

Notes on the Contributors

Jaime An Lim is a prize-winning author. He has published two poetry collections (*Trios* and *Auguries*) and two short story collections (*Hedonicus* and *The Axolotl Colony*). He was co-founder of the Iligan National Writers Workshop and coedited *Mindanao Harvest 4*, a National Book Award winner for best anthology in 2022. His book of literary criticism *A Post-Colonial Reading of the Philippine Novel, 1887-2018* is forthcoming from UP Press. He holds four post-graduate degrees from Indiana University, Bloomington, including a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature. He is a former dean of the Institute of Arts and Sciences of Far Eastern University. In his free time, he paints and keeps a small ornamental and vegetable garden in his backyard. He also provides home to a number of stray cats in the neighborhood (Alex, Karen, Lea, and Rio).

Cecilia Manguerra Brainard is the author and editor of over 20 books, including her three novels: *When the Rainbow Goddess Wept*, *Magdalena*, and *The Newspaper Widow*. Her recent publications are her *Selected Short Stories* and *Growing Up Filipino 3: New Stories for Young Adults*. Cecilia also runs the small press PALH (Philippine American Literary House), which has published books by Linda Ty-Casper, Veronica Montes, among others. As a former Executive Board Member of the writers' group PEN, Cecilia represented PEN USA West in International meetings in Barcelona and Santiago de Compostela. She served as an officer in such groups as the Midnight Special Cultural Center, PAAWW (Pacific Asian American Women Writers West), and the Arts & Letters at the Cal State University, LA. Cecilia has received a California Arts Council Fellowship, a Brody Arts Fund Fellowship, and an Outstanding Individual Award from Cebu, among others.

Jose Wendell P. Capili is Professor 12 and Vice President for Public Affairs, the University of the Philippines (2009-2023). He graduated from UST, UP Diliman, University of Tokyo, the University of Cambridge, and The Australian National University, where he earned his Ph.D. He has received a Palanca, a Cultural Center of the Philippines, and National Book Awards for Literature. He has authored seven books and over 300 articles and received fellowships in Australia, Europe, North America, and East and Southeast Asia. He is one of the seven Achievement Awardees for 2020 of the Department of Science and Technology-National Research Council of the Philippines (DOST-NRCP). He is a Life Member of Clare Hall, University of Cambridge.

Alma Anonas-Carpio is a freelance journalist and writer. She is the treasurer of the Manila Critics Circle and a judge of the National Book Awards. Alma is also the author of the erotic novel *How to Tame Your Tikbalang Without Even Trying*.

Ricardo M. de Ungria is a poet and editor who lives in Davao city. He dedicates his time and energy to doing research on Mindanao literatures. His most recent publication is the two-volume *Kalandrakas: Stories and Storytellers of/on Regions in Mindanao, 1890-1990, A Preliminary and Continuing Survey and Literary Mapping* (Ateneo de Manila University Press, 2022).

Loreta L. Fajardo has been teaching in the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology for 40 years. Her fields of specialization include literature, folklore, culture, and language studies.

James Fallows wrote the controversial 1987 article in the Atlantic Monthly about the Philippines' "damaged culture," which was actually a profile of F. Sionil Jose as a writer, author, and public intellectual. A journalist and author, he was chief speechwriter of US President Jimmy Carter (1977-1980), the youngest in US presidential history. He won the US National Book Award in 1983.

Maria L.M. Fres-Felix is a U.S.- educated economist turned fictionist. She has written four books. Her stories have been included in several anthologies here and abroad. Her latest book, *Crimetime* is a collection of linked crime stories featuring kick-ass lady crime fighter SJ Tuason. Fres-Felix has won

several Palanca Awards and *Philippine Free Press* Literary Awards. Two of her books were finalists for the National Book Awards. When not puzzling over mysteries, she tries Belly Dancing and Zumba, the operative word being “tries.”

Rita B. Gadi continues to write poetry, handles a regular social media program, is drafting a brief and simple new Philippine Constitution, has completed three books which are ready for publication, and is finishing her first novel.

Amado Cabus Guinto, Jr. has a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in English Language Studies from the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) where he now teaches Language and Literature. He was a fellow in the Iligan National Writers Workshop of MSU-IIT and in the J. Elizalde Navarro (JEN) Workshop on Critical and Cultural Heritage Studies of the University of Santo Tomas. Presently, he is pursuing a doctorate degree in Comparative Literature at the University of the Philippines Diliman. His research interests include Philippine folklore, theater and performance studies, translation, and literature. He is currently the Director of the MSU-IIT Center for Culture and the Arts.

Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo is a writer of fiction and nonfiction, a critic and a literary scholar. She has published more than 40 books, some of which have received national awards, like the Carlos Palanca Grand Prize for the Novel, and several National Book Awards (given by the Manila Critics Circle and the National Book Development Board). She has also received the Dangal ng Lahi Award from the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards and the Gawad Balagtas from Unyong ng mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas. Her latest book is *What I Wanted to Be When I Grew Up: Early Apprenticeship of a Writer* (UP Press, 2021). At present, Hidalgo is Director of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies, and Professor Emeritus of UP Diliman. She continues to teach graduate courses in Creative Writing and Literature at UST and UP.

Angelo R. Lacuesta is a novelist and short story writer, and also writes screenplays and essays. He has won many awards for his writing, among

them three National Book Awards, the NVM Gonzalez Award, numerous Palanca Memorial Awards and *Philippines Graphic Awards*, and the inaugural Madrigal Gonzalez Best First Book Award. He is editor at large at Esquire magazine Philippines and president of PEN (Poets, Essayists, Novelists) Philippines. His most recent book is the novel *Joy*, published by Penguin Random House SEA in 2022.

Elizabeth Lolarga has three poetry collections in small editions: *The First Eye* (1990, Kalikasan Press), *dangling doll: poems of laughter & desperation* (1997, Paper Tigers) and *Big Mama Sez: Poems Old & New* (2013, Central Books). Her selected essays, compiled in *Catholic and Emancipated* (2011), are part of the UST Publishing House's Personal Chronicles series. She earned her BA in Journalism at the University of the Philippines Diliman in 1977 and her Bachelor of Fine Arts from UP Baguio in 2009. She was awarded the 1985 Pediatrca-Philippine Pediatric Society Journalism Prize and the 2012 Chit Estella Award for Human Rights Reporting. She contributes occasional articles on books, music, and the arts to the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, *TheDiarist.ph*, and *Vera Files*.

Shirley O. Lua is an associate professor of literature at De La Salle University (DLSU). She sits on the board of the Manila Critics Circle, which hands out the National Book Awards annually to the best books published in the Philippines; and the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino, the film critics group that confers the annual Gawad Urian on the best Philippine movies. She co-edited *Direk: Essays on Filipino Filmmakers* (with Clodualdo del Mundo, Jr., DLSU Publishing House and Sussex Academic Press, 2018), which garnered the 2020 Gintong Aklat Award for Best Book in the Arts and the Humanities. She is former director of DLSU Bienvenido N. Santos Creative Writing Center (2011-2017).

A winner of the National Focus Literary Awards (1st prize Fiction category, and Special Award for the Essay), **Geraldine C. Maayo** is the author of four collections of fiction: *The Photographs and Other Stories*, *A Quality of Sadness*, *The Boys in the Boarding House* and *The Sorrows of Rowena*. A story from the first collection was included in a German anthology titled *Women*

from the Philippines. Most of her stories appeared in national magazines like the Philippines Free Press *Midweek*, *FIna*, *Mr. And Ms*, *Expressweek*, *The Philippine Graphic* as well as in the literary page of *The Manila Times*. She attended the Silliman Writers' Summer Workshop, and is an active member of the Philippine PEN. She is a retired professor of Industrial Relations of the University of the Philippines.

Alma Cruz Miclat is a freelance writer and president of the Maningning Miclat Art Foundation, Inc. (MMAFI) which has held the Maningning Miclat Trilingual Poetry Awards during odd-numbered years since 2003 and the Maningning Miclat Art Award during even-numbered years since 2004. She is a contributor to *Philippine Daily Inquirer* and *The Diarist*, and author of the books *Soul Searchers and Dreamers: Artists' Profiles* and *Soul Searchers and Dreamers, Vol. II*. She is co-author with Mario I. Miclat, Maningning Miclat and Banaue Miclat of *Beyond the Great Wall: A Family Journal* (Anvil), which won the 2007 National Book Award for biography/autobiography. She co-edited *Fairground: A Literary Feast* with Gémino H. Abad, and is a contributor to the books, *The Writers' Wives* (Anvil), *The Fallen Cradle* (Anvil), *To Be in History: Dark Days of Authoritarianism* (Langham, UK), and *In Certain Seasons: Mothers Write in the Time of Covid*.

Writer-historian **Ambeth Ocampo** is former chairman of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines. He writes the very popular history column, "Looking Back," in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* aside from authoring several best-selling popular-history titles.

Christine F. Godinez Ortega is a writer and cultural administrator. She is a long-time Director of the Iligan National Writers Workshop and is Founder and Chair of the Mindanao Creative and Cultural Workers Group (MCCWG) Board of Directors. Recently, she was awarded the 2022 CCP Kaisa ng Sining Gador Awards for Literature and Cultural Work.

Journalist and writer **Manolo Quezon III** is the grandson of President Manuel L. Quezon. He was presidential assistant for history of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and press undersecretary of President Benigni C.

Aquino III. He is a columnist of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* and he used to host the TV public affairs show, “The Explainer.”

Menchu Aquino Sarmiento is a social concerns advocate who writes creative fiction and non-fiction.

Francisco S. Tatad is a three-term senator of the Republic of the Philippines, from 1992-2001. He was a diplomatic reporter for the *Manila Bulletin* before joining the government of President Ferdinand E. Marcos who made him Information Minister when he was just 29 years old, the youngest press secretary in Philippine history. His autobiography, *All is Grace*, has just been published by Solidaridad Publishing House.

Edwin Thumboo, Singapore’s laureate of poetry in English, is the editor of *Frankie Sionil Jose: A Tribute*, published in 2005 by Marshall Cavendish. He is professor emeritus and professorial fellow of the National University of Singapore, where he had served as inaugural dean of its Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

John Jack G. Wigley is the author of seven books: *Pag-ibig sa Panahon ng Kolera* (a Filipino translation of Gabriel Garcia Marquez’s *Love in the Time of Cholera*, Lampara Books, 2022); *Kadenang Bahaghari* (Pride Lit Books, 2019); *Hantong: Mga Kuwento* (UST Publishing House, 2018), a finalist for Best Book in Fiction in Filipino in the 2019 National Book Awards; *Lait (pa more) Chronicles* (Visprint Publishing, 2017); *Lait Chronicles* (Visprint Publishing, 2016), a finalist in the 2017 National Book Awards for Best Book in Nonfiction in Filipino; *Home of the Ashfall* (UST Publishing House, 2014) and *Falling into the Manhole* (UST Publishing House, 2012), winner of the Best Book (Gawad San Alberto Magno) in the 15th Dangal ng UST and a finalist in the 13th Madrigal-Gonzalez Best First Book Award. He has also co-authored a number of textbooks on literature and creative writing. Presently, he is the chair of the UST Department of Literature, a literature professor at the Faculty of Arts and Letters and Graduate School, a resident fellow of the Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies, and

a research fellow of the Research Cluster on Culture, Arts, and Humanities (RCCAHL).

Robert Yeo is a poet, fictionist, and playwright, and he wrote probably Singapore's most famous drama, *The Singapore Trilogy*. He has received, among many significant awards, the Southeast Asia WRITE Award in 2011. Ethos Books published his memoirs, *Routes: A Singaporean Memoir, 1940-1975* also in 2011.

Hope Sabanpan-Yu is the current director of the University of San Carlos Cebuano Studies Center and the Chair of the Division of the Humanities of the Research Council of the Philippines. She is also the commissioner for the Cebuano language of the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino and technical panel member for Literature of the Commission on Higher Education. She is a poet, fictionist, essayist, and works part-time in translation.