

Wednesday Seminars

LECTURE SERIES IN SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

29.04.2026 | 5 p.m. | @ Übungsraum IKSA | NIG, 4th floor

Rosa Cordillera A. Castillo (FU Berlin, University of South Africa)
*Reparations Beyond the Human? Rethinking Post(Conflict) Repair
and Justice Through An Ecocentric Lens*



Rosa Cordillera A. Castillo is a public anthropologist and curator whose work explores peace and (post)conflict dynamics, struggles for self-determination, and practices of resistance and solidarity through decolonial and ethically engaged approaches. She has published extensively on these topics, including co-editing the book *Thinking with the South: Reframing Research Collaboration Amid Decolonial Imperatives and Challenges* (2023, DeGruyter) and the double special issue *Negotiating Research Ethics in Volatile Contexts* (2022 and 2023, *International Quarterly for Asian Studies*). She has held temporary professorship positions at Freie Universität Berlin, the University of Bremen, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin where she established the Philippine Studies Program, and the University of the Philippines. Rosa is currently a Research Fellow at the Institute for Health and Social Sciences at the University of South Africa.

Within transitional justice, the interplay between environmental and more-than-human concerns and (post)conflict dynamics has been largely overlooked in processes of reconciliation, reparation, and justice. Dominant frameworks, which is centered primarily on human rights in dealing with historical injustice and harms, tend to separate human concerns from those of the more-than-human world. The emerging field of ecocentric transitional justice, informed by non-Eurocentric legal frameworks as well as indigenous epistemologies and ontologies, challenges this divide by emphasizing the interdependence and non-hierarchical entanglement of the human and more-than-human worlds. It positions both as essential to sustainable peacebuilding. In this talk, I draw on the ecocentric approach, in conjunction with the anthropology of transitional justice, to shed light on the environment-(post)conflict-transitional justice nexus in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Emerging from six decades of conflict, the region is pioneering the Philippines' first transitional justice process involving Muslims, Non-Moro Indigenous Peoples, Christian settlers, and the Philippine government. Against this backdrop, I inquire into the multiple conceptualizations and practices of truth, truth-telling, justice, and repair among historically antagonistic groups in the region, and examine how environmental and more-than-human harms and concerns are raised and addressed in the BARMM transitional justice process and (post)conflict environment and economic development plans. Finally, I reflect on the possibilities and limits of existing legal instruments and the ecocentric approach for reimagining reparations that encompass conflict's full spectrum of harms.



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