1 The terms queer and LGBTQIA+ shall be used interchangeably here, because in Global South context queer often operates simultaneously as an umbrella term for LGBTQIA+, on one hand, and a critical term for practices disturbing heteronormativity, on the other hand. Audrey Yue and Jun Zubillaga-Pow, eds., Queer Singapore: Illiberal Citizenship and Mediated Cultures (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2012).


3 Reading “along the archival grain” is a phrase coined by Ann Laura Stoler, pertaining to an approach where historians must unload themselves of both the “received historical narratives” and “ready-made synthesis.” Instead, historians must follow the actual mobilities of categories’ variations of use and being useful. Ann Laura Stoler, Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010), 205–08.

4 Franco “Bifo” Berardi, After The Future (Edinburgh and Oakland: AK Books, 2011), 13. However, although Berardi coined the phrase, it was the late Mark Fisher who further popularized it in his own problematizing of the hauntologies (or specters) of lost futures. Mark Fisher, Ghost of My Life: Writings on Depression, Hauntology, and Lost Futures (Winchester and Washington: Zero Books, 2011).


6 Although Frederic Jameson mostly conceived of futurity as somewhat incubated in the conditions of the present (as amplified by Neferti Tadiar in her book Things Fall Away, 2009), Ian Buchanan poetically captured how Jameson would articulate how historicizing is always already implicated in the dialectics between present and future; that is, “history for Jameson is a living thing, and it is the task of the critic to show how its beating heart animates all forms of cultural production.” Frederic Jameson, Jameson on Jameson: Conversations on Cultural Marxism (Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2007), xv; Neferti X.M. Tadiar, Things Fall Away: Philippine Historical Experience and the Making of Globalization (Quezon City: University of the Philippines Press, 2009).


8 A formulation Tadiar amplified based on Frederic Jameson’s earlier articulations of the same. See Tadiar, Things Fall Away, 10–11.


11 The field that has become “Philippine studies” is continuously being reshaped, rebranded, and reimagined by various competing schools of thought within and outside, resulting in their respective “versions” of Philippine Studies. Besides the U.S. imperial and Cold War-invented “Philippine studies” and the counter-colonial indigenization version “Pilipinolohiya,” a third alternative emerged that in the mid-2010s became “Filipino studies.” The latter considers the growing Filipino diaspora, which is likewise queered and often un-belonged by geographically normative Philippine studies. Dada Docot, Stephen B. Acabado, and Clement C. Camposano, eds., Plural Entanglements: Philippine Studies (Quezon City: Bughaw Press, 2023).


16 Mobilizing the utility of ekphrasis are the articles of Jan L. de Jong on re-discovering “chain reactions” between descriptions and depictions by Renaissance writers and painters, and Kathryn N. Benzel on re-reading Virginia Woolf’s own reformulation of ekphrasis onto a more open-ended aesthetic technique. See in Visual Resources 19, no. 4 (January 2011), https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/gvir20/19/4. For a more detailed genealogy of the term, see: Ruth Webb, Ekphrasis, Imagination and Persuasion in Ancient Rhetorical Theory and Practice (Farnham and Vermont: Ashgate, 2009).


18 Most historians rely, almost exclusively, on textual evidence, while treating images as merely secondary materials. In some instances, historians avoid using imagery altogether — whether due to a lack of skills in interpreting visual resources, on one hand; or, on the other, the belief that analyzing images can go beyond the facts, hence invoking the danger of fictionalization. See Katharine Martinez, “Imaging the Past: Historians, Visual Images and the Contested Definition of History,” Visual Resources 11, no. 1 (1995): 21–45, https://www.doi.org/10.1080/01973762.1995.9658317.


21 While this study consulted the major archival theories by Cook, Duranti, Henchy, MacNeil, Stoler, and others, it is nonetheless crucial to weigh their theories vis-à-vis the trenchant critique raised by Arondekar. That is, does an archival aporia (i.e., subjectivities deemed to be actually obvious yet archivally elusive, such as homosexuality, etc.) instead “mandate a different order of archival reasoning?” [italics added]. Anjali Arondekar, “Without a Trace: Sexuality and the Colonial Archive,” Journal of the History of Sexuality 14, no. 1 (2005), https://doi.org/10.1353/sex.2006.0001. Also see Terry Cook, “Evidence, Memory, Identity, and Community: Four Shifting Archival Paradigms,” Archival Science 13 (2013): 95–120, https://doi.org/10.1007/s10502-012-9180-7.


24 “Shadow archive,” a term coined by Allan Sekula, pertains to what he regarded as a “general, all-inclusive archive [that] necessarily contains both the traces of the visible bodies of heroes, leaders, moral exemplars, celebrities, and those of the poor, the diseased, the insane, the criminal, the non-white, the female, and all other embodiments of the unworthy.” See Allan Sekula, “The Body and the Archive,” *October* 39 (1986), 10, http://www.jstor.org/stable/778312.

25 Berardi’s *futurability* is regarded here as “most helpful” because it is simple yet demystified enough, because most queer scholarship tends toward mystification, such as Muñoz’ notion of potentiality. Although helpful, Muñoz’s imagining of potentialities is unlike Berardi’s more grounded mapping of how alternative futurities can strategically be actualized. See Franco “Bifo” Berardi, *Futurability: The Age of Impotence and the Horizon of Possibility* (London and New York: Verso, 2019).


27 Before delving into the Philippine archive, two points need to be clarified here. Firstly, Philippine history is often dissected into this tripartite periodization, namely Precolonial (ca. pre-1600s), Colonial (ca. 1565–1946), and Postcolonial (ca. 1946–present) periods. Yet this elaphrastic sleuthing for LGBTQIA+ figures along the grain of the archive will not touch on the postcolonial period, because visual representations for queer figures were already starting to be available by that period, mostly via television and film. Secondly, and most crucially, this survey of queer or LGBTQIA+ representations (in this case, of the historically *authentic*) may appear mostly “uneven,” representing more queer males-at-birth than queer females-at-birth. For, across the five centuries of the Philippines’ recorded history, significantly few, almost nearly nil, records have been tracked about gender-nonconforming figures who would resonate with today’s categories of lesbian, queer females, trans men, etc.


31 William H. Scott introduced this approach, which in Philippine historiography became known as finding the Filipino within and through the “cracks in the parchment curtain.” See William H. Scott, *Looking for the Pre-Hispanic Filipino and Other Essays in Philippine History* (Quezon City: New Day, 1993).

32 Isaac Donoso, ed., *Boxer Codex: A Modern Spanish Transcription and English Translation of 16th-Century Exploration Accounts of East and Southeast Asia and the Pacific* (Quezon City: Vibal Foundation, 2022), xlvii–xlix. As to how the manuscript came into the hands of Professor Boxer, as well as his initial historical criticisms, both external and internal of the compendium, see Charles R. Boxer, “A Late Sixteenth Century Manila MS,” *The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland*, 1 (1950): 37–49.

33 Donoso, *Boxer Codex*, 81. For the digitized copy of the manuscript, see *Boxer Codex* (ca. 1590), 59r. http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/omeka/lilly/items/show/93.
34 Of historiographic interest, perhaps, is how the anonymous author of its section about the Tagalogs contradicts himself when describing the relative position of the bayoguin vis-à-vis the cis women shaman-priestesses called catalanans. Initially, its author mentioned that the trans woman bayoguin’s role was merely “to help” the cis women catalanon. Yet, on a later passage, the text asserts that the bayoguin appeared more moving for performing “with more pomp, ceremony and authority.” See Boxer Codex [MS], 59v; also in Donoso, Boxer Codex, 81.

35 American scholars Emma Blair and Alexander Robertson secured a copy of Chirino’s Relation directly from the Jesuit Pablo Pastells, who at the time was already in Barcelona after his 18-year assignment as superior of the Jesuits in the Philippines. Hence, Chirino’s Relation became a crucial component of Blair and Robertson’s 55-volume compilation of Spanish primary sources translated into English for the purpose of U.S. imperial rule over its new colony in the early 1900s. See Blair and Robertson, The Philippine Islands, vol. 12 (1601–1604), 9–10.


41 Gromyko Semper, chat with the author via Facebook Messenger, 17 June 2023, 10.38pm (GMT +8).

42 English translation by Blair and Robertson, The Philippine Islands, 40: 193–5, 343. See the original Spanish in Juan Francisco de San Antonio, Cronicas de la Apostolica Provincia de S. Gregorio de Religiosos Descalzos de N.S.P.S. Francisco en las Islas Filipinas, China, Japon, &c. (Manila: Impresa en la imprenta del vso de la propia provincia, síta en el Convento de Nuestra Señora de Loreto del Pueblo de Sampaloc, extra-muros de la ciudad de Manila: por Fr. Juan del Solitío, 1738), 156–7, https://archive.org/details/chronicasdelaapo00sana/page/156/mode/2up

43 Likewise, an ongoing study by Danilo Gerona, a foremost Magellan historiographer, uncovered an ecclesiastical inquiry document, dated 2 March 1577, detailing how babaylans in fact practiced potion-making, including the particular local ingredients they used for concocting specific forms of potions and charms. See Danilo Madrid Gerona, “Witchcraft in Cebu: Myths and Politics in the First Decade of Augustinian Evangelization in the Philippines (March 1577),” Magellan-Eleno Studies Center – Partido State University, “You are all invited to our Center Director’s talk,” Facebook, 29 October 2022, 8:38am, https://www.facebook.com/magellanelenocano2020.psu/posts/pfbid02hX4VvGxHBncP4jQq8w7aZZZaiKZz4GpuKuZmVr8n0HZ7uxSBXYWHKkPnuq6P77

44 See scenes at 00:06:30, 00:13:55, and 01:11:45 in Kantakalawa, directed by Eddie Romero (1981, Manila), uploaded by Ian Rosales Casocot, YouTube, 9 July 2022, 02:37:50, https://youtu.be/yexSnm6ru60?t=390


51 An example is the widely referenced phrase “cun nagpupuit, à cun napapuit caya, à cun nagcasala sa hayop” [if you are anally inserting, anally receiving, or committing bestiality]. See Gaspar de San Agustin, *Confesionario Cabispos en Lengua Española y Tagala, Para Direccion de los Confesores, y Instruccion de los Penitentes* (Manila: Convento de Nuestra Señora de Loreto, 1787).


53 Karl Whittington explained that from the ancient Greeks up to the medieval period, Europeans would imagine the uterus as having seven lobes: three on the right, three more on the left, and one odd lobe at the center. When the male’s sperm rested on the right, it was believed to produce a male child; if on the left, a female child; and if in the center, a hermaphrodite would be born. See Whittington, “Medieval Intersex,” 232–3.


57 Combés’ *Historia* was similarly selected to form part of the Blair and Robertson volume on 1690–1691 Philippine colonial life, which succeeding generations of historians and scholars have consulted and critiqued since. See *The Philippine Islands*, vol. 40, 11–13.


60 Combés, “Natives of the Southern Islands,” 163.

61 It is worth noting that the periodization of this bloody chapter in Philippine history has been the subject of ongoing debates. While most historians point to 1902 as the end of the war, thus signalling the formal beginnings of American imperialism in the Philippines, there are some historians and scholars who would stretch the periodization up to the Battle of Bud Bagsak in June 1913. This stretch is, in a way, a gesture to recognize the Moros’ (i.e., Muslim Filipinos) historical agency independent from the (as if)monotonous chronological framing of the “nationalist” history, where the Moros remain peripherally discoursed. Teodoro A. Agoncillo, *History of the Filipino People*, 8th ed. (Quezon City; Garo Tech Books, 1990), 258–9.
62 See the website of ADMU’s Old Rizal Library in http://rizal.library.ateneo.edu/

63 “An Insurgent Spy Disguised as a Woman Captured near Mariquina by the 24th Infantry,” The Manila Times, 6 August 1899, Microfiche, Microform and Digital Resources Center, Old Rizal Library, ADMU, Quezon City.

64 At 07:15, in News5Everywhere, Lourd’s History, Ep. 002: Bakla sa Katipunan [Video file] (30 November 2013), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHBBt8uS_e4


66 Besides the Ateneo’s Old Rizal Library, the UP Diliman’s Main Library also holds a vast collection of microfilmed sources from the prewar Philippines. See https://mainlib.upd.edu.ph/

67 “Lumakad ang panahon ay para namang ni-yayari ni Tadhana ang ginintuang lubid ng dalisay na pagsasama, na itatali sa dalawang damdaming tungo sa iisang mithi; kaya’t suma-pit ang araw na ang dalawang damdaming iyon ay nagkatagpo at yumari nga ng isang kasunduan.” See “Mga Anunsiante Namin,” Ang Wika 1, no. 2 (Manila: Imp. Ilagan, 1920 [1 November]), 10–11, Microfilm, Multimedia Collections, Main Library, UP Diliman, Quezon City, MCF 10533 (1920–1922).

68 See Reyes’ critique of Cornelio’s 1945 novel Doktor Satan, where Reyes points out how the novel clearly carries the influence of using mad scientist characters from Robert Louis Stevenson’s 1886 novel Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Soledad S. Reyes, Nobelang Tagalog, 1905–1975 (Quezon City: ADMU Press, 1982), 122, 203.

69 The original Tagalog goes as follows:

—Kura. Merong rarake?
—Wala po.

Namasdan ng hapones na may isang lalaking nakapantalon sa likod ng babaing kaniyang aanoi sa bungad ng pintuan.

—Ikaw rokoroko. Hindi ba iyan rarake? Kura …
—Hindi po. Iyan po ay pinagkamalan ng Diyos. Nagdalawa siyang loob nang kanyang gawin iyan. Hindi niya malaman kung gagawing 
[sic] babae o lalaki …
—Marame sarita ikaw … Kura … at binaltak si Sianing magpuputo.
—Susmariosep. Babae ho ako eh … Dahandahanin namin nniyo [sic] ako, por Diyos.
—Ano pangarang?
—Sianing po!
—Ano Sianing po … Roko!

Ang opisyal ay nakialam.
—Itu kitemo dasune, (itanong mo kung bakit siya malandi), — anang opisyal.
—Hondo no kure ti ami kiyo (mang-yari po’y binabae ito). — sagot naman ng interprete.
—Honte kone dasoka kokuryu, (bimbangin mo).
—Hal!—at sumaludo ang interprete. Ipinadala sa isang sundalo si Sianing upang bimbangin.

Mateo Cruz Cornelio, “Sonahan,” Liwayway, 28 May 1945, Micro-fiche, Main Library: Media Services, University of the Philippines Diliman, MCF 6753-6756 (v. 1 April 1945-O 1946).


71 In his essay, Philippines’ foremost World War II historian, Professor Dr. Ricardo T. Jose, expressed his reservations as to filmic representations, such as Markova: Comfort Gay and Aishite Imasu 1941. That such “movies venture into themes not take [sic] up by formal commemorations or histories.” See Ricardo T. Jose, “Remembering World War II in the Philippines: Memorials, Commemorations, and Movies,” a paper presented at Globalization, Localization, and Japanese Studies in the Asia-Pacific Region: Past, Present, Future, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 3–4 October 2005, 134, https://richibun.repo.nii.ac.jp/?action=pages_view_main&active_action=repository_view_main_item_detail&item_id=1278&item_no=1&page_id=41&block_id=63; also see a parallel historical gay–queer–trans history of Crispiulo Trinidad Luna, known as “Lolo Pulong,” in
