

Dr. Rommel Curaming

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Arts and Social Science

“Gendering International Relations (IR): The Double-edged Ethico-political Implications of the Feminist Critique of IR”

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IAS Meeting Room 2.27, Level 2, FASS Building

Abstract

The feminist approaches to international relations (IR) belong to the “critical” traditions in theorizing that see the existing order—male-dominated practices, ideas, structures—to be deeply problematic and thus needs changes for the better. Having gone beyond the visible absence, or under-representation, of women in global politics, among many other areas, feminist IR scholarship has delved deep into the gendered (masculine) assumptions that underpin the ontology, epistemology and methodology of conventional IR scholarship. Convinced of the dire ethico-political implications of the conventional IR scholarship that, in its view, naturalizes and justifies gross inequality in power relations across the globe and within nation-states, feminist IR is driven by desire to contribute towards making international relations, both as a field of study and as existential reality, more favorable for equitable power relations. Concerned about the double-edged character of any scholarly project—be it critical or conventional in approach—this presentation aims to examine the ethico-political implications of the feminist critique of the “conventional” IR. I argue that beyond the progressive, pro-marginalized aspirations of the feminist IR lies risks that we need to be aware of, and which challenge us to do something about. Otherwise, we might end up creating harm in pursuit of doing good.

Speaker's Profile



Dr. Rommel A. Curaming is Assistant Professor in History and Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD). He was the Programme Leader of the History and International Studies Programme, as well as Coordinator of Southeast Asian Studies Programme at UBD. He completed a PhD at the Australian National University (ANU) with a thesis that compares the state-historian relations in Indonesia and the Philippines during the Suharto and Marcos periods. Prior to joining UBD in late 2010, he was a postdoctoral fellow at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and La Trobe University under the Endeavour Australia Award. His research interests include history and memory of political violence, the politics of writing and public consumption of history, comparative historiography, heritage-making, place-making, and knowledge politics and state-intellectual relations in Islands Southeast Asia. He has published articles and reviews in international refereed journals such as *Critical Asian Studies*, *South East Asia Research*, *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*, *Time and Society*, *Sojourn*, *Philippine Studies*, *Kritika Kultura* and *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, among others.