

# EDITOR'S PREFACE



**T**his edition of *ALON* treads the capacious domains of Oceania as an invocation to limn and recognize the intersectional currents that can contextualize the lives of Filipinx and the peoples of Oceania in multiple ways. Initiated and organized by Roderick N. Labrador, Demiliza Sagara Saramosing, and Katherine Achacoso, much of the content in this issue—including both the Introduction and the Afterword—in many ways invite us to seriously consider how this contextualization may be configured, articulated, or even questioned and complicated, given our different positionalities or locations as individuals and members of collectives within and across Oceania. I applaud our guest editors' energy and skill in teasing out the diverse strands and possibilities of our oceanic engagement, as I invite all of you to partake in reading and recognizing the insights that they and their contributors offer in constituting this engagement.

Producing this issue with our guest scholars, two of whom are graduate students, has also provided us a timely and much-needed opportunity to recognize the multi-level labors of our graduate student workers, contributors, and readers—something that I think we should do more often and do with more advocacy, respect, and humaneness. The recent graduate student workers' strike at University of California campuses, occurring in the midst of our production process, enabled all of us in *ALON* to take stock and become more aware of the conditions they face in matters related to wages, benefits, housing, and food insecurity. And because much of the labor in producing *ALON* is performed by UC graduate students, we chose to support their advocacies by indeed respectfully facing the consequences of their devaluation (hence our late issue) and thereby appreciating more fully their efforts in collectively nudging our educational institutions in the right direction.

I can also confidently say that without the dedicated work of our graduate student staff members, we wouldn't be able to produce the high-quality journal that all of us can be proud of. In a way, this was recently validated to us by an award we received from the Council of Editors of Learned Journals:

**BEST NEW JOURNAL**

**Honorable Mention: *Alon: Journal for Filipinx American and Diasporic Studies***

The jury also wishes to recognize *Alon: Journal for Filipinx American and Diasporic Studies* with an honorable mention. We were impressed with the journal's thoughtful and important intervention at the intersection of several fields and its welcoming of contributions from diverse authors, including activists, artists, educators, and journalists. We believe that *Alon* offers an exciting model for open access publishing in ethnic and diasporic studies and congratulate the editorial staff on the choices they have made so far, in regard to amplifying its distinguished mission and scope, as well as building partnerships with academic, arts, and community institutions to launch this important journal.

Congratulations to all of us! This award inspires us even more to work with care, thoughtfulness, and respect among ourselves and with all our readers, with every issue we put out.

Rick Bonus  
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