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 a student exchange agreement since 2007 and we are set to renew our MOU in 2010. We have had four bilateral meetings: three in Manila (January, 2000; February, 2005; June, 2007); and two in Melbourne (April, 2001, July, 2009) and one each in Bangkok (June, 2007) and Perth and Mildura and Bendigo (July, 2009). The Philippines Australia Studies Network (PASN) office is established at Ateneo de Manila University with matching resources. Both PASC and PASN are committed to extending the research network. To that end La Trobe University has recently signed an MOU with the University of the Philippines (January, 2010).

This is the first time the PASC annual report has gone electronic and there will be direct links to our web site.

OBJECTIVES

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

MEMBERSHIP

See office bearers and members here

ADMINISTRATION

PASC La Trobe was established through a seeding grant from La Trobe International and is hosted by the School of Social Sciences. The Centre relies on the goodwill and initiative of interested parties across the University. We are particularly indebted to the hard unrewarded work of its members and in 2009 we especially thank the initiative and enterprise of Vince Alessi, Paul Northam, Neil Fettling, Peter Beilharz, Randy La Polla, Augustine Doronila, Edwin Wise and Maria Cameron.
EVENTS

2009 marked the 150th anniversary year of the founding of Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines. It is also a decade since Professor Dennis Altman first recommended to the Vice-Chancellor of La Trobe University that the two universities should sign a MOU with Ateneo to promote a long term partnership of student and scholarly exchanges, and research collaboration.

To mark and celebrate our partnership, in July 2009, La Trobe welcomed a delegation of over 15 Ateneo academics. A number of public and academic events were held.

Highlights included:

1. Monday 20 July, 2pm to 3pm:

Poetry and Short fiction Readings at the La Trobe Art Museum, Glenn College, Bundoora campus by Cyan Jugo-Abad, Exie Abola and Rofel Brion - 3 creative writers and academics at Ateneo.

2. Tuesday 21 July, all day event:

'Beyond the Frame': Contemporary Philippine Photography Exhibition Launch and Colloquium, Tuesday 21st July, at the View Street Gallery, Bendigo. This exhibition featured many leading Pinoy photographers and travelled to USA and Sydney. The Ateneo team spent the day in Bendigo and the Visual Arts School hosted a colloquium at View Street Gallery.

3. Wednesday 22 July, 4pm to 7.30pm:

'Fractions of an Intangible Whole: Filipino Social Realism in the Ateneo Gallery Collection'. Art Exhibition, Launch and Public Lecture, La Trobe Art Museum, Glenn College: Ateneo Art Museum is recognized as having the finest private modern art collection in Southeast Asia. La Trobe University Art Museum was delighted and honoured to be the first art gallery outside of the Philippines to host an especially curated exhibition from Ateneo’s own collections. The launch was marked by a public lecture by Ms Lisa Chikiamco, curator of the exhibition followed by a cocktail party at 5.00 pm with a speech by Mr Luis Hernandez, the Philippine Honorary Consul-General, Victoria, and Professor Kerry Ferguson, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equity and Diversity Centre).

4. Thursday 23 and Friday 24 July:

Research Showcase Workshop, at Martin Building’ Room 488 (9.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday; 9.30am to 4.00pm, Friday): Hosted by School of Social Sciences and Institute for Human Security, opportunity was afforded for Ateneo and La Trobe academics to talk about their current research projects. Each 90 minute session was organized thematically (e.g., Development Studies, Media Studies; Human Security; Mobility studies; Social Theory; etc.). They were chaired by a local academic and three 20 minute papers (at least one of whom will be an Ateneo scholar) and with 30 minutes for plenary discussion.
5. Friday 24 July:

Book Launch, Martin Building 362, 1.00pm to 2.00pm with lunch.

*Conflict, Religion, and Culture: domestic and International Implications for Southeast Asia and Australia.* Edited by Luca Anceschi, Joe A. Camilleri and Benjamin T. Tolosa, Jr. (published by Philippines-Australia Studies Network, Ateneo de Manila University).

In addition, *Thesis Eleven* Centre took 3 Ateneo creative writers to the Mildura Writers’ Festival and another delegation to the West Coast which was hosted by Institute of Advanced Studies, the University of Western Australia for a colloquium and a public lecture.
PROJ ECTS

ARTS LINKAGE PROJECT

In 2009 LUMA | La Trobe University Museum of Art continued its strong relationship with the Ateneo Art Gallery hosting two exhibitions and an artist-in-resident. In July LUMA presented the exhibition Fractions of Intangible Whole: Philippine Social Realism in the Ateneo Art Gallery. The exhibition, curated by the Ateneo Art Gallery, included social realist works from across four decades, many not previously seen outside of the Philippines. The exhibition was opened by Mr Raul V Hernandez, Consular General of the Philippines. In addition to the exhibition a week-long program of closed workshops and public lectures was conducted and involved local and visiting Filipino academics and post-graduate students. During October the Visual Arts Centre (VAC) hosted Jan Leeroy New, winner of the Ateneo Art Award. New completed a residency at the VAC during which time he made a number of works, including two major sculptures. In early 2010 Vincent Alessi, Artistic Director, LUMA and Richie Lerma, Director, Ateneo Art Gallery met and agreed to continue the Arts Linkage Project for a further three years. During this next period we hope to encourage staff and student exchanges as well as develop exhibition proposals which are more collaborative and site specific. We have agreed to continue to offer a residency at the VAC to the winner of the Ateneo Art Award. However, future residents will stay longer and be expected to make work for an exhibition during their stay. This promises to be an exciting development in this successful partnership.

Vince Alessi
Managing Curator
La Trobe University Art Museum
Email: v.alessi@latrobe.edu.au
http://www.latrobe.edu.au/artmuseum/

Over the past 15 months, I have also hosted two visiting Ateneo national Award winning artists to Mildura campus: Marina Cruz (November, 2008), and Leeroy New (September, 2009). In 2009, I participated in the July workshop at Bundoora. In December, 2009, a twenty year retrospective of my work was launched at the Mildura Art Gallery. The theme of this retrospective ‘Water+ Sheds: a twenty year survey of work based on the issue of water (1989 – 2009), was (reflecting my long term engagement with the enculturated landscapes of Australian arid interior exploring the layering of indigenous and migrant cultural readings and material markings on nature and asking questions about the nature of beauty in Western traditions of art theory and practice in dialogue with popular cultural understandings. It included a photo installation that I exhibited at Ateneo University during my 3 month residency there in 1996/97. In 2008, I held an exhibition at Gallery 25, Mildura of my work done during that Manila sojourn, called 3 months in Manila.

I returned to Manila again in February, 2010. Whilst this trip lies outside the calendar year of 2009 it represents the next stage of my work and an outworking of the Ateneo and La Trobe art exchange program. In addition to discussions held at Ateneo de Manila University with curators, visual arts academics and artists about the ongoing art linkage partnership between the two universities, I also undertook research
into Pinoy contemporary Visual Arts. Under the passionate supervision of Drs Antonette Palma-Angeles and Rofel G. Brion, visits to the unique Laguna potteries were conducted. Jon Pettyjohn's hilltop pottery workshops, terraced up a steep gradient, are cut out of the forest floor. The clay that forms his utilitarian and sculptural ceramic oeuvre is mined locally, and the final product is intrinsically united in an aesthetic and ethical amalgam. But this rural sortie was just a starting point to the rich cultural life in the metropolis. Following on from my recent meditations on the collaborations of Australian Artist, David Griggs and his work with Filipino Billboard artists, “Hired Hands, the Filipino collaborations of David Griggs”, published in the major Australian art journal, Artlink magazine, (Vol.29 No.2 June 2009) I immersed myself in the Marikina studios of Griggs, Manuel Ocampo and Gerry Tan respectively. These studios were largely inundated in the recent Manila floods, but far from the artists being negatively impacted, they are quickly earning important international exhibitions and reputations, particularly in Europe. Their work has the context of global popular culture, but with a direct, uncompromising Filipino edge. Fettling was privileged to photographically document their work practices directly in the studio. These artists represent the strong contemporary, cultural and artistic ties that link Australia and the Philippines, ties that we here at La Trobe are keen to continue and develop.

Neil Fettling
Senior Lecturer of Visual Arts at La Trobe University
Visual Arts Co-ordinator, Mildura Campus
International Conflict, Religion and Culture: Implications for Southeast Asia and Australia

This three year project examines the implications of recent international conflicts involving Islam for multi-ethnic, multi-faith societies. Particular attention focuses on how Australia, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia – four countries with sharply contrasting demographic profiles and geopolitical circumstances – have responded to both international and domestic tensions arising from the attacks of September 11 and their aftermath. The project is designed to assess the adequacy of these responses, and propose policies, practices and discourse more finely attuned to the requirements of intercultural dialogue and conflict minimisation.

The project has been led by the Centre for Dialogue in collaboration with three partner institutions: The Department of Politics and the Institute of Philippine Culture, Ateneo de Manila University, the Philippines; PPIM - Centre for the Study of Islam, Universitas Islam Negari Syarif Hidayatullah, Jakarta; The Institute for Strategic and International Studies and the International Movement for a Just world, Malaysia. This project is funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC Discovery Grant), and the Toda Institute for Global Policy and Peace Research (Honolulu and Tokyo).

Dr Luca Anceschi (Centre for Dialogue), Prof Joseph A. Camilleri (Centre for Dialogue) and A/Prof Benjamin Tolosa (Ateneo de Manila University) edited a volume that included selected papers from the project’s first regional workshop organised by the Centre for Dialogue and hosted by Ateneo de Manila (27-28 August 2007). The editorial process was concluded in December 2008. The book was published in early 2009 and launched by the Hon. Laurie Ferguson, Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services, during a lunchtime function at La Trobe University on 24 July.

For more details contact:

Michalis Michael
Centre for Dialogue
La Trobe University
Phone: 9479 2140
Email: m.michael@latrobe.edu.au.

Centre for Dialogue Symposium at Ateneo
Culture through education, education through culture: the *Indigenising Education in a Kalinga Public School* project

*PASC Honorary Research Fellows Maria Cameron and Edwin Wise*

Maria and Edwin undertook important projects in the Philippines. You can read more about this [here](#).
In early 2008, my partner Edwin and I left for the Philippines as much for adventure as for our respective work and study. Our plan was to live in Manila for a year – Edwin to conduct his PhD field research and me to work as a volunteer at an NGO based at the Ateneo de Manila University. We hoped we’d be able to make a life in the seemingly chaotic, and on first appearances un navigable, world of Manila. Little did we know that one day we’d look back on it as such a rich, memorable episode of our life. You can read more about this [here](#).
PhD RESEARCH

Economics Program

Supervision by Siriya Jayasuriya
Rosemarie G. Edillon: “Towards an Understanding of Social Capital”
(Commenced March 2008)

Social capital consists of resources that an individual can mobilize at any time out of his non-anonymous interactions with other individuals. This simple definition belies the controversies, even debates that have characterized the discourse on the subject particularly within the Economics discipline. Its application, however, has proceeded despite the scholarly disagreements. Strategies to "build up" social capital have become key components of poverty reduction programs. There have also been marked suggestions of the very significant role of social capital on economic growth, no less. These developments attribute an economic function to social capital, albeit not fully understood. This study contributes to the understanding of social capital beginning with a proposed definition, then a measure, and a framework situating its role in economic terms. The construct will then be elaborated using data on the Philippines.

Sociology and Anthropology Program

Supervision by Trevor Hogan and John Morton
Andrew Morrison: “Social Networks in a Philippine Non-Government Organisation” (Commenced March 2009, p/t)

The study looks at social networks in a Philippine NGO and how these networks contribute to the success of the organisation. While organisations typically have a formal hierarchy and formal rules for managing staff, they also consist of social networks. The structure of these networks typically differs, in varying degrees, from an organisation's formal hierarchy. The "rules" that govern social networks (group norms for example) are also different to the organisation's formal rules. By considering a recent controversy within the organisation and tracing the resulting changes in the organisation's social networks, Andrew hopes to find insights into how these networks operate and how they contribute to, or hinder, the organisation's aims. How do social networks interact with the formal hierarchy and rules of the organisation to produce successful governance? It is hoped that the study will highlight successful strategies for managing an organisation, and that it will also contribute to broader discussions about governance in the Philippines.

Supervision by Trevor Hogan and Peter Beilharz
Joseph Salazar: "Consuming Nationalism: Food, Culture, Space, Memory" (Commenced July 2009)

The study looks at culinary tradition and how it has helped transform cultural practices into important commodities whose meaning burrows deep into concepts that have
established authority, control and the erection of cultural imaginaries that have led to a proliferation of national cuisines. National cuisines have had an important role in establishing the presence of a collective identity that can be utilized in boosting the legitimacy of their respective states within the capital-intensive world of modernity. While such tactics have indeed helped a number of countries achieve such goals, the very processes they espouse present numerous fissures that call attention to the colonial character of cuisine and the power it assumes in defining local practices in countries lacking the physical and ideological infrastructure needed to establish itself within the confines of modernity. Focusing on the experiences of the Philippines in defining a national cuisine, the study looks at these attempts to incorporate the rhetoric of culinary tradition in non-Western societies and the implications it has on local traditions in the hopes of contributing to ongoing debates surrounding modernity, globalization and postcolonialism.

**Supervision by Helen Lee and Trevor Hogan**

*Skilty Labastilla: “Becoming a Man in the Settlements: Male Youth Transitions in Davao City, Philippines” (Commenced February 2008)*

Skilty is interested in how young men (aged 15-30) in low-income communities experience the transition to adulthood. What are their lives like now, how do they envision their future, and what are the steps they take in attaining their dreams? Aside from looking at their experiences, he will also examine the social, economic, and political contexts that shape these experiences. The research takes off from discourses on Men in Development, as well as from studies on Youth, Masculinity, and Urban Poverty. Skilty has been undertaking ethnographic fieldwork in a low-income community in Davao City, Philippines throughout 2009. He has conducted participant observation and in-depth interviews with young men in the community, as well as their families and community leaders. He returns to La Trobe University to write up his research in June, 2010.

**Supervision by Trevor Hogan and Peter Beilharz; external supervision by Professor Fernando Zialcita (Sociology, Ateneo de Manila University)**

*Edwin Wise: Manila: Place, Space and People (Commenced February 2007)*

In collaboration with the Philippines Australia Studies Centre and the Institute of Philippine Culture based at the Ateneo de Manila University, Edwin Wise completed a year’s fieldwork in Metro Manila, as a part of his PhD in Sociology at La Trobe University. His dissertation is currently at the write-up stage. Edwin’s thesis broadly looks at the nature and consequences of a changing urban landscape, the rise of private cities, and the possible decay of public space.

Specifically, Edwin networked across academic institutions and collected secondary data in order to understand Metro Manila's urban history, whilst using qualitative methods to collect impressions and everyday stories from a diverse array of people. This research focuses on various areas: the urban poor, the middle classes living in gated and private cities, religious and modernist centres, and an artist community.
Mary is hoping to investigate Japanese author, Murakami Haruki’s use of the detective fiction form in order to explore how and why he both borrows from and departs from western conventions of crime fiction. Murakami is often described as a very Americanized writer—a term that is problematically used positively and negatively by critics. However, Mary’s thesis hopes to detect the clues that Murakami has scattered leading to his own consistent critique of the crimes of capitalism. Beginning with background reading of classic and hard-boiled detective fiction in her first term, Mary is now reading on Japanese literature and Japanese crime fiction during her second term. Next, she will turn to a close reading of Murakami’s A Wild Sheep Chase, The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle, and Kafka on the Shore. Next year she will work on her proposal and first drafts.

VISITORS:

INTRODUCING ASSOCIATE RESEARCHERS WITH PASC:

Dr Minerva Chaloping-March is a Bontok Igorot and has both a personal and professional interest in the indigenous peoples of the Philippines and the sustainable development of their communities. She is an applied anthropologist with extensive experience in the Philippines and Australia. She completed Ph.D. in 2008 under the supervision of Professor Martha Macintyre at The University of Melbourne. She acquired two Masters degrees: social anthropology from the University of Cambridge (1996), and social and development studies from the University of the Philippines (1991).

Minerva’s dissertation (‘Managing the social impacts of mine closure: mining and communities in Benguet, Northern Philippines’) examined the complex socio-political and historical milieu that largely defines the protocols and actual process of implementing mine closure. Her study cogently demonstrated that missing out the political, economic, and historical-cultural elements makes any well-thought mine closure program inadequate and therefore ineffective. Her ethnographic research was carried out in two mining communities. She studied the experiences of two major mining companies in their approach to mine closure. Prior to undertaking Ph.D. study, Minerva was employed (1993 – 2002) with Rio Tinto Technical Services as senior consultant for social development and community affairs. Her main role involved providing specialist advice to Rio Tinto Corporate Office and subsidiary business units on implementing the company’s Communities Policy in both existing mining operations and new projects.

In the Philippines, Minerva worked as a researcher at the Cordillera Studies Center, University of the Philippines – Baguio (1985-1993). Her research engagements centred on upland agriculture and land tenure, indigenous resource management,
decentralization and governance. She later moved to Manila and worked as program officer for environmental management at the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP). In this role which she held from 1993-1998, she developed training programs on environmental management education for local government, small and medium enterprises, communities, and civil society groups. While at DAP, she also served as member of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Review Committee for the Environmental Management Bureau. Her focus for EIA reviews included major projects in mining, energy and real estate development.

**Dr Augustine Doronila** is research fellow from the School of Chemistry, University of Melbourne. He was awarded BalikScientist grant (an expatriate Filipino Scientist travel grant in February and July 2009). He was hosted by the Environmental Science Dept of Ateneo de Manila University and the Institute of Chemistry, University of the Philippines, Dilliman College. He is an expert on restoration ecology, mine site restoration, and biogeochemistry of toxic trace elements with 20 years experience in the field, having worked on different restoration research projects on mine sites from Western Australia and Victoria Australia. Augustine (a La Trobe University alumnus) shared his expertise as a Restoration Ecologist to the PASC partner Ateneo de Manila Departments of Environmental Science and Sociology and Anthropology. It was also an opportunity for him to engage other academics from the University of the Philippines as well as officials of the different environmental agencies and representatives of the mining industry in order to face a real challenge to haul the Philippine mining industry from a highly destructive and alienating scenario to one where stewardship, responsibility for this temporary land use and just relinquishment are standard operating procedures and a non negotiable mindset.

On returning from the successful engagement with the ADMU he has actively collaborated with Trevor Hogan in submitting two AusAid grant applications on novel multidisciplinary approaches to environmental education and developmental studies which could be beneficial to responsible and ecologically sustainable mining operations. An AusAid Leadership fellowship award was submitted in December 09 to support Assoc Prof Ana Labrador, Anthropologist ADMU Soc Sci entitled “Developing appropriate cultural criteria for post-mining closure in the Philippine mining industry”. The project is to evaluate state of the art developments in the Australian mining industry in relation to utilizing the ecological knowledge of Indigenous people to enhance mine closure strategies in the Philippines. Moreover, we have also recently submitted (February) a concept of activity for an AusAid Public Sector Linkage Program entitled “Restorative Ecological Knowledge: Integrating Scientific and Local Traditional Ecological Knowledge to improve university training and to enhance community based restoration and reforestation projects for post-mining and degraded landscapes in the Philippines”. We hope that will be also looked on favorably for the short list to submit a full application in June.

**Dr Kathleen Weekley** (previously Research Fellow, Centre for Asia-Pacific Transformation Studies (CAPTRANS), University of Wollongong), Honorary Research Fellow. Kathleen Weekley's tenure as Visiting Scholar with the PASC came to an end at the end of 2009. She would like to thank the PASC and in particular, Trevor Hogan, for giving her an intellectual home with the Centre for the past three years, giving her a chance to present her work, to participate in seminars, to meet interesting people and
to keep up with events and opinions in the Philippines. The latter will be much harder to do from France, where she will spend the next couple of years and will try her hand at fiction.

**NETWORKS**

**Australian Youth Ambassador for Development Ateneo Center for Educational Development**

**Student Exchanges**
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 both ways each year. This year two Filipino students Vic Inting and Nikko Antonio are studying Business and Computer Sciences for a semester. Unlike 2007, when two La Trobe students did Arts subjects (Timothy Andrews and Rory Shepherd), no La Trobe students have taken the exchange places. PASC continues to urge La Trobe students to take advantage of this facility to study 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](http://www.ateneo.edu/offices/pasn/index.html)

PASN is chaired by Dr Ma. Mercedes T. Rodrigo, Director, Office of International Programs. The Director is Professor Filomeno Aguilar.

**Australia Philippines Business Council (APBC)**
Website: [http://www.apbc.org.au/](http://www.apbc.org.au/)

PASC became a formal member of APBC in September 2004.

**Barangay Australia**

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 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

The School of Social Work and Social Policy at La Trobe and Community and Family Services International continue to have a mutually productive working relationship. Now in its 13th year the Memorandum of Agreement has the University sending social work students to Manila for their 14 week professional placement. This year two La Trobe students and two from Monash University will be on placement. All students will enjoy the chance to work face to face with local people on social development type projects.

Cliff Picton the University Ombudsman continues in his role as a Trustee of CFSI and attends Board meetings on a regular basis in Manila.

Philippine Studies Association of Australasia Inc
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. Its 50th Issue in 2008 was on Filipino Sexuality. The Journal has a new website hosted by RMIT (http://search.informit.com.au/). Membership of PSAA automatically links to Pilipinas subscription.

Dr Paul Mathews, Secretary,
Managing Editor, Pilipinas,
Philippine Studies Association of Australasia Inc. (PSAA)
PO Box 827
Jamison ACT 2614
Canberra, Australia

OBITUARIES:

Ric Manapat (1952 – 2008)

Philippines Australia Studies Centre
Website: http://www.latrobe.edu.au/pasc

La Trobe University
Victoria  3086
Australia

Trevor Hogan
Director
Email: t.hogan@latrobe.edu.au

Charles Mott
Deputy Director
Email: c.mott@latrobe.edu.au

Bronwyn Bardsley
Administrative Officer
Email: b.bardsley@latrobe.edu.au