



# ACLS Digital Justice Seed Grants

Deadline: 12/3/2024

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**PROJECT**

Project Proposal Title

**LAND IS LIFE (“ANG LUPA AY BUHAY”): DECOLONIAL CARTOGRAPHIES FOR INDIGENOUS LAND JUSTICE IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Project Proposal Abstract

**This project aims to reclaim mapping as a decolonial tool in promoting Indigenous traditions, knowledges, and land rights. Invoking the Indigenous adage - “ang lupa ay buhay” (“land is life”), our digital mapping project will collaborate with Indigenous partners in the Philippines who will “map back” to foreground their traditions and to support their ancestral land claims. We will develop a digital mapping dashboard that will consolidate indigenous narratives on land, locate them on map layers, strengthen local traditions, and promote community cohesion. Customizable maps will compare Indigenous land narratives with mainstream cartographic articulations of state territory, which may clarify Indigenous ancestral land claims and encourage critical conversations on Indigenous land rights.**

If there is a web page associated with your project, please provide the URL here:

Please identify up to THREE digital tools and/or methods, in order of relevance, that are most significantly engaged within your project. Do not choose "other" unless none of the options is close to your tool or method. For your first selection, please choose the primary digital tool or method that is most utilized within your project.

- 1. **Digital Mapping** Other
- 2. **Platform Development** Other
- 3. **Oral Histories** Other

Please identify up to THREE disciplinary areas, in order of relevance, that best describe your research project.

- 1. **Geography** Other
- 2. **Folklore/Folklife** Other **Indigenous folklore**
- 3. **Other (specify in space provided)** Other **Indigenous Studies**

**EDUCATION**

Degree received from	<b>University of Washington</b>
Country of PhD Institution	<b>United States of America</b>
PhD department	<b>Geography</b>
PhD major discipline	<b>Geography</b>
Date conferred by university	<b>3/31/2012</b>
Dissertation title	<b>Building the Filipino Dream: Real Estate Boom, Gated Communities and the Production of Urban Space</b>
Name of dissertation supervisor	<b>Suzanne Davies Withers</b>
Master's degree received from	<b>University of the Philippines</b>
Degree	<b>MA</b>
Date master's degree received	<b>12/2004</b>
Master's degree major discipline	<b>Demography</b>
BA/BS received from	<b>University of the Philippines</b>
Date BA/BS received	<b>4/2001</b>
BA/BS major discipline	<b>Geography</b>

List any additional degrees

List up to six non-English languages you can use, indicating proficiency in reading, speaking, and writing. (Use E=Excellent, G=Good, F=Fair or less, N/A=Not applicable.) If you are either a Native Speaker or Heritage Speaker of a language, please indicate by checking the appropriate box.

<i>Language</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Speaking</i>	<i>Writing</i>	<i>Native Speaker</i>	<i>Heritage Speaker</i>
<b>Tagalog</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>

**CURRENT POSITION**

Rank / Title	<b>Assistant Professor</b>
If you do not hold a faculty appointment, what is the exact title of your current position?	
Discipline	<b>Geography</b>
Specialization	<b>Urban geography, community geography</b>
Department	<b>Geography and the Environment</b>
Institution	<b>Syracuse University</b>
Country of Institution	<b>United States of America</b>
Date you began this position	<b>8/2019</b>
Second Institution ( <i>if applicable</i> )	
Date you began this position	

**POSITIONS HELD**

List positions held (professional, teaching, administrative, curatorial), beginning with the position immediately preceding the one you currently hold. Give the name of the institution, title, and approximate dates of employment for each.

Institution/Employer	<b>University of Glasgow</b>		
Title	<b>Research Fellow</b>		
From	<b>8/2018</b>	To	<b>6/2019</b>
Institution/Employer	<b>University of the Philippines</b>		
Title	<b>Assistant Professor</b>		
From	<b>4/2012</b>	To	<b>5/2018</b>
Institution/Employer	<b>University of Washington</b>		
Title	<b>Teaching Assistant/Instructor</b>		
From	<b>8/2007</b>	To	<b>12/2011</b>
Institution/Employer	<b>Indiana University</b>		
Title	<b>Associate Instructor</b>		
From	<b>8/2006</b>	To	<b>5/2007</b>
Institution/Employer	<b>University of the Philippines</b>		
Title	<b>Instructor -&gt; Assistant Professor</b>		
From	<b>6/2002</b>	To	<b>5/2006</b>

**For Collaborator Projects**

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***Co-Principal Investigator***

First Name	<b>Yany</b>
Last Name	<b>Lopez</b>
Work/Organizational Affiliation	<b>University of the Philippines</b>
Rank/Title	<b>Associate Professor</b>
Email	<b>yplopez@up.edu.ph</b>
ORCID iD	
Highest Level of Education	<b>PhD</b>

Identify gender as **Female**

With which group or groups does collaborator most identify?

- Non-Hispanic White
- Black or African American
- Latina/o/x or Hispanic
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- East Asian American
- South Asian American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Middle Eastern or Arab American
- Other: **Filipino**
- Prefer not to answer this question.

Does the collaborator identify as a first-generation college graduate? **No**

Has the collaborator ever served on active duty in the US Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard? **No**

Does the collaborator have a disability, including but not limited to a sensory, mobility, developmental, psychological, or other impairment? **No**

**Co-Principal Investigator**

First Name	<b>Maria Simeona</b>
Last Name	<b>Martinez</b>
Work/Organizational Affiliation	<b>University of the Philippines</b>
Rank/Title	<b>Assistant Professor</b>
Email	<b>mmmartinez@up.edu.ph</b>
ORCID iD	
Highest Level of Education	<b>Masters</b>

Identify gender as **Female**

With which group or groups does collaborator most identify?

- Non-Hispanic White
- Black or African American
- Latina/o/x or Hispanic
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- East Asian American
- South Asian American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Middle Eastern or Arab American
- Other: **Filipino**
- Prefer not to answer this question.

Does the collaborator identify as a first-generation college graduate? **No**

Has the collaborator ever served on active duty in the US Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard? **No**

Does the collaborator have a disability, including but not limited to a sensory, mobility, developmental, psychological, or other impairment? **No**

**Co-Principal Investigator**

First Name	<b>Maria Carolina</b>
Last Name	<b>Rodriguez Bello</b>
Work/Organizational Affiliation	<b>Lalang Hu Mga Laga Organization, Inc</b>
Rank/Title	<b>Director</b>
Email	<b>mrbello@up.edu.ph</b>
ORCID iD	
Highest Level of Education	<b>Pursuing PhD</b>

Identify gender as **Female**

With which group or groups does collaborator most identify?

- Non-Hispanic White
- Black or African American
- Latina/o/x or Hispanic
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- East Asian American
- South Asian American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Middle Eastern or Arab American
- Other: **Filipino**
- Prefer not to answer this question.

Does the collaborator identify as a first-generation college graduate? **No**

Has the collaborator ever served on active duty in the US Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard? **No**

Does the collaborator have a disability, including but not limited to a sensory, mobility, developmental, psychological, or other impairment? **No**

**Co-Principal Investigator**

First Name	<b>Ervic</b>
Last Name	<b>Angeles</b>
Work/Organizational Affiliation	<b>Ulirat Collective</b>
Rank/Title	<b>Founding member</b>
Email	<b>abikangeles@gmail.com</b>
ORCID iD	
Highest Level of Education	<b>Bachelor</b>

Identify gender as **Male**

With which group or groups does collaborator most identify?

- Non-Hispanic White
- Black or African American
- Latina/o/x or Hispanic
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- East Asian American
- South Asian American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Middle Eastern or Arab American
- Other: **Filipino**
- Prefer not to answer this question.

Does the collaborator identify as a first-generation college graduate? **No**

Has the collaborator ever served on active duty in the US Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard? **No**

Does the collaborator have a disability, including but not limited to a sensory, mobility, developmental, psychological, or other impairment? **No**

## APPLICATION PROMPTS

1. Please provide an overview of the project that explains how the project's primary lines of humanistic and social inquiry ethically engage and center the interests and histories of people of color and/or other historically marginalized communities.

**We are Filipino community-engaged scholars who advocate for Indigenous land justice. Our proposal aims to reclaim mapping as a decolonial tool in promoting Indigenous land claims, traditions, and knowledges. Indigenous communities across the globe continue to struggle against land dispossession. In the Philippines, the Indigenous invoke “ang lupa ay buhay” (“land is life”) to emphasize the importance of their “lupang ninuno” (“ancestral lands”) in their quest for sovereignty and self-determination. Mapping has been historically used for colonial pursuits and state control, as mainstream cartographic territorial demarcation has led to the disenfranchisement and silencing of Indigenous traditions and narratives on land and ecology. Using a counter-mapping approach (Dalton and Mason-Deese, 2012; Hunt and Stevenson, 2017; Peluso, 1995), our digital mapping project harnesses the power of maps (Harris and Hazen, 2006) to ‘map back’ by foregrounding Indigenous traditions and knowledges in the Philippines, and to support their ancestral land claims.**

**Our project will utilize open-source digital technologies in developing an online interactive mapping dashboard (see Fig 1 in APPENDIX), which will store and communicate Indigenous spatial narratives and facilitate the production of both digital and physical maps to advance Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination. In partnership with two Indigenous communities in the Philippines who are laying claim to their ancestral lands - [REDACTED], we will develop an accessible and scalable mapping platform that will enable sharing and documenting of diverse experiences and stories of Indigenous peoples in the Philippines. The map will facilitate the consolidation of indigenous narratives on land, strengthen local traditions, and promote community cohesion. It will compare indigenous land narratives with state cartographic articulation of territory, which will illuminate land claims, foreground experiences of dispossession, and facilitate critical conversations on ancestral lands. Using the dashboard, communities will be able to create customizable maps for the application for the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title, and for other institutional claims and campaigns. Interlinked with the dashboard are community activities, such as mapping and storytelling workshops, pedagogical modules to support community-based learning activities, and other campaigns that will utilize maps.**

2. What digital tools and methods are at the center of the project? Please detail how these tools and methods inform both the project's intellectual contributions and its advancement of equity and justice.

**Blending counter-mapping with digital methodologies (see HarassMap, 2014; Hunt and Stevenson, 2017), we will build an online mapping dashboard that will empower Indigenous communities by documenting their stories on land, traditions, and experiences, which can be used for their land claims. In the Philippines, Indigenous land claims are caught in a limbo with contending truth claims on land ownership. Using open-source digital platforms, our dashboard will collate and locate Indigenous narratives that trace their rootedness to their lands and their experiences of dispossession. Also, the dashboard will mediate digital and non-digital participatory activities that will benefit our partner communities in their efforts to foster community cohesion, promote traditional knowledges, and campaign for their ancestral lands.**

**Around the dashboard are three interconnected components. First, we will co-organize three mapping and four storytelling workshops with our partner communities. These workshops will be held alongside community rituals and practices, blending sketch mapping and walking interviews. Using KoBoCollect, an open-source platform for mobile and web-based surveys, participants will gather their own spatial data in the form of geo-located audio-recordings of stories, songs, photographs of important sites (e.g. sacred lands, community markers). These data will be stored and used for the dashboard. Second, using open-source mapping libraries, Folium and Leaflet, we will build our interactive dashboard to provide customizable maps and spatial features. This dashboard will be an archival repository of Indigenous stories, music, images, and sketchmaps. At the core of the dashboard is an interactive web map containing spatial layers of Indigenous spaces and state-delimited territories. These layers will be used to create customizable maps for various land claims and campaigns. Third, our dashboard will facilitate the co-development of pedagogical modules and educational materials for educators and students of our partner communities. These educational materials will cover Indigenous mapping modules and lessons on traditional knowledges. What will emerge is a dynamic digital mapping platform that can be easily accessed and utilized by our partner Indigenous communities. After the grant period, we will expand by adding new mapping functions using open-source platforms and partnering with more communities and a national Indigenous organization (Katribu).**

3. Please detail the project's digital deliverables/outcomes as well its anticipated intellectual contributions.

Our digital mapping dashboard will serve as a dynamic repository of Indigenous stories and traditions and spatial data. Indigenous narratives shared through mapping and storytelling workshops will be articulated through texts, sounds, and images and will be in Tagalog and local languages (Ayta and Higaonon). (a) A section in the online dashboard will be devoted to these stories and digitized sketchmaps drawn during mapping workshops. (b) An interactive webmap will contain layers of spatial information on Indigenous sites (sacred spaces, markers, etc.) and stories. Stories (text, audio, and photos) will be geo-located through placemarkers on the digital map. The community will use the dashboard in creating customized maps for their various campaigns and ancestral land claims. (c) The dashboard will also feature educational materials on Indigenous traditions and mapping, which will be used by Indigenous educators in our partner communities.

Intellectually, this project will illuminate Indigenous geographies in (post)colonial settings like the Philippines. Despite legal achievements in protecting Indigenous lands in the Philippines, many communities continue losing their lands despite legal claims (Walpole and Annawi, 2011). Also, this project contributes to digital geographies scholarship by demonstrating how digital mapping can be configured along the intersections of Indigenous rights and other marginalized struggles (see Elwood, 2021; Elwood and Leszcynski, 2018). Lastly, this builds on the tradition of Indigenous counter-mapping, primarily in seeing the decolonial and emancipatory potentials of Indigenous digital mapping that respects local traditions and advocates for Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination (see Hunt and Stevenson, 2017; Syme, 2020).

4. Who are the primary audiences and/or beneficiaries of this project? How are they engaged and why?

The primary beneficiaries of this project are our partner Indigenous communities whom we have collaborated with since 2019. They both experience land struggles and have expressed their need for mapping their ancestral land claims. First, the [REDACTED] located in the mountainous regions of Central Luzon. Our partner community is located [REDACTED] and wants to consolidate their Indigenous knowledges and traditions and secure their ancestral land, amidst a government-led “new city” project. In 2019, we partnered with them in support of a local campaign to thwart threats of eviction. Our second partners are [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] are indigenous peoples who have long experienced land grabbing. In recent decades, they have faced land grabbing due to mining operations and illegal logging activities.

Our Indigenous community partners will be part of every stage of the project, except for the back-end coding of the digital dashboard. We will co-organize mapping and storytelling workshops, paying respectful attention to community practices and rituals. We will also co-develop educational materials on Indigenous mapping and lessons on Indigenous traditions and ecological knowledge drawing from information stored in the dashboard. Most importantly, our community partners will use the dashboard in creating multiple forms of maps that can be used to communicate their traditions and concerns and in advocating for their ancestral land claims. In particular, our partners are eager to develop maps that they can include in their formal application for ancestral land titles.

5. Does the project engage with any extramural community partners? If so, please describe the prior development and current status of those partnerships.

Yes, the project engages with community partners. Community engagement is critical to this project. Our community partners, [REDACTED] are marginalized Indigenous communities who are grappling with loss of Indigenous traditions and threats to their ancestral lands. Our digital mapping project supports their land claims and will promote their sovereignty and self-determination.

Among the [REDACTED], we have been working closely with the local “chieftain” of [REDACTED] for more than four years. In 2019, I spearhead the establishment of Counter-mapping PH, a collective of community-oriented mappers in the Philippines. Through our initial counter-mapping study [REDACTED], which supported farmers who were threatened by a “new city” project, we got connected with [REDACTED] who were also affected by the proposed project. Since then, we have been supporting [REDACTED] in several of their campaigns.

Our second partner, [REDACTED] are new community partners. We initially connected through [REDACTED] (“Stories of Women Campaign”), an Indigenous women-led grassroots organization based in [REDACTED]. Through [REDACTED] we will highlight stories of Indigenous women who will tell and bring into narratives their connectedness to the lands prior to dispossession.

Through this seed grant, we will be able to consolidate Indigenous mapping efforts with both partners, which will provide a template for other partnerships with Indigenous communities in other parts of the Philippines.

6. What, if any, software, hardware, and staff support is available for the project at the team's affiliated institution (s)? If applicable, please describe any significant resource constraints that might limit the project.

**As the PI of this project, my home institution will provide critical infrastructural support. Syracuse University's existing infrastructure—its enabling framework of hardware and software, communications, organizational units, rules, and personnel will support the activities to be undertaken by this project. Beyond the graduate assistant that we will hire, Syracuse University has software and hardware capabilities to support data storage and facilitate digital logistics to sustain the project. Furthermore, the PI will use his internal research funds from Syracuse University which will support other project expenses in the field.**

**However, the institutional affiliations of my research collaborators have limited resources. The University of the Philippines Department of Geography has limited data storage capabilities for the project, although they have software and mapping capabilities. Meanwhile, the Philippine-based organizations barely have hardware and software capabilities, except for a few individual members who volunteer their time and their resources to these organizations. Ensuring that several hardware (laptops, portable external drive, mobile phones) will be made available to partners and that a data storage protocol that will save data both in external drives and a digital cloud, can mitigate these constraints.**

7. How might grant funds support the project's potential to bolster the ecosystem of digital scholarship within and/or outside the project's affiliated institution(s), e.g. through its intellectual contributions, innovative use of existing technology, and/or networks of skill-building and sharing?

**This project attends to calls among digital geographers in demonstrating how digital practices are very much implicated in socio-political materialities and processes, and that digitalities might be configured alongside intersections with feminist relationalities (see Elwood, 2021; Elwood and Leszcynski, 2018). Given that the project advocates for the potential for digital mapping in decolonial cartographies, it builds on a long tradition of Indigenous counter-cartographies and the potency of the digital as new modes of decolonial counter-cartographies for Indigenous concerns (see Hunt and Stevenson, 2017; Syme, 2020). Such intellectual contribution guides the political and empirical possibilities that this project will yield.**

**In the spirit of an inclusive and accessible digital counter-mapping (see Crampton, 2013; Maharawal and McElroy, 2018) that uses free and open-source digital platforms, this project follows suit making sure that all the new spatial media and platforms are free and accessible. This is critical as we do not want our community partners to be constrained and limited by expensive proprietary mapping software programs. In the spirit of Indigenous self-determination and sovereignty, we envision this project to lay the groundwork for future scaling and expansion, which will include partnership with other Indigenous communities in the Philippines and collaborate with a national Indigenous peoples organization called Katribu. We have worked with Katribu before in 2019 in different capacities and we look forward to the possibility of potentially partnering with them after this digital mapping project becomes successful. We envision a dynamic mapping dashboard where various Indigenous communities and organizations can archive, store, and document their spatial stories and land narratives and create multiple kinds of maps to support their land rights campaigns, legal land claims, and educational mapping materials.**

8. Please describe the project's approach to data ethics, including data management, security, and stewardship.

**This project values data ethics and is committed to transparency and confidentiality. We will go through Syracuse University's formal Institutional Review Board (IRB) reviews and will secure a letter of Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) from our partner communities. We will ensure the confidentiality and anonymity of participants in data collection, from audio-recordings of interviews and storytelling activities to the collection of information from Kobo Collect, sketchmapping, and photography. In the field, all the data that will be collected will be stored in a password-protected hard drive which will eventually be stored in a password-protected project laptop. Once internet connection is ensured, data collected for a day will be stored in a password-protected data cloud.**

**After fieldwork, data from laptops and hard drives used in the field will be deleted. Project data will only be stored at a password-protected digital cloud and a copy will be saved in the PI's office PC, which is also password-protected. Once the collected data are processed and uploaded in the digital mapping platform, community partners and team members will have access to the data in the website. Access to the main data source will be restricted to the core team and Indigenous elders, pending an official request to the whole team. This is to ensure the security of data. However, it must be mentioned that the data collected are co-owned by the research team and the Indigenous community partners. Maintaining the data is essential for our partner communities.**

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Elwood, S. (2021). Digital geographies, feminist relationality, Black and queer code studies: Thriving otherwise. *Progress in Human Geography*, 45(2), 209-228.
- Elwood, S., and Leszczynski, A. (2018). Feminist digital geographies. *Gender, Place & Culture*, 25(5), 629-644.
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## PROJECT TIMELINE

The project spans 18 months, with the Principal Investigator (PI) conducting two field visits during the summer breaks of 2025 and 2026. Research partners will accompany the PI during these visits to engage with the community. After Field Visit 1, some members of the team will remain in the communities for the co-production of materials phase. The following outlines the key activities and milestones:

**Field Visit 1: Community Engagement and Project Introduction (July, 2025).** The initial field visit will focus on introducing the project to the community. Activities will involve site visits, meetings with chieftains and elders, and community meetings with rituals.

**Co-Production of Materials (August - October, 2025).** During this field phase, community-prioritized mapping activities and workshops will be conducted. These workshops aim to document indigenous rituals, songs, dances, narratives, and other forms of cultural expressions. The primary goal is to gather stories for inclusion in the community's digital platform.

**Drafting of Outputs (November - April, 2026).** All materials collected during the co-production phase will be organized into various formats, including written documentation, audio recordings, audiovisual materials, and maps. These drafts will form the basis for subsequent platform development.

**Development of Digital Platform (March - September, 2026).** This phase involves converting the drafted materials into a digital format and uploading them to a cloud-based repository for long-term storage and accessibility. The development of the digital infrastructure, including databases, will also be initiated.

**Field Visit 2: Validation of Materials (June - July, 2026).** The second field visit will focus on validating the co-produced materials with the community. This validation process will run concurrently with the



## ACLS Digital Justice Seed Grant

Land is Life (“Ang Lupa ay Buhay”): Decolonial Cartographies for Indigenous Land Justice in the Philippines

Category	Description	Time Period	Rate	Cost
<b>Personnel Salary, Wages, Benefits</b>				
	Local Coordinators (2 coord, 60 days each)	Jul - Oct, 2025 & Jun -July 2026	\$14/coordinator/day	\$1,680.00
	Research Assts. for field (2 coordinators, 60 days each)	August - October 2025	\$14/coordinator/day	\$1,680.00
	GIS Consultant (1 person, 6 months)	January - June 2026	\$700/month	\$4,200.00
	SU Grad Asst. Developer Consultant (1 person, 250hrs)	March - September 2026	\$36.98/hr	\$9,245.00
	Benefits - SU Graduate Assistant Developer Consultant	March - September 2026	7.9%	\$730.36
	Local Consultant (Carol Bello)	July 2025 - Jan 2027	\$640/person	\$640
	Local Consultant (Ervic Angeles)	July 2025 - Jan 2027	\$640/person	\$640
<b>TOTAL: Personnel Salary, Wages, Benefits</b>				<b>\$18,815</b>
<b>Software Licensing &amp; Fees</b>				
	Domain hosting (18 months)		\$9.72/month	\$175
<b>TOTAL: Software Licensing &amp; Fees</b>				<b>\$175</b>
<b>Equipment</b>				
	Android cellphone (6 units)		\$204/unit	\$1,224
	Android tablet (2 units)		\$204/unit	\$408
	Laptop for the community (2 units)		\$509/unit	\$1,018
	Laptop for the team (1 unit)		\$1360/unit	\$1,360
<b>TOTAL: Equipment</b>				<b>\$4,010</b>
<b>Direct Costs</b>				
Field Visit 1	Food for community members, participants, researchers during rituals, workshops, events (50 participants)	July 2025	\$4/participant	\$200
Co-Production of Materials	Food for community members, participants, researchers during rituals, workshops, events (20 participants)	August to October 2025	\$10/participant	\$200
	Printing of maps and related materials (20 participants)	August 2025	\$25/participant	\$500
	Collaterals for participants in Bukidnon (20 participants)	August to October 2025	\$5/participant	\$100
	Collaterals for participants in Tarlac (20 participants)	August to October 2025	\$5/participant	\$100
Field Visit 2	Food for community members, participants, researchers during rituals, workshops, events (20 participants)	June to July 2026	\$10/participant	\$200.00
	Printing of maps and related materials (20 participants)	June 2025	\$25/participant	\$500.00
	Collaterals for participants in Bukidnon (20 participants)	June to July 2026	\$5/participant	\$100
	Collaterals for participants in Tarlac (20 participants)	June to July 2026	\$5/participant	\$100
<b>TOTAL: Direct Costs</b>				<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Travel &amp; Lodging</b>				
Not included				
<b>Total: Travel &amp; Lodging</b>				<b>\$0</b>
<b>Base Project Costs</b>				<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Total Budget Request</b>				<b>\$25,000</b>

\*\*Please note that this is only a sample budget. Actual research project categories and budgeted amounts will vary by project.

## **BUDGET DESCRIPTION**

### **A. Personnel Salaries, Wages, Benefits**

Dr. Carol Bello, and Dr. Ervic Angeles will be paid as consultants for their time spent contributing to data collection and analysis throughout the project. They will be paid a flat rate of \$640.

Funding is requested to hire one PhD graduate research assistant (GRA) to work approximately 250 hours at a rate of \$36.98. The GRA rate is set by the Syracuse Graduate Employees United contract and fringe benefits are 7.9% (Department of Health and Human Services; 3/14/2023). The GRA will assist with data collection, coding, creation of an online digital mapping dashboard, and domain hosting.

Funding is also requested for two local coordinators in the Philippines to help plan and conduct workshops and field visits. Two Filipino research assistants will also be hired for field visits and drafting. Each will be paid \$14/day for 60 days. A GIS consultant will be paid \$700/month for 6 months of work developing the mapping dashboard.

### **B. Software Licensing & Fees**

Funds are requested to support creation and maintenance of an online interactive mapping dashboard including a repository for stories and data. The estimated cost is \$175.

### **C. Equipment**

Funding is requested for two laptops for field data collection (\$509) and one laptop with Snapdragon processing for the research team (\$1360). Funding is also requested for six cell phones (\$204/phone) and two tablets (\$204/tablet) which will be used to run a free application for data collection and upload to the mapping library. These phones, tablets, and laptops will be purchased and set up with a wireless service within the Philippines.

### **D. Direct Costs**

Funding is requested to support community workshops on mapping and storytelling in the Philippines. Costs include \$2,000 for subsistence, collaterals and workshop materials for approximately 90 participants total.

## PROJECT STAFFING

### RESEARCH TEAM:

#### **Arnisson Andre C. Ortega (Syracuse University; Counter-mapping PH)**

Arnisson Andre C. Ortega is the Principal Investigator of this project. He will oversee, supervise and manage all the aspects of the project, including field work and data management. He is currently an Assistant Professor of geography at Syracuse University and one of the co-founders of Counter-mapping PH.

#### **Yany P. Lopez (University of the Philippines, Counter-mapping PH)**

Yany Lopez is a Co-Principal Investigator of the Project. She will coordinate with academic and community partners in the Philippines. She is currently an Associate Professor of Geography at the University of the Philippines and one of the co-founders of Counter-mapping PH.

#### **Maria Simeona Martinez (University of the Philippines, Counter-mapping PH)**

Maria Simeona Martinez is a Co-Principal Investigator of the Project. She will oversee the technical aspects of the project, including research assistants and organizational contacts in the Philippines. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of the Philippines and is one of the co-founders of Counter-mapping PH.

#### **Maria Carolina Rodriguez Bello (Lalang Hu Mga Laga, Organization, Inc., Philippines)**

Maria Carolina Rodriguez Bello is a Co-Principal Investigator of the Project. She will oversee and manage the Mindanao-based aspects of the project, including research assistants and local coordinators. She is currently the director of Lalang Hu Mga Laga organization, a women-led Indigenous organization.

**Ervic Angeles (Ulirat Collective, Philippines)**

Ervic Angeles is a Co-Principal Investigator of the Project. He will oversee and manage the Central Luzon-based aspects of the project, including research assistants and local coordinators. He is one of the co-founders of the Ulirat Mapping collective, an organization of Filipino youth mapping enthusiasts supporting social and environmental justice concerns of marginalized communities in the Philippines.

**SUPPORT STAFF:**

One **Syracuse University Graduate Student Developer Consultant** will be responsible for developing the database and the digital interactive mapping dashboard.

One **Philippine-based GIS consultant** will be responsible for processing, analyzing and managing the spatial data that will be coming from the fieldwork in the Philippines.

Two **Philippine-based local coordinators** will be responsible for connecting, translating and coordinating field operations in the two communities. One local coordinator will be assigned to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and one for [REDACTED]

Two **Philippine-based Field Research Assistants** will support the project during field work in the two communities. They will also be involved in mapping, documentation of events, drafting documents and other fieldwork-based logistics. One field research assistant will be assigned to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and one for [REDACTED]

Ika-20 ng Nobyembre, 2024

American Council of Learned Societies  
633 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10017-6706  
United States of America

Sa kinauukulan:

Magandang araw po! Ang sulat na ito ay naglalahad ng aming pagsuporta kina Arnisson Andre Ortega at ng kaniyang mga kasamahan sa kanilang pag-aaral na may pinamagatang, “Land is Life (“Ang Lupa ay Buhay”): decolonial cartographies and geo-narratives for Indigenous land justice in the Philippines.” Kung ang kanilang proposal ay mapiling pondohan ng American Council of Learned Societies, kami ay makikipagtulungan sa kanila sa kanilang pananaliksik. Matagal-tagal na naming nakakasama at nakikipagtulungan kina Arnisson Andre Ortega at ng kaniyang mga kasamahan na mula sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas (UP) sa iba’t ibang mga pananaliksik na sumusuporta sa aming mga kampanya at proyekto. Kami ay nalulugod na ipagpatuloy ang aming pakikipagtulungan sa kanila.

Maraming salamat po.

Sumasainyo,

[Redacted signature block]

November 20, 2024

American Council of Learned Societies  
633 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10017-6706  
United States of America

To Whom It May Concern:

Greetings! I am writing this letter to support the proposal submitted by Arnisson Andre Ortega and his research team entitled, "Land is Life ("Ang Lupa ay Buhay"): decolonial cartographies and geo-narratives for Indigenous land justice in the Philippines." If the proposal is selected for funding by the American Council of Learned Societies, we will collaborate and work closely with the team. We have been working with Arnisson Andre Ortega and his collaborators from the University of the Philippines for several years now on several projects that support our community campaigns and initiatives. We look forward to continue working with them in this project.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.A small black rectangular redaction box covering the name of the sender.

Tribal Chieftain  
Ayta Hungey



19 November 2024

Dear ACLS Digital Justice Seed Grants,

Maayad ha anlaw! We would like to express our support for the proposal prepared by Assistant Professor Andre Ortega of Syracuse University. The proposal intends to gather and document and digitalize the stories of indigenous peoples, including the indigenous women of Lalang Hu Mga Laga Organization, Inc. and the communities where we operate, where encroachment by government supported and/or influential settlers have taken over some lands without due process seen from our end. As we consider our lands sacred, we have not been able to detach ourselves from them and have been thinking of ways to claim back what we can in nonviolent ways. We hope that through our stories, we can find ways in how to help ourselves and our communities gain back what we can and find ways to assert what is sacred.

The digital mapping through stories will help us a lot in facing our situations with new lenses, aided by technology for human and indigenous people's rights while also respecting the prevailing government and its laws.

Thank you.

Maria Carolina Dawonlay  
Executive Director.

Emails:

[lalanhumgalaga@gmail.com](mailto:lalanhumgalaga@gmail.com)

[mrbelo@up.edu.ph](mailto:mrbelo@up.edu.ph)

**Lalang Hu Mga Laga Organization, Inc.**

Purok 5 Carang-Carang, Barangay Kalasungay, Malaybalay, Bukidnon 8700 MINDANAO  
Philippines [www.storiesofwomencampaign.com](http://www.storiesofwomencampaign.com) | [facebook.com/storiesowomencampaign](https://facebook.com/storiesowomencampaign)

## APPENDIX

Figure 1. Online mapping dashboard conceptual template

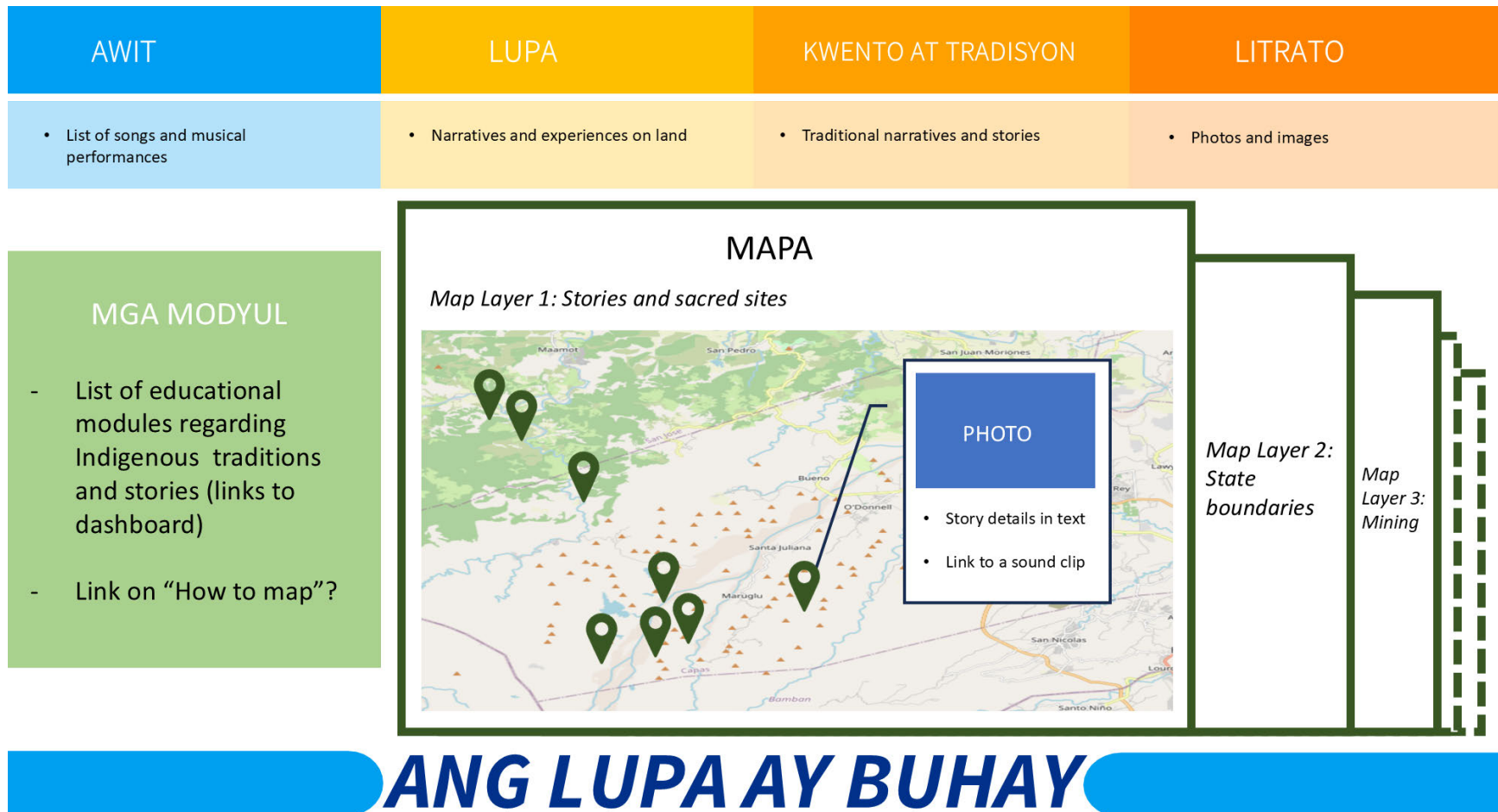


Illustration: Arnisson Andre C. Ortega (PI)



# ACLS Digital Justice Seed Grants

## Institutional Verification

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Applicant Name: **Arnisson Andre Ortega**

Referee's Name: **Lois Agnew**

Institution: **Syracuse University**

Department: **Academic Affairs**

Title: **Interim Vice Chancellor, Provost, and Chief Academic Officer**

Phone Number: **315-443-2494**

### INSTITUTIONAL VERIFICATION

- I confirm that the institution's existing infrastructure—its enabling framework of hardware and software, communications, organizational units, rules, and personnel—will be available for the applicant(s)' use in the development of any technologies for the specified project.
- I confirm that the budget plan outlined by the applicant is acceptable to our institution and that the proposed grant funds will be administered by our institution in accordance with the project timeline.
- I confirm that the activities supported by this grant will be counted for purposes of promotion and tenure at our institution.

I am writing in full support of the proposed project, "Land is Life ("Ang Lupa ay Buhay"): Decolonial cartographies and geo-narratives for Indigenous land justice in the Philippines" led by PI Dr. Arnisson Andre Ortega, Assistant Professor, Geography and the Environment. In my capacity as Interim Vice Chancellor and Provost, I confirm that Syracuse University's existing infrastructure—its enabling framework of hardware and software, communications, organizational units, rules, and personnel support the activities to be undertaken for the project. As a scholar in the Geography and the Environment department and Co-Director of the Community Geography program, Dr. Ortega will be fully supported from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs in the work proposed. I confirm that Syracuse University is prepared to administer all project costs as proposed in the project budget. The Office of Sponsored Programs is the authorized organizational body for sponsored funding and will ensure responsible stewardship of the award.

Syracuse University is committed to longstanding traditions of scholarship, as well as evolving perspectives on scholarship, and supports faculty who choose to participate in publicly engaged scholarship. Publicly engaged scholarship may involve partnerships of University knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research, creative activity, and public knowledge; enhance curriculum, teaching and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address and help solve critical social problems; and contribute to the public good. Such scholarship is to be evaluated with the same rigor and standards as all scholarship. If awarded, Syracuse University stands ready to support the project and advance justice and equity in digital scholarly practice.

Lois Agnew  
Interim Vice Chancellor, Provost and Chief Academic Officer