

SPRING 2013  
PHILIPPINE  
STUDIES  
COLLOQUIUM  
SERIES

April 22, 2013,  
Monday

3:00-4:30 pm

Tokioka Room  
(Moore 319)

Free and open to the  
public.

For more information  
regarding the Center for  
Philippine Studies, this  
lecture, or disability  
access, call 956-6086  
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*Center for Philippine Studies*

School of Pacific and Asian Studies, UH Manoa  
and

Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures  
present

## From Bonfire to Firewire: Ifiallig Orature Digitized

A public talk by Dr. Pia Arboleda

Long ago, in the magnificent mountains of Barlig, Mountain Province, Philippines, the Ifiallig would sit around the fires of the *ator* (council-house) to listen to tales of their hero-ancestors. Venerable storytellers (*umu-ufok*) recount these stories in the *Finallig* language. These stories (*ub-ufok*), handed down for many generations, serve as a record of their history, genealogy and cultural traditions.

Ifiallig society used to revolve around the stories told within the walls of the *ator*. The death of influential village elders, with no one to take their place, will inevitably extinguish Barlig's orature, and along with this will vanish the beautiful stories that have given honor and value to the life of a people.

To rekindle the fires of the *ator* and to preserve Ifiallig orature, a retrieval and translation project of Ifiallig tales was conducted. In keeping with the times, the stories were converted to digital comic book (DVD) format with illustrations rendered by an Ifiallig artist Wrachelle Calderon Cablog, read in Filipino with English subtitles. As firewire technology is used to transport digital data from one machine to another, this project transports stories from the Ifiallig bonfires of the past to the children of the future.

Dr. Pia Arboleda, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the UH Filipino and Philippine Literature program, holds a Doctor of Arts degree in Language and Literature from De La Salle University. She teaches Translation Theory and Practice, Philippine Folklore, Film, History and Culture, and Rizal's Life and Writing. Prior to joining UH, she served as Visiting Professor at Osaka University and Assistant Professor at University of the Philippines Baguio.

