



Philippines-Australia Forum at
La Trobe University

Annual Report 2022-23



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Message from our director



Dr Raul Sanchez-Urribarri

Director of the Philippines-Australia Forum (PAF) at La Trobe University

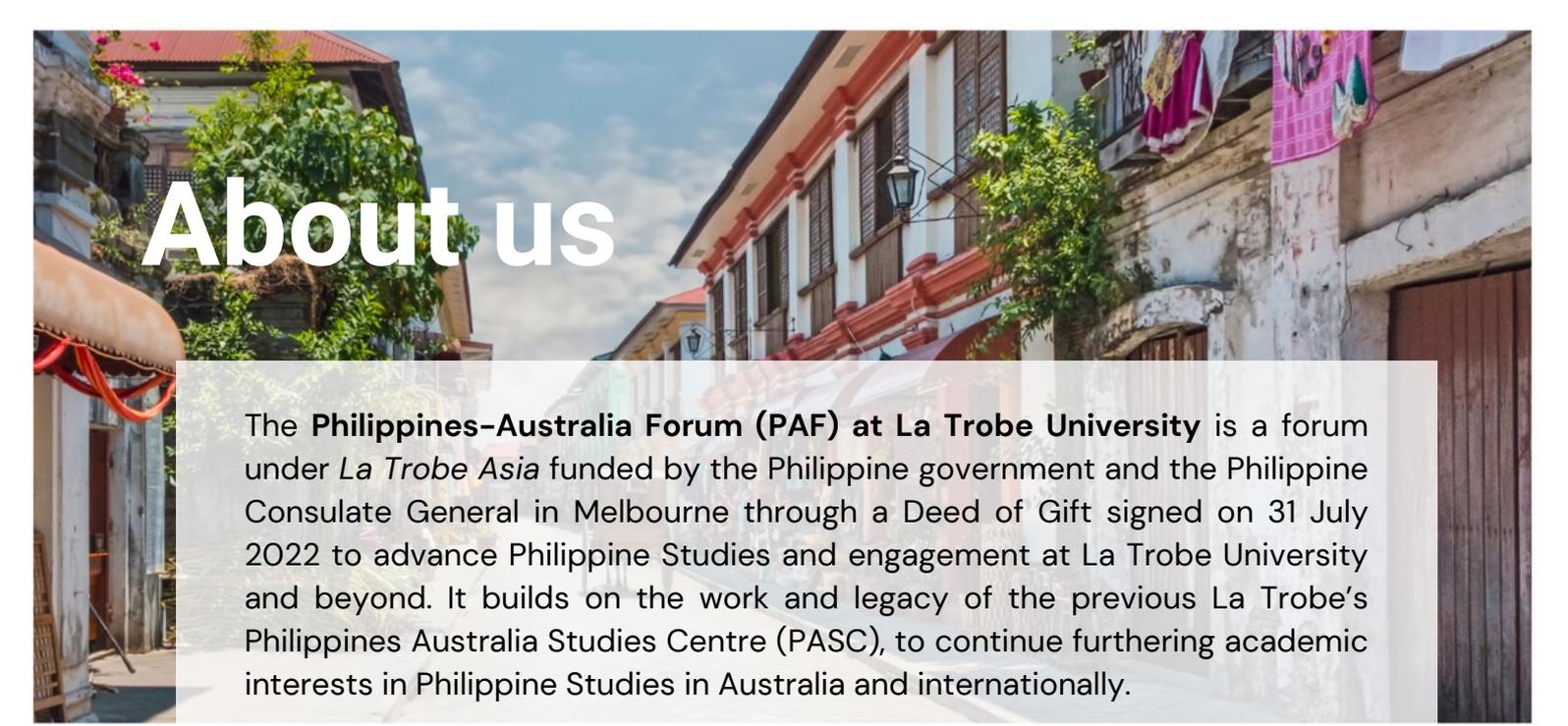
This has been a fantastic inaugural year for the Philippines-Australia Forum (PAF) at La Trobe.

Building on the legacy of the Philippines Australian Studies Centre (PASC) and the ongoing work of La Trobe Asia, and thanks to a *Deed of Gift* signed with the Philippine Consulate General in Melbourne, we have embarked in a rewarding journey to help enhance and strengthen Philippine-Australian relations across different themes and areas.

To do so, we have capitalised on our existing networks and connections with the Filipino community in Victoria - and Australia more generally - to develop a strong and varied program, including a vibrant seminar series, a research funding scheme that sponsored six (6) different projects, a special initiative to highlight the Philippine Studies collection at La Trobe's Borchardt Library, and a very successful annual meeting with FASTCO, among other notable initiatives.

I am very pleased to share our first Annual Report and I hope you find its reading rewarding and encouraging. We are very excited about the opportunities lying ahead.





About us

The **Philippines–Australia Forum (PAF) at La Trobe University** is a forum under *La Trobe Asia* funded by the Philippine government and the Philippine Consulate General in Melbourne through a Deed of Gift signed on 31 July 2022 to advance Philippine Studies and engagement at La Trobe University and beyond. It builds on the work and legacy of the previous La Trobe’s Philippines Australia Studies Centre (PASC), to continue furthering academic interests in Philippine Studies in Australia and internationally.



PAF at La Trobe brings together academics, students and interested members of the public (including the Filipino Diaspora). The network has grown over the past 12 months to almost 200 members from the Philippines and Australia. PAF has hosted in-person, online and hybrid events through the Philippines in Focus Seminar Series and featured academics, scholars and community leaders in Australia and the Philippines from a variety of institutions including the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman, Ateneo de Manila University, Deakin University, Monash University, Griffith University and University of Technology Sydney. The forum also organised a discussion panel with the Philippine Consulate General in Melbourne to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Philippine Independence in June 2023.

PAF at La Trobe also has a strong relationship with the Filipino community in Australia through the forum’s relationship with the Filipino–Australian Students Council of Victoria (FASTCO). PAF at La Trobe and FASTCO partnered to deliver the annual International Research Forum on the Philippines (IRFP) conference on 10–11 July 2023 with the main theme of: *Transcending Boundaries – The Filipino Diaspora in Action*.



The forum also worked with the La Trobe University Library to re-organise and revive the Philippine Collection of materials and books from the Borchardt library and launched a limited-time exhibition on 26 July 2023. In support of advancing Philippine Studies, PAF at La Trobe have also awarded six research grants to La Trobe University academics to conduct collaborative research projects in the Philippines. PAF at La Trobe works under *La Trobe Asia*, with the direction and collaboration of comparative law and politics specialist Dr Raul Sanchez Urribarri (Director) and Rei Fortes (Program Coordinator).

Our team



Associate Professor Bec Strating

Director - La Trobe Asia

Dr Bec Strating is the Director of La Trobe Asia and an Associate Professor of Politics and International Relations at La Trobe University, Melbourne. I received my PhD from Monash University in 2013. My research focuses on maritime disputes in Asia and Australian foreign and defence policy.

Dr Strating has written three sole-authored books, most recently *Defending the Maritime Rules-Based Order* (2020), co-edited special journal issues and one book (*Australia on the World Stage*, 2022), and written multiple journal articles and book chapters. In 2018, I was awarded the prestigious Boyer Prize by the Australian Institute of International Affairs for best article published in the *Australian Journal of International Affairs*.

Dr Strating the program lead for the DFAT-funded “Blue Security” network focused on maritime security issues in the Indo-Pacific. I am currently a non-visiting fellow at the Royal Australian Navy’s Seapower Centre, a member of the East West Centre Council on Indo-Pacific Relations, and incoming chair of the Women in International Security Australia’s steering committee.



Dr Raul Sanchez-Urribarri

Director - Philippines-Australia Forum (PAF) at La Trobe University

Dr Raul Sanchez Urribarri is the current Director of La Trobe's Philippines Australia Forum (PAF La Trobe). He is Associate Dean (Academic and International Partnerships) at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Senior Lecturer in Crime, Justice and Legal Studies at the Department of Social Inquiry, La Trobe University.

Dr Sanchez Urribarri has a strong interest in the internationalisation of higher education, particularly on strategy, partnership building, international mobility, and intercultural teaching. He is the Deputy Convener of the Teaching and Learning Network of the International Education Association of Australia (IEAA), and Vice-President of the U.S. based Consortium for Undergraduate Law and Justice Programs (CULJP). He is also a co-editor at *Thesis Eleven Journal* (SAGE), and past Chair of the Section on Venezuelan Studies at the Latin American Studies Association (LASA).

Dr Sanchez Urribarri holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of South Carolina, a Master of Laws (LLM) from Cambridge University and a Law degree from Universidad Catolica Andres Bello (Caracas, Venezuela). His research focuses on constitutionalism, judicial politics, and the rule of law in comparative perspective, with an emphasis on contexts of democratic deterioration.



Mr Rei Fortes

Program Coordinator - Philippines-Australia Forum (PAF) at La Trobe Univeristy

Rei Fortes is a Program Coordinator for the Philippines-Australia Forum (PAF) at La Trobe University. His primarily role involves building PAF at La Trobe’s network by planning and organising events with internal and external partners from the Filipino-Australian Diaspora. Rei also manages PAF at La Trobe’s communications with the network through a mailing list and various social media platforms.

He has worked with the Philippine Consulate General in Melbourne to organise an event celebrating the 125th Anniversary of Philippine Independence in June 2023. Rei also re-established La Trobe University’s relationship with the Filipino-Australia Students Council of Victoria (FASTCO) and helped organise the 2023 International Research Forum on the Philippines (IRFP) in July. Rei is also a Bachelor of Media and Communications (Journalism) graduate from La Trobe University. Outside of work, he enjoys exploring new cuisines, travelling and listening to music.



Event statistics

Over the past year, PAF at La Trobe has hosted 12 events that have brought together academics and community leaders, in Australia and the Philippines, to share their work and build stronger relationships with the Filipino Diaspora.

Please find below a record of our events and attendance statistics:

Date	Event name	Venue	Attendance
31/07/2022	Deed of gift signing at Philippine Consulate General in Melbourne. Embassy of the Philippines article HERE . SBS Filipino interview HERE . La Trobe University article HERE .	In-person	
19/10/2022	Philippines in Focus Seminar Series 2022-23 - 'Exploring the Filipino Community in Melbourne and Australia' + Launch event of PAF at La Trobe. Recording available HERE . Guest speaker(s): Ms Raine Cabral Laysico, Mr Melvin Mata, Ms May Red Zafra	Online	31 - Registered 24 - Attended 27 views - Recording
27/10/2022	Philippines in Focus Seminar Series 2022-23 - 'Space and Identity: Indian Diaspora in the Philippines'. Recording available HERE . Guest speaker: Mr Gilbert Jacob Que - Ateneo de Manila University Instructure and PhD student at La Trobe University	Online	52 - Registered 27 - Attended 26 views - Recording

Date	Event name	Venue	Attendance
03/11/2022	<p>Philippines in Focus Seminar Series 2022-23 - 'Relational Inequality and COVID-19 in the Philippines'.</p> <p>Recording available HERE.</p> <p>Guest speaker: Ms Jacqueline Marie Tolentino - Ateneo de Manila University Instructor and PhD student at La Trobe University</p>	Online	<p>44 - Registered 22 - Attended 26 views - Recording</p>
10/11/2022	<p>Philippines in Focus Seminar Series 2022-23 - 'Contingent Breadwinners: Precarious Livelihoods of Left-Behind Family Members of Filipino Victims of Trafficking'.</p> <p>Recording available HERE.</p> <p>Guest speaker: Dr Sallie Yea - Tracey Banivanua Reaserch Fellow La Trobe University</p>	Online	<p>48 - Registered 28 - Attended 15 views - Recording</p>
23/02/2023	<p>Philippines in Focus Seminar Series 2022-23 - 'Digital media communication technologies influence on transnational Filipino families'.</p> <p>Guest speaker: Dr Earvin Charles B. Cabalquinto - ARC DECRA Research Fellow and Lecturer in Comunciations at Monash University</p>	Hybrid (online & in-person)	<p>29 - Registered 24 - Attended</p>
16/03/2023	<p>Philippines in Focus Seminar Series 2022-23 - 'Communities, lived behaviours and experiences of Filipino gamers in the virtual worlds (spaces) of games'</p> <p>Guest speaker: Ms Hannah Ruth Sison - Instructor at De La Salle-College of St Benilde and PhD student of Mass Comm in Uniersity of Philippines Diliman; multimedia artist and model</p>	Hybrid (online & in-person)	<p>28 - Registered 21 - Attended</p>
04/05/2023	<p>Asian Studies in Focus Seminar Series & Philippines in Focus Seminar Series 2023 - 'Global Mobility and the Power of Cross-Cultural Intelligence: Insights for Filipino Diaspora in Australia'.</p> <p>Recording available HERE.</p> <p>Guest speaker: Associate Professor Alfred Presbitero, MBA (International) Director, Deakin Business School, Deakin University</p>	Hybrid (online & in-person)	<p>99 - Registered 47 - Attended 45 views - Recording</p>

Date	Event name	Venue	Attendance
12/05/2023	<p>Philippines in Focus Seminar Series 2022-23 - 'Medical populism and how COVID-19 was handled in the Philippines'.</p> <p>Recording available HERE.</p> <p>Guest speaker: Gideo Lasco - Physician and medical anthropologist; Senior Lecturer at University of Philippines Diliman</p>	Online	<p>48 - Registered 30 - Attended 21 views - Recording</p>
23/06/2023	<p>Hybrid Discussion Panel to celebrate 125th Anniversary of Philippines Independence 'Exploring the History of the Filipino-Australian Diaspora and Philippine Migration'</p> <p>Recording available HERE.</p> <p>Guest speaker(s):</p> <p>Ms Melba Marginson - Chairperson of the Silent Witness Network Inc and Former Victorian Multicultural Commissioner</p> <p>Dr Kristine Aquino - Senior Lecturer in International Studies and Global Societies, <i>University of Technology Sydney</i></p> <p>Mr Carl Anacin - PhD Candidate researching Filipino musician's translocality in Australia, Musician & Radio host, <i>Griffith University</i></p> <p>Dr Ana Labrador - Honorary Senior Fellow of the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, <i>University of Melbourne</i></p> <p>Dr Trevor Hogan - Adjunct Senior Research Fellow in Sociology, <i>La Trobe University</i></p>	Hybrid (online & in-person)	<p>123 - Registered 69 - Attended 41 views - Recording</p>

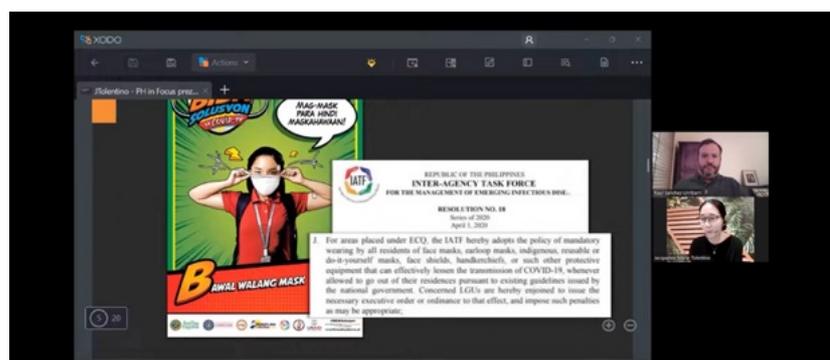
Date	Event name	Venue	Attendance
10-11/07/2023	<p>International Research Forum on the Philippines (IRFP) conference in partnership with Filipino-Australian Students Council of Victoria (FASTCO)</p> <p>Recording available HERE.</p> <p>Photos available HERE.</p> <p>Key theme: Transcending Boundaries: The Filipino Diaspora in Action</p>	In-person - Hybrid for speakers	79 - Registered 51 - Attended
26/07/2023	<p>La Trobe Borchardt Library (Bundoora) Launch event for Philippine Collection Exhibition (August 2023).</p> <p>The Philippine Times article - read HERE.</p> <p>La Trobe news announcement - read HERE.</p> <p>Pinoy TV Australia video package - watch HERE.</p>	In-person	24 - Registered 26 - Attended ~11,500 views - La Trobe Open day (6 Aug 2023)

Events - Academic and Community Engagement

PAF at La Trobe began its academic and community engagement by establishing an online audience with the creation of the [@PAFLaTrobe](#) Twitter account, [PAF at La Trobe](#) webpage, and reaching out to academics and members of the community to build the PAF network mailing list.

Our team also re-established contact with the Filipino-Australian Students Council of Victoria (FASTCO) to meet the members of the executive committee and begin planning for the International Research Forum on the Philippines (IRFP) 2023 conference.

Following this, the forum launched the Philippines in Focus Seminar Series in October 2022 which included key members of the Filipino-Australian community in Victoria, three of the six PhD candidates from Ateneo de Manila University, and a Tracey Banivanua Mar Fellow at La Trobe University.



Date	Event name	Venue	Attendance
19/10/2022	<p>Philippines in Focus Seminar Series 2022-23 - 'Exploring the Filipino Community in Melbourne and Australia' + Launch event of PAF at La Trobe.</p> <p>Recording available HERE.</p> <p>Guest speaker(s): Ms Raine Cabral Laysico, Mr Melvin Mata, Ms May Red Zafra</p>	Online	<p>31 - Registered 24 - Attended 27 views - Recording</p>
27/10/2022	<p>Philippines in Focus Seminar Series 2022-23 - 'Space and Identity: Indian Diaspora in the Philippines'.</p> <p>Recording available HERE.</p> <p>Guest speaker: Mr Gilbert Jacob Que - Ateneo de Manila University Instructure and PhD student at La Trobe University</p>	Online	<p>52 - Registered 27 - Attended 26 views - Recording</p>
03/11/2022	<p>Philippines in Focus Seminar Series 2022-23 - 'Relational Inequality and COVID-19 in the Philippines'.</p> <p>Recording available HERE.</p> <p>Guest speaker: Ms Jacqueline Marie Tolentio - Ateneo de Manila University Instructor and PhD student at La Trobe University</p>	Online	<p>44 - Registered 22 - Attended 26 views - Recording</p>
10/11/2022	<p>Philippines in Focus Seminar Series 2022-23 - 'Contingent Breadwinners: Precarious Livelihoods of Left-Behind Family Members of Filipino Victims of Trafficking'.</p> <p>Recording available HERE.</p> <p>Guest speaker: Dr Sallie Yea - Tracey Banivanua Reaserch Fellow La Trobe University</p>	Online	<p>48 - Registered 28 - Attended 15 views - Recording</p>

From late-February to May 2023, PAF at La Trobe continued its Philippines in Focus Seminar Series with events featuring academics and scholars from Deakin and Monash University in Australia and the University of the Philippines Diliman in the Philippines.



Populism and medicine

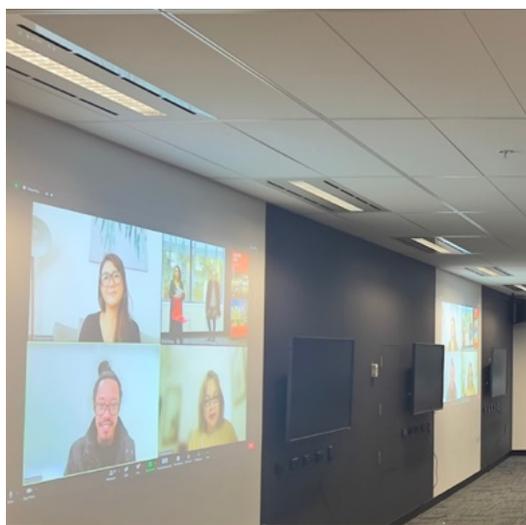
- Health issues are highly amenable to populist tropes given that they are matters of life and death
- Health issues, moreover, demand emergency responses
- It can either be left-wing or right-wing, depending on the political context
- Related: Demagoguery, nationalism




Date	Event name	Venue	Attendance
23/02/2023	<p>Philippines in Focus Seminar Series 2022-23 - 'Digital media communication technologies influence on transnational Filipino families'.</p> <p>Guest speaker: Dr Earvin Charles B. Cabalquinto - ARC DECRA Research Fellow and Lecturer in Communications at Monash University</p>	Hybrid (online & in-person)	29 - Registered 24 - Attended
16/03/2023	<p>Philippines in Focus Seminar Series 2022-23 - 'Communities, lived behaviours and experiences of Filipino gamers in the virtual worlds (spaces) of games'</p> <p>Guest speaker: Ms Hannah Ruth Sison - Instructor at De La Salle-College of St Benilde and PhD student of Mass Comm in University of Philippines Diliman; multimedia artist and model</p>	Hybrid (online & in-person)	28 - Registered 21 - Attended
04/05/2023	<p>Asian Studies in Focus Seminar Series & Philippines in Focus Seminar Series 2023 - 'Global Mobility and the Power of Cross-Cultural Intelligence: Insights for Filipino Diaspora in Australia'.</p> <p>Recording available HERE.</p> <p>Guest speaker: Associate Professor Alfred Presbitero, MBA (International) Director, Deakin Business School, Deakin University</p>	Hybrid (online & in-person)	99 - Registered 47 - Attended 45 views - Recording
12/05/2023	<p>Philippines in Focus Seminar Series 2022-23 - 'Medical populism and how COVID-19 was handled in the Philippines'.</p> <p>Recording available HERE.</p> <p>Guest speaker: Gideo Lasco - Physician and medical anthropologist; Senior Lecturer at University of Philippines Diliman</p>	Online	48 - Registered 30 - Attended 21 views - Recording

In June 2023, PAF at La Trobe partnered with the Philippine Consulate General in Melbourne and organised a hybrid discussion panel to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Philippine Independence. The event was part of the Philippine Consulate General’s series of harmonised events in Victoria to celebrate 125 years of Philippine independence, culture and history.

Our team invited four academics and a key member of the Filipino-Australian community to discuss the history of History of the Filipino-Australian Diaspora and Philippine Migration.



Date	Event name	Venue	Attendance
23/06/2023	<p>Hybrid Discussion Panel to celebrate 125th Anniversary of Philippines Independence ‘Exploring the History of the Filipino-Australian Diaspora and Philippine Migration’</p> <p>Recording available HERE.</p> <p>Guest speaker(s):</p> <p>Ms Melba Marginson - Chairperson of the Silent Witness Network Inc and Former Victorian Multicultural Commissioner</p> <p>Dr Kristine Aquino - Senior Lecturer in International Studies and Global Societies, University of Technology Sydney</p> <p>Mr Carl Anacin - PhD Candidate researching Filipino musician’s translocality in Australia, Musician & Radio host, Griffith University</p> <p>Dr Ana Labrador - Honorary Senior Fellow of the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, University of Melbourne</p> <p>Dr Trevor Hogan - Adjunct Senior Research Fellow in Sociology, La Trobe University</p>	Hybrid (online & in-person)	123 - Registered 69 - Attended 41 views - Recording

After months of planning and communication, FASTCO and PAF at La Trobe held the return of the International Research Forum on the Philippines (IRFP) 2023 conference at La Trobe University's Bundoora campus.

The 2-day conference from 10-11 July, invited Filipino academics, students and community leaders from across Australia and the Philippines to share their work in various plenary and discussion sessions, participate in workshops and be involved in the sharing of knowledge about the Philippines to each other and the general public community.

Participants also had the opportunity to have a BBQ lunch at La Trobe University's wildlife sanctuary and be immersed in the natural habitat surrounding the La Trobe Bundoora campus.



Date	Event name	Venue	Attendance
10-11/07/2023	International Research Forum on the Philippines (IRFP) conference in partnership with Filipino-Australian Students Council of Victoria (FASTCO) Recording available HERE . Photos available HERE . Key theme: Transcending Boundaries: The Filipino Diaspora in Action	In-person - Hybrid for speakers	79 - Registered 51 - Attended

PAF at La Trobe held its last event on the 26 July 2023 with the launch of the Philippine Collection Exhibition at La Trobe University’s Borchardt library. The event is the culmination of a project initiated in February 2023 with the mission of revitalising over 600 books and materials about the Philippines acquired by Dietrich Borchardt, the founding librarian, at La Trobe University since the late-1960s.

Our team worked with Mr David Groenewegen the current Head Librarian at La Trobe University and Ms Adele Walsh Senior Coordinator of Library Community Programs and Engagement to help re-organise, increase the visibility and allow the Philippine Collection to be more accessible for the community.

Dr Robert Nery, an Honorary Associate in Sociology (recommended by Dr Trevor Hogan) was hired to go through the collection and organise the resources to have a clearer understanding of the size and range of the Philippine Collection.

Dr Nery also assisted in hand picking books from the Philippine Collection to display at the limited time exhibition and was involved in writing the didactics for the books on display. Finally, he also developed and created a bibliography of more than 600 materials and books found in the Philippine Collection today – a list that will be updated as more resources are discovered.

Currently, the collection is widely diverse and includes historical and scientific works about Philippine flora and fauna from the early 1800s to the 1940s and research in sociology, anthropology, and health and medicine. Several books in the collection also highlight indigenous groups in the Philippines such as the Ifugao and Abellen Aytas people groups.



Date	Event name	Venue	Attendance
26/07/2023	La Trobe Borchardt Library (Bundoora) Launch event for Philippine Collection Exhibition (August 2023). The Philippine Times article - read HERE . La Trobe news announcement - read HERE . Pinoy TV Australia video package - watch HERE .	In-person	24 - Registered 26 - Attended ~11,500 views - La Trobe Open day (6 Aug 2023)



Research and publications

Research

Over the past year, PAF at La Trobe also had the opportunity to award six research grants to La Trobe University and academics from Australian institutions conducting research with collaborations in the Philippines. One of the grant recipients includes a research project under the New Colombo Plan initiative.

Several of the research collaborators include: Ateneo de Manila University, Eastern Visayas State University, University of the Philippines, National Museum of the Philippines, Scalabrini Migration Centre in Quezon City and ASEAN-ACT.

Dr Brooke Wilmsen's research on **Exploring the Impacts of Climate Gentrification in Coastal Cities in the Philippines** has seen success. She presented a talk about her research at Eastern Visayas State University (ESVU) and garnered a lot of attention on how her findings can help improve the situations of climate relocation gentrification in cities such as Tacloban and Leyte.

Dr Wilmsen conducted field studies in the region with researchers from La Trobe University and ESVU and was featured in an article on [ESVU's website](#).

Dr Wilmsen also received an extension of her partnership and further funding for her research with ESVU, Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU) and Visayas State University (VSU) through an ARC Discovery/Linkage project.

She has informed PAF at La Trobe that two students, one from ESVU and one from EVU will be applying to La Trobe University in 2024 as a result of this research project.



IZN, ORDExS collaborate in Development Studies Forum

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Posted on March 14, 2023

The Office of Research and Development, and Extension Services, in collaboration with the Office of Internationalization for Higher Education, conducted a Development Studies Forum with Dr. Brooke Wilmsen at the ORDExS Studio Room, March 10 at 1:00-4:00 in the afternoon.

The key officials of the university, deans, directors, academic unit heads, faculty, and students graced the event.



ID	Title	Investigators – La Trobe	Investigators – Philippines	Partner Institution names	Amount (AU)
PAF Grant 1 – Wilmsen	Exploring the Drivers and Impacts of Climate Gentrification in a Coastal City in the Philippines	Brooke Wilmsen Justin See (Sydney Environmental Institute, University of Sydney)	Ginbert Permejo Cuaton Pearly Joy Perante Peja	Eastern Visayas State University Ateneo de Manila University	\$7,406.00
PAF Grant 2 - Herries	Reconstructing the age, behaviour and environment of <i>Homo luzonensis</i> and its ancestors.	Andy Herries, Eunice Lalunio	Armand Slavador Mijares – field site collaborator	University of the Philippines Diliman and National Museum of the Philippines	\$8,000.00
PAF Grant 3 – Steiner/Gupta	New Colombo Plan Seed Project	Kerstin Steiner, Sabrina Gupta	n/a	n/a	\$6,875.00
PAF Grant 4 – Yea	Climate change-induced labour migration in the Philippines	Sallie Yea	Marla Asis, Maria Hermida, Philippines Office	Scalabrini Migration Centre, Quezon City; University of the Philippines; ASEAN-ACT	\$8,000.00
PAF Grant 5 – Mechler	Enhancing Anti-Microbial Properties of Medicinal Plants with Selected Metals	Adam Mechler, Patrick Perlmutter	Fabian Davrit	Ateneo de Manila University	\$8,000.00
PAF Grant 6 – Roche	Human Rights and Indigenous Languages in the Philippines	Gerald Roche	Tuting Hernandez, Sol Iglesias, Efenita M. Tagueban	University of the Philippines Diliman	\$7,894.00

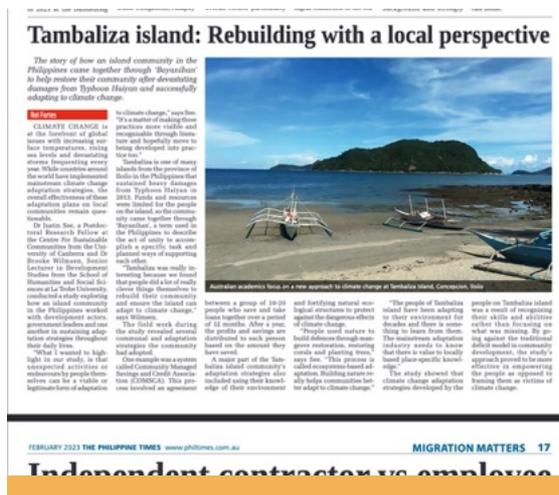
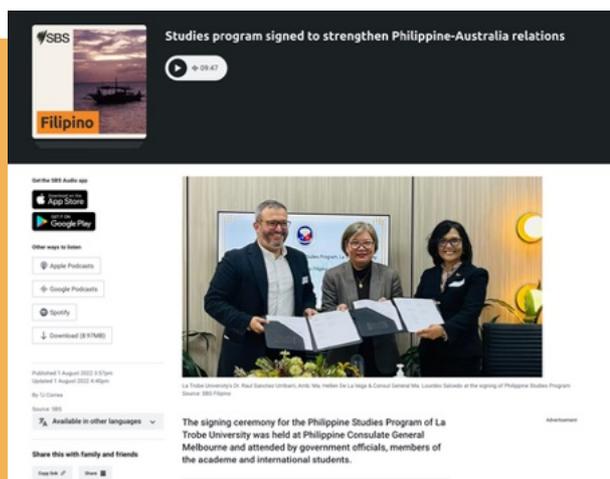
Publications

The growth and development of PAF at La Trobe's network to almost 200 members has allowed the forum to build new connections in both the academic and Filipino Diaspora community in Victoria and across Australia.

This has led to PAF at La Trobe becoming familiar with several Filipino owned restaurants and business in Melbourne such as CEREE and Tambayan Restaurant & Grill. More importantly, these new relationships have led our team to develop healthy relationships with media organisations that promote and share stories about the Filipino community such as The Philippine Times (Australia), SBS Filipino and Pinoy TV Australia.

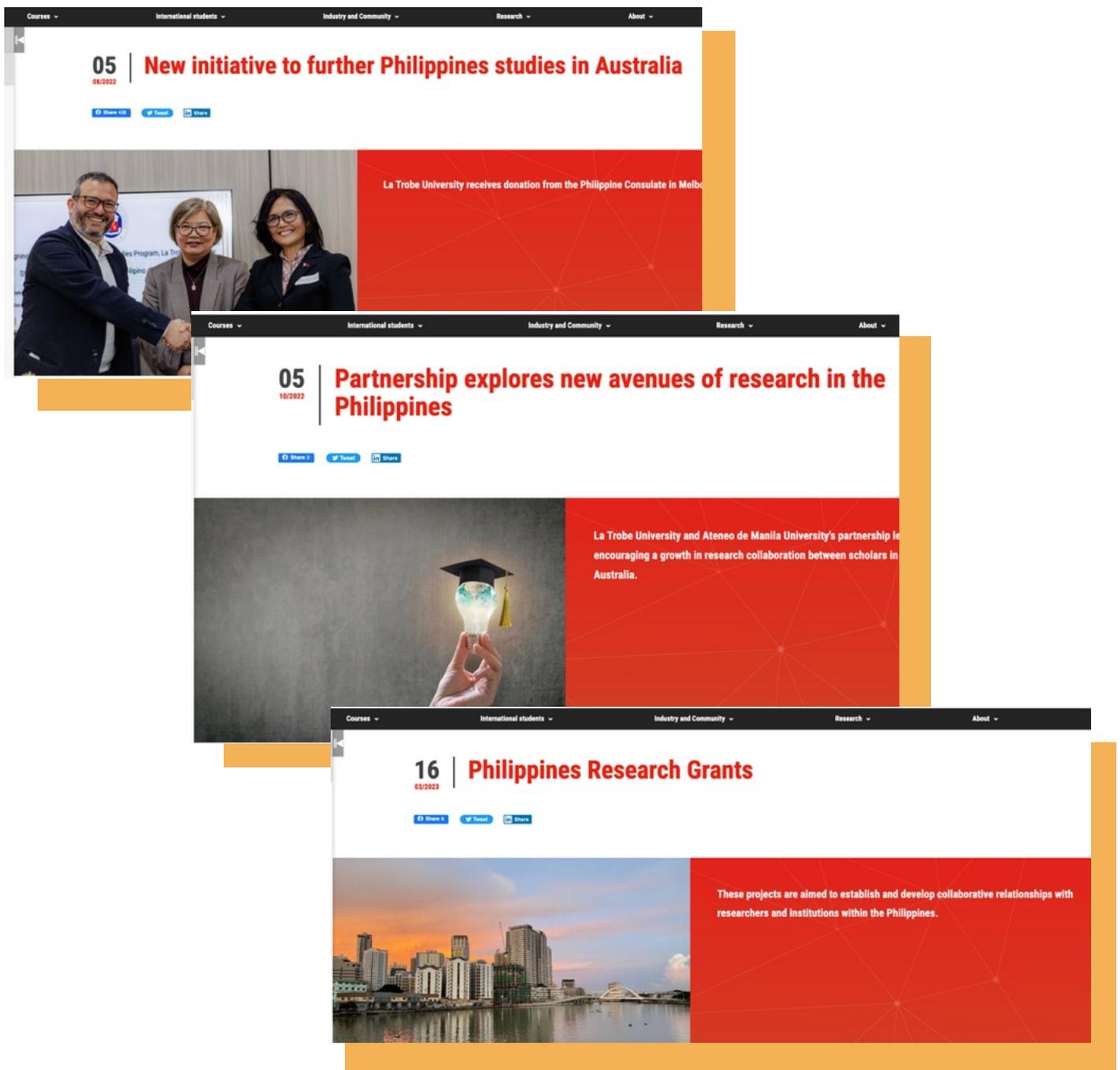
Please find below several media publications about PAF at La Trobe:

- SBS Filipino [broadcast interview](#) about Philippine studies program (August 2022).
- The Philippine Times Australia feature story – February 2023 print Edition: [‘Tambaliza island: Rebuilding with a local perspective’](#) (pg 16).
- SBS Filipino [broadcast interview](#) on Philippine Australia Forum: building understanding through academic research (February 2023).
- SBS Filipino [broadcast interview](#) on International Research Forum on the Philippines returns July (June 2023).
- The Philippine Times (Australia) [article](#) on limited-time Philippine Collection Exhibition at the La Trobe University Borchardt Library.
- Pinoy TV Australia [video package](#) about the Philippine Collection Exhibition at the La Trobe University Borchardt Library.



PAF at La Trobe has also published several stories on the PAF at La Trobe webpage written by Program Coordinator Rei Fortes:

- News story on [Deed of Gift signing](#) for advancing Philippines Studies at La Trobe University and beyond (05 August 2022).
- Story covering more than [two-decade partnership](#) between La Trobe University and Ateneo de Manila University with the 2019 PhD partnership program (05 October 2022).
- Research by Dr Brooke Wilmsen and Dr Justin See on [Tambaliza island](#) in the Philippines (15 November 2022).
- Announcement of PAF at La Trobe [research grant recipients](#) (16 March 2023).







Two pillars

1

Community building: Continuation of PAF activities for 2024

The Philippines-Australia Forum (PAF) at La Trobe University aims to continue the activities and events we have hosted over the past year, such as the Philippines in Focus Seminar series, to continue providing a platform in academia to share knowledge about the Philippines and encourage new collaborations in academia.

PAF at La Trobe aims to continue being a platform in highlighting the excellent work accomplished by Filipinos in the world of academia to strengthen existing relationships and create new opportunities beyond academia and within the Filipino Diaspora in Australia.

2

Art & Culture: Supporting upcoming Australian and Filipino creative artists

The Philippines-Australia Forum (PAF) at La Trobe University aims to venture beyond the world of academia and as a forum plans to expand in creating a space for upcoming Filipino and Australian creative artists to showcase their work and engage in cultural exchange beyond national borders.

This goal builds upon the previous programs initiated by Dr Trevor Hogan at La Trobe University in bringing Filipino artists to Melbourne and flying Australian creatives to Manila.

PAF at La Trobe aims to re-ignite these initiative with the next generation of creative artists.



"The Philippines-Australia Forum at La Trobe University is a great initiative to advance Philippine studies in Australia. This is crucial not only for the growing Filipino communities in Australia but also for Australians who want to foster cultural understanding with the Philippines.

The seminar series, for example, showcased multidisciplinary topics that elicited public engagement and discussions. Moreover, PAF strengthens academic connections between Australian institutions (specifically La Trobe) and researchers and their Philippine counterparts.

It is actually surprising for me how Raul and Rei (and the rest of the PAF team) can do so much. I imagine the huge effort at planning, coordination, and logistics. that is involved in executing these projects. I appreciate both the professionalism that they have exhibited as well as the personal dedication and care they have for PAF's mission."

Mr Francis Sollano, Instructor at Ateneo de Manila University Loyola Heights campus and PhD graduate of La Trobe University

"PAF has done a great job in bringing together not only academics interested in Philippine Studies but also community leaders in Melbourne and in wider Victoria. PAF has opened an avenue to share more about the Philippines to the wider Australian community. It has also offered valuable discourse into different successful projects, challenges and future plans of the Filipino-Australian community.

I'm really glad to have worked with Raul one of the webinar. I appreciate that Rei is keeping me informed and updated with different activities in PAF. He also organised get together with Filo La Trobe University Alumni, that was great and a meaningful experience. I look forward to be see more PAF activities and I'm also happy to participate."

Ms May Red Zafra, ELTS/PTE/ General English Teacher at Turner English College and CEO &. Founder of Tagalog Learning Inc. Recipient of the 2022 Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll Awards

"PAF at La Trobe's devotion to bringing cross-cut theories into a practical way is really embedded with what PAF is currently doing right now. We are ecstatic about PAF's expansion and firmly believe all its endeavors.

"In order to link PAF programmes with diverse communities and organisations, Rei and Raul have been crucial. Their commitment to promoting PAF's are evident throughout their collocation to various organisations. Fortunately, we were able to work together on our IRFP programmes. Their theoretical and practical insights played a critical role in guaranteeing the conference's success. We sincerely appreciate all of their help and assistance."

Mr Remart Dumalo, President of the Filipino-Australian Students Council of Victoria (FASTCO) 2022-23



Philippines-Australia Forum at La Trobe University



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