



## CENTER FOR PHILIPPINE STUDIES

School of Pacific and Asian Studies, College of Arts, Languages and Literature  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### COLOQUIUM SERIES 2022: MARTIAL LAW

## Erasing, distorting, and revising foundational narratives of the Bangsamoro struggle during the dark years of Martial Law

April 27, 2022, Wednesday – 4:00 pm Hawaii Standard Time

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://hawaii.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMrdOitpj8iHte5jCBegNeQpNZ2MnCNOpYx>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



### Rufa Cagoco-Guam, Ph.D.

Retired Professor, Mindanao State University – General Santos City.

Prof. Guam has a Master's Degree in Anthropology from Silliman University, Dumaguete City, Philippines and a post-graduate degree in Anthropology at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, on an East-West Center scholarship. She was an Asian Public Intellectual Senior Fellow of the Nippon Foundation, Japan and an Executive Education Grantee of the Institute of Politics, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University in 2009. In 2008, she was awarded a short fellowship at the Salzburg Global Seminar in Salzburg, Austria.

Prof. Guam is the first Muslim, and woman editor of *The Mindanao Cross*, a community paper published in Cotabato City since 1948, owned by a Catholic missionary organization, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI).

Her groundbreaking work on the interface of illicit drugs, armed conflict and politics in Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur is a chapter in the book, *Out of the Shadows: Armed Violence and the Real Economy in Mindanao*, which has been given the National Book Award in the Social Sciences by the National Textbook Development Board in 2017.

#### Abstract:

The dark period of Martial Law under the late President Marcos Sr brought massive changes in the lives of the Islamized populations (Moro or now Bangsamoro) in southern Philippines, particularly in the new region now called Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Details on the inordinate suffering of the Bangsamoro people are being constantly challenged by efforts first to erase, distort and revise peoples' narratives of their horrendous experiences especially in the current political context when the son and namesake of the late dictator is now perceived to be the frontrunner among the candidates for president in the coming May 9 elections. But such efforts hark back when colonial powers starting with the Spaniards promoted a deep hatred against the Islamized southern populations, then perpetuated by the next set of colonial leaders, the Americans. From being 'infieles' during the Spanish rule, the Moros were then given various derogatory epithets, among them, being 'blood hungry' by the American colonial masters. One American governor general captured this animosity against the Moros in this remark: "A good Moro is a dead Moro." After the emblematic Jabidah Massacre in Corregidor on 18 March 1968, several groups of Moro leaders started to mobilize themselves leading to the founding of the Moro National Liberation Front. According to the late dictator, the so-called growing and violent Moro insurgency was a strong justification to declare Martial Law on September 21, 1972. Contrary to this claim, the Moro struggle at that time did not reach a level when they could wage destructive offensives against the massive Philippine armed forces; instead, Martial Law and its brutal campaigns on Moro activists and rebels became a strong push for them to fight fiercely for 'victory or the graveyard' to defend both 'agama' (faith or way of life) and homeland.

For more information about CPS or this Colloquium Series, email [cps@hawaii.edu](mailto:cps@hawaii.edu) or visit our website:

[www.hawaii.edu/cps/](http://www.hawaii.edu/cps/)

EACH PRESENTATION WILL HAVE A SEPARATE REGISTRATION – INVITES ARE SENT SEPARATELY.

**Next Presentation . . .**

**Patricio N. Abinales, Ph.D. – A Communist Goes Abroad: Searching for a "New Internationale"**

September 8, 2022, Time TBA HST