# Melisa S. L. Casumbal-Salazar

Whitman College
Department of Politics
345 Boyer Ave.
Walla Walla, WA 99362
509.527.5889
casumbms@whitman.edu

## **EDUCATION**

2012	Ph.D., University of Hawai'i - Mānoa, Department of Political Science, Honolulu,
	HI. Graduate Certificates: International Cultural Studies and Philippine Studies.
2004	M.A., Department of Political Science, University of Hawai'i – Mānoa.
2003	M.A., Asian Studies Program, University of Hawai'i – Mānoa.
1996	B.A., Amherst College, Interdisciplinary Studies (Women's and Gender Studies,
	Asian Studies, Political Science), Magna cum laude.

# **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

2012 - Present	Assistant Professor, Department of Politics, Whitman College
2007 - 2009	Lecturer, Political Science and Women's Studies, University of Hawai'i –
	Mānoa

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### Refereed Journal Articles

"Trauma, Time, and Mediated Mass Killing: Maguindanao, 2009." *positions: Asia critique*. Duke University Press. Invited to Resubmit, March 2014.

## **Book Chapters**

"Narratives of the Vulval Curse in Bontok and Kalinga, Philippines," in Mary Mostafanezhad, Suzanne Finney, Guido Pigliasco, and Forrest Young, eds., *Cultural Encounters: Ethnographic Updates from Asia and the Pacific Islands*, Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press. Forthcoming 2014.

"Before you mine the earth, mine me!' – Gender, the body, and extractive development in Bontok and Kalinga, Cordillera, Philippines." *Baring it All: Women, Nudity and Social Protest*, eds. Sylvia Maier and Jens Rudbeck. January 2014.

## Papers Under Review

"Indigeneity, Cultural Governance, and Temporality in the Multicultural Philippines." *Amerasia Journal Special Issue: Indigenous Asias*. University of California – Los Angeles Asian American Studies Center Press. June 2014

#### MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Book Manuscript: Unintelligible Bodies: Gender, Race, and Necropower in the Philippines. Based on fieldwork in 2009-2010 in the Cordillera, Philippines as a Fulbright scholar, the book examines how concerns about the feminine body shape conceptions of political subjectivity in the Philippines. Through analysis of events, visual culture, activist and official historical narratives, and a wide array of modes of socio-political transformation, I demonstrate how Filipinas negotiate variant forms of necropower – sovereign power utilized to exercise control over mortality and its enabling conditions (Mbembe 2003) – to render themselves legible as political subjects. I theorize how necropower is gendered and racialized in the contemporary Philippines, and how it intersects with neoliberal policy imperatives, by focusing on the feminine body as a locus of both subjection and resistance to necropower.

*Article:* "Claims on the National Uterus: The Filipina Body in Debates Over the Reproductive Health Law of 2012."

Based on two weeks of fieldwork in Manila in 2013, this project theorizes reproductive governmentality in the Philippines as the ensemble of processes, forms of knowledge, and institutions whose objective is to intervene in the reproductive health of targeted populations of Filipinas. How does the feminine body figure in the framing of reproductive health policy? How do these problematizations advance or contest the feminine body's subjection to disciplinary power or control? What images of sovereign power and women's political subjectivity emerge from these problematizations? Reproductive health advocacy in the Philippines is both an imperialist and anti-imperialist feminist formation in which gendered discourses of benevolence, self-control, and bodily autonomy are woven together to articulate official nationalist, nationalist feminist, and transnational feminist political claims.

## **GRANTS & AWARDS**

2014	Fall Abshire Student Research Scholar Award, Whitman College
2014	Spring Abshire Student Research Scholar Award, Whitman College
2013	Louis B. Perry Research Award, Whitman College
2009-2010	Fulbright Grant, J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board & Philippine-
	American Educational Foundation
2009	Nobumotu Tanahashi Research Scholarship, University of Hawai'i – Mānoa
2008	Dai Ho Chun Research Fellowship, University of Hawai'i -Mānoa, Graduate
	Division Fellowships and Scholarships Office
2002-2004	East-West Center (EWC) Graduate Fellowship, East-West Center, Honolulu, HI
2003	Advanced Filipino Language Abroad Fellow, De La Salle University, Manila,
	Philippines; University of Hawai'i-Mānoa, School of Indo-Pacific Languages
	and Literatures

## **INVITED TALKS**

"An Aesthetic Politics of Gendered Violence: The Maguindanao Massacre, *Kinatay*, and National Times." Women's Studies Fall 2010 Colloquium Series, University of Hawai'i – Mānoa, Honolulu, HI, November 19, 2010.

"Confessions of an Accidental Ethnographer." Re-Engaging the 'Field' in Fieldwork Panel Discussion, Cordillera Studies Center, University of the Philippines-Baguio, Baguio City, Philippines, June 26, 2009.

## **CONFERENCES**

# Refereed Paper Presentations

"Claims on the National Uterus: The Filipina Body in Debates Over the Reproductive Health Law of 2012." International Studies Association Global South Conference, Singapore. January 7-9, 2015.

"Claims on the National Uterus: The Filipina Body in Debates Over the Reproductive Health Law of 2012." National Women's Studies Association Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico. November 12-15, 2014.

"Indigenous Politics and Vulval Visuality." Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Annual Meeting, Austin, TX. May 29 - 31, 2014.

"Before you mine the earth, mine me!": Gender, the body, and extractive development in Bontok and Kalinga, Cordillera, Philippines." International Studies Association Annual Convention, Toronto, Canada. March 26 – March 29, 2014.

"Masculine Ethics with Feminine Bodies? Aesthetics, Politics, the Maguindanao Massacre, and *Kinatay (Butchered)* (Dir. Brilliante Mendoza, 2009)." Annual Joint Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) & International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS), Honolulu, HI. March 31-April 3, 2011.

"Eruptions of Indigeneity: From 'Wild Tribes' to 'National Living Treasures." International Studies Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA. March 26 – March 29, 2008.

"The National Living Treasure, The Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act, and a Politics of Corporeality in the Contemporary Philippines." First International Conference on Cordillera Studies, Baguio City, Philippines. February 7-9, 2008.

"The Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act and a Politics of Corporeality." Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast Annual Conference, Honolulu, HI. June 15-17, 2007.

"Native Land Law and The Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act." International Studies Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL. Feb. 28 – March 3, 2007.

"Subverting Commodity Fetishism: a Feminist Reading of the Non-Productive, Indigenous Bare Breast." Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Women and Politics Section Pre-Conference, Philadelphia, PA. August 30, 2006.

"Towards An Overdetermined Analysis of the Overseas Foreign Worker (OFW): 'National Development,' Surplus, and Filipina Migrant Care Production." Marxism and the World Stage Annual Conference, sponsored by the journal *Rethinking Marxism*, Amherst, MA. November 19-21, 2003.

"'Filipinizing' Joey Ayala: Anti/National Music and the Politics of Sacred Belonging." Association of Asian American Studies Annual Conference, San Fransisco, CA. May 16-19, 2003.

"Defending Nation, Farm, and Genes: Resistance to Bio-Piracy and Genetic Engineering in Southeast Asia." University of Hawai'i- Mānoa School of Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Island Studies Graduate Student Conference, Honolulu, HI. March 2002. Winner, Professor Nguyen Dang Liem Memorial Prize, for outstanding conference paper on Southeast Asia.

## Discussant

"Intersections and Violence" Panel, Western Political Science Association, April 17-19, 2014.

#### Roundtable

"What Is Decolonial about U.S.-Filipino Studies?" Roundtable Participant, Critical Ethnic Studies and the Future of Genocide Conference, University of California-Riverside, Riverside, CA. March 12, 2011.

# **CAMPUS TALKS, WHITMAN COLLEGE**

"Trauma, Time, and Mediated Mass Killing: Maguindanao, 2009." Gender Studies Panel on Gendered Violence, October 22, 2014, Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA.

"Race and Feminism." Panel Participant, October 2013, Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA.

# COURSES TAUGHT, WHITMAN COLLEGE

POL 497/498: Senior Thesis/Honors Thesis (Spring 2014, Spring 2013)

POL 490: Senior Seminar (Fall 2013, Fall 2012)

POL 351: Necropower and the Politics of Violence (Spring 2014, Spring 2013)

POL 337: Globalizing Southeast Asia (Fall 2014, Spring 2013)

POL 236: Concepts of the Political in Southeast Asia: An Introduction (Fall 2014, Fall 2012)

POL 100: Introduction to Race, Gender, Sexuality, and the Politics of the Body (Fall 2014, Fall 2013)

## COURSES TAUGHT, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I - MANOA

POLS 305: Global Politics - Comparative Politics (Summer 2011)

POLS 335: Political Philosophy & Theory (Summer 2010, Summer 2008, Fall 2007, Summer 2007, Spring 2007)

POLS 130: Introduction to U.S. Politics (Spring 2008, Fall 2006)

Women's Studies 360/Ethnic Studies 365: Pacific Islander and Asian Women in Hawai'i (Summer 2008)

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Proposal Reviewer, National Women's Studies Association Conference, 2014.

# **SERVICE, WHITMAN COLLEGE**

Director, Race and Ethnic Studies Program, 2014.

Race and Ethnic Studies Program Steering Committee, 2013-2014.

Creator and Faculty Coordinator, For Us By Us (FUBU), faculty of color mentoring program for students of color, 2013-2014.

Power and Privilege Symposium panelist, "Intersectionality," 2014.

Cross-Disciplinary Learning and Teaching Initiative: Writing the Self, 2014.

Innovation in Teaching and Learning (ITL): Race and Ethnic Studies Program Foundations Course Syllabus Development Project, 2013-2014.

Campus visit co-host, Global Studies Program O'Donnell Fellow, S. Charusheela (University of Washington-Bothell), 2013.

## **RESEARCH AREAS**

Southeast Asian Politics; Violence; Gender and Transnational Feminisms; Indigenous Politics; Political Theory; Race and Racialization; Asian Cultural Studies

## **LANGUAGES**

Filipino/Tagalog: reading and writing – excellent, speaking – good

French: reading and writing – good, speaking - conversational

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

International Studies Association, Association for Asian Studies, Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, National Women's Studies Association, ASIANetwork, Critical Ethnic Studies Association.

# ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1	$\sim$	$\cap$	$\sim$	$\sim$	$^{\sim}$	$\sim$	$\sim$
	u	u	u	-2	11	"	"
	•	,	•	-~	1,	<b>\</b>	<b>、</b>

Program Director, National Youth Advocacy Coalition, Washington, DC. Directed all operations of national information clearinghouse on LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) youth issues, including \$100,000 annual budget and five-year cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Adolescent and School Health. Wrote policy briefs, news articles, and position papers on issues facing queer Asian, Pacific Islander, and other youth of color communities. Provided technical assistance to member organizations and allies in policy advocacy, program development, and social justice movement-building with working poor, immigrant, and people of color communities.

1997-1998

Field Manager, PFLAG (Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays), Washington, DC. Provided technical assistance on organizational and program development issues to 130+ chapters of national member-based organization. Coordinated activities of four volunteer Regional Directors. Wrote policy briefs, news articles, and fact sheets. Coordinated all hate crime policy activities and "Safe Schools" (youth and education) programming. Participated in national public policy coalition working on Hate Crime legislation.

# **COMMUNITY-BASED INVOLVEMENT**

2008-2012	Board Member, Hawai'i Peace and Justice - Nā Pua Hoʻāla i ka Pono. Hawai'i Peace and Justice is a non-profit organization committed to supporting Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) political organizing on the issues of self-determination, economic justice, and natural resources protection.
2004-2010	Member, Honolulu Area Program, American Friends Service Committee, Honolulu, HI. Participated in organizing efforts of Demilitarization and Hawaiian Sovereignty programs.
1997-1998	Founder, Pinayrte Workshop, Washington, D. C. Organized workshops for Filipina visual, literary, and performing artists.

1995-1998 Organizer, D. C. Filipino Civil Rights Advocates, Washington, D. C.

Coordinated Committee to Address Violence Against Filipinas, an initiative to network North American-based Filipina activists organizing against sexual assault, domestic violence, and exploitation of women overseas contract workers (OCWs). Supported legal advocacy efforts on issues of anti-Asian violence, affirmative action, the U.S. census, and anti-

immigrant policy measures.

1992-1993 Organizer, Youth for Philippine Action, New York, NY.

Coordinated community education campaign opposing police violence in

New Jersey Filipino communities.

1992-1993 Organizer, Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence, New York, NY.

Participated in community education campaign and legal advocacy efforts to improve labor conditions of restaurant workers in Manhattan Chinatown.

### REFERENCES

(509) 527-5895

Shampa Biswas,
Paul Garrett Professor of Political Science and
Professor of Politics,
Department of Politics
Whitman College

biswassa@whitman.edu

Michael J. Shapiro, Professor of Political Science Department of Political Science University of Hawai`i-Mānoa 2424 Maile Way, Saunders 640 Honolulu, HI 96822 (808) 956-8628 shapiro@hawaii.edu

Barbara Andaya,
Professor of Asian Studies
Asian Studies Program,
School of Pacific and Asian Studies
University of Hawai'i-Mānoa
1890 East-West Road, Moore Hall 315
Honolulu, HI 96822
(808) 956-4735
bandaya@hawaii.edu

Paul Apostolidis,

Judge & Mrs. Timothy A. Paul Endowed Chair of Political Science and Professor of

Politics, Department of Politics

Whitman College (509) 522-4426

apostopc@whitman.edu

Jodi Byrd,

Associate Professor, Department of English

& American Indian Studies Program University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

1204 West Nevada Street Urbana, Illinois 61801 (217) 265-9870 jabyrd@illinois.edu