Research Summary

**Literature as History: Hybridity, Memory and Counter-memory in the Short Fiction of Sinai C. Hamada**

American hegemonic discourse has helped establish the image of Japan, particularly in the light of the Second World War in the Pacific as a country with ruthless and destructive citizens. Various media forms, like the editorial cartoon and other caricatures, as well as popular visual forms such as the leaflet, painting, poster, among others, reinforce this hegemony. By turning to literature as well as media products this established truth is interrogated and laid bare.

Sinai C. Hamada (1912-1991), a prominent Filipino-Japanese *mestizo* writer in English has written a number of short stories that challenge the stereotypical notions of the Japanese as cruel. Informed by postcolonial discourse, specifically the concepts of hybridity and memory, and the Foucauldian discourse of genealogy of and counter-memory, my study shows the significant yet often glossed over cultural encounters between the Igorots and the Japanese at the beginning of the twentieth century to help in the construction of Kennon Road, the reputed gateway to the Cordillera, north Luzon, and later to assist in the creation of Baguio City as an American colonial hill station. Hamada’s stories together with popular media texts foreground the memory and counter-memory of both Igorots and Japanese at a particular point in history. By turning to these alternative sources of knowledge, the student of history and culture is able to assert and resemanticize the cultural and everyday *fas-ang* (crossing over) between the Igorots and the Japanese.

In effect, the value of literature and popular visual forms foreground what Michel Foucault calls “subjugated knowledges” which enable us to comprehend something which is altogether different and which has been dismissed as sorely inadequate (82). Hence the struggles and histories of the marginalized and or/or hybrid cultures are rightfully brought to the fore.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

**Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)**


**Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)**

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