

University of Hawaii at Hilo  
2nd International Conference on Multidisciplinary Filipino Studies  
November 16-18, 2018

Venue and Host: De La Salle University–Dasmarina, Cavite, Philippines

Profiles of the Speakers

Dr. Bruce Mathews holds the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Florida. His MS degree is from Louisiana State University, and his BS degree from University of Hawaii at Hilo. He is a professor of soil science and agronomy at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) and has worked there since 1993. He currently serves as Dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management (CAFNRM). His areas of research are plant nutrient cycling and soil fertility as affected by environmental conditions and crop management; assessment of the impact of agricultural and forestry production practices on soil, coastal wetlands, and surface waters; and development of environmentally sound and economically viable nutrient management practices for pastures, forests, and field crops in the tropics. He has traveled throughout the Philippines and Indonesia on several projects related to his work and did a sabbatical leave in the Philippines during 2001-2002. He received his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, *with high honors*, in 1986 from UH Hilo. He received his Master of Science in Agronomy from Louisiana State University and his Doctor of Philosophy in Agronomy, with a minor in Animal Science, from the University of Florida. He has authored over 50 scientific articles and book chapters. His wife, Grenia, is a pediatric nurse originally from Cagayan de Oro, Philippines, and they have two children. He enjoys exercising at the gym with Grenia and going to the beach and riding the waves with his kids.



Dr. Shirley Dita is an Associate Professor at the Department of English and Applied Linguistics, De La Salle University, Manila, the Philippines. Her research interests include corpus linguistics, syntax and sociolinguistics of English and Philippine languages. She has been the President of the Linguistic Society of the Philippines (2015-2018). Over the years, Shirley has been involved in the corpus building and documentation of various Philippine languages. She works closely with her PhD students in documenting and revitalizing indigenous languages in the country and is a strong advocate of the Mother Tongue Based – Multilingual Education (MTBMLE). She is currently doing a project on revitalizing the oral language traditions and cultural practices of some indigenous Philippine languages.



Shirley also spent a month in the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa and visited various indigenous communities in the country. An indefatigable scholar and a paragon of beauty and intelligence, Dr. Shirley Dita holds the distinction of the first *Featured Speaker* of the University of Hawaii at Hilo - International Conference on Multidisciplinary Filipino Studies.

Dr. Ederson Delos Trino Tápia is an Associate Professor and the Dean of the College of Governance and Public Policy at the University of Makati (*UMak*). He was also a Senior Lecturer in Political Science at the University of the Philippines. Dean Tápia pursued his International Master in Regional Integration (IMRI) at the Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, graduating *Dengan Cemerlang (summa cum laude)*. He did his internship and Special Studies at King's College London at the University of London, United Kingdom. He followed up with an MA in Philippine Studies major in Philippine External Relations, and a doctorate in Public Administration from the University of the Philippines, and a PhD in Leadership (Public Management). Dr Tápia was an academic scholar at the Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya and a university scholar at University of the Philippines. He has presented papers in numerous international conferences and published articles in internationally-refereed journals in the areas of Philippine government and politics, international political economy, regional integration, and Asia-Europe relations. Professor Tápia is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Society for Public Administration (PSPA) and the Philippine Councilors League – Legislative Academy (PCL-LA), and sits in the Editorial Board of the Journal of Southeast Asian Studies (JATI), the Journal of Maritime and Oceanic Studies, among others. He serves as a consultant to various organizations in the government such as the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO), Office of the President of the Philippines, and the private sector.



Dr. Hanafi Hussin is the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He is an Associate Professor at the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, University of Malaya. He is also the Editor-in-Chief of the Borneo Research Journal and the Journal of Southeast Asian Studies (JATI), two of the multi-disciplinary peer-reviewed journals published annually by the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, University of Malaya. His research on area studies covers the vast expanse of *Traditional Arts and Culture Humanities* particularly in the fields of human geography, interdisciplinary cultural studies, performing arts, heritage studies, rituals, and social anthropology in Southeast Asia. He has been conducting research on the cultural cosmology and indigenous performativities of Southeast Asia, which encompasses ritual and identity mainly with *Kadazandusun* of Penampang and the *Lutod Dusun* community of Tuaran in Sabah, Malaysia. He is actively doing research on ritual, performing arts, and migration studies of the maritime communities of Southeast Asia particularly the Sama Dilaut of Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.



Dr. Christian George Francisco holds the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Filipino from the Philippine Normal University-Manila. He is the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Communication at De La Salle University-Dasmariñas since 2012 and Professor at the Graduate Studies. He is a member of the Commission on Higher Education Technical Committee for Filipino and a former secretary of the National Committee on Language and Translation at the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. In his capacity as an administrator and a scholar, his international exposure reaches as far as the many countries in Asia and Europe and that of the United States of America. In this conference, he holds the distinction as the first Philippine-based co-convenor of the International Committee of ICMFS 2018.

