

INTRODUCTION:

a potted history of PASC

The *Philippines Australia Studies Centre* (PASC) at La Trobe was formally established at a meeting on 8 October, 2003. PASC is a joint venture between La Trobe University and Ateneo de Manila University (Ateneo) in the Philippines, and stems from the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two universities in March 2000. We have had three bilateral meetings: Manila (January, 2000); Melbourne (April, 2001) and the third in February, 2003 at Ateneo. The initiator of this agreement was Professor Dennis Altman, Politics Program, and the greater part of activity and commitment has been provided by the School of Social Sciences.

A team of seven delegates led by Professors Altman and Fitzgerald and including Drs Mee, Hogan, Furze, Eipper and Berry, represented the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the first meeting at Ateneo, in January, 2000.

The organising committee for the La Trobe event in April, 2001, was coordinated by Dr Trevor Hogan and administered by School of Social Sciences. Professors Altman and Fitzgerald were key members of the organizing committee and Dr Evie Katz was the conference secretary. The La Trobe meeting was attended by nine Ateneo academics across Humanities, Environmental Sciences, Economics, Health Sciences, and Social Sciences including Professors AntonettePalma-Angeles, Henedina Razon-Abad, Emilyn Espiritu, Emma Porio, Germelino Bautista, Luis David SJ, Christina Montiel, Alfredo Bengzon, and Marife Yap, 6 of whom were sponsored by AusAid.

In February 2003, Hogan organised a visiting delegation of 8 to Manila for a series of events in the first two weeks of February, 2003. The party consisted of: Professor Peter Beilharz, Dr Trevor Hogan and Dr Beryl Langer representing *Thesis Eleven Centre for Critical Theory*, School of Social Sciences at La Trobe University (LTU); Adjunct Professor Charles Mott, International Affairs Advisor to Vice Chancellor at LTU; Professor Kim Dovey, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Design, University of Melbourne, and Dr Peter Murphy, School of Information Management, Victoria University of Wellington (and *Thesis Eleven* Editor); and two Social Sciences, La Trobe, research students undertaking theses in urban studies on Manila.

In February, 2004, the formal inauguration of the Philippines Australia Studies Network at Ateneo de Manila was celebrated in the presence of the Australian Ambassador to the Philippines, Ms Ruth Pearce, the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Philippines, Ms Alicia Ramos, and the Singaporean Ambassador to the Philippines, Mr Walter Chia. The PASC delegation from La Trobe University led by Hogan included Professors Joel Kahn and Joe Camilleri, Dr Peter Murphy (Victoria University of Wellington, *Thesis Eleven* journal Editor), Mr Larry Marshall (doctoral student, Politics), and Mr Daisuke Tanaka (Honours, Sociology). 3 Public Lectures were given and a number of research seminars held at Ateneo de Manila University, the University of the Philippines, Philippines Social Sciences Research Council, and Far Eastern University. Camilleri and Marshall also conducted a series of meetings with senior Government officials and politicians, and business representatives.

OBJECTIVES

The Centre has 9 main aims, as set out in its Constitution:

1. To encourage the development and application of Filipino and Australian research through publishing and presenting material in printed and electronic form and through delivering educational workshops, forums and conferences;
2. To facilitate exchanges between Philippines and Australia of Filipino and Australian scholars;
3. To encourage Filipino students to enrol in Australian postgraduate programs and vice versa;
4. To promote studies of the Philippines and Australia in regional and global settings;
5. To co-operate and collaborate with the Philippines-Australia Studies Centre at Ateneo de Manila University;
6. To encourage student exchange programs between the two nations through the University and Ateneo de Manila University;
7. To significantly expand the opportunities for research in the region especially in facilitating the socio-economic goals of development, justice, poverty eradication, health, trade, and good governance;
8. To promote the teaching and research activities of members of staff of Ateneo de Manila University and the University through the development of projects that require collaborative team research;

9. To improve and deepen relations, networks and mutual understanding between the Philippines and Australia through education, exchanges, research collaboration, and bilateral meetings.

MEMBERSHIP

Office bearers: Dr Trevor Hogan (director), Prof. Charles Mott (deputy director), Prof. John Fitzgerald (chair), Mr Cliff Picton (deputy chair), and Mr Max Richter (project officer). General Members: Denis Altman, Harry Aveling, Simon Barraclough, Peter Beilharz, Joe Camilleri, Barry Carr, Margarita Frederico, Joel Kahn, Beryl Langer, Vivian Lin, Larry Marshall.

Informal membership of PASC is open to all interested parties.

ADMINISTRATION

PASC La Trobe was established through a seeding grant from La Trobe International, which has covered the project officer's part-time salary and some incidental expenses. The Centre relies on the goodwill and initiative of interested parties across the University, and in particular has benefited from Mary Reilly's administering of the Centre's accounts.

The Philippines Australia Studies Network (PASN) office has been established at Ateneo de Manila University with matching resources.



Source: PASN www.ateneo.edu/offices/pasn



EVENTS

30 October 2003:

PASC co-sponsored with Asialink, the University of Melbourne, the premiere **screening of 'Black Nazarene'**, an ethnographic film on religious worship in the Philippines by Robert Nery:

"Behold the man. Black Nazarene opens in Manila with the procession of the Black Nazarene, a 200 year-old Mexican statue of a black Christ carrying the cross; in a procession attended by more than a hundred thousand people. It ends with the nailing to the cross, one after another, of several devotees as part of a Passion Play which takes place annually on Good Friday in San Pedro in the town of San Fernando, north of Manila. It is a film that takes us inside the moral life & outside to its political & historical context. The many voices, including those of the filmmaker, the crucified, the mayor, the parish priest & the Passion Play director, provide a counterpoint to the images - poignant, melancholy, grotesque or wryly comic, but always characteristic of place & time & Philippine social life."

Over 200 people attended the screening and Hogan chaired the Answer and Question session with Nery following the screening. In addition to paying for Mr Nery's airfares, PASC sponsored and promoted the distribution of the film to Ateneo and La Trobe libraries and academics.

Public Lecture Series at Ateneo, 9-13 February 2004:

Hogan led a delegation to the Philippines in February this year. The following public lectures were given:

9th February

'The Premise of Difference: Race, culture, nation and cosmopolitan practice in (pen)insular Southeast Asia', Professor Joel S. Kahn (Sociology and Anthropology, LTU and 2004 Visiting Research Fellow, Asian Research Institute, National University of Singapore)

11th February

Regionalism & Declining US Hegemony: Implications for the Philippines', Professor Joseph Camilleri (Politics, LTU)



Source: PASN www.ateneo.edu/offices/pasn



13th February 2004

'*Designing Intelligence and Civic Power in World History: Reflections on Maritime Political Economy from Athens to Australia*', Dr Peter Murphy (Editor, *Thesis Eleven: Critical Theory and Historical Sociology*, Sage, London, Director, Communications and Information Management, Victoria University of Wellington and Visiting Teaching Fellow, Philosophy, Ateneo, January-February, 2004)

In addition, Professor Joseph Camilleri launched his new book:

Regionalism in the New Asia-Pacific Order: the Political Economy of Asia Pacific Vol. 2 (Elgar, 2003).

Larry Marshall (Ph.D. Politics) and Daisuke Tanaka (Hons, Sociology) rounded out the visiting delegation. Other activities during the trip included: meetings with government and business representatives, and collaborative research workshops.

HIV/AIDS event in Bangkok

Upon the invitation of Dennis Altman, political science professor at La Trobe and president of the AIDS Society in Asia and the Pacific (ASAP), Ateneo Psychology Department Head Isabel Melgar co-chaired a satellite session during the 15th International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, July 11-16, 2004.

Budhi/Thesis 11

Hogan, Peter Beilharz and Peter Murphy will be attending the 9th Anniversary of *Budhi* organized by Luis David at Ateneo, June 13-17th 2005, immediately following the *Thesis Eleven* Centre for Critical Theory co-hosting of the International Social Theory Conference in Singapore (8-11th June).

ECNU-Ateneo-La Trobe Shanghai Conference

Professor Joe Camilleri is organizing a trilateral meeting of Social Sciences at East China Normal University, Ateneo and La Trobe. An *ECNU-Ateneo-LaTrobe Shanghai* Conference is scheduled to take place in Shanghai in November 2005 on 'Globalization and Inter-Civilizational Dialogue'. La Trobe hopes to host a similar event 18 months after the Shanghai one.

VISITS

Melbourne to Manila

Vivian Lin, Professor and Head of School in Public Health at LTU, visited Ateneo in November 2003, where she met with Dr. Marife Yap and others. Professor Lin returns to Manila in November 2004 as part of her work for WHO on health promotion leadership development, and will hold talks with Ateneo Faculty. Some possible avenues of cooperation include: lessons in curriculum reform and development; research and support in relation to NGO and community work; possibilities of reprinting articles and chapters for teaching in the Philippines; and research/training degrees for Ateneo staff.

Cliff Picton, Deputy Chair of PASC and Associate Dean International in the Faculty of Health Sciences at LTU, also visited Ateneo in November 2003, as well as the Philippine partner institution of Community and Family Services International (CFSI). Cliff discussed possible expansion of membership and ideas for research collaboration with representatives of these bodies. Picton has just completed another sojourn in Manila (October, 2004).

In December, 2003 and January, 2004, Mr **Daisuke Tanaka** undertook fieldwork study of Street Vendors in the University Belt of Inner city Manila for his Honours Internship, Sociology and Anthropology, La Trobe, and under the joint supervision of Professor Ferdinand Zialcita, Sociology, Ateneo, and Mr Joel Oana, Director of Centre for Sustainable Urban Renewal, Far Eastern University, (FEU-SURE). He is currently completing an honours thesis under Dr Hogan's supervision, comparing housing conditions in Bangkok and Manila.

In June, 2004, **Hogan** spent a week in Manila liaising with PASN committee. He gave a paper on Pluralism to Dept of Philosophy, Ateneo, and gave a speech to launch an exhibition of photographs by Ms Gabrielle Finnane at the Ateneo de Manila University Art Gallery. This was attended by representatives of the Australian Embassy.

Manila to Melbourne

Dr Luis David SJ, Philosophy, Ateneo and Editor of *Budhi* journal, visited School of Social Sciences, La Trobe in May to plan a joint venture with the *Thesis Eleven* Centre and PASC in June, 2005 and his own research visit to La Trobe in 2006.

Mr Ric Manapat, Director, National Archives, Republic of Philippines government, was awarded a Visiting Research Fellowship at *Thesis Eleven* Centre for Critical Theory, School of Social Sciences, but was unable to take up this offer. Instead, he has now applied for doctoral research on 'Rethinking the Philippines, a historical sociology'. If his scholarship application is successful, he plans to commence in January, 2005 under the supervision of Dr Hogan and Professor Peter Beilharz.

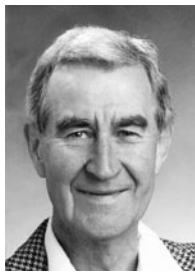
Mr Ramon E.S. ("Richie") Lerma, Curator, Ateneo de Manila University Art Gallery: PASC is pleased and honoured to welcome Mr Lerma to La Trobe. Our Guest Speaker at the AGM 04, Mr Lerma is linking up with Australian and Filipino artists and arts networks in Sydney and Melbourne, ahead of a major exhibition and residency in 2005 at Ateneo by Filipina-Australian artist, Maria Cruz. PASC is proud to sponsor the Melbourne link of his visit.



Trevor Hogan



Max Richter



Charles Mott

PROJECTS

Occasional Papers

PASC plans to facilitate the publication of Occasional Papers from lectures given at Ateneo over the last year. There are six in written form: three have been published in *Budhi* journal, and Ateneo has expressed its interest in publishing the three from this year. This will include a foreword, and will involve a short run to be distributed at Ateneo and LTU.

Library Donations

Building from Joel Kahn's generous gesture of donating his back library of anthropology books to Ateneo, PASC is currently collecting LTU-authored and quality secondhand books. These will be shipped to Ateneo early in 2005, where a special PASN/C collection will be established.

Diaspora Study

The prospect of a 'Philippines' Diaspora in Melbourne' project arose out of discussions between APBC and PASC members. As prospective Chief Investigators, Beryl Langer and Hogan are researching ARC-Linkage prospects; Richter is assisting with literature searches; and Ateneo is very interested in supplying a PhD candidate for the project.

Philippine Studies Special Issue

Dr Filomeno Aguilar, in collaboration with Dr Hogan is planning a special issue of the journal *Philippine Studies* on Philippine - Australian Relations for publication in 2006.



NETWORKS

Philippines Australia Studies network (PASN)

Philippines Australia Studies Network (PASN), PASC's partner at Ateneo de Manila University, was formally established at the beginning of this year. The founding Director is **Dr Filomeno V. Aguilar**, who is also Director, Institute of Philippine Culture, and Editor of *Philippine Studies*. Dr Aguilar has dual citizenship and taught history at Australia National University and James Cook University in the nineties. The PASN Committee consists of 6 members including **Professor Antonette Palma-Angeles**, Vice President of Academic Affairs and International Programs, Ateneo; **Professor Emma Porio**, Sociology; **Professor Agustin M.G. Rodriguez**, Philosophy; **Dr Marife Yap**, Health; and **Dr Angelina Gregorio-Medel**, Sociology. **Ms Reneli Ann B. Gloria** is the Technical Assistant, and the new and improved PASN website has been launched in October, 2004: <http://www.ateneo.edu/offices/pasn>. The site includes: aims and history of the Network; news items; a photo gallery; and links to related organizations at Ateneo and to the LTU Social Sciences homepage. Thanks also for the use of PASN photos in this report.

We would also like to take this opportunity to note the important contributions of some of our many supporters and friends of PASC and PASN in and around Manila. While it is invidious to not name them all we would like to thank in particular:

Her Excellency Ruth Pearce, Australian Ambassador to the Philippines, and her staff; **Professor Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ**, President, Ateneo de Manila University; **Dr Raul Pertierra**, Social Sciences, UNSW, Sydney; Ateneo; University of the Philippines; and De La Salle University; **Professor Fernando 'Butch' Zialcita**, Sociology, Ateneo; **Mr Joel Oana**, Director Centre for the Study of Urban Environment, Far Eastern University; **Ms Marjo Gasser**, Community Enterprise and urban heritage activist, Vigan, Ilocos del Sur.

Asialink, The University of Melbourne

A Myer Foundation Project and Centre that PASC has co-operated with on one event to date (see film premiere launching above) and hopes to develop further collaborative ventures in 2005.



Australia Philippines Business Council (APBC)

PASC became a formal member of APBC in September 2004. Cooperation between PASC and APBC to date:

- Ms Ederlyn Muli of APBC facilitated the transfer of a Filipino MA candidate to La Trobe's School of Education. Ms Muli visited the Philippines earlier in the year, in part to foster links between Filipino students and LTU
- Mott and Richter attended the APBC AGM
- APBC delegates attended a lunch at LTU with the Honorable Ruth Pearce, Australian Ambassador to the Philippines
- Richter wrote an article for the APBC Bulletin Newsletter
- Diaspora project (see above)

We are greatly appreciative of the welcome and collaborative interest and support that members of the APBC have extended to PASC and we especially thank the initiatives of **Mr Home Bassig, Mr Giovan Kotsakis, Mr Justin Howden, and Ms Ederlyn Muli.**

Community and Family Services International (CFSI)

CFSI continues to play an important leadership role in humanitarian work in the Philippines. This work is facilitated by CFSI's reputation as an even handed organisation whose focus is on alleviating the difficulties experienced by displaced or uprooted populations. This is particularly the case in Mindanao where CFSI'S good relationship with both the Philippine Government and the MILF makes it possible for essential humanitarian work to continue. Recent achievements include the opening of a school at Inug ug with further initiatives in prospect. The World Bank will fund a major effort in education later this year and CFSI have just received a further grant from the Canadian Government. CFSI's work has been formally recognised within the Philippines this year by three awards highlighting continuing need to supplement government provisions as well as acknowledging the Organization's unique capacity in the delivery of sustainable humanitarian relief. CFSI have also just signed a second 5 year agreement of cooperation with La Trobe's School of Social Work and Social Policy.