

## CALL FOR PAPERS: PROPOSAL FOR TWO-SESSION PLENARY PANEL

[Revised Proposal: June 16, 2008]

**8th International Conference on Philippine Studies  
23-26 July 2008, PSSCenter, Quezon City, Philippines**

### **I. CONTACT PERSONS:**

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- 3.) Michael Cullinane (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
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### **II. TWO-PART, BACK-TO-BACK PANEL:**

#### **A. TITLE: Capillaries of Empire: Philippine Colonial Rule in the Making of the Modern American State, Part I--The Hard Power of Coercive Controls**

CHAIR: Alfred McCoy (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

- a.) email: awmccoy@wisc.edu
- 1.) Warwick Anderson: (Sydney University)
  - a.) email: <whanderson@med.wisc.edu>
  - b.) **Title:** "Pacific Crossings: Imperial Logics in United States' Public Health Programs"
- 2.) Dan Doeppers (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
  - a.) email: <dfdoeppe@wisc.edu>
  - b.) **Title:** "Manila's Imperial Makeover: Health, Security, and Symbolism"
- 3.) Joshua Gedacht: (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
  - a.) email: gedacht@wisc.edu
  - b.) **Title:** "Massacres on the U.S. Imperial Frontier, From South Dakota to the Southern Philippines"
- 4.) Alfred McCoy (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
  - a.) email: awmccoy@wisc.edu
  - b.) **Title:** "US Colonial Conquest of the Philippines and the Rise of the National Security State"

#### **B. TITLE: Capillaries of Empire: Philippine Colonial Rule in the Making of the Modern American State, Part II--The Soft Power of Socio-Economic Change**

CHAIR: Warwick Anderson: (Sydney University)

- a.) email: <whanderson@med.wisc.edu>
- 1.) Greg Bankoff (Hull University)
  - a.) email: <G.Bankoff@hull.ac.uk>
  - b.) **Title:** "The Birth of Tropical Forestry in the USA: Gifford Pinchot in the Philippines"
- 2.) Glenn May (University of Oregon):

- 1.) email: gmay@darkwing.uoregon.edu
- 2.) **Title:** “The Business of Education in the Colonial Philippines, 1909-1930.”
- 3.) James Warren (Murdoch University)
  - a.) email: J.Warren@murdoch.edu.au
  - b.) **Title:** “Father Jose Algue, Jesuit Meteorology and the Philippines under American Rule, 1897-1924”
- 4.) Discussant: Michael Cullinane (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

### **III. PANEL ABSTRACT—“Capillaries of Empire”:**

This two-part panel will take a first step toward understanding the pervasive, persistent effects of early twentieth-century U.S. empire, not only upon the social fabric of its island colonies or even on geopolitical relations among states and interstate institutions, but, crucially, upon the practice of statecraft in the United States itself. The working assumption for this panel is, then, that the complex of transformative processes engendered by U.S. colonial practices in the Caribbean, the Pacific, and the Philippines--the crown jewel in the U.S. imperial diadem of islands--was not limited to the colonial periphery. Over time, they percolated homeward through the invisible capillaries of empire, ultimately shaping the metropolitan American state in profound, albeit less obvious ways. The purpose of this panel is to render visible some of these mutual historical transformations through a systematic survey of key aspects of US colonial governance in the Philippines, thereby filling lacunae not only in our understanding of the meaning of imperialism and the dynamics of colonial rule but also in the historical character of the United States as an empire and as a democracy.

### **IV. PAPER ABSTRACTS:**

#### **Warwick Anderson (University of Sydney): “Pacific Crossings: Imperial Logics in United States’ Public Health Programs”**

I want to explore the imperial logics of U.S. public health, both in the colonial Philippines and at home. Elsewhere I have described the colonial assemblage of medicine and hygiene in the early twentieth-century Philippines: here I will focus instead on various Pacific crossings, transfers of persons, ideas, models and practices between the continental U.S. and its island possessions in Southeast Asia. Traffic on these busy routes across the Pacific traveled in both directions, influencing rationalities of rule and structures of feeling at each destination. In particular, public health authorities transferred to the Philippines and adapted there, under conditions of colonial warfare, some military modes of population management and hygiene. Later, several health officers brought back to a few U.S. urban centers these transformed techniques of state intervention in ordinary lives, re-tuning and adding impetus to the domestic new public health in a variety of settings. Neither site was a mere palimpsest for imperial discourse, but these foreign perceptions and models did nonetheless make some behaviors legible, shift local trajectories, intensify certain styles of intervention, and re-shape social life.

#### **Greg Bankoff (University of Hull): “The Birth of Tropical Forestry in the USA: Gifford Pinchot in the Philippines”**

Gifford Pinchot is better remembered as the “father” of the U.S. Bureau of Forestry and for his contributions to conservation but he was also instrumental in establishing forestry in America’s new Asian colony in the Philippines. The Insular Bureau of Forestry was largely established along utilitarian conservation lines that sought to promote the lumber potential of the islands in such a manner that yields might be sustainable and the forest made to pay for its own maintenance. While

forest conservation in the United States was a venture of cooperative federalism involving a complex set of relationships that included the federal government, states' rights, industry and public opinion, those in charge of the forestry service in the archipelago had uncontested authority over the whole enterprise with a direct channel to executive power that was little answerable to local interests and seldom restrained by the voice of industry. Ironically, it was in America's Asian colony that the Progressive-era state was able to implement its reformist agenda virtually unopposed providing a testing ground for many of the programmes later enacted back home in the continental United States.

**Daniel F Doeppers (University of Wisconsin-Madison): “Manila’s Imperial Makeover: Security, Health, and Symbolism”**

The imposition of American imperial rule brought a rough-shod urgency to tackle the larger problems of what the Americans saw as “public health.” At their best, a small set of public officials were able to make a substantial difference both in sanitary regulation and infrastructure development as well as in the training of Filipinos to participate and carry on the work. The decision at the outset not to create a segregated American cantonment meant that most of these interventions yielded more or less beneficial results for much of urban society, not just or primarily the foreigners. Experience in Manila also yielded benefits for American cities in the areas of public health, civil engineering and infrastructure, and architectural aesthetics. In the case of Daniel Burnham, what Manila's legible and symbolic urban structure gained from his cosmopolitan experience and perspective is more readily apparent than what he may have learned and applied in the U.S. None of this is said with an eye to defending imperialism, since it has no defense, but is presented to show some of the connections, some of the opportunities for socially useful work, for solving urban sanitation and provisioning problems. Without such solutions, the mega-city that is modern Manila could hardly have emerged.

**Joshua Gedacht (University of Wisconsin-Madison): “Massacres on the U.S. Imperial Frontier, From South Dakota to the Southern Philippines”**

From 1890 until 1913, the U.S. Army's colonial campaigns produced recurring, but yet distinct, incidents of extreme bloodshed—including, the 1890 Wounded Knee massacre in South Dakota, the 1902 Balangiga massacre in the central Philippines, the 1906 massacre at Bud Dajo in Sulu, and the 1913 massacre at Bud Bagsak, also in Sulu. My paper will situate these episodes in a transnational frame that can help yield a fuller picture of the dynamics that turned ordinary military operations into extraordinary slaughters. In particular, it will argue that in spite of their dissimilarities, these incidents all held one thing in common: the death of non-Christian subject peoples. Across the American empire, ambitious army officers repeatedly invoked the diffuse, but potent specter of non-Christian savagery both as pretext and justification for killing hundreds, including women and children. The goal of my paper is to explain how this confluence of religious-inflected fears, military careerism, and territorial conquest played a decisive role in the making of massacres.

**Glenn Anthony May (University of Oregon): “The Business of Education in the Colonial Philippines”**

This paper completes a story I began telling in [Social Engineering in the Philippines](#). It demonstrates that after 1909 U.S. colonial policymakers attempted to place the Philippine school system on a “business basis,” with every primary student producing salable handicraft items or agricultural products. Over the next two decades, a massive educational infrastructure was created to achieve that goal, with a cadre of industrial education specialists at the apex of the system issuing

directives to teachers and children in the provinces. By the mid-1920s approximately a million Philippine schoolchildren were producing things for the marketplace.

By then, however, it was apparent that the industrial education program was a colossal failure. Items made or grown by the students could not find a market, and relatively few students used the industrial skills once they left the schools. In this paper, I devote particular attention to two components of the failed industrial-education experiment—efforts to increase corn production and to produce salable baskets.

### **Alfred McCoy (University of Wisconsin-Madison): “US Colonial Conquest of the Philippines and the Rise of the National Security State”**

From the first hours of the US occupation in August 1898, the Philippines served as the site of a protracted social experiment in the use of police as an instrument of state power. Indeed, America's ad hoc innovation with colonial policing was mutually transformative, central in both the formation of the Philippine polity and the transformation of an American national security state. At this periphery of empire, freed from the constraints of courts, constitution, and civil society, the US colonial regime fused new information technologies, the product of America's first information revolution, to create a modern police apparatus and fashion what was arguably the world's first full "surveillance state." Significantly, the colony's police, called Philippines Constabulary, became the first US Federal agency with a fully developed covert operational capacity. Under US rule, colonial police, particularly the Philippines Constabulary, shaped the country's political development by destroying radical nationalist movement and advancing political moderates. Colonialism, moreover, made police a central facet of the modern Philippine state, both in actual administration and in popular perception that equated good governance with effective policing. A decade later, these illiberal lessons percolated homeward through the invisible capillaries of empire to foster domestic surveillance in America itself during the social crisis surrounding World War I. Advances in policing at this periphery of empire thus served as both blueprint and bellwether for a later metropolitan transformation--as bellwether for surveillance of American citizens and blueprint for the formation of the US Army's Military Police and Military Intelligence.

### **James Francis Warren (Murdoch University): “Father Jose Algue, Jesuit Meteorology and the Philippines under American Rule, 1897-1924”**

The Philippine National Weather Bureau has its origins in the history of the Philippine Revolution and the United States coming of age as a colonial power in the Spanish –American War of 1898. When the Philippine Revolution was transformed into the Philippine American War a new weather agency was born: a Spanish. Jesuit inspired, American supported institution which would dramatically affect the daily lives of the newly colonized subjects of the United States through its innovative scientific model and practice, weather forecasts and storm warnings. The Americans retained on short notice the services of Father Jose Algue, S.J. as Director of the Weather Bureau. They recognized in Algue's character and intellect a scientific 'superman'. The skilful, articulate Spanish meteorologist would pave the way for the reorganization of the Manila Observatory under new colonial masters. The range of activities performed by the Weather Bureau were perceived by the United States Government to be of great importance to the agricultural and economic development of the Philippines. The birth and development of Jesuit meteorology, as practiced in Manila, was considered one of the cutting edge interdisciplinary models of scientific growth that held the key to addressing many of the problems facing the country's future commercial and agricultural progress. By the end of the first decade of the twentieth century, the scientific authority and control of Father Algue and the Manila Weather Bureau was recognized globally ,and, justified locally, on the basis of the accuracy and timing of their meteorological and scientific observations, the provision of a modern weather forecasting system, and the establishment and maintenance of a

regional wide storm warning service and network. The paper traces the process and sequence of events which helped, establish Fr. Algue as one of the leading meteorological figures in Asia, and, one of the world's foremost authorities on cyclones and forecasting the weather in the name of science and colonialism, with particular reference to his involvement in the St. Louis World's Fair of 1904 , the extension of a weather observation network across the Philippines, the establishment of a regional wide cable and wireless communication system, the introduction of daily weather maps, and, the development of his master plan for distant early warning and storm prediction.