



# Lecture

## **JULIAN GO** Sociology, Boston University

**Tuesday, January 29, 2008**  
**2:30 pm-4:30 pm**  
**Miller 301**  
**Reception to follow**

### **Imperial Signs: Power and Meaning in American Empire, 1898-1912**

America's modalities of rule in the Philippines and Puerto Rico in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century have been taken to represent the exceptional and benevolent character of American empire. However, a deeper examination of the colonial regimes reveals that they were not determined by America's presumably exceptional values or enduring political traditions but by particular features of the colonies themselves. This lecture will explore America's ostensibly unique colonial regimes in the Philippines and Puerto Rico and will consider the ways in which hidden processes of meaning-making and semiotic interaction at once sustained and subtly undermined these regimes.

**Julian Go** is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Boston University. His research interests include social theory, cultural sociology, historical and comparative sociology, globalization, and colonialism and postcolonialism. Much of Go's work has focused on the United States empire and American colonialism, examining them from the perspective of cultural sociology, state theory, and comparative historical sociology. He is the author of *American Empire and the Politics of Meaning* (forthcoming) and co-editor of *The American Colonial State in the Philippines: Global Perspectives* (2003). Go has also published on the discourse of industrial accidents and welfare policy, the meaning of race and racism in colonial contexts, and the global diffusion of state forms as expressed in postcolonial constitutionalism.

This talk is part of the series *Shifting Empires: Transforming Colonial Rule in the Pacific Islands and Circum-Caribbean Worlds* and is sponsored by the Department of History, the Institute for Transnational Studies, Southeast Asian Studies, and the Simpson Center for the Humanities.

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