



SOPHIA UNIVERSITY

Graduate School of Global Studies

GSGS Research Grant Report 2024

When Queens Go Untucked: Understanding Microaggression Experiences among Filipino Drag Performers in Diverse Milieus

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The research grant, amounting to ¥139,000, was primarily allocated to cover transportation expenses for fieldwork. This fieldwork was conducted in two phases, to wit: (a) the first phase, spanning from August 2 to September 26, 2024, involved in-depth and in-person interviews and immersive ethnographic engagements at selected drag bars in Naha, Okinawa, Singapore, and various cities in the Philippines with thriving drag scenes. During this period, I also made multiple visits to the Rizal Library at Ateneo de Manila University to review literature on gender, sexuality, and queer studies in the Philippine context; (b) the second phase of fieldwork, conducted from October 24 to November 3, 2024, served as a follow-up to refine, deepen, and triangulate the preliminary findings gathered in the initial phase. This iterative approach allowed for a more nuanced and critically engaged analysis of the data.

The study, entitled ‘When Queens Go Untucked’: Understanding Microaggression Experiences among Filipino Drag Performers in Diverse Milieus, explores the experiences of Filipino drag artists across a wide range of settings. These include performers in live shows within the Philippines, those engaged in digital drag content creation, and individuals participating in drag houses and communities beyond national borders—whether regional, international, transnational, or global. Thus, the grant was strategically and effectively utilized to facilitate the data gathering phase of this study. The fieldwork not only provided rich ethnographic insights but also underscored the significance of dialogic engagement as a methodological approach in advancing the objectives of my study.

The university’s generous funding was instrumental in ensuring the feasibility of this research, which would have otherwise been significantly constrained by the financial limitations of conducting fieldwork as a student. The grant facilitated a seamless research process, allowing me to focus on in-depth engagement with my interlocutors without the burden of funding logistical aspects such as travel to selected study sites. Beyond covering these essential expenses, the financial support also enabled me to participate in academic symposiums and conferences where I was able to disseminate my findings and engage in critical scholarly discussions. Notably, I presented at the GSGS Symposium and Workshop Series on December 13, 2024, and the Philippine Queer Studies Conference in October 2024. Most significantly, the funding contributed to the successful defense of my MA thesis on January 15, 2025—a milestone I viewed not merely as a formal academic requirement but as an opportunity to communicate the study’s outcomes and gain deeper insights from my reviewers, ultimately refining and strengthening my work.

I extend my gratitude to the Graduate School of Global Studies, particularly to Dean Sven Saaler, for the generous research grant and the unwavering moral support. The graduate school’s recognition of the value and potential impact of my study was vital for its successful implementation.