

“HOY GET OUT OF THE SUN!”: FILIPINX TALK STORY ON (ANTI)BLACKNESS IN OCCUPIED HAWAI‘I

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Series Description

In the summer of 2020, the Filipinx Hawai‘i Collective, a hui of organizers, scholars, artists, and healers came together to address anti-Black racism in the Filipinx community in Hawai‘i, the Philippines, and around the world. In their call to action for solidarity with the worldwide Black Lives Matter Uprisings, Filipinx community organizers hosted the four-part webinar series, “Hoy! Get Out of the Sun!”: Filipinx Talk Story on (Anti)Blackness in Occupied Hawai‘i Webinar Series. This webinar was held on Zoom and on social media platforms of Pusong Filipinx, a quarterly community market founded by Lalaine Ignao.

Below are links to the series along with the description for each of the sessions they hosted. <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1KP916Q1tmPFM5UIB9ayTaJSTqt1AVeQm>

Session 1: Hawai‘i Filipinx Call to Action: Black Lives Matter

Participants: Vernadette Gonzalez (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa), Aina Iglesias (Local 5), Bryant De Venecia (Local 5), and Dean Saranillio (New York University).

This session aims to examine why Black lives in the Hawaiian Kingdom, the Philippines, and around the world matter to us as Filipinx in Hawai‘i. We aim to draw connections between our histories of oppression and legacies of resistance as Filipinx to those of our Black and Indigenous relatives in Hawai‘i and across the globe. As diasporic Filipinx educators, healers, and organizers, we also aim to unsettle histories of anti-Blackness and anti-Indigeneity in our community and to return to the sea to imagine alternative futures of genuine security, peace, justice, and solidarity.

Session 2: Indigeneity and (Anti)Blackness in the Philippines

Participants: Marie Ramos (Decolonial Pin@y), Romyn Sabatchi (Kapiolani Community College), Katherine Achacoso (University of

Hawai'i at Mānoa), Grace Caligtan (Decolonial Pin@y), and Paola Rodelas (Local 5).

This session provides participants with an opportunity to think about the historical and contemporary relationship between anti-Indigeneity and anti-Blackness in the Philippine archipelago. It will feature diasporic/Indigenous/Black scholars and organizers from Hawai'i, Turtle Island, and the Cordilleras, reflecting on the historical legacy of intra-racial conflict and racial hierarchies in our communities. The panel also seeks to create language and have difficult conversations on how we might be in solidarity with one another to unsettle legacies of anti-Blackness and anti-Indigeneity in our communities to reimagine alternative decolonial futures.

Session 3: Anti-Blackness and Racial Politics in Occupied Hawai'i

Participants: Ellen-Rae Cachola (UH Mānoa, Decolonial Pin@ys, Women's Voices, Women's Speak); Malia Derden (Pacific Tongues), Nadezna Ortega (UH Mānoa, LAING); Demiliza Saramosing (University of Minnesota-Twin Cities); Catherine 'Īmaikalani Ulep (University of Minnesota-Twin Cities); Domi Ulep (Kalihi/Kaneohe).

The theme of this session focuses on (anti)Blackness and racial politics in occupied Hawaii. This presentation connects the history of (anti) Blackness and (anti)Indigeneity, largely informed and transformed by U.S. colonialism in the Philippines to Hawai'i, where this legacy continues in the Filipino diaspora. It will discuss the complex social condition of Filipinos who were targeted and recruited to serve as cheap labor for Hawai'i's plantation economy, a system tied to Kānaka land dispossession and the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. The plantation system was organized by a racial hierarchy that stratified Filipinos on the bottom and is maintained through the policing and control of Filipinos in social institutions like jobs, government, the criminal legal system, media, and popular culture. This presentation interrogates anti-Filipino racism and unsettles the contradictions of Filipino collaboration and resistance to colonialism and settler colonialism in Hawai'i today.

Session 4: People's Budget for Peace and Survival: A Filipinx in Hawai'i Perspective

Kim Compoc

In this presentation, we shift from a focus on racist attitudes to a focus on racist funding priorities. People in Hawai'i say our police are different, so the demand to defund the police doesn't apply here. But if that's true, why do our police budgets so closely match those on the continent? Let's come together to think about what a people's budget should really look like. Anti-imperialist, anti-fascist movements in the Philippines are gaining momentum. Movements for Black Lives/

Abolition movements in the U.S. are gaining momentum. Aloha 'āina movements in Hawai'i are gaining momentum. This is an important opportunity to integrate the best our movements have to offer to advance our agenda as progressive Filipinx in Hawai'i!