

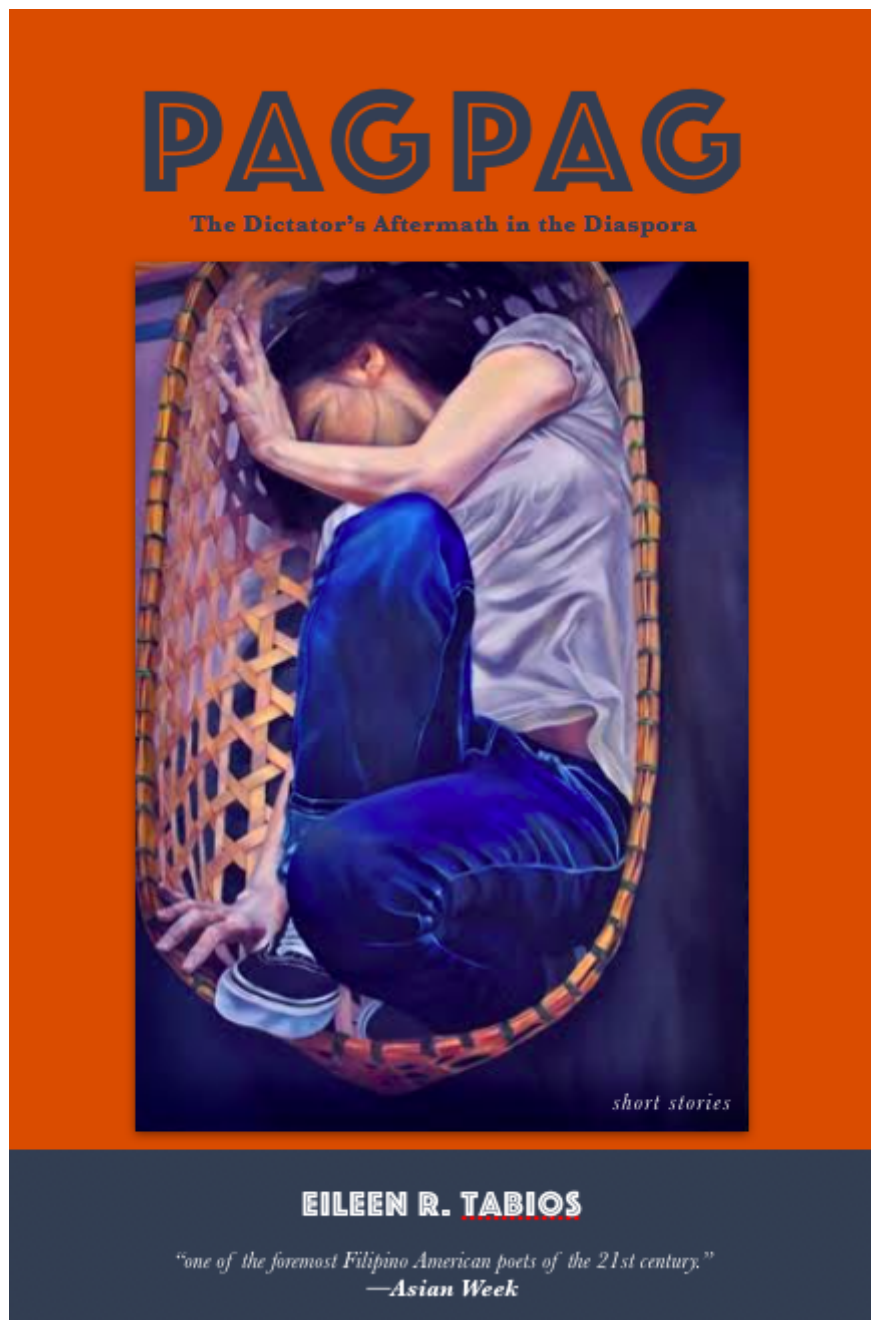


In the Dictator's Aftermath: Conversation and Book Launch



Paloma Press

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[Via FB Live](#)

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In the Dictator's Aftermath: Conversation and Book Launch for PAGPAG by Eileen R. Tabios

Eileen Tabios has released over 60 collections of poetry, fiction, essays, and experimental biographies from publishers in ten countries and cyberspace. Recent releases include a short story collection, PAGPAG: The Dictator's Aftermath in the Diaspora and a poetry collection, The In(ter)vention of the Hay(na)ku: Selected Tercets 1996-2019. Forthcoming soon is her third bilingual edition (English/Thai), INCULPATORY EVIDENCE: Covid-19 Poems. Her award-winning body of work includes invention of the hay(na)ku, a 21st century diasporic poetic form, and the MDR Poetry Generator that can create poems totaling theoretical infinity, as well as a first poetry book, Beyond Life Sentences, which received the Philippines' National Book Award for Poetry. Translated into 11 languages, she has edited, co-edited or conceptualized 15 anthologies of poetry, fiction and essays. More information is available at <http://eileenrtabios.com>

Moderator:

Joi Barrios-Leblanc serves as a Lecturer at UC Berkeley after working as Associate Professor at the University of the Philippines. She is the author of several books, among them, To Be a Woman is to Live at a Time of War, and From the Theater Wings: Grounding and Flight of Filipino Women Playwrights. She has won national literary awards, and was among the 100 women Weavers of History chosen for the Philippine Centennial, 1998. She received the TOWNS (Ten Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service) Award, 2004 and the Balagtas Lifetime Achievement Award for Filipino Poetry, 2016.

Panelists:

Albert Alejo ("Paring Bert") is a Filipino Jesuit priest, educator, poet, peace negotiator, humanitarian and human rights advocate. He holds a Master's degree in Philosophy, a Master's in Theology, and Master's and Doctorate degrees in Social Anthropology from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. He is founder of "Ehem! Anti-corruption Initiative" and author of "Tao Po! Tuloy!: Isang Landas ng Pag-Unawa sa Loob ng Tao," "Generating Energies In Mount Apo: Cultural Politics In A Contested Enviroment," "Nabighani: Mga Saling Tula ng Kapwa Nilikha," and other works. He teaches at the Ateneo de Manila University, and his areas of specialization include Christian Social Ethics: Corruption and Violence and the Formation of Social Conscience, Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue, and Methods of Research for Doctor of Ministry.

Maria Nerissa Balce is an Associate professor of Asian American studies at SUNY Stony Brook. Her research focuses on race, gender, state violence and popular culture in the U.S. and the Philippines. She is co-curator of the online art project, *Dark Lens / Lente ng Karimlan: The Filipino Camera in Duterte's Republic*, an online exhibition of Philippine photographs of the drug war featuring commissioned poems and captions by 40 scholars and artists from the Philippines and North America. *Dark Lens* is currently on view at SUNY Stony Brook's Center for the Study of Inequalities, Social Justice and Policy website. Balce is the author of the book, *Body Parts of Empire: Visual Abjection, Filipino Images and the American Archive*, winner of the 2018 Best Book award in Cultural Studies from the Filipino Section of the Association for Asian American Studies. The book was also a finalist for the best book in the social sciences for the 2018 Philippine National Book Awards. She was born and raised in Manila, Philippines.

Renato Redentor Constantino ("Red") is the Executive Director of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities and the author of *The Poverty of Memory: Essays on History and Empire*. He is anthologized in *Letters to the Earth* (HarperCollins, 2019) with Yoko Ono, Mary Oliver, Emma Thompson and Mark Rylance, *Humanity* (Paloma Press, 2018) with Eileen Tabios, Laura Mullen, and Murzban F. Shroff, *Literary Encounters: A Comprehensive Worktext in 21st Century Literature from the Philippines* (University of San Carlos Press, 2016), and the Japanese publication *The World Can be Changed: An Anthology for Posterity* (TUP/Seven Forest Bookstore, Tokyo: 2004), along with Ariel Dorfman, Jane Goodall, Chalmers Johnson, and Sami Ramadani. As head of ICSC, he published and contributed to the anthology, *Agam: Filipino Narratives on Uncertainty and Climate Change* (ICSC, 2014), which was awarded three national book awards. He writes for several publications, and his essays on history, memory, environment and development have been translated into several languages. Red also manages the Constantino Foundation which is dedicated to advancing the idea of a usable history, where lessons from the past become active elements of the present.

S. Lily Mendoza (she, her, hers) is a native of San Fernando, Pampanga in Central Luzon, Philippines, the traditional homeland of the Ayta peoples. She is a Professor of Culture and Communication at Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan and the current Director of the Center for Babaylan Studies (CfBS), a non-profit organization on Turtle Island (North America) offering educational programming aimed at facilitating decolonization and pagbabalik-loob (recovery of an indigenous way of being in the world) among Filipinos in the diaspora. She is the author of *Between the Homeland and the Diaspora: The Politics of Theorizing Filipino and Filipino American Identities* and lead editor of *Back from the Crocodile's Belly: Philippine Babaylan Studies and the Struggle for*

Indigenous Memory and has also published widely in various cultural and native studies journals and anthologies on questions of identity and subjectivity, cultural politics in national, post- and trans- national contexts, discourses of indigenization, race, and ethnicity, and, more recently, civilization and climate change.

Hosts:

Aileen Cassinetta

Michelle Bautista

About [**PAGPAG**](#):

“Pagpag” is the practice of scavenging through trash heaps for discarded food that the poor then attempts to clean and re-cook for new meals. Pagpag heart-wrenchingly symbolizes the effects of a corrupt government unable to take care of—indeed, abusing—its people. PAGPAG’s stories, while not overtly addressing this radical torture of cuisine, relate to what lurks within the stew created by a dictator’s actions. The aftermath is not always obvious like the imprisoned, the tortured, or the salvaged (murdered); the aftermath goes deep to affect even future generations in a diaspora facilitated by corruption, incompetence, and venality.

Eileen R. Tabios wrote “protest stories” from 1995-2001 against Ferdinand Marcos’ martial law in the Philippines, including “Tapey” which was read for Hawai’i Public Radio. These stories, except for a 2019 story written as a coda, form her new short story collection, *PAGPAG*. As indicated by its subtitle *The Dictator’s Aftermath in the Diaspora*, the collection presents stories from the points of view of children brought out of the Philippines by their parents (or other adults) in response to the Marcos dictatorship—children who grew up watching and listening to adults remember the homeland they left behind and who, as adults, can more fully articulate the effect of their histories.

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