

Summer Semester 2022

Joint Event organized by SDAC and the FAU Institute of Sociology

Transnational Memory Movement and Filipino Diaspora Formation

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16-18:00 c.t.



*Sharon M. Quinsaat, Photo: Many Hats Media / Jonathan Theiss

The lecture is a joint event of the guest lecture series of the Elite Master Standards of Decision-Making Across Cultures (SDAC) and the Oberseminar of the Institute of Sociology. It takes place in the "Role Models" series and is financed by funds from the advancement of women at FAU.

The lecture will take place Hörsaal C, Kochstr. 4. If requested, the event will be streamed via Zoom. Please register by email (katrin.drasch@fau.de).

In addition to the lecture, we organize a get-together for young female scientists with the focus on an informal exchange with Sharon Quinsaat. We would like to talk about scientific development and career. You will be given valuable tips for academic success. The offer is particularly designed for students on Master's level and doctoral candidates.

The informal get-together for young female scientists will take place at 6:15 p.m. We also ask you to register by email at: katrin.drasch@fau.de.

The May 2016 Philippine presidential election saw overwhelming diaspora support for the eventual victory of Rodrigo Duterte, who had no qualms calling himself a dictator. He expressed admiration of the achievements of the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos in terms of economic development and crime prevention. The election had the highest turnout in overseas ballots since the passage of the Philippine dual citizenship law in 2003. In this presentation, I show how Filipino migrant activists strategically used the collective memory of the Marcos dictatorship and the collective resistance against it in the campaign to mobilize against Duterte. I explain how former anti-dictatorship activists in the U.S. and the Netherlands have become "memory entrepreneurs" who mobilize memories of the past to galvanize subsequent generations of Filipinos abroad, especially the descendants of migrants who have fully assimilated in their countries of settlement. This tactical repertoire has facilitated a continuous reimagining of the homeland among Filipino immigrants and their children. Through content analysis of collective storytelling in published memoirs, blogs, and social media, I explain how migrants counter dominant discourses and persistent narratives of the "golden years" of the dictatorship. They revive past strategies and discourses of resistance to mobilize a transnational constituency against Duterte and the War on Drugs. Finally, through their stories and how they narrate them, I describe how migrants assert their historical presence and role in an important period of Philippine nation building. During the Marcos regime, cross-border migration peaked and the transnational community was deeply disunited. Since shared history and memory are vital to constituting a diaspora, migrant stories about this divisive period in Philippine history help us understand the process of collective identity formation.