

## Melisa S. L. Casumbal-Salazar

Whitman College  
Department of Politics  
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### EDUCATION

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- 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

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

### PUBLICATIONS

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#### *Refereed Journal Articles*

“The Indeterminacy of the Philippine Indigenous Subject: Indigeneity, Temporality, and Cultural Governance.” *Amerasia Journal*, 41:1 (2015), “Indigenous Asias” Special Issue. Los Angeles: University of California – Los Angeles Asian American Studies Center Press.

“Trauma, Time, and Mediated Mass Killing: Maguindanao, 2009.” *positions: Asia critique*. Durham: Duke University Press. Invited to resubmit.

#### *Book Chapters*

Casumbal-Salazar, Melisa S.L. with Grace Caligtan and Darlene Rodrigues, et al. “Filipinos Stand in Solidarity with Native Hawaiians in Opposing United States Military Expansion in Hawai`i and the Philippines, March 2003,” in Lon Kurashige and Alice Yang Murray, eds., *Major Problems In Asian American History: Documents and Essays, 2nd Edition*, Independence: Cengage Learning (forthcoming 2016).

“Narratives of the Vulval Curse in Bontok and Kalinga, Philippines,” in Mary Mostafanezhad, Suzanne Finney, Guido Pigliasco, and Forrest Young, eds., *At Home and in the Field: Ethnographic Encounters in Asia and the Pacific Islands*, Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press. (2015).

“‘Before you mine the earth, mine me!’ – Gender, the body, and extractive development in Bontok and Kalinga, Cordillera, Philippines.” In *Baring it All: Women, Nudity and Social Protest*, eds. Sylvia Maier and Jens Rudbeck. Accepted, book contract pending.

## **MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION**

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*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:* “‘Before you mine the earth, mine me!’ Gender and the Politics of Bontok and Kalinga Women’s Bodily Display.” This essay examines how concerns about modernity and the feminine body shape conceptions of political subjectivity for Bontok and Kalinga indigenous peoples. During the Martial Law period (1972-1986), Bontok and Kalinga villages organized in myriad ways to resist extractive development projects. I examine a tactic utilized by women involving strategic display of their bodies in confrontations with dam and mine workers, and discuss the significance of this tactic for contemporary Cordillera activists. I argue that Bontok and Kalinga women engage in bodily display as a modality of sovereign power and an assertion of territorial control.

*Article:* “Mobilizing the Necro-Maternal: Claims on the National Uterus in Debates on the 2012 Reproductive Health Law.” This essay examines the Filipina body as a site of political contestation among advocates and opponents of the 2012 Reproductive Health Law (RH Law). I argue that in debates regarding the RH Law, opponents predictably vivisected the Filipina body, reducing it to a uterus and fertilized ovum, and pitted the fetus against the pregnant body as rights-bearing subjects. Advocates, meanwhile, deployed the discourse of the necro-maternal – a woman who gives birth to death – to advance a rights regime seeking simultaneously to redistribute access to reproductive health, codify reproductive heteronormativity as a nationalist project, and displace unresolved questions regarding reproductive autonomy for young women.

## **GRANTS & AWARDS**

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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 & PRESENTATIONS

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### *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.

### *Roundtables*

“Indigenous Asias.” Roundtable Participant, Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Chicago, IL. April 23, 2015.

"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.

## CONFERENCES

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### *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. Brillante 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 Francisco, 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*

“Human Rights, Human Security, and International Governance” Panel, International Studies Association Global South Conference, Singapore. January 9, 2015.

“Reimagining International Relations: Critical Perspectives” Panel, International Studies Association Global South Conference, Singapore. January 10, 2015.

“Intersections and Violence” Panel, Western Political Science Association Conference, Seattle, WA. April 18, 2014.

### *Moderator*

“Love, Law, and Labor: Gender Issues in the Workplace” Panel, National Women’s Studies Association Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico. November 14, 2014.

### **CAMPUS TALKS, WHITMAN COLLEGE**

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

“Intersectionality.” Race and Ethnic Studies Program Panelist, Whitman College Power and Privilege Symposium, February 2014.

“Race and Feminism.” Panelist, Whitman College Feminists Advocating for Change Everywhere, October 2013.

### **COURSES TAUGHT, WHITMAN COLLEGE**

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RAES 105: Introduction to Race and Ethnic Studies (Fall 2015)

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

POL 490: Senior Seminar (Fall 2015, 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 HAWAII - MANOA**

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POLS (Political Science) 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**

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Reviewer, "Creating Justice"-Themed Conference Proposals, National Women's Studies Association Conference, 2014.

## **SERVICE, WHITMAN COLLEGE**

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Coordinator, POL 490: Senior Seminar, Fall 2015.  
Founder and Faculty Coordinator, For Us By Us (FUBU), Faculty of Color Mentoring Program for Students of Color, 2013-present.  
Race and Ethnic Studies Program Steering Committee, 2013-present.  
Asian Studies Steering Committee, 2012-present.  
Asian Studies Program Thesis Advisor, 2012-present.  
Northwest 5 Consortium Southeast Asia Symposium, Puget Sound, Oct. 23-24, 2015.  
Northwest 5 Consortium Asian Studies Symposium, Portland, OR. April 25-27, 2014.  
Director, Race and Ethnic Studies Program, Fall 2014.  
Cross-Disciplinary Learning and Teaching Initiative: Writing the Self, 2014.  
Gender Studies Thesis Advisor, 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**

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Gender and Transnational Feminisms; Indigenous Politics; Politics of Southeast Asia and the Southeast Asian Diaspora; Asian and Asian American Cultural Studies; Politics of Violence; Race and Racialization; Embodiment; Decolonial, Feminist Political Theory.

## **LANGUAGES**

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Filipino/Tagalog: reading and writing – excellent, speaking – conversational  
French: colloquial conversational proficiency

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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

## **COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZING AND ADVOCACY**

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- 2008-2012 Board Member, Hawai'i Peace and Justice - Nā Pua Ho'āla i ka Pono. Hawai'i Peace and Justice is an organization committed to supporting Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) organizing on the issues of self-determination, demilitarization, economic justice, and care for the lands and waters of Hawai'i.
- 2001-2012 Founding Member, Urban Babaylan, Honolulu, HI. Urban Babaylan is an informal network of Filipina activists in Hawai'i who meet regularly to discuss organizing projects in the Filipin@ community in Honolulu and to advance Filipin@ community support of Native Hawaiian self-determination.
- 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.

## **ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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- 1999-2000 *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.