

# Asian American Studies and the Center for Research on Race & Ethnicity in Society (CRRES) *present*

## Martin Joseph Ponce

*English, Sexuality Studies,  
& Asian American Studies*  
Ohio State University



**Monday, Feb. 29**  
**4:00 pm, Ballantine 004**

Dr. Ponce's teaching and research interests focus on the relations among race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and national belonging. He is the author of *Beyond the Nation: Diasporic Filipino Literature and Queer Reading* (New York University Press, 2012) as well as articles on Carlos Bulosan, Langston Hughes, Jose Garcia Villa, and the Filipino diaspora.

## “Contending Empires, Nations, and Desires in Asian American Literature”

This talk takes as its point of departure the shift in Asian American studies from U.S.-centric analyses concerned with “claiming America” and Asian American political identity to diasporic, postcolonial frameworks concerned with transnational linkages and multiple social differences. Although the field has sought to account for the impact of U.S. colonialism and imperialism in Asia and the Pacific on Asians in America, my approach attends to the ways that Asian American literature registers the competing politics and practices of U.S., European, and Japanese empires, and Asian and U.S. state nationalisms. Elaborating on the work enacted under the rubric of queer diasporic critique, moreover, my readings focus on the ways that these inter-imperial and inter-national conflicts are waged on and through the bodies of gendered and sexualized figures. By elucidating these complexities, my project aims to discern and unravel the logic that sustains both U.S. and Asian American exceptionalisms.

There will be a graduate student coffee hour with Dr. Ponce earlier in the day.  
Email [aasp@indiana.edu](mailto:aasp@indiana.edu) for more info.