



The Philippines Australia Studies Centre

Big Natural Disasters and Mega-Cities: Critical Geographies of Flood Hazards and Social Inequities in the case of Metro Manila

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**27 April, 2.00 to 4.00 pm
Venue: Social Sciences Building, Room 301**

This paper takes the example of Metro Manila – the world’s 11th largest metropolitan city – to look at the environmental consequences of urbanization processes in fast-growing mega-cities. In particular, it shows how decades of improper planning and poor management of infrastructure development programs contributed to the infamous floods on the last week of September 2009, which was brought by typhoon ‘Ondoy’ (or tropical Storm ‘Ketsana’). It outlines how the spatial manifestations of uneven regional development and formation of ethnic enclaves with different economic opportunities and political capabilities contribute to the differential experiences among various groups of Metro Manila’s changing environmental landscapes. With the spatial markings of Metro Manila’s urbanization ills, the increasing hazardousness of different socio-economic groups to floods, and the privileging of spaces and marginalization of its different political and cultural groups, a glimpse into the future of the metropolis is presented.

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