulane University; her research investigates the visual and material cultures of Northern Europe and the Spanish world, from the fifteenth to the seventeenth centuries. Her latest monograph, *The First Viral Images: Maerten de Vos, Antwerp Print and the Early Modern Globe* (Pennsylvania State University press, 2023) traces the complex production and reception histories of an illustrated book, a painting and an engraving, all made in Antwerp in the late sixteenth century, but copied by Venetian print publishers, Spanish and Latin American painters, Mughal miniaturists and by Filipino ivory carvers.

**Marlon James Sales** is Associate Professor of Spanish and Translation Studies at the University of the Philippines (UP), Diliman and concurrently serves as the coordinator of the Graduate Studies Office of its College Arts and Letters. He is likewise the secretary of The Society for Early Transpacific Studies. Before joining UP in 2022, he has held back-to-back postdoctoral fellowships in Missionary Linguistics at the Center for the Historiography of Linguistics at the University of Leuven in Belgium, and in Critical Translation Studies at the Department of Comparative Literature, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

**Nicholas C. Sy** is assistant professor at the Department of History, University of the Philippines Diliman. On study leave, he is pursuing his doctorate at Radboud University Nijmegen under the supervision of Prof. dr. Jan Kok and dr. Dries Lyna. His project looks statistically and culturally at slave experiences from the sixteenth through mid-eighteenth centuries and problematizes the reductive views with which scholars have conceptualized slavery in the Philippines and the global Spanish Empire. In the Fall of 2023, he went to Princeton University as a Visiting Student Research Collaborator under Dr. Christina Lee of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. In 2025, he is a doctoral fellow at the University of Bonn's Center for Dependency & Slavery Studies.