

Shaping Asia

Keeping Cool in Metro Manila During the Pandemic

Indoor Microclimates as Sites of Knowledge Mobilization

Prof. Dr. Czarina Saloma-Akpedonu

Ateneo de Manila University

Thursday, 23 June 2022

10:15–11:45 (CET)

Zoom event

The use of artificially cooled air is associated with both the malls and middle-class homes in tropical Metro Manila. With air-conditioning in homes being used sparingly due to the high cost of unsubsidized electricity, the hyper-conditioned malls become spaces where cooling down is experienced at no direct cost. However, during Metro Manila's two-year COVID-19 lockdown which introduced working from home, the organization of everyday life around keeping cool changed. The indoor microclimate—the patterns of ventilation, vegetation, and other factors that affect the thermal comfort in homes—became a site where material contexts (e.g., space, objects, infrastructures, technologies; competencies (e.g., skills and knowledge required in keeping cool); and institutional structures (e.g., systems of provisioning) were produced, transmitted, received, evaluated, and integrated into existing knowledge systems. How did people seek to achieve “sustainable wellbeing” in epistemically critical but pragmatic terms? This lecture is based on qualitative interviews with thirty individuals who worked from home during lockdown in the capital region of the Philippines.

Czarina Saloma-Akpedonu, Professor at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and Dean of the School of Social Sciences of the Ateneo de Manila University, obtained her doctoral degree in Sociology from Universitaet Bielefeld, M.A. in Population Science from Peking University, and B.A. in Sociology from the University of the Philippines in Diliman. Saloma's research on knowledge mobilization in social development, built environment, and sustainable consumption aims at promoting the problem-solving mode in social science engagements. She is the author of *Possible Worlds in Impossible Spaces: Knowledge, Gender, and Information Technology in the Philippines* [Ateneo de Manila University Press (AUP), 2006]; *Casa Boholana: Vintage Houses of Bohol* (with E. Akpedonu, AUP, 2011); *Many Voices, Many Journeys: Filipina Overseas Workers, 1960-2010* (with E. Manlapaz/Y. Buencamino, Anvil, 2015); and *Food Consumption in the City: Practices and Patterns in Urban Asia and the Pacific* (with M. Sahakian/S. Erkman, Routledge, 2016). She worked with Ms. Cherie Audrey Alfiler and Ms. Abigail Marie Favis (Ateneo de Manila University) and Dr. Marlyne Sahakian (University of Geneva) for the "Keeping Cool During the Pandemic" project.

Zoom registration Link: <https://unibielefeld.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5EqcuupqzMpHtOwqckJLYtIFul-scLzlqk7>