



SYSTEMS PLUS COLLEGE FOUNDATION

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Help for Marginalized Filipino Amerasians May Lie with Outside Human Rights, Humanitarian Groups Researcher Tells West Coast 'Pursuit of Justice' Conclave

SPOKANE, Washington State, USA – The U.S. government has blatantly ignored the human plight of an estimated 200,000-250,000 military Filipino Amerasians in the Philippines – forsaken children (some now as helpless as infirm geriatrics) of U.S. servicemen and corporate military contractors left when military bases abruptly shuttered in the archipelago in 1991-1992. The situation equates with “neglect” and “abuse” declared Dr. P.C. “Pete” Kutschera, PhD, who lectured at Gonzaga University’s Law School and Institute of Hate Studies *Pursuit of Justice Conference* April 20, 2013 at the Spokane, WA campus. Dr. Kutschera presented a paper co-authored with Dr. Marie A. Caputi, PhD, a Contributing Faculty Professor at the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Walden University, USA, entitled, “Filipino Amerasians: Gauging Stigmatization, Intolerance and Hatemongering in a Pluralistic Asia Pacific Society” before a panel of three other presenters speaking on the broad subject “Othering and Stigmatization.” It was one of 17 panels, discussion and paper presentation sessions rendered from scholars, researchers, educators, doctoral candidates, graduate students, government, NGO and public and private law and social justice officials attending the conference. Attendees hailed from nations as diverse as Australia, Germany, India, Israel, Pakistan, the Philippines, the U.K. and across the North American continent.

Among a number of positive steps needed to draw global attention to the plight of Filipino Amerasians Kutschera, Director of the Philippine Amerasian Research Center (PARC) at Systems Plus College Foundation (SPCF College) in Angeles, Pampanga recommended the following:

--Fostering academic research community interests and inquiry into the Amerasian human condition including the involvement of colleges and universities, NGOs and non-profit foundations in Southeast and East Asia and the mainland U.S.,

--Alerting human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as well as agencies specializing in the reduction of global poverty such as the Asia Development Bank and the U.N. Development Programme,

--An initiation of research in military science and studies disciplines focused on reviewing and evaluating current and developing new policy formation command control procedures regarding R&R

(Rest and Recuperation), leave and furlough policies and managing off duty leisure time pursuits. Kutschera recommended to the presentation panel that the elite U.S. military academies including West Point (US Army), Annapolis (US Navy) and Colorado Springs (US Air Force), and other officer producing venues including Reserve Officer Training Corps, Officer Candidate Schools and the US Marine officer candidate school at Quantico, VA, “include a course of instruction on the Amerasian historical experience a mandatory requirement.” He added that the Amerasian experience is one which is being, or has been replicated, in other nations at different times in history and even including the present. Other military multi-national defense organizations or nations including N.A.T.O., the United Nations, the African Union, French and Russian government military forces are currently active in lands across their borders and issues of socialization of troops with foreign national women are prevalent and worrisome, Kutschera related. “What has happened with the phenomena of birth of military castaways and orphaned children in foreign occupied lands is not a U.S. American transgression only – it is ubiquitous,” he warned.

Drawing on his doctorate dissertation published in 2011 titled, “Stigma, Psychosocial Risk and Core Mental Health Symptomatology among Amerasians in the Philippines: A Multiple-Case Study,” Kutschera presented and expanded upon the case studies of five sample subjects: Aretha, Felix, Mariah, Marvin and Michelle – mixed-race African or Anglo Amerasians who all self-reported significant psychosocial risk and stress from name-calling, verbal harassment, stigmatization, low socioeconomic status and social isolation, largely impacted by discriminatory behavior of mainstream Filipinos or foreigners. The Amerasians were ostracized primarily because of the biracial differences in physical appearance, social demeanor, voice inflection or excoriated because of the widely believed but never scientifically studied notion that most Amerasians were offspring of prostituted Filipina national mothers or woman suspected of being sex workers.

“The level of bias and prejudice experienced by mixed-blood Amerasians fits precisely with the study themes of Gonzaga’s Pursuit of Justice conference – social marginalization and isolation, intolerance and hate mongering. These are conditions amply experienced by most Amerasians, especially African (Black) Amerasians who occupy the lowest rung in Filipino society, just as as native, dark-skinned Igorots, Aetas and Negritos have and continue to in various isolated pockets of the nation,” he related. Kutschera said his three-year stigmatization study (2007-2010), which examined a sample of 16 Anglo and African Amerasians females and males, ranging from ages 16 to 39 from Angeles City, Pampanga in central Luzon, confirmed long standing anecdotal and a limited file of empirical evidence that Filipino Amerasians are highly stigmatized, in low socioeconomic straits and are a psychologically at risk population prone to developing mental psychopathology.

The full conference paper is available free to news media, scholars, researchers and students at: www.AmerasianResearch.org/justice The Pursuit of Justice Conference is conducted periodically at Gonzaga University in eastern Washington State and brings together leading interdisciplinary academics to discuss issues of hate, intolerance and human transgressions. Kutschera and Dr. Caputi’s presentation was praised by Dr. John Schufert, J.D., PhD, Director of Gonzaga’s Institute of Hate Studies and publisher of the *Journal of Hate Studies* as “vitally important work on a topical area many of our attendees are probably unaware of and which needs to be brought to public attention time and again.”

