

Villarba-Torres, Anna Christie K., University of the Philippines Baguio, Philippines

The City of Baguio and the Politics of Space

My paper involves the (re)writing of the local history of Baguio, a chartered city constructed by the Americans in 1909. I will turn to selected journal entries of colonial tourists, 'official' or otherwise, like Maud Huntley Jenks, Dean C. Worcester and an anonymous British trader, as well as the little known fiction of Filipino writers Lina-Espina-Moore and Sinai C. Hamada. Likewise, to strengthen my intertextual interrogation, I will look at some forms of "tourist art" (Best 65) like the brochure and the map. I will be guided by the notion of spatiality or the organization of space as a social product (Foucault 19) and Henri Lefebvre's trialectical concept of history, geography and space. These will allow me to negotiate alternative routes to the (re)formulating the assertion that history and space are never neutral. The power relations involved herein transcend the bounds of city, way into the parameters of nation.