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### **Bright Lights, Fast Bodies: Gay Life in Postcolonial Manila**

Drawing on fieldwork conducted between 2007 and 2009, this paper examines Manila's "bright lights" gay scene using the work of Paul Virilio on speed. It examines how gayness is performed by privileged queer subjects who are simultaneously embedded in a third world city as well as plugged into what I term "gay globality" through teletechnomedia apparatuses. The first section examines how the purchasing of instantaneity through the consumption of globally circulated gay images produces an imaginative planetary geography that challenges notions of proximity/distance. I investigate how embodiment and being-in-the-postcolonial-city, disturbs the seemingly seamless vision of gay globality and how this disjuncture is managed through pained attempts to materialize "elsewheres" in the form of signs. In the second section I look at how the tensions between the teletopically familiar and the immediate are negotiated through particular ways of moving in and narrating movements within the city. I look specifically at auto-mobility and argue that there is a reinforcing, class-driven relationship between the high-speed transmission of appearances and the choices made about how to navigate and recreate the gay cityscape.