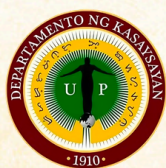


24th Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day Conference
13-14 October 2026
Universidad de Zamboanga

Writing Mindanao

*and the Philippine-Spanish
Archives Democratization*



CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

Historical Mindanao has many surviving records, including indigenous writings, as well as Portuguese, Dutch, and British accounts on economic and diplomatic encounters with its sultanates (Majul 1973; Laarhoven 1989; Arcilla 1990; Tan 1996, 2005; Tan and Bakuludan 1996; Hayase, Non, and Ulaen 1999; Casiño 2000; Schreurs 2000; Tiu 2005; Donoso 2010; Lopez 2019; Mastura 2023; Sousa Pinto, eds. 2025). In Isaac Donoso's (2024) assessment, the materials in the Spanish archives alone on what we today call Bangsamoro are "enormous" and "will take several decades and generations of research to have a complete picture of preserved materials, and to offer to the historians edited and translated sources" (p. 150). And James Warren (1981) acknowledged that the trade documents between Manila and Sulu from 1768 to 1848, found in the Archivo General de Indias, were "among the most important sources" he used in his book *The Sulu Zone* (p. xiii). He also remarked that Sulu Sultante records from 1769 to 1898 "were still scattered, even unrecognized, in several European archives, and in Manila and Jakarta" (pp. xii-xiii).

With online repositories such as the Portal de Archivos Españoles, Biblioteca Nacional de España, Biblioteca Virtual de Defensa of Spain, and, most recently, the Globalise collection of VOC sources from the Dutch Nationaal Archief, one can now access important information about Mindanao's history. And documents, whether discovered for the first time or reread through this democratized access, can, as William Henry Scott (1978) reminds us in *Cracks in the parchment curtain*, lead to fruitful reassessments of Mindanao's past.

The theme of this year's conference underscores the enrichment of discourse and methodology in writing, research, and the shaping of Mindanao's history amid digital archives. It is hoped that digitized archival materials, maps, photographs, and ephemera online, especially from the archipelago's colonial-era until the nineteenth century's end, will enrich our understanding of Mindanao's rich and proud history and heritage beyond the "conventional, and popular, interpretation" of its past which, to continue borrowing the words of Patricio Abinales (2000), has focused narrowly on "resistance." Innovative analyses, reconsiderations, and challenging questions of access, language, and paleography are all relevant concerns as they bring the Filipino public closer to the 2030 celebration of Philippine Muslim History and Heritage, with which our conference is in solidarity.

CONVENERS

Asst. Prof. Ian Christopher B. Alfonso, PhD
Asst. Prof. Janet S. Reguindin-Estella, PhD

SCHEDULE SUMMARY

Date	Time	Panel Session
13 October	8:00–9:00 AM	Registration
	9:00–10: 00 AM	Opening Program
	10:00–11:00 AM	Keynote Address
	11:15 AM– 12: 45 PM	Panel 1: Democratizing Mindanao Cartography
	1:45 – 3:15 PM	Panel 2: Rethinking Opportunities for Mindanao
	3:30– 4:30 PM	Panel 3: Mindanao and the Spanish Digital Archives
14 October	8:00–9:00 AM	Registration
	9:00–10:00 AM	Keynote Address
	10:15–11:45 AM	Panel 4: Mindanao and the Foreign Digital Archives I
	1:00–2:30 PM	Panel 5: Mindanao and the Foreign Digital Archives II
	2:30–3: 30 PM	Panel 6: Special Topics on Mindanao
	3:45 - 4:30 PM	Launch and Book Talk: <i>The Filipino Worldview Through Art, Images, and Objects</i>
	4:30 – 4: 45 PM	Closing Remarks

DAY 1 | 13 OCTOBER 2026 (TUESDAY)
TEATRO ESTRELLA
UNIVERSIDAD DE ZAMBOANGA, ZAMBOANGA CITY

8:00–9:00 AM	Registration
9:00–10:00 AM	Opening Program Philippine and Spanish National Anthems Opening Prayer Hon. Maria Isabelle Climaco Vice Mayor, Zamboanga City Opening Remarks President Abram Eustaquio Universidad de Zamboanga Message from the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (Video) Hon. Carminda R. Arevalo Executive Director Message from the Zamboanga City Government Hon. Khymer Olaso Mayor, Zamboanga City Message from the Embassy of Spain in the Philippines H.E. TBA Ambassador Introduction to the Conference Theme Assoc. Prof. Ruel V. Pagunsan, PhD Chairperson, Department of History University of the Philippines Diliman Recognising Rose: Rose Marie Mendoza’s Contributions to Philippine Historical Research
10:00–11:00 AM	Keynote Address Hon. Regalado Trota Jose Jr. <i>Chairperson, National Historical Commission of the Philippines</i>

	Open Forum Moderator: Prof. Rowena Bailon, PhD <i>Department of History, University of the Philippines Diliman</i>
	Panel 1: Democratizing Mindanao Cartography Moderator: Prof. Kristoffer R. Esquejo, PhD <i>Department of History, University of the Philippines Diliman</i>
11:15 AM– 12:45 PM	Mindanao maps to the 19th Century in the Digital World and the Stories they tell Felice Noelle Rodriguez, PhD <i>Director, El Kaban de Zamboanga Center for Local History and Culture, Universidad de Zamboanga</i> Moro and Lumad Iconography and Toponymy in 17th and 19th Century Spanish Cartographic Sources Asst. Prof. Noralia Ibrahim, Asst. Prof. Jihan Bacug, and Sharon Bulaclac <i>Department of History, Mindanao State University Marawi</i> Memory, Identity, and Geography in Recuerdos de Mindanao: Visualizing the Past Through Spanish Colonial Photographs Sharon Bulaclac and Jihan S. Bacug <i>Department of History, Mindanao State University Marawi</i> Open Forum
12: 45–1:45 PM	Lunch
	Panel 2: Rethinking Opportunities for Mindanao Moderator: Asst. Prof. Francisco Jayme Paolo A. Guiang <i>Department of History, University of the Philippines Diliman</i>
1:45 – 3:15 PM	Some Important Aspects of Philippine Muslim History in Spanish Documents Asst. Prof. Darwin J. Absari <i>Institute of Islamic Studies, University of the Philippines Diliman</i> Surveying Digital Archives: Spanish Documentary Sources on Ranaw History Ruhollah Al-Husseini J. Alonto <i>Graduate Student, Department of History, Mindanao State University– Iligan Institute of Technology</i> Ka-Agi, Kasaysayan: Rethinking Local History in Mindanao in the Age of Digital Archives Assoc. Prof. Archil Daug <i>Department of History, Mindanao State University–Iligan Institute of Technology</i> Open Forum

3:15–3:30 PM	Break
Panel 3: Mindanao and the Spanish Digital Archives Moderator: Asst. Prof. Francis Justine M. Malban <i>Department of History, University of the Philippines Diliman</i>	
3:30– 4:30 PM	Frontier Landscape: The Founding and Defense of Misamis in Northern Mindanao, 1753-1768 Chesterly Cañeda Digital Archives and the Making of Northern Mindanao Assoc. Prof. Jay Rome O. de los Santos <i>Department of History, Mindanao State University–Iligan Institute of Technology</i> Open Forum
DAY 2 14 OCTOBER 2026 (WEDNESDAY) TEATRO ESTRELLA UNIVERSIDAD DE ZAMBOANGA, ZAMBOANGA CITY	
8:00–9:00 AM	Registration
9:00–10:00 AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS Prof. David Manzano Cosano, PhD <i>University of Cadiz</i> Open Forum Moderator: Asst. Prof. Grace Liza Y. Concepcion, PhD
10:00–10:15 AM	Break

Panel 4: Mindanao and the Foreign Digital Archives I Moderator: Prof. Kerby Alvarez, PhD Department of History, University of the Philippines Diliman	
10:15–11:45 AM	Dutch-language Archives and the Study of Mindanao in the Early Modern Period ^(Online) Assoc. Prof. Ariel C. Lopez, PhD <i>Asian Center, University of the Philippines Diliman</i> An Analysis of Indigenous Manuscripts: The Diviner’s Handbook Sittie Ayena H. Caye <i>History Researcher II</i> <i>Bangsamoro Commission for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage</i> Geographies of Identity in 19th Century Mindanao: An Exploratory Examination of Three Spanish Manuscripts Found in the Digital Collections of the Newberry Library Asst. Prof. Jihan Bacug and Asst. Prof. Zizzle Dawn Sayson <i>Department of History, Mindanao State University Marawi</i> Open Forum
11:45 AM–1:00 PM	Lunch
PANEL 5: Mindanao and the Foreign Digital Archives II Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Karl Frederick Poblador, PhD Department of History, University of the Philippines Diliman	
1:00–2:30 PM	“Portugal-Philippines: Connected Histories” – Some Recent Contributions about Portuguese Sources on the History of Early Modern Philippines ^(Online) Paulo Jorge de Sousa Pinto, PhD <i>Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Lisbon</i> Beyond the Archive: SOAS Digital Projects and the Democratization of Mindanao Historical Sources ^(Online) Cristina Martinez-Juan, PhD <i>Project Head, Philippine Studies at SOAS University of London</i> Bernardo Morales Soriano's Moros de Mindanao and the Digital Reconstruction of Colonial Knowledge ^(Online) Geronimo Cristobal <i>PhD Candidate, The College of Arts & Sciences, Cornell University</i> Open Forum

PANEL 6: Special Topics on Mindanao Moderator: Maria Clarissa J. Macapil <i>Director, Human Resource Department, Universidad de Zamboanga</i>	
2:30–3:30 PM	Sa Lupa Sabiwang: An Assessment of Colonial Documentations of Palimbang Lorenzo Jose C. Martinez <i>Lecturer, Department of History, University of the Philippines Diliman</i> The Jesuit Letters from Mindanao (Agusan Mission) As Source of Seismology and Hydrography Data for Agusan River Valley Assoc. Prof. Kimberly F. Apatan-Lusay <i>Department of History, Mindanao State University Marawi</i> Open Forum
3:30 - 3:45 PM	Break
Launch and Book Talk <i>The Filipino Worldview through Art, Images, and Objects (From indigenous culture to the 19th century)</i> Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Kristyl N. Obispado, PhD Department of History, University of the Philippines Diliman	
3:45 - 4:30 PM	Shaunnah Ysabel V. Cledera <i>University of the Philippines Los Baños</i> Marjorie Almario-Magdadaro, PhD <i>MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology</i> Caroline Tacata- Tardibone <i>PhD in History Candidate at the University of Hawaii, Mānoa</i> Open Forum
4:30 – 4: 45 PM	Closing Remarks Asst. Prof. Ian Christopher B. Alfonso, PhD <i>Convener, 24th Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day International Conference</i> Certificate Distribution

