

Special Seminar (Asian Core Program)

You are cordially invited to a special seminar by Dr. Shu-Yuan Yang, Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica. Dr. Yang received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences of the University of London in 2001. At the time, her research was on the Bunun, an indigenous population in Taiwan. Subsequently, she has been working on the Ilongot of Northern Luzon, on such topics as land rights, state-minority relations and Christian conversion.

She will be visiting CSEAS for two weeks November 12th to 25th as a part of the Asian Core Program. The seminar will be a good opportunity to get to know her and her work.

Date and Time: November 16 (Tues.) 2010, 16:00 - 18:00

Place: Small Meeting Room I 3rd Floor, Inamori Foundation Memorial Building

Speaker: Dr. Shu Yuan Yang (Assistant Research Fellow, Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan).

Topic: *"Christianity, Headhunting, and History among the Bugkalot / Ilongot of Northern Luzon, Philippines"*

*After the seminar, we will go for some food and drink to welcome Dr. Yang.

ABSTRACT

The invasion of the New Peoples' Army (NPA) in the mid 1980s is a significant and marked event for the people of Gingin, a settlement located at the center of the Bugkalot area. It has stirred up feelings of fear, terror, panic, and anger among the local residents, who were predominantly Christians by this time. The killing of seven Bugkalot men at the hands of the NPA in July, 1988, has aroused Bugkalot Christians and some of them "backslid" and went headhunting again to revenge the deaths of their relatives. How do we comprehend the resurgence of headhunting among the Bugkalot when Christianity has already taken a strong hold? Is it just an old cultural habit that dies hard? Is it a slap at the face of missionaries who consider the eradication of headhunting their most important achievement? Does it demonstrate the insincerity of the Bugkalot's conversion to

Christianity? How do the Bugkalot themselves interpret the invasion of the NPA and the resurgence of headhunting? This article seeks to address these questions. It suggests that headhunting still figures significantly in the shaping of local memory and historical consciousness, however, the Bugkalot's representations of the past have been reworked within the framework of Christianity. Christianity does not only serve as the meta-narrative of change, it also informs the ways in which the Bugkalot contemplate their existence in the world and their relationship with the Philippine state.

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