

ABOUT US

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 and renewed for a further 5 years in June, 2005. We have had four bilateral meetings: three in Manila (January, 2000; February, 2005; June, 2007); and one in Melbourne (April, 2001) with meetings set for Perth and Melbourne in July, 2009.

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), Professor John Fitzgerald (chair), and Ms Tracy Lee (project officer).

General Members: Dennis Altman, Harry Aveling, Simon Barraclough, Peter Beilharz, Joe Camilleri, Barry Carr, Margarita Frederico, Joel Kahn, Beryl Langer, Vivian Lin, Larry Marshall, Wendy Mee, Michalis Michael, George Myconos, Cliff Picton, Randy LaPolla.

Associate Members: Maridel Anandar, Homer Bassig, Raul Hernandez, Giovan Kotsakis, Malou Logan, Lilac Limpangog, Revyi Marinas, Deirdre McKay, Al Noveloso, Peter Murphy, Robert Nery, Vienna Parreno, Max Richter.

Informal membership of PASC is open to all interested parties.

ADMINISTRATION

PASC La Trobe was established through a seeding grant from La Trobe International. The Centre relies on the goodwill and initiative of interested parties across the University.

Ms Tracy Lee is employed as the project officer by the School of Social Sciences to work one day a week on this project. Ms Lee retires as Project Officer at end of this academic year to take up a new position in the Faculty of Law and Management. We take this opportunity to register our formal appreciation of her tireless, good-humoured, and efficient assistance in all areas of our work. With his resignation from La Trobe University to take up a position in Beijing as Director, Ford Foundation, Asia-Pacific Region, Professor John Fitzgerald also concludes his work as Chair of PASC. Semester One, 2008 will also see Charles Mott as Acting Director, PASC, while Trevor Hogan goes on Long Service Leave. We also take this opportunity to formally thank Dr Wendy Mee who acted as Acting Director of PASC in Semester One, 2007 while Trevor Hogan was on sabbatical.

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

DID YOU KNOW?

I. AUSTRALIA-PHILIPPINES RELATIONS

As a country with a long exposure to Western culture and a comparatively well-educated English-speaking population, the Philippines has much in common with Australia. Australia and the Philippines are geographically proximate and share common perspectives on many regional, economic and security issues. As a result, Australia and the Philippines have a long history of bilateral cooperation. Diplomatic relations were established when Australia

opened its first Consulate-General in Manila on 22 May 1946. An Australian Ambassador to the Philippines was appointed in 1957. The Philippines opened an Embassy in Canberra in 1962. The relationship consists of development assistance, defence and law enforcement cooperation, and we have increasing people to people links through trade, investment, cultural exchange, tourism and migration. Significant numbers of Filipinos immigrated to Australia between the 1960s and the 1990s (see map). Filipinos remain one of the fastest growing immigrant communities in Australia. At the 2001 Census, members of the Filipino community in Australia numbered 123,000. In 2006/07, the Philippines provided 5,561 migrants, making it third highest source of Asian immigrants after India and China (*The Age*, 25/9/07).

MAP HERE

II. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

In 2006-07, Australian aid flows to the Philippines are estimated to be \$68.8 million. The May 2007 budget saw an increase of 46% in aid to the Philippines for 2007-08 to an estimated \$100.6 million making the Philippines the fourth largest recipient of Australian bilateral development assistance. Australia's aid strategy for the Philippines, Australia-Philippines Development Assistance Strategy 2007-11, was agreed between the two governments in March 2007 and signed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Alexander Downer MP, and his Philippine counterpart during the visit to Australia by the President of the Philippines, Dr Gloria Arroyo, 30-31 May. The new program will see a significant increase in aid funding for the Philippines, with assistance in 2007-08 rising to \$100.6 million, a 46 per cent increase over 2006-07. Australia's overarching objective is to contribute to improving the prospects for economic growth, poverty reduction and national stability. The Strategy focuses Australia's assistance in three areas: economic growth, basic education and national stability and human security. During President Arroyo's visit to Australia, the Australian Government also announced that Australia will provide \$250,000 for the funding of human rights projects in the Philippines. (see <http://www.aisaid.gov.au/>)

III. BILATERAL TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

The Philippines maintains a good trading relationship with Australia. Two-way merchandise trade was valued at \$1.75 billion in 2006, 10.7 per cent higher than in 2005. Both governments consider there to be significant potential for growth.

In light of substantial trade opportunities between the Northern

Territory and the Philippines both the Northern Territory and Philippine governments hope to strengthen these links through regular participation in the Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines - East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA). Although Australia is not an official member of BIMP-EAGA, the Northern Territory has observer status on four BIMP-EAGA working groups (tourism, fisheries, transport and agribusiness).

The Australia Philippines Business Council (APBC), established in 1975, provides a focal point for networking between Australian and Philippine business communities. The APBC's counterpart organisation in the Philippines is the Philippines Australia Business Council.

Key source: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT website)

EVENTS

31 May

Trevor Hogan in his capacity as Director, PASC, attended the dinner held in honour of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the Hyatt Hilton, Melbourne.

15 October

Seminar by Neil Fetting, in collaboration with *Thesis Eleven* Centre for Critical Theory, "Anarchism in the Ethno-scape: 3 months in Manila"

3 December

Seminar by Kathleen Weekley, 'Abandoning Nationalism: Arguments for a Post-National Left Politics in the Philippines'.

VISITS

February, 2007 – Dr Kathleen Weekley (previously Research Fellow, Centre for Asia-Pacific Transformation Studies (CAPTRANS), University of Wollongong), Honorary Research Fellow for two years.

Manila to Melbourne, Bendigo and Mildura:

November 1 to 25 – Works of 2007 Ateneo Contemporary Philippine Art Award winners MM Yu, Lyle Buencamino and Wawi Navarroza were exhibited at the View Street Gallery. On November 15 Ramon E.S. Lerma, Director and Chief Curator of the Ateneo Art Gallery, presented at the Symposium on Contemporary Art In The Philippines. Other presenters include Gina Fairley who has worked as an arts manager in America, Asia and Australia, including the

position of Exhibition Coordinator for the 2004 Biennale of Sydney, and Lyle Buencamino, one of the recipients of the 2007 Ateneo Art Award who talked about his art practice and his paintings on show in the gallery. As part of this award, Mr Buencamino will also spend three weeks visiting the Mildura, Bendigo, and Bundoora campuses.

Melbourne to Manila:

November, 2006 to January, 2007: As part of the Arts Links program between La Trobe University and Ateneo de Manila University, Dr Neil Fettling, Head, Visual Arts, Mildura Campus, La Trobe University was invited as First Artist-in-Residence at Ateneo Fine Arts Gallery, Ateneo de Manila University. The residency involved making art work reflecting observations and experiences of Manila. In addition to this, he was invited to develop a course and lecture in a subject titled, Art In context within the Bachelor of Arts Management course at Ateneo. During the residency he held an exhibition, titled “Noosperes” at the Ateneo Art Gallery in January.

Following a period of synthesis back in Australia, Fettling completed a series of mixed media works using the figure of Philippine National hero, Rizal, linking the iconography of his visit. These works were exhibited at Gallery 25 in Mildura under the title of “3 Months In Manila”. Concurrent to this exhibition, Fettling delivered two seminars with the auspice of PASC and *Thesis Eleven* Centre for Critical Theory at Mildura and Bundoora campuses respectively, in which he discussed the context of these artworks with the broader socio-political environment in Manila.

16-23 June - “Palimpsest: Mapping, imagining and moving antipodean landscapes”: a week of public and academic events including a research colloquium, public lectures and art exhibition at Ateneo de Manila University, Manila by a delegation from La Trobe University which consisted of five postgraduate students from Sociology and Anthropology, and English programs, two Social Science and two Visual Arts academics. In addition we invited two academics from Monash University and one from the University of WA. Public lectures were given by Professor Peter Beilharz and Mr Vince Alessi respectively, and seminar papers given by all members of the delegation at the research colloquium. (see the Art Exchange program report by Vince Alessi below for a report on this venture).

August

International Relations workshop, Centre for Dialogue (See report from the Centre for Dialogue)

PROJECTS

ART EXCHANGE PROGRAM

5 - 24 June 2007: Visit by Vince Alessi, Managing Curator of La Trobe University Art Museum to Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines on a touring exhibition entitled "My Country: Abstract Interpretations Of The Australian Landscape". The exhibition ran from 13 June to 20 July and was opened by the Australian Ambassador to the Philippines, HE Mr Tony Hely. It received a grant of \$22,000 from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to cover costs associated with transporting the exhibition.

The exhibition was part of the Arts Linkage project (2007-9) established between La Trobe University and the Ateneo de Manila University. As part of this project:

- the two Universities will exchange art exhibitions with accompanying academic programs – (2007 in Manila; 2009 in Melbourne);
- each year La Trobe will present an exhibition of works by the winner of the Ateneo Art Award at the Visual Arts Centre, Bendigo;
- each year La Trobe will host the winner of the Ateneo Art Award at Bundoora, Bendigo and Mildura;
- the two Universities will exchange Visual Arts staff as part of an Artist in Residence Program; and,
- the two Universities will encourage the exchange of Visual Arts students between the two institutions.

The La Trobe exhibition at Ateneo in June, 2007 presented a concise overview of a continuing genre central to Australian art, and demonstrated antipodean views, interpretations and processes of landscape painting and of nature. It not only highlighted the commitment of Australian artists to landscape painting but it also illustrated Australian artist's response to and position in International modern art movements.

The exhibition gave Filipino audiences the chance to view and engage with works by leading Australian artists (such as Fred Williams, George Johnson, Lawrence Daws and Elizabeth Gower) and likewise, gave these artists an opportunity to have their work shown in SEAsia. The exhibition also included the works of prominent Indigenous artists (such as Patrick Mung Mung, Gloria Petyarre and Turkey Tolson Tjungurrayi) arguing for their inclusion in the pantheon of Australian art history and acknowledging their long association with the Australian landscape. All works in the collection were from the University Art Collection.

The exhibition and the Arts Linkage project forms part of a wider network between the two universities. As such the exhibition and the research colloquium offered a platform to debate themes that were both central and moved beyond the boundaries of the exhibition in a cross-discipline academic setting.

The exhibition and academic program received wide media coverage including the reporting of the opening on local news channel RPN; a review in *Business Mirror*, and articles in *Business Review* and an a leading Manileno fashion and lifestyle publication. This will assist in promoting the University, its art collection and academic strengths to a wide and varied audience.

Vince Alessi
Managing Curator
La Trobe University Art Museum
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<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/artmuseum/>

Reading Asia, Forging Identities in Literature (RAFIL)

The RAFIL Conference Consortium is the product of a collaboration among universities that have programs and projects in the field of Asian literatures. The aim of the consortium is to gather together literature researchers, educators, policy makers, practitioners, and professionals at an international conference held in Asia, once every two years, during the month of February. These international conferences locate the ground where literature and the region's concern for plural yet pronounced Asian identities interact as concurrent discourses. The conferences look at the reading experience across Asia—what Asia reads, the languages and forms in which its literatures flower, the collective interests that the region projects on the literary screen, and intriguing analogues of culture, politics, and the postcolonial struggle that Asia gleans from literature. Through cultural encounters in literature, the RAFIL conferences pursue how Asia manages new expressions of ethnic diversity while closely guarding its mainstreams of tradition, belief, and practices.

La Trobe University, through Dr Harry Aveling, Asian Studies, has joined RAFIL. Dr Aveling has been a regular visitor to Ateneo in recent years and his networking has brought both Ateneo and La Trobe scholars into wider regional networks. Dr Aveling reports: In November, 2007 I attended a conference at University of Philippines, Manila. The English Department at Ateneo asked me to provide "A Day for Ateneo", which I am delighted to do on Tuesday 27th November. I will speak in the morning to ADMU graduate students and faculty in the Department on "Studying English Literature in Southeast Asia -- Why? How?" In the evening I will give

a lecture in the *Kritika Kultura* Lecture Series on "The Coloniser and the Colonised: Translation as a Contested Space".

Centre for Dialogue International Workshop and Visit to Manila (25 August-1 September 2007).

Between 25 August and 1 September a delegation from the Centre for Dialogue visited Manila (Philippines). It was led by the Centre's director, Professor Joseph Camilleri, and included Drs Michális S. Michael, George Myconos, and Luca Anceschi.

The main objective of the visit was to participate in an International Workshop focusing on theme, 'Conflict, Religion and Culture since September 11: Implications for Southeast Asia and Australia'. This workshop had been conceived of at the 2006 Vancouver HUGG2 conference, and was the culmination of careful planning on the part of Centre for Dialogue staff, in close collaboration with the Filipino host institution Ateneo de Manila University.

The workshop itself took place on 27-28 August, and consisted of detailed presentations from research teams from four countries: the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Australia. Drs Michael and Myconos delivered papers: the former focusing on the Australian government's response to 9/11 tensions, and the latter on the Australian medias' treatment of Muslims.

The workshop was the second step in a three-year project, led by the Centre for Dialogue – but also comprising three Asian institutions: Ateneo de Manila (Philippines), PPIM UIN (Jakarta, Indonesia), and the Centre for Policy Research and International Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia (Penang, Malaysia) – that is aimed at comparing responses by selected countries to post 9/11 tensions. These tensions relate on the one hand to the issue of Islam and on the growing US influence in the area on the other.

The workshop was a great success and participants resolved to plan another, most likely in Indonesia, in 2008. They also resolved to publish the workshop papers either in an edited collection or in a special issue of a leading academic journal.

Following the workshop, Centre for Dialogue staff took the opportunity to meet with a number of academics, diplomats, and members of the civil society based in Manila.

It should be noted that the trip's success was due largely to the hospitality and generosity of our friends at Ateneo de Manila University (PASN and Dr Ben Tolosa, Politics), and that of Dr Natalia

Morales (University of the Philippines), who was Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Dialogue in early 2006.

For more detail contact:

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Ph.D. RESEARCH

Sociology and Anthropology Program:

Supervision by Trevor Hogan, Peter Beilharz, and Barry Carr:

Ricardo Manapat: 'The Ideology of Spanish Colonization of the Philippines' (July, 2006) Ric is in Manila for 12 months archival research.

Supervision by Trevor Hogan and Peter Beilharz:

Edwin Wise: 'A Study of Manila' (February, 2007) Ed will take up field work in Manila from January, 2008 for 18 months under the external supervision of Professor Zialcita (Sociology, Ateneo).

Supervision by Sandy Gifford, Peter Beilharz and Trevor Hogan:

Anthony Rodriguez-Jiminez: 'Violence and the Social Order in Manila' (July, 2007)

Public Health Program:

Supervision by Vivian Lin

Susan Chong Chong: "Challenges of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) programming to HIV&AIDS civil society organisations (CSOs) in Southeast Asia: Meeting the requirements of donors versus developing localised frameworks". Two case studies: Malaysia and Philippines. Susan travels to Manila in February, 2008 to commence her field work

Education

Iris E Dumenden: For her PhD, she investigates the plight of refugee youth who have minimal or severely-interrupted schooling before coming to Australia and are now struggling in mainstream high schools. (July, 2007).

PUBLICATIONS

Harry Aveling

2006 "Two Approaches to the Positioning of Translated Texts", *Kritika Kultura*, No 6, Nov 2005, pp. 6-25

<http://www.ateneo.edu/kritikakultura/KK6.pdf>

2007 "Indonesian Literature after Reformasi: The Tongues of Women", *Kritika Kultura*, No 8, Feb 2007, pp. 9-53
<http://www.ateneo.edu/kritikakultura/KK8.pdf>

Trevor Hogan

2007 'Walking in the Cordillera, September, 1986: a Photographic Essay' *Budhi: A Journal of Ideas and Culture*. X:3, 2006 (late to press!)

2006 'Bangkok, Jakarta, Manila, and Singapore' in *Sociology: Place, Time, Division*. Edited with Peter Beilharz. Melbourne: Oxford University Press

(also published in *Budhi: a Journal of Ideas and Culture*, IX:1, 2005: 157-162.

2006 "In but not of Asia: Reflections on Philippine Nationalism as Project, Discourse, and Evaluation" *Thesis Eleven*, 84, February: 115-132

2004 "Rethinking Southeast Asian Cities: The Case of Manila" *Budhi: A Journal of Ideas and Culture*. VII:3: 103-128

2004 'Pluralism as Collective Identities and Instituted Forms of Everyday Life: The Thought of Paul Q. Hirst and its relevance to arguments about Alternative Modernities in Asia-Pacific' in *Cultural Pluralism and Civil Society in the Asia-Pacific Region in the Era of Globalization*. Shanghai: East China Normal University. pp. 196-206

2003 "Post-Colonial Cities: The View from Jakarta" *Thesis Eleven*, 73, May: 113-121

2001 "Letter from Manila" *Budhi: A Journal of Ideas and Culture*, V:1: 209-214

NETWORKS

Academic Relationships

PASC supported the negotiation of a student exchange agreement between La Trobe and Ateneo de Manila universities, which provides for two semesters of fee-waiver exchange each way each year. The exchanges are already proving popular. Two La Trobe students, Rory Shepherd and Tim Andrews, are currently doing arts subjects at Ateneo, and one Ateneo student, Elvin Salindo, is doing philosophy and computer science La Trobe for a semester in 2007. Both Elvin and Tim are holders of AusAID Endeavour scholarships. PASC urges La Trobe's students to take advantage of this facility to study for a

semester at this prestigious Filipino university, and will be happy to provide advice on request. Financial support is available for students going on exchange.

Philippines Australia Studies network (PASN)

Website: <http://www.ateneo.edu/offices/pasn/index.html>

PASN is chaired by Professor Antonette Palma-Angeles (Vice-President of Academic and International Programs). The project officer is Fe Dayap. The director is Dr Filomeno V. Aguilar.

Australia Philippines Business Council (APBC)

Website: <http://www.apbc.org.au/>

PASC became a formal member of APBC in September 2004.

Barangay Australia

Website: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/pasc/barangay.html>

Barangay Australia is a network of Filipino (Pinoy) students as well as alumni and friends across the State of Victoria. It animates the community spirit of *bayanihan* (heroic duties) and *pakikipagkapwa* (fellowship) commonly found in the *barangay* (village) combined with learning and fun. While "Barangay Australia" was only coined in 2005 in conjunction with its first general assembly, it traces its beginnings with scholars from the Philippines who would exchange tips about life in Australia and offer their support.

Today, Barangay Australia aspires to be a cultural bridge between local Filipino students and their international counterparts and a unifying force across the state of Victoria. It operates through volunteer members acting as university-based coordinators and project coordinators at the network level.

Community and Family Services International (CFSI)

Website: <http://www.cfsi.ph/profile.htm>

CFSI continues to play a significant role in working with displaced and uprooted persons in the region. Of particular interest is the continued effort on Mindanao. CFSI has now bought its own building as a Headquarter for its operations. Several large project grants have been received which will provide financial security for the organisation over the next six years. In addition an application to a Japanese funding body for money to set up a Regional Training Centre is likely to be successful. The Centre will be built around a 'Smart Classroom' equipped with the latest technology.

As in previous years CFSI is providing professional practice experience for La Trobe social work students - six in all, from September to end of December 2007.

Philippine Studies Association of Australasia Inc

Website: <http://www.pilipinas.com.au/>

The Philippine Studies Association of Australasia Inc (PSAA) continues to work in maintaining links with individuals and organizations world wide, facilitating information-sharing and collegial discussion among Filipinists. PSAA is over 30 years old and in conjunction with its joint USA publication, *Pilipinas*, connects and informs scholars. The Journal, *Pilipinas*, always welcomes paper submissions, and looks forward to a special Issue on Filipino sexuality, and its 50th Issue in 2008. The Journal has a website (www.pilipinas.com.au), and is currently archiving back Issues to 1980. Membership of PSAA automatically links to *Pilipinas* subscription.

Dr. Paul Mathews, Secretary,
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