

Co-Editors' Note

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The three articles of Volume 14 of *Pacific Asia Inquiry* explore institutions, colonialism, and daily life in Guam, while the six diverse book reviews represent multiple disciplines and cover Pacific and Asia. This volume's articles comprise what is one of the most Guam and Mariana-centric of any PAI in its decade-and-a-half history. The two historical articles span the turn-of-the-century overlap of Spanish and American rule and examine institutions of the colonial order in law, education, and economic development. While they are fascinating and compelling works on their own, side-by-side, they provide valuable insight into the mechanics of two empires, while suggesting ways Chamorus and others in Guam navigated, resisted, and subverted institutions designed to serve outside interests. The contribution from the social sciences focus on current and potential students to the University of Guam. This article demonstrates the transformative potential the only four-year university in the Western Pacific can have for the region and its peoples, while acknowledging the barriers students encounter both at the moment of entering and during their studies at UOG. As editors, we did not designate a theme for volume 14, but one seems to have emerged, nonetheless. Collectively, the articles offer stories of Guam's institutions, how they have and continue to operate; whether they advance or frustrate the aspirations of individuals and communities of the region; and how they have and, may in the future, change.

Carlos Madrid's "A Murder in To'to: Local Responses Against Convict Violence in Guam," offers an excellent legal history, a vivid snapshot of late-Spanish era Guam society, and a gripping story of crime and punishment. Using archival sources and family history, Madrid carefully reconstructs the murder of Marcos Untalán, and then follows the crime's subsequent investigation, trial, and aftermath. Madrid documents a deliberate judicial process, one shaped by Spanish, Chamoru, and Filipino actors, and offers a valuable account of daily life in the village of To'to, specifically, and Guam and the Spanish Pacific broadly. The colonial legal system brought Filipino criminals to Guam, putting local people at risk - illustrated by Untalán's shocking murder. Madrid's article also shows how

Co-Editors' Note

that same system was subject to a significant degree of local influence. One of the perhaps surprising discoveries was that at the end of the Spanish period clemency for criminals was the rule rather than the exception.

Bradley Brazzeal's "Chamorro Employees of the Pre-War Guam Agricultural Experiment Station" follows the story of CHamorus working within a key colonial institution. Agriculture experiment stations like the Naval-era one in Guam were important components of American rule in the Pacific and Caribbean territories acquired following the 1898 Spanish-American War. Brazzeal's exhaustive study of archival sources documents how CHamoru laborers worked the land, built the facilities, and did much of the scientific work on what became the Guam Agricultural Experiment Station (GAES). Brazzeal shows how CHamoru employees, many of whom received scientific education in the United States and the Philippines, understood the purpose of their work differently from the Naval authorities. The incongruity is perhaps most visible in the career of GAES employee Francisco B. Leon Gurerrro. Leon Gurerrro became a leader of the Guam Congress and one of the principal figures in securing the 1950 Organic Act of Guam. He did not see his work with the GAES in conflict with demands for Guam autonomy but consistent with them. Brazzeal also shows how the Naval administration limited the effectiveness of the GAES, which was chronically underfunded, paid its CHamoru workers far less than similarly trained American citizens, and was shut down when the United States Congress refused to continue funding during the Depression.

Lynsey J. Lee's article, "Four Studies on the University of Guam," examines a staple of the higher education experience: the English placement test. Lee documents a focal shift of the placement test from rigid technical interpretations of validity toward an awareness of the importance of individual student needs and experiences. While the article is pragmatic in its intent and approach, it too conveys how the university, and assessors, navigate social and cultural changes in a globally connected island community while maintaining its commitment to equitable student learning opportunities.

As fitting for a capacious journal that includes Asia and the Pacific, the book reviews range across space, time, and disciplines. The section begins and ends, also fittingly, with Guam. Leiana Naholowa'a reviews

Christine DeLisle's *Placental Politics: CHamoru Women, White Womanhood, and Indigeneity under US Colonialism in Guam*, a work that she suggests is a needed reinterpretation of twentieth century Guam history. DeLisle's book is a deeply informed analysis and highly sympathetic reading of birth, connection to place and identity, modernity, mobilities, and the lives of women in Guam. Naholowa'a compares *Placental Politics* to both a guidebook for future researchers and as a "destination for where following the footnotes of CHamoru women in history have taken us." Two historians, Aaron Wilson and Sean Scanlon, take up recent works on twentieth warfare and foreign policy. Wilson finds in anthropologist Lin Poyer's, *War at the Margins: Indigenous Experiences in World War II*, a much-needed reorientation of the War in the Pacific narrative that foregrounds Pacific peoples' experience and draws connections across diverse communities. Scanlon, meanwhile, reviews Mark Atwood Lawrence's reinterpretation of late twentieth century US global power in *The End of Ambition: The United States and the Third World in the Vietnam Era*. Scanlon charts and evaluates Lawrence's argument that the Cold War-era pivot to Asia permanently altered U.S. foreign policy and its relationships with developing nations in Asia, the Pacific, and across the world. Philosopher Brett Fulkerson-Smith's close review of Tao Jiang's, *Origins of Moral-Political Philosophy in Early China: Contestation of Humaneness, Justice, and Personal Freedom* contends that Jiang's work illustrates the enduring relevance Chinese ideas on freedom from the pre-Han era have for contemporary political philosophy and in the philosophy classroom. Meanwhile, it is the uncertain future of pedagogy and education in the age of AI that animates literature scholar David Gugin's close and critical review of AI advocate David Patel's *Artificial Intelligence & Generative AI for Beginners*. Artificial intelligence systems' ability to generate narratives and, dangerously, misinformation appear at an inauspicious political moment in which dark conspiracy theories grip and motivate large portions of the electorate in the United States and elsewhere. Reviewing Marcel Danesi's *Politics, Lies and Conspiracy Theories: A Cognitive Linguistic Perspective*, PAI book review editor Chris Schreiner shows that even absent the powerful tools Gugin discussed, voters and politicians are creating and acting on false narratives and misinformation that threaten democracy. Focused the

Co-Editors' Note

ways metaphor has replaced argumentation in modern politics, Schreiner's review echoes Gugin's emphasis on education, in this case schools' failure to "inculcate critical thinking, rhetorical acumen, and civic awareness." Rounding out the reviews is Paulette Coulter's sympathetic reading of Chris Perez's final novel *Juanit*. This coming-of-age-story in Guam and the United States returns to the themes of this volume's articles: colonial institutions, education - specifically the University of Guam - and identity, albeit with greater intimacy and compassion.

This volume of *Pacific Asia Inquiry* offers readers unique opportunities to reflect on Guam's and the regions' past, present and future. As in previous volumes, contributors from across the humanities and social sciences have opened up new perspectives on seemingly old issues and, hopefully, inspired others to continue to discover how life has, is, and perhaps should be lived. As co-editors, we would like to thank all of the contributors, blind reviewers, and the PAI Editorial Board members for making this volume possible. In particular, we want to acknowledge Judy Flores for the wonderful cover art, "Respecting the Ancestors," Leiana Naholowa'a for designing and formatting this volume, and Dean of the UOG College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences James Sellmann for sage advice and timely exhortations.