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Mula Tore Patungong Palengke:
Neoliberal Education in the Philippines
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Book Notes

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HØGSHOLM, FILOMENITA MONGAYA, ED.

In de Olde Worlde: Views of Filipino Migrants in Europe

Quezon City: Philippine Migration and Research Network and the Philippine Social Science Council, 2007. 412 pages.

Written mostly by Filipinos based in Europe, the twenty-six papers contained in this collection trace the history and trends of Filipino migration to different countries in Europe, and discuss the issues and challenges experienced by Filipino migrants as they strive to integrate themselves in their respective communities. The collection is divided into three parts. The first part deals with “working and living in de olde worlde.” It has the most number of papers, seventeen in all, which attempt to survey the situation of Filipinos in Europe in general and in a number of specific countries (Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the Nordic states, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom). The second part, with five contributors, focuses on “the political, the cultural and the literary, and the religious.” The third part, with four chapters, tackles “perspectives on Philippine migration: from Europe and beyond.” Inevitably in a hefty volume such as this one, unevenness in the quality of contributions is not surprising. Some chapters are based on solid research studies, others on personal recollections and minimal documentation. In her introduction, Filomenita Mongaya Høgsholm weaves together the various contributions and raises interesting issues about “gender mainstreaming” and “transnational options” for political advocacy and social change.

LAUREANO, FELIX
RODRIGUEZ, FELICE NOELLE, ED. AND TRANS.,
WITH RENAN PRADO AND RAMÓN C. SUNICO

Memories of the Philippines: Album-Book, a Tool for the Study and Understanding of the Ways and Customs of these Islands with Thirty-Seven Phototypes and Copied from Real Life

Mandaluyong: Cacho Publishing House, 2001. 174 pages.

Launched in September 2008 at the Instituto Cervantes Manila, this book is a translation of an *album-libro* by Felix Laureano that appeared originally

in 1895. This edition reproduces the thirty-seven photographs in the original version. The photos, many taken from Iloilo, depict scenes of everyday life, from a wedding procession to bathing and doing laundry by a river, from a *tiangui* (market) to what it calls the *ati-ati* or dance of the Aetas. There are photos of streets, harbors, and churches. Laureano’s interest in racial types is evident in photographs of persons who evidently were made to pose in front of his camera. Each photograph is accompanied by an essay, with the text peppered with Bisayan and Tagalog words, and sometimes on topics that exceed the subject of the photograph, to demonstrate the young photographer’s intimate knowledge of the islands. Noelle Rodriguez offers an introduction that seeks to contextualize the work of someone who called himself a “Filipino,” who dedicated the book to his *paisano y amigo* (countryman and friend) Juan Luna, and who owned and managed a studio in Barcelona. The book ends with an advertisement for this studio and the types of orders it accepted.

LUMBERA, BIENVENIDO, RAMON GUILLERMO,
AND ARNOLD ALAMON, EDS.

Mula Tore Patungong Palengke: Neoliberal Education in the Philippines

Quezon City: Ibon, 2007. 347 pages.

The book is a compilation of twenty-five articles written by progressive academics and activists that deal with neoliberalism and its effects on Philippine education. This is the fifth publication of the Congress of Teachers/Educators for Nationalism and Democracy (CONTEND) in their Publikasyong Iglap Series, and is their third in collaboration with Ibon Foundation. The book is divided into four major sections. The first section deals with the history, ideology, and theory of neoliberalism in education. The section traces the evolution of the Philippine educational system and the integration of market forces into its institutions. The second section explores the various issues associated with the experience of neoliberalism as practiced and experienced by the education sector in various levels of policy formulation and implementation. The third section examines the role of state universities, particularly the University of the Philippines, in the implementation of neoliberal policies and programs. The fourth and final section examines

curricular offerings, textbook writing, and the effects of neoliberalism on various academic disciplines such as literature, history, science and technology, cultural studies, media studies, and linguistics. The book ends with some discussions on alternative modes of education that may be applied to counter the effects of neoliberalism. A guide for educators is appended in the last section.

MIRALAO, VIRGINIA A. AND LORNA P. MAKIL, EDS.

Exploring Transnational Communities in the Philippines

Quezon City: Philippine Migration Research Network and the Philippine Social Science Council, 2007. 171 pages.

The first part of this collection of papers focuses on the Philippines as a destination country and explores the diasporic communities of Koreans, Vietnamese, and Japanese. Miralao argues that their growing number in the Philippines and Filipinos' increasing openness toward them must be understood in the context of globalization. For instance, although most Koreans do not intend to settle permanently in the Philippines, the transnational structures and networks that enable the movement of Koreans to the Philippines and back to Korea seem to be stable and enduring. The Vietnamese community in Vietville, which emerged out of a refugee camp, has become a dynamic part of Puerto Princesa and has definitely enriched local culture. However, the immigration status of members of this Vietnamese community, with an increasing number of births on Philippine soil, has remained unsettled. The paper on the Japanese explores the deep and long history of Japanese engagement with the Philippines, noting the inimical consequence of the Second World War on the social identity of Filipinos with a part-Japanese heritage. The second part of this book looks into the policy challenges of contemporary Filipino migrations, particularly the Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003 and the Absentee Voting Act also of 2003. Miralao provides an introduction that contextualizes the different papers in this collection.

PIMENTEL, BENJAMIN

Mga Gerilya sa Powell Street

Quezon City: Ateneo de Manila University Press, 2007. 231 pages.

Mga Gerilya sa Powell Street is a poignant novel set in the cold streets and damp apartment buildings of San Francisco. It tells the stories of Fidel, Ciriaco, Ruben, Badong, and Major who fought, in their youthful years, for the country's freedom as soldiers during the Second World War. Now that they are old and gray, they risk their lives once more for another mission across the seas. The book gives life to the silent tragedy endured by the war veterans almost as soon as they land in the United States. Having survived the atrocities of the previous world war, and hoping to provide a better life for their families as the struggle for a better society continues, the veterans brave the cold, hunger, and loneliness in San Francisco's Powell Street and thereabouts, as they wait, sometimes cheerfully, often despairingly, for what is due them. Seemingly being met with frustration at every turn in this new battle for veterans' benefits, only their bittersweet memories of home, unbreakable bonds with their fellow *gerilya*, never-say-die sense of humor, and the tenacious dream of one day being able to finally go back to their beloved homeland sustain them. This is the first novel of Pimentel, a journalist and documentary filmmaker. It features the work of well-regarded photographer Rick Rocamora on the cover. It won the 2007 National Book Award for Fiction, given by the Manila Critics Circle and the National Book Development Board, and the Juan C. Laya Award for Fiction in Filipino.

SCHAFFER, FREDERIC CHARLES, ED.

Elections for Sale: The Causes and Consequences of Vote Buying

Quezon City: Ateneo de Manila University Press, 2007. 226 pages.

Different methods are applied in this systematic study of vote buying in various parts of the world, including the Philippines. The book has four main areas: the significance and nature of vote buying; its causes and logistics; its consequences in terms of shaping political and economic outcomes;