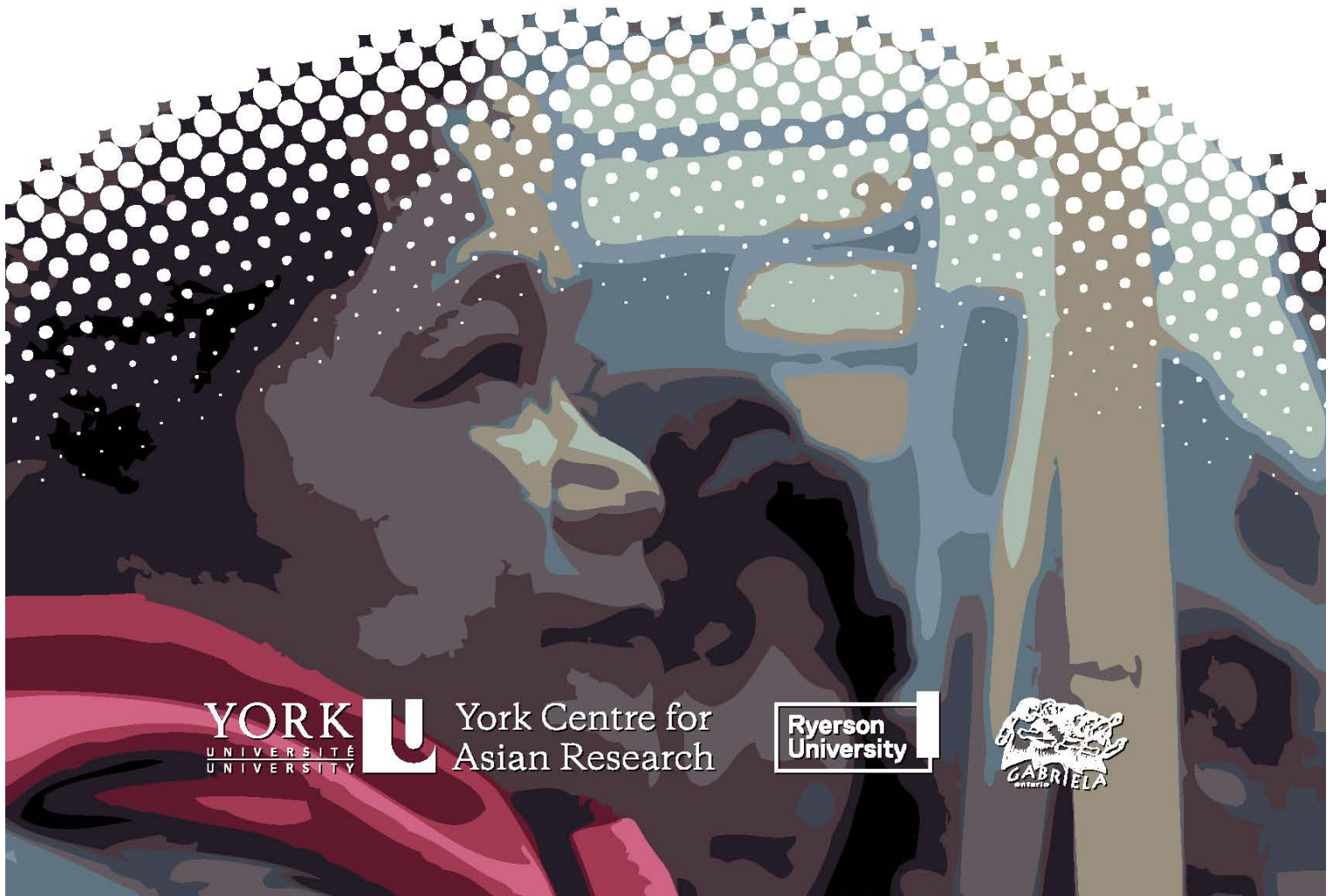




POLICIES | INSTITUTIONS | MINDS
THE FILIPINO-CANADIAN ACTION RESEARCH SUMMIT

Saturday, December 5th 2015, 9.30am – 5.30pm

**Ted Rogers School of Management, Ryerson University
Room 3-176, 9th floor, 55 Dundas Street West, Toronto**



YORK
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York Centre for
Asian Research

Ryerson
University



The Filipino-Canadian Action Research Summit

Many studies are being completed by researchers, artists and community members to understand Filipino experiences in Canada. These efforts have generated some great academic and artistic insights into themes such as working lives, youth/ageing, education, immigration, political activism, Filipino identity, gender, sexuality and social/economic marginalization. The Filipino-Canadian Action Research Summit is an opportunity to share and discuss these creative insights and discuss how they might change policies, institutions and minds.

This event has been organized by a group of community advocates and university researchers all associated with the Gabriela Transitions Survey (GATES) project. The group's members are affiliated with GABRIELA Ontario, York University, Ryerson University, and the Community Alliance for Social Justice. The event is funded by the York Centre for Asian Research at York University.

For further information: ycar@yorku.ca

PROGRAM

9.30am - 10am Coffee and Greetings

10am - 12pm Panel on Generations, Gender and Sexuality

Chair: Nicole Cajucom

Nicole is the Executive Director at Kapisanan Philippine Centre for Arts & Culture, a youth-led charity where Filipino-Canadian youth of all generations can explore and build culture, community, mentorship, and leadership potential. Nicole's experiences also include chairing assessments with ArtReach Toronto, dancing with HATAW Performing Arts and working part-time at a local comic book store.

10.00-10.15

Renaissance as Resistance: Filipino/a Canadian Contemporary Art

Marissa Largo

Marissa is a Toronto-based artist, educator, and PhD Candidate in the Department of Social Justice Education at OISE (U of T). In 2013, she was awarded the Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) for her doctoral project on Filipino/a Canadian contemporary art.

10.20-10.30 (by Video)

Queer Filipinos/as, Canadian Imaginaries, and the Limits of Community

Robert Diaz

Robert is Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Sciences, OCAD University. He is currently co-editing *Diasporic Intimacies: Queer Filipinos/as and Canadian Imaginaries* (Northwestern University Press), which brings together artists, scholars, and community workers in order to examine the contributions of queer Filipinos/as to Canadian culture and society.

10.35-10.50

Lived Experiences of Filipino Gay Seniors in Canada: An Ethnographic-Phenomenological Study

Fritz Luther Pino

Fritz is a PhD Candidate in Social Justice Education at OISE, U of T. He is also a registered social worker and a program coordinator and consultant at the Silayan Filipino Community Centre, and at the Filipino-Canadian Seniors' Club. He received the SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship Award for his dissertation on Filipino Gay Seniors in Toronto. He currently teaches Mental Health and Diversity and Social Justice courses at Seneca College.

10.55-11.10

Splitting the Seams: Transnational Feminism and the Manila-Toronto Production of Filipina Couture

Denise Cruz and Caroline Mangosing

Denise is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Toronto. She is the author of *Transpacific Femininities: the Making of the Modern Filipina* (Duke University Press, 2012) and editor of Yay Panlilio's *The Crucible: An Autobiography of Colonel Yay, Filipina American Guerrilla* (Rutgers University Press, 2009). She is currently working on a book that studies Filipina/o fashion in Manila, Dubai, and Toronto. **Caroline** was the founding Executive Director of Kapisanan Philippine Centre for Arts & Culture. In 2013, she successfully launched Kapisanan's social enterprise, VINTA Gallery, a curated retail experience featuring a modern bespoke Filipiniana fashion line as its signature product, which she designs. In 2015, Caroline retired from Kapisanan to expand VINTA Gallery into an ethical for-profit business.

11.15-11.30

Filipino Youth Pathways: The Echoes of Deprofessionalization

Mila Astorga-Garcia, Veronica Javier, Philip Kelly

Mila is Director of Research at the Community Alliance for Social Justice and Managing Editor of *The Philippine Reporter* newspaper. **Veronica** has a Master's degree in Social Work and works as a Registered Social Worker in The Scarborough Hospital. She is also an Adjunct Professor at York University's School of Social Work, working as a Faculty Advisor and Field Placement Supervisor. **Philip** teaches in the Geography Department at York University and is Director of the York Centre for Asian Research. He has been involved in the Filipino Youth Transitions in Canada (FYTIC) project, the Gabriela Transitions Experiences Survey (GATES), the 'Pinoy Project' in Halton, and, most recently, the Canada-Philippines Alternative Transnational Economies (ATE) project.

11.35-11.50

The Filipino Heroes of Bathurst Street

Jennilee Austria

Jennilee is an emerging author whose work has appeared in *The Philippine Reporter*, *Rabble*, and *LooseLeaf* literary magazine. Inspired by years of counselling newcomers as a settlement worker in TDSB and TCDSB schools, she is working on her first book, *The Filipino Heroes of Bathurst Street*. She is currently a researcher with The Pinoy Project - a study of Filipino parents and youth in the Halton Catholic District School Board.

12.00pm - 1.00pm Lunch

1.00pm - 3.00pm Panel on Labour, Care and Migration

Chair: Pinky Paglingayen

Pinky is a former caregiver and now works as a Settlement Counsellor at the Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office. She previously worked with Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services. She is also a Research Associate at Ryerson University.

1.00-1.15

From Policies and Practices to Process: The Immigration of Filipino Nurses to Canada in the 1950s and 1960s

Valerie Damasco

Valerie is a PhD Candidate in Adult Education and Community Development at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto. Her doctoral research, funded by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Canada Graduate Scholarship, examines the immigration of Filipino nurses to Canada in the 1950s and 1960s. Valerie was born in Toronto, the daughter of Filipino immigrant parents, and brings to bear her experiences in conducting this research.

1.20-1.35

Transnational Kin Networks and the Politics of Care and Emotional Labour

Conely de Leon

Conely is a PhD Candidate in Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies at York University and a Graduate Associate at the York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR). During the course of her PhD fieldwork, she also held a research fellowship with the Center for Women's Studies at the University of the Philippines, Diliman. Conely has been actively involved in the Filipino Youth Transitions in Canada (FYTiC) project, and the Gabriela Transitions Experiences Survey (GATES). She was recently elected Education Officer of GABRIELA Ontario. Her own research focuses on the circulation of care and emotional labour among transnational Filipino kin networks in Canada, the Philippines, and Hong Kong.

1.40-1.55

Life After the LCP: The Gabriela Transitions Survey

Mithi Esguerra and Rupa Banerjee

Mithi is a community organizer and activist, who has been involved in grassroots organizing and advocacy with Filipino youth, live-in caregivers and migrant workers for 20 years. She was recently elected as chair of GABRIELA Ontario, an organization of Filipinas working to advance the Philippine struggle for national freedom and genuine democracy, while at the same time addressing the local struggles of Filipinas in Ontario. She works as the Filipino Program Worker at Support, Enhance, Access, Service Centre (SEAS), a settlement agency. **Rupa** is Associate Professor of Human Resources and Organizational Behaviour at Ryerson University. She is particularly interested in the institutional barriers facing new immigrants in the Canadian labour market and workplace diversity and ethno-racial discrimination. Rupa is currently involved in the GATES project, studying the settlement experiences of caregivers after the LCP.

2.00-2.15

A Piece of Paradise: A Collaborative Film Project

Patrick Alcedo

Patrick is Associate Professor and Director of the Graduate Program in Dance Studies at York University. A current holder of the Early Researcher Award from the Government of Ontario, in 2014 Patrick won the prestigious Selma Jeanne Cohen Award for International Dance Scholarship from the Fulbright Association of America. The film clip he will screen at this event received funding from the York Centre for Asian Research and Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

2.20-2.35

Kwentong Bayan: Labour of Love

Kwentong Bayan Collective

Althea Balmes and **Jo SiMalaya Alcampo** have developed a critical and intersectional approach to community-based art, labour, and education. They are creating a comic book in collaboration with migrant caregiver workers called *Kwentong Bayan: Labour of Love*. Excerpts have been published in *The Peak*, *Our Times*, *Briarpatch*, *Ricepaper Magazine* and the *Graphic History Project*. In 2014, *Kwentong Bayan* received the *Min Sook Lee Arts Award* for artists who capture the values of labour and social justice in their work. They were recently awarded an *Access and Career Development grant* by the Ontario Arts Council.

2.40-2.55

Reflections on Family, Citizenship and Belonging: Filipino Temporary Foreign Workers in Alberta

Ethel Tungohan

Ethel is the Grant Notley Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Department of Political Science, University of Alberta. Her forthcoming book *From the Politics of Everyday Resistance to the Politics from Below: Migrant Domestic Worker Activism in Canada* (University of Illinois Press) won the 2014 National Women's Studies Association First Book Prize. She is one of the co-editors of *Filipinos in Canada: Disturbing Invisibility* (2012, University of Toronto Press) and writes on immigration issues for Rabble.ca and is a community activist. In 2016, she will join the Departments of Political Science and Social Science at York University.

3.00pm-3.30pm	Coffee Break
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3.30pm-4.30pm	Break-out Discussion Groups
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A. Changing Policy: Advocacy on Immigration and Settlement Policy

This session will reflect on the day's learning and discussion to address directions in advocacy towards a new federal government, especially related to immigration and settlement policies.

Room: TRS1-073 Facilitator: Geraldina Polanco

Geraldina is a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Postdoctoral Fellow at York University. In January, she will be joining California State University, Northridge, as an Assistant Professor of Sociology.

B. Changing Institutions: Building Community Supports

This session will reflect on the day's learning and discussion to think about how institutions (schools, settlement agencies, community centres, youth organizations, associations etc.) can better serve the Filipino community.

Room TRS1-075 Facilitator: Ben Bongolan

Ben is Coordinator for Newcomer Family Settlement Services at The 519 where he works with Live In Caregivers, Youth, and LGBTQ Refugees through weekly programming and one-on-one support. Prior to working at The 519, Ben was the Youth Case Management Lead at For Youth Initiative.

C. Changing Minds: The Role of the Arts in Activism and Advocacy

This session will reflect on the day's learning and discussion to consider the effectiveness of the arts and cultural production in building solidarity, mobilization and advocacy for issues affecting the Filipino community.

Room TRS2-003 Facilitator: Mithi Esguerra (bio above)

4.30pm-5.00pm

Sharing from Discussion Groups

5.00pm-5.30pm

Closing Reflections

Maruja M.B. Asis is Director of Research and Publications at the Scalabrini Migration Center in Quezon City, Philippines. She is a sociologist who has long been working on international migration and social change in Asia. Her research has focused on migration, gender and the family; migration and development; and migration policies. She is currently working on the interrelations between public policies, migration and development, and the transformative characteristics of temporary migration. She is co-editor of the Asian and Pacific Migration Journal.

Jesson Reyes is a member of Migrante Youth and a regional coordinator of Migrante Canada (a 19 member organization across Canada and a member of Migrante International). He is a settlement worker and organizes migrant families for their rights and welfare.