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Manila, Our Manila: Reimagining Urban Landscapes and Temporalities

The three papers in this panel are concerned with the contradictory yet complementary methods in which multiple aspects of Manila—its time, space, and culture—have been imagined in poetry, almanacs, and spaces. The first paper examines various contemporary Filipino poets' use of the fragment and collage as stylistic devices in rendering experience in—and of—Manila. The second paper traces the cultural history of Manila's commercial spaces—streets, markets, and malls—and unravels, by looking at images, narratives, objects, and practices, the resonances and tensions between public life and consumer capitalism. The third paper demonstrates how, in Nick Joaquin's *Almanac for Manileños*, the use of montage as a structural principle in depicting Philippine history and culture allows for surprising topical combinations and offers a new way to represent national temporality. In the main, the papers are preoccupied with the difficult yet generative interplay between text and context, and the problems and possibilities it offers in aesthetics, genre, and history.