

# 2019 - 2020: Annual Report

*Bulosan Center for Filipinx Studies*



## Key Facts

**298** Interns

**1,160** Survey Responses

**23** kwentuhans with over 120 people

**29** Major Media Mentions

**10** Released Policy Briefs

**2,500+** benefited from public education programs



The Bulosan Center’s establishment and sustained growth is only possible through support from the community. Our Filipinx underrepresentation among the professoriate is less an indication of our lack of interest in pursuing research among Filipino people —the Bulosan Center’s vibrant internship program is a testament to our collective love for learning and study—but more symptomatic of the systematic failure of academia to value and support research on Filipinos in the diaspora. Your donations ensure that our stories will continue to be collected, preserved, and told for generations to come. *Maraming Salamat!*

## Research

We are delighted to announce the launch of Alon: Journal for Filipinx American and Diasporic Studies, a peer-reviewed, open-access journal published with eScholarship. Alon is the first academic journal of its kind. The journal brings together works that grapple with the ways that Filipino/a/x identities are always in process, that our locations are always unsettled, and that our communities are always in states of transition, in ways that may be unstable, anxiety-provoking, or pleasurable. Alon features research articles, symposia, forums, special issues, artwork, and reviews. The first issue will be published in March

2021 and a special issue that marks the 500th anniversary of the first recorded arrival of Europeans in the Philippine archipelago, as well as the defeat of colonizing Spanish forces, is slated to be published in July 2021. The journal will serve as an outlet for ground-breaking scholarship that centers the worldviews, epistemologies, and creative imaginings of Filipinx Americans and Filipinx diasporic subjects. We encourage submissions that provocatively and productively problematize the distinction between the local and the global, academia and activism, culture and the political economy, and nation and migration.

We seek submissions that engage with and critically analyze key questions in the production of knowledge regarding Filipinx Americans and Filipinx diasporic subjects. Alon seeks submissions from those who are engaged in Filipinx Studies, Philippine Studies, Filipinx American Studies, Asian American Studies, area studies, Asian Studies, Ethnic Studies, American Studies, Diaspora/Transnationalism Studies, Gender Studies, Sexuality Studies, Cultural Studies, Literature, and the Visual and Performing Arts. In keeping with the ethos of this journal, we welcome submissions from scholars and researchers at various stages of

their careers. The Bulosan Center partnered with the Stop AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) Hate Hotline and produced a regional report to document the instances of Anti-Asian Racism that increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 2,808 incidents of coronavirus discrimination have been reported via the CAA/A3PCON STOP AAPI HATE website from March 19 - April 15, 2020, with 16 incidents happening in the Sacramento/Yolo counties during that time period. Incidents have been reported to occur in schools, businesses, public areas as well as on transit.



### About the Center

The Bulosan Center for Filipinx Studies continues Carlos Bulosan's legacy of uplifting the voices of the most marginalized in the Filipino community in the United States and the diaspora. This is being done through community-engaged research that broadly disseminates knowledge about Filipinos for the purpose of advancing our rights and welfare.

For more information, visit us online at:

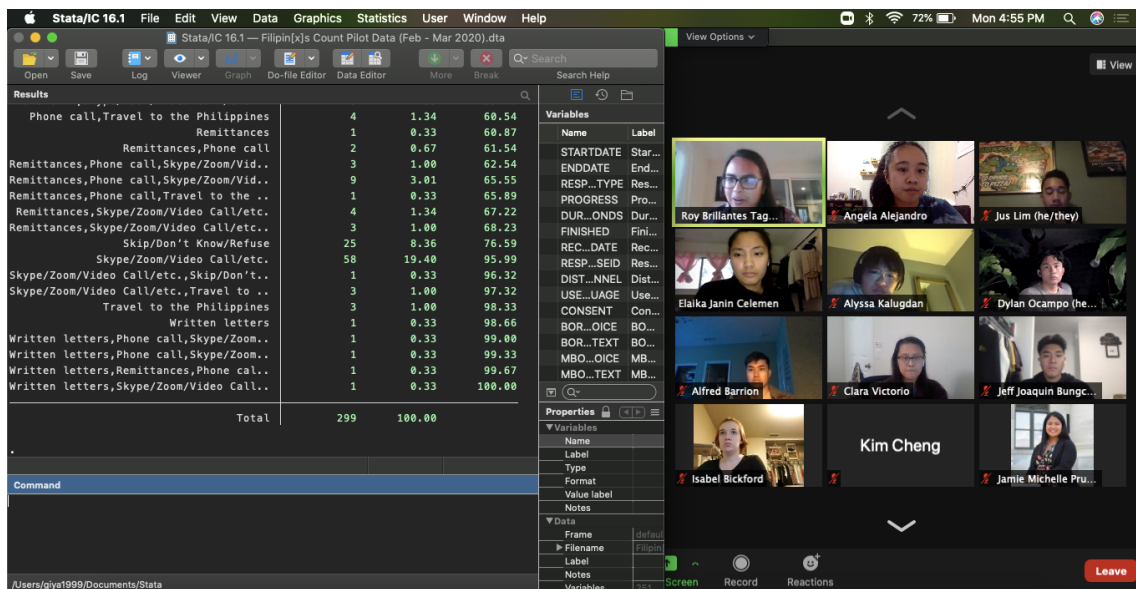
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## Filipin[x]s Count! The Filipinx/Filipinx-American Health and Well-Being Survey



Over the course of the last year, the Bulosan Center's Research Team has collected over 1160 survey responses and have conducted 23 kwentuhan (talk-story) sessions with over 120 individuals from across the state of California to document and analyze the health and well-being of Filipinos in California in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The data collected sheds light on the current issues and collective concerns of the Filipinx/Filipinx-American

population. Despite being one of the oldest and largest migrant communities in the United States, Filipinos are underrepresented in research, too-often collapsed into the broader Asian or Asian American categories. This survey data garnered attention from mainstream media and already had positive impacts in terms of the local greater Sacramento Filipino American and broadly Asian American community. Research from the Center helped secure grant money

for elders and for those unemployed because of the pandemic, and led to the provision of COVID testing in predominantly Asian American communities, and has already provided our organizational partners with much-needed information to

support advocacy at the local, state, and national levels. We are working to make this data publicly available so that it can be utilized by future generations of Filipinx scholars and encourage them to pursue work within our community.

## *Policy and Community Engagement*

The Bulosan Center Policy Team spearheaded various programs aligned with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and uprisings for racial justice and solidarity. During the Summer of 2020, the Bulosan Center co-organized a nation-wide Filipinx Townhall for Racial Justice. This town hall was attended by over 300 participants and included a group discussion on how the Filipinx community can be co-conspirators in the Movement for Black Lives. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bulosan Center Policy team has worked with community organizations in Sacramento and in the South Bay Area. In the greater Sacramento region, the Center supported the API Regional Network in pushing for key policies and programs in the greater Sacramento area around criminal justice and COVID-19 testing. In collaboration with the Santa Clara County Wage Theft Coalition, the Bulosan Center co-launched the Silicon Valley Workers Stories Project, which gathered over 30 immigrant workers' stories and their experiences with COVID-19. The partnership will culminate into a press conference, a Wage Theft Report in the fall, as well as a podcast and op-ed. In July 2020, the Bulosan Center and partnering California-based Filipinx, we helped support the founding of FIERCE (Filipinx Igniting Engagement through Re-Imagining Community EmPOWERment). FIERCE represents a proud statewide coalition of Filipinx non-profits, community organizations,



and grassroots groups dedicated to building the Filipinx community's power through legislative advocacy, community research & education, and social change.

The Center released a number of policy briefs, including “COVID-19 and the Filipino American Community” which tracks key factors that make the Filipino American community vulnerable, as compared to other Asian American-Pacific Islander groups, are its undocumented population and the employment of Filipino Americans in sectors especially impacted by COVID-19. “Filipino Home Care Workers: Unseen Frontliners & Essential Workers in the COVID-19 Fight,” finds that Filipinos are overrepresented among health care workers in hospitals around the country. “Lapses in Protections for Domestic Workers: Prospects Under SB 1257” showcases the main health and occupational health issues among domestic workers and other issues

### *Meet the Team*

Dr. Robyn Magalit Rodriguez  
*Founding Director*

Wayne Jopanda  
*Associate Director*

Allan Jason Sarmiento  
*Director of Archives and Public History*

RJ Tagguez  
*Director of Research*

Katherine Nasol  
*Director of Policy and Community Engagement*

Stacey Salinas  
*Senior Historian*

Nick Garcia  
*Senior Editor*

Glenn Philip Martinez Aquino  
*Filmmaker*

Jason Magabo Perez  
*Inaugural Community Arts Fellow*

Wesley Sosa  
*Graphic and Web Designer*

Angela Alejandro  
*Personal Assistant to the Founding Director*

Angel Truong  
*Administrative Assistant*



## Intern Testimonials

This summer I did an internship at Bulosan center. Entering the internship I was trying to figure out what path I wanted to take in college. I felt like I wanted to be an organizer, but was unsure of myself. Going into the Bulosan internship was my way of deciding if this was a route I wanted to take. During the summer Black Lives Matter protests began. People were speaking on the effects of Anti-Blackness in the Filipinx community. I loved seeing people begin to discuss, especially as someone who is a Black-Filipina. One thing I observed about the talks was that though they were finally happening, Black voices weren't being centered. I wanted to change that so I wanted to bring Nikita Mcelroy who's a African-American and Filipina woman, who grew up in the Philippines. I talked about it to my internship coordinator Wayne Jopanda, and I originally wanted to just interview her for my research proposal. Instead of doing so Wayne decided it would be a great idea to have me facilitate my own meeting with Nikita and I talking to the rest of the interns in the internship. After that meeting I knew that organizing was what I wanted to do. In the short time I've been in Bulosan as an intern they've helped me decide my career path as an educator, and organizer. Bulosan has helped me grow, and learn. They create a safe place for college students of all ages, and it feels like one big family And i couldn't be happier that I'm apart of it.

- Aliyah Stubblefield

affecting Filipino and Immigrant Women Workers. "How are California's Filipinos paying for rent?" details Filipino Americans' housing

insecurity issues and "Coronavirus Relief Bill and CA'S Filipino Families" explains how community members would be affected by the CARES act.

## Education

In August 2020, the Bulosan Center partnered with the People's Collective for Justice and Liberation and representatives from the California Nurses Association to lead the University of Justice and Liberation (UJL), a six-week cross-racial solidarity course and organizing program. UJL brought together over 200 to 300 attendees internationally to learn about grassroots organizing, movement building, and political education around intersectionality, race, and social justice.



The Team Retention and Success internship program focused on the myriad issues that Filipinx students encounter in higher education. Interns were exposed to student affairs theoretical frameworks, qualitative research methodologies, and were given the opportunity to read Filipinx higher education literature. The program then culminated in a project, an annotated bibliography that covered topics of their interest (i.e. Filipinx and financial aid challenges, mental health, student organizations, transfer student success).

The Transnational Research and Activism Team created projects tackling Filipinx/a/os in the Philippines and the broader diaspora. Their work was instrumental in helping CSU student organizers gain an endorsement of the PHRA (Philippine Human Rights Act) from the CSSA Board of Directors. The team created informational resources about the Anti-Terror Law (ATL) in the Philippines, Mental Health Care and Stigma in the US and Filipino American communities, as well as a mini-zine "Philippine Prisons and Policing", connecting the US and Philippine prison systems. The Youth Engagement and Education Team focused their work on understanding how younger people today engage with each other around culture and hxstory as Filipinx American youth. Interns created social media graphics for the "One Word Breakdown Project," to explore "beauty" and "nursing." The "One Word Breakdown Project" is a concept in which a seemingly simple word/phrase can be deconstructed and broken down into 3 different







Center. Presently, all oral histories are conducted via Zoom or Google Voice, and 9 oral histories are currently available on the Welga Digital Archive. Presently, all oral histories are conducted via Zoom or Google Voice, and 9 oral histories are currently available on the Welga Digital Archive.

This past summer and fall, numerous collections were made available by the Bulosan Center Archives Team. Published on the Welga Digital Archive, these collections consist of oral histories and photographs related to the historic and contemporary Filipino American Experience. Bulosan Center Interns added archival descriptions to the oral history photograph collections for the Asian American Studies course on the Filipino Experience, Filipino Immigrant Oral History project, and family photographs collection. To facilitate access to the Welga Archive's collections

and promote Filipino American and Diasporic history, the intern team created Library Guides as way finders topics centered around Filipino Experiences, including a Cannery Workers research guide and a Philippine American War research guide. The Bulosan Center received a new collection related to Filipino American Activism, as Liz and Tim Fenkell recently donated their personal papers to the Bulosan Center. This collection documents their extensive community organizing history, including Anti-Martial Law demonstrations against the Marcos Dictatorship and KDP activities in the Sacramento area. The collection will be processed and digitized, starting at the end of October. We hope the papers will be available by the end of 2020, but in the meantime, a sample of their photographs is available on the Welga Digital Archive.

### Communications

Throughout the summer, the Communications Team worked on creating a campaign and conducting research analyzing the Bulosan Center's social media presence on different platforms. For the campaign team, we interviewed people in different positions and sectors, learning more about how they are adjusting and navigating everything

during times of COVID. For the social media research team, we did an internal audit of the Center's social medias, external landscape analysis of other Fil Am organizations' social medias, as well as an audience survey to learn more about the Center's followers' demographics and their feedback and suggestions.





## *New Donors*

Calvin Cheung-Miaw

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