

The European Association for Southeast Asian Studies (EuroSEAS) Conference

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Panel Title

The Blowing Wind of Change: The Philippines under the Presidency of Rodrigo Duterte

Panel Convener

Richard Karl Deang, Department of Gender Studies, Central European University

Panel Description

On 30 June 2016, Rodrigo Duterte assumed the Philippine presidency following a convincing electoral victory. His presidency has been the subject of controversies surrounding his unorthodox administration of both domestic and foreign affairs, including his antagonistic relations with the United States and other foreign entities; his use of sexist, homophobic, anti-Semitic and vulgar language in his speeches and interviews; and his massive war on narcotics, which, to date, has taken more than 4 000 lives in his four months in office.¹ These controversies have launched bitterly polarizing debates among Filipinos in the Philippines and in the diaspora, as well as among foreign observants.

For example, whereas critics have accused Duterte of condoning the human rights violations attached to his administration's purported extrajudicial killings, support for the activities of his administration has been exceptionally high: in a public opinion survey conducted a month after his inauguration, he obtained an unprecedented approval rating of 91%.² On the one hand, supporters have lauded Duterte's transformative power, which was marketed during his presidential campaign through the popular slogan, "Change Is Coming." On the other hand, critics perceive the rise of a totalitarian government in the midst of a prolonged period of uncertain democracy in post-Marcos Philippines.

This double-session panel addresses these cultural, social, and political transformations through an interdisciplinary and interinstitutional collaboration. It deploys a multi-methodological approach drawing on theories and methods from various fields such as communication studies, development economics, gender studies, international relations, legal studies, public policy, and political science. In the first session, panelists offer anthropological and sociological analyses of the intersections of age, class, gender, sexuality, nationhood and other factors in Philippine popular politics, and the contributions of these factors to the construction of Duterte's political rhetoric. The second panel will offer perspectives from scholars in law, political science, and public policy on the implications of the aforementioned crises on various areas such as Philippine economic development; Philippine relations with foreign bodies, most especially with the ASEAN, China, Russia, the United Nations, and the United States; and Philippine constitutional politics.

1. Gil C. Cabacungan, "No cop would've died if I ordered killings," *The Philippine Daily Inquirer*, 13 October 2016, <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/824756/no-cop-wouldve-died-if-i-ordered-killings>.

2. Rosette Adel, "91% of Filipinos trust Duterte - Pulse Asia," *The Philippine Star*, 20 July 2016, <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/07/20/1604814/91-filipinos-trust-duterte-pulse-asia>.

Session 1: *Anthropological and Sociological Perspectives*

1. **Richard Karl Deang**, Department of Gender Studies, Central European University
2. **Catherine Lourdes Dy**, Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate GEM Program, Université Libre de Bruxelles and LUISS Guido Carli di Roma
3. **Sarah Christina Ganzon**, Department of Communication Studies, Concordia University

Session 2: *Economic, Legal and Political Perspectives*

4. **Benedict G. Nisperos**, Department of Geography and Environment, London School of Economics
5. **Angel Bombarda**, School of Public Policy, Central European University, and **Tieza Mica Santos**, Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy, Central European University
6. **Mark Thompson**, Department of Asian and International Studies, City University of Hong Kong