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3
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Los Angeles, Philippines: Towards a Transpacific Politics and Poetics in Bambu's Musical Autobiography

- Roderick Labrador, Assistant Professor

Dr. Labrador will examine the ways that Bambu, a second-generation Filipino American rapper from Los Angeles, California, constructs his life narrative throughout his mixtape, *Los Angeles, Philippines*, as a counter-story that challenges majoritarian stories while simultaneously reinforcing and critiquing the operations of race, gender, sexuality, class, nation, and empire in U.S. society.



Bambu is one of the most well-known, prolific, and respected Asian American MCs in the independent Hip Hop scene and was formerly one-third of the pioneering Filipino American rap group, Native Guns. Bambu collaborated with the legendary DJ Muggs to produce *Los Angeles, Philippines*. Muggs is famed for his work as the DJ/Producer of Cypress Hill and Soul Assassins. With its self-conscious, self-referential style similar to Chuck D's *Autobiography of Mistachuck*, *Los Angeles, Philippines* works as a musical autobiography that connects individual and collective memory, narrative, and engagement with the everyday world.

11:30am - 12:30pm

Hamilton Library, Room 301

Admission Free | Refreshments Provided



Roderick Labrador is an Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. His research and community work focuses on race, ethnicity, class, culture, language, migration, education, hip hop, and cultural production in Hawai'i, the United States, and the Philippines. He hosts "Inside the Ethnic Studies Studio" where he and his students conduct interviews, workshops, and forums with local, national, and international hip hop artists on the Mānoa campus. He is the co-author of *Filipinos in Hawai'i*, coeditor of *Empire of Funk: Hip Hop and Representation in Filipina/o America*, and author of the forthcoming book, *Building Filipino Hawai'i*.

Presented by:

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