

Religious Diversity Colloquium

November 26, 2018

Scott MacLochlainn (MPI-MMG)

“The God of American bureaucracy: religion and the rise of the corporation in the Philippines”

This lecture explores the convergence of corporate and religious practice in the Philippines. Moving between early 20th century U.S. colonial engagements with a revolutionary Filipino church, Iglesia Filipina Independiente, contemporary Methodist schisms and Islamic Trusts, and global discourses on religion and corporate personhood, this paper examines how state, secular, and religious spheres in the Philippines have become increasingly contested and redefined within corporate spaces.

SCOTT MACLOCHLAINN is a sociocultural anthropologist, with a geographic focus on the Philippines and the United States. His research examines the contemporary and historical intersections of religion and law, and the semiotic translation of religious identities across linguistic, economic, and regulatory domains. In particular, his work focuses on the history and expansion of corporations and their religious and ethical identities. Since July 2018 he is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at MPI-MMG, where he began a new project on the hypermediatization and increasingly fraught legal and social spaces of death in the Philippines.

