The Role of Music in Filipino Identity

This presentation will explore the role of music in cultural production as an agent of identity formation, maintenance, and resistance by examining Filipino and Filipino-American music, ranging from traditional to more contemporary forms. To what extent has Spanish and American colonialism influenced this music? In what ways has Filipino and Filipino-American music been used both historically and today to create, reinforce or challenge notions of Filipino and Filipino-American identity? These and more issues will be explored through an examination of several Filipino-American productions of music. This presentation will analyze how Filipino and Filipino-American music reflects issues of national identity, ethnic identity and postcolonialism across various styles and genres.