

Editor's Note

James D. Sellmann

The ongoing trials and tribulations of the pandemic, and an editorial issue with the journal made the production of volume 13 challenging.

The contributors to *Pacific Asia Inquiry* volume 13 are commended for their diligence and their ability to continue to do research, write, submit papers, and edit them in a timely manner, while facing the stresses of a pandemic turned tripledemic. The anonymous referees must be acknowledged for their due diligence in returning edited manuscripts with their insightful comments so that the scholarly peer-review process could be completed in a timely manner. The Editorial Board and especially Leiana Naholowaa, the layout and design editor, continue to provide valuable insights and efforts to improve the journal. Mary L. Spencer, the journal's founding Dean and Editorial Board Member, was especially helpful in producing this issue. Mary also arranged for Laura Warner to prepare the cover design. Artist Jerrold Dwayne Castro donated his painting, entitled "Hatsa i Layak" for the cover. The Editor is extremely grateful to everyone for their assistance in producing this issue.

The issue comprises four articles and four book reviews.

In the Cultural Studies section, we open with Francis X. Hezel's review of his ongoing work entitled **Deep in the Bloodstream: Historical Ties of the Marianas with the Philippines**. I should note that this article is not a piece of analytical historical analysis, rather it is an expanded reflection and review of Hezel's previous research in this area of investigation. In the paper, Hezel explicates the historical connections between the Philippines and the Mariana Islands. Beginning with the archaeological and linguistic evidence and advancing to the historical documented connections, Hezel discusses in detail the history of Guam as Spanish and American colonies in relation to the Philippines. Hezel argues that based on the early genetic, linguistic, and cultural ties there are ongoing connections that run deep.

In the second article, William Jeffery and James D. Sellmann collaborate on a **Yapese Environmental Philosophy and Food Sustainability** by discussing the traditional practice of building and using *aech* (fish weirs). In the first part of the article, Jeffery analyzes the Yap

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aech, showing that the old practice of building fish weirs is being revitalized. In the second part of the paper, Sellmann attempts to explicate the underlying philosophical ideas of Yapese environmental philosophy expressed as an “existential commitment” to live in environmental and social harmony. The fish weirs and a sound environmental philosophy are important practices required to promote food sustainability for future generations.

In the Health Disparities section, Troy McVey, Thaddeus Herzog, Kathleen Plaza, Jade Ching, Justin Legaspi, Victoria Mak, Ariel Orasud, Gino Quintal, and Gertraud Maskarinec provide their study of the **Cancer Health Disparities Research Training: A Qualitative Report**. They show that, despite the small sample size of their study, the cancer research training program is effective. The participant students enjoyed the weekly seminar meetings. The results show that the program helps students improve professional skills, provides opportunities for more research funding, inspires research, and expands social networks and giving back to the community. Students discovered that cancer disparities research is complex, diverse, and requires cultural sensitivity, that there are different areas of cancer research and education, and the importance of mentor and peer relationships. The authors recommend further studies be conducted.

In the Cultural Reviews section, Pauline Chryselyza Alvarez provides her insights on **Being Pilipina/Pilipina-American: A Familial Being Passed Down from My Lola and Nanay**. Alvarez deploys oral history and autoethnography in this highly personal reflection piece. She discloses personal and family insights and values regarding Filipino/Pilipina cultural identity. Alvarez shows how Pilipinas and Pilipina-Americans are challenged through phenotype, generational language ability, financial independence, economic stability, and stereotypical perspectives and how these factors influence individual and community identity.

In the Suicide Literature Review section, Paulette Coulter offers her assessment of **Adolescent Suicide in the Federated States of Micronesia: A Preliminary Literature Review in the History of a Theory**. In this review of the literature, Coulter focuses on the respective work of Francis X. Hezel and Donald H. Rubinstein. Coulter proposes that Edward Lowe’s study confirms Hezel and Rubinstein’s respective theories about the causes of suicide. She encourages further study of their findings.

We have three very interesting Book Reviews. Paulette Coulter offers a detailed reading of Craig Santos Perez's **Navigating CHamoru Poetry: Indigeneity, Aesthetics, and Decolonization**. Perez's work is the first book to discuss and analyze CHamoru poetry. Christopher Schreiner prepared two book reviews. He provides an analysis of Yuko Tsushima's **Woman Running in the Mountains**, proposing that she offers gentle insights on childrearing before their time. In the second review, Schreiner discusses Max Fisher's **The Chaos Machine: The Inside Story of How Social Media Rewired Our Minds and Our World**, arguing the early claims that "social media is dead" were premature.