


Books





In the Philippine context, books on LGBTQIA+ proffer insights from art and anthropology to law and literature to history and health. They serve as critical archives, offering a glimpse into the lives and experiences of LGBTQIA+ people in the Philippines. For their length and depth, they are the best sources for multi-layered narratives, complex ideas, and expanded analyses.

More prominent among the books in this section are academic texts, narratives, collections, and anthologies that give a glimpse of what it is to be an LGBTQIA+ person, scholar, or ally in the Philippines. They are social documents, personal stories, and evidence that can inform history, advocacy, and policy.

Biographies, Memoirs, Personal Narratives, & General Nonfiction

This category highlights stories of lived experience, resilience, and identity from LGBTQIA+ individuals, activists, and allies. These works often take the form of autobiographies, biographies, or collections of essays where writers reflect on their personal journeys. Through these narratives, readers gain insight into the intimate and socio-political dimensions of queerness in the Philippines.

By centering the voices of individuals, these books help humanize abstract issues and invite empathy from readers. They are also an essential historical record, documenting queer lives that may otherwise be silenced or overlooked in mainstream discourse.



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Jhoanna Lynn B. Cruz is Full Professor of literature and creative writing at the University of the Philippines Mindanao. She received her Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, and a Master of Arts in Language and Literature, major in English, both with high distinction, from De La Salle University-Manila, where she had also finished an AB in Literature, cum laude. She holds a creative practice PhD from RMIT University, Australia. Currently dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences of UP Mindanao, she prides herself in a teaching career that spans more than 30 years in Manila, Baguio, and Davao City. Cruz is the president of the Davao Writers Guild. Her first book, *Women Loving: Stories and a Play*, published in 2010 by De La Salle University and Anvil Publications, Inc. is the first sole-author collection of lesbian stories published in the Philippines. It is available as an eBook entitled *Women on Fire*. Her memoir about rebuilding her life in Davao City, *Abi Nako, Or So I Thought (2020)* published by the University of the Philippines Press is the first lesbian memoir in the Philippines.

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Fictional Prose

This category comprises novels, short story collections, and graphic novels that foreground LGBTQIA+ themes, characters, and communities. Fiction allows queer and trans writers to imagine and reimagine realities—exploring love, violence, memory, longing, and resistance through narrative arcs and invented worlds. These texts span genres, from realist social dramas to speculative fiction and young adult coming-of-age tales. Some works center deeply on Filipino queer life; others move transnationally, capturing diasporic struggles and global queer solidarities.

Graphic narratives, meanwhile, bring visual storytelling into the fold, offering another dimension to the representation of LGBTQIA+ identities. Through a fusion of illustration and text, they render visible bodies, gestures, and spaces often excluded from mainstream media. Together, these works contribute richly to Philippine queer literary traditions and open avenues for both visibility and imagination.



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Chuckberry Pascual

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- PACH009
- TORO003
- TORO006

Chuckberry J. Pascual is a novelist, short story writer, and translator. His notable works include the novels *Mars, May Zombie!* (Adarna House, 2022), *Mars, Maraming Zombie!* (Adarna House, 2025), and *Ang Nawawalang Barangay* (Avenida Books, 2024), as well as four short story collections, including *Bayan ng mga Bangkay* (UP Press, 2022) and *Ang Nawawala* (Visprint, 2017). The latter was translated into English as *The Vanished by Ned Parfan* (Avenida Books, 2023). Beyond fiction, Pascual has authored books on ethnography, literary criticism, and literary history. He has also translated into Filipino four short story collections by Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo and Miguel Syjuco's *Ilustrado* (UST Publishing House, 2022), the first and only Filipino novel to win the Man Asian Prize. He teaches Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Santo Tomas. His website is chuckberrypascual.com.

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Poetry

This category includes published collections of poems by LGBTQIA+ writers in the Philippines or diasporic Filipino communities. Poetry has long been a powerful medium of queer and trans expression—condensing rage, desire, grief, survival, and joy into carefully wrought lines. These works often reflect on themes of body, identity, language, love, kinship, displacement, and political resistance. Whether experimental or traditional in form, these poems serve as lyrical testimonies to lived experience and sociocultural realities. The collections featured here vary from intimate personal reflections to potent interventions in nationhood, memory, and gendered language.

Poetry also plays a unique role in queer Philippine literature—it bridges the personal and the political, the spiritual and the corporeal. Many of these works have emerged from or are connected to spoken word scenes, university presses, activist collectives, and independent publishing initiatives, affirming poetry's place in both formal and grassroots literary spaces.



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AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

John Iremil Teodoro



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- TEJ0005

John Iremil Teodoro is a Full Professor at the Department of Literature of De La Salle University in Manila, where he is also the Director of the Bienvenido N. Santos Creative Writing Center. He writes poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and drama in Kinaray-a, Filipino, Hiligaynon, and English. He has published more than twenty books, including two creative nonfiction collections—*Pagmumuni-muni at Pagtatalak ng Sirenanag Nagpapanggap na Prinsesa (Reflections and Rantings of a Mermaid Pretending to Be a Princess, Imprenta Igbaong-Invictus, 2007)* and *Sa Yakap ng Gubat at Dagat ng Palawan: Mga Ekosanaysay (In the Embrace of the Forest and the Sea of Palawan: Eco-essays, Pawikan Press, 2021)*—that garnered the Philippine National Book Award from the Manila Critics Circle and the National Book Development Board. His column, “Panay Sirena,” is featured weekly in the Daily Guardian, a prominent newspaper in Iloilo City. He blogs at jieteodoro.com.

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Literary Anthologies & Edited Volumes

Anthologies and edited volumes bring together multiple voices on LGBTQIA+ themes. These collections may include essays, stories, research articles, or visual artworks curated around a central theme such as activism, identity, or historical memory. They often amplify diverse perspectives, showcasing intersections of queerness with other social categories like class, ethnicity, and religion.

These works are particularly important for building community knowledge and fostering dialogue. By presenting varied contributions, anthologies reflect the multiplicity of LGBTQIA+ realities in the Philippines and the dynamism of queer thought and expression.



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Historical, Sociological, & Other Scholarly Texts

Historical and archival works document LGBTQIA+ presence and resistance across time. These include studies on precolonial gender diversity, early ethnographies, and texts chronicling the rise of the LGBTQIA+ movement in the Philippines. They explore how queer lives were recorded, erased, and remembered in various historical periods.

These materials are vital for contextualizing contemporary struggles. They help trace legacies of colonialism, religion, and law in shaping attitudes toward sexuality and gender while recovering hidden or suppressed narratives of queer resilience.



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Health, Well-being, & Advocacy Resources

Books in this category focus on LGBTQIA+ health, including mental health, sexual health, and access to inclusive care. They address issues such as HIV/AIDS, healthcare discrimination, and the creation of safe spaces for LGBTQIA+ individuals seeking medical or psychological support.

These works highlight the intersection of health and human rights, emphasizing the importance of affirming care. They are valuable for both practitioners and community members navigating health systems in the Philippines.

This category encompasses materials created by NGOs, advocacy groups, and grassroots organizations. These include toolkits, manuals, primers, and community reports used to raise awareness and build capacity on LGBTQIA+ issues. Though often outside traditional academic publishing, these works are rich in practical knowledge and grounded in lived realities.

These publications reflect the activism and solidarity at the heart of the LGBTQIA+ movement. They also serve as crucial historical records of campaigns, struggles, and victories, bridging the gap between research and community empowerment.



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***Isang Pagtingin Sa
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Pinoy Tomboy at
Lesbayan.***
Monograph Series 4. UP
Diliman Gender Office,
2019.

Litong, Glenda T., Ma. Angelica A.
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***Slip through the Cracks:
Interrogating LGBT Rights in
Legal and Protective Measures
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Violence and Discrimination.***
University of the Philippines Law
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and Beatriz A. Torre.
***Social Psychological
Aspects of Advocating
Sexual Citizenship Rights
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Institute of Human Rights,
2013.

Muyargas, Moniq M.
***Outside Looking In:
Exploring Sexual Minority
Men and Sexual Health
Practices Through Focus
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SAGE Publications Ltd,
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Salanga, Maria Guadalupe C.,
Zyra M. Evangelista, and
Catherine M. Lido.
***How to Conduct Culturally
Sensitive and Ethically Sound
Research When Studying
Sensitive Topics in
Non-WEIRD Contexts.***
Edited by Anna CohenMiller.
SAGE Publications Ltd, 2024.

Tan, Michael David C.
Red Lives.
Bahaghari Center for SOGIE
Research, Education and
Advocacy, Inc. and Outrage
Magazine, 2023.

Religion, Spirituality, & Belief Systems

This category explores the intersections between faith and LGBTQIA+ identities. It includes critiques of religious institutions, affirming theologies, and works documenting how LGBTQIA+ Filipinos navigate belief systems in a predominantly Catholic society.

These books are particularly significant in the Philippine context, where religion plays a central role in public and private life. They reveal both the challenges and the possibilities for reconciling spirituality with queerness.



Brewer, Carolyn.
***Shamanism, Catholicism
and Gender Relations in
Colonial Philippines,
1521-1685.***

Women and Gender in the
Early Modern World.
Ashgate, 2004.

Cannell, Fenella.
***Power and Intimacy in
the Christian Philippines.***
Cambridge Studies in Social
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Cornelio, Jayeel Serrano.
***Being Catholic in the
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Routledge, 2016.

OMF Literature.
***What About Same-Sex
Marriage: Christian-Filipino
Voices on Same-Sex
Marriage.***
OMF Literature, 2015.

Arts, Media, Theory, & Culture

This category includes works analyzing LGBTQIA+ representation in Philippine arts, film, media, and performance. It also highlights creative outputs such as photography books, exhibition catalogs, and critical essays on queer cultural production.

These materials show how art and media can challenge dominant narratives, create visibility, and inspire social change. They are invaluable for understanding how culture reflects and shapes LGBTQIA+ lives in the Philippines.



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Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino, 2004.

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Anvil Publishing, 2012.

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De La Salle University Press, 1998.

Itiel, Joseph.
Philippine Diary: A Gay Guide to the Philippines.
International Wavelength, Inc., 1989.

Pascual, Chuckberry J.
Ang Tagalabas sa Panitikan.
University of Santo Tomas Publishing House, 2018.

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Pagpasok sa Eksena: Ang Sinehan sa Panitikan at Pag-aaral ng Piling Sinehan sa Recto.
University of the Philippines Press, 2016.

Silva, John L.
A Token of Our Friendship: Philippine Photos of Male Affection: First Half of the 20th Century.
Ige Ramos Design Studio, 2011.

Tolentino, Roland B., Vladimeir B. Gonzales, and Laurence Marvin Sablan Castillo, eds.
Hindi Nangyari Dahil Wala sa Social Media: Interogasyon ng Kulturang New Media sa Pilipinas.
Ateneo de Manila University Press, 2021.

Global & Diaspora Perspectives

This category highlights the experiences of LGBTQIA+ Filipinos in transnational and diaspora contexts. It includes works about queer migration, overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), and the impact of globalization on Filipino LGBTQIA+ identities.

These books reveal how queerness is negotiated across borders and cultures, reflecting both the challenges and solidarities of being LGBTQIA+ in a globalized world. They enrich the compendium by connecting local realities to international movements.

This category focuses on books that examine how LGBTQIA+ identities intersect with other forms of marginalization such as class, ethnicity, Indigeneity, and disability. It includes works centering the experiences of queer Filipinos in rural areas, Indigenous communities, and among migrant workers.

By addressing these layered identities, these texts highlight the need for inclusive and intersectional approaches to LGBTQIA+ rights. They expand the conversation beyond gender and sexuality to encompass broader struggles for social justice.



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Filipino Entertainers in Japan: An Introduction.
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Under Bright Lights: Gay Manila and the Global Scene.
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Fajardo, Kale Bantigue.
Filipino Crosscurrents: Oceanographies of Seafaring, Masculinities, and Globalization.
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Asian American Sexualities: Dimensions of the Gay and Lesbian Experience.
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Vol. 46. Sexual Cultures. New York University Press, 2012.

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The Asian American Experience. University of Illinois Press, 2020.

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Pacific Formations. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc, 2002.

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AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT



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Martin F. Manalansan IV is Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Rutgers University, New Brunswick. He has taught at the University of Minnesota, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, New York University, New School University, and the University of the Philippines. He is the author of *Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora* (Duke University Press, 2003; Ateneo de Manila, 2006). He is the editor/co-editor of 7 anthologies and six journal special issues. He published essays in journals such as *GLQ*, *TSQ*, *Radical History Review*, *South Atlantic Quarterly*, and *Social Text*, among others. His forthcoming book is entitled *Queer Dwellings: Mess, Mesh, Measure*. He is the President of the Association for Asian American Studies.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Manalansan, Martin F. IV. "Disorienting the Body: Locating Symbolic Resistance among Filipino Gay Men." *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique* 2, no. 1 (February 1, 1994): 73-90. <https://doi.org/10.1215/10679847-2-1-73>.

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