

*Locating Filipino Americans: Ethnicity and the Cultural Politics of Space.*

By Rick Bonus. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2000. xiii + 217 pp.  
Notes and index. \$19.95.

This study takes on the formidable task of charting the interplay of community formation, cultural practices, and ethnic identity in contemporary Filipino. They have very little to do with notions of beauty, but rather as collective frameworks for pooling resources of community-rooted projects of cultural solidarity.

Chapter 5 examines the Filipino American newspaper as a fragile yet crucial aspect of a community's struggle to chart history, place and identity. Bonus provides an abundance of interview-based observations on the importance of the newspaper's multiple functions in bridging events from the Philippines and issues impacting local life. This chapter provides a valuable overview of the content of community-based newspapers, the nature of advertising, and an analysis of the latter. Perhaps more than the other sites, the newspapers provide the most intense arena in which the tensions surrounding "Filipinoness" and "Americaness" are negotiated in public forum. It is also the site in which the most pronounced battles over identity and ideology are framed.

*Locating Filipino Americans* is a valuable and welcomed study of under-examined cultural sites, and furthers the thesis that space and location rather than essentialist notions of culture deserve to be assessed as key dimensions to understanding ethnicity and identity.

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