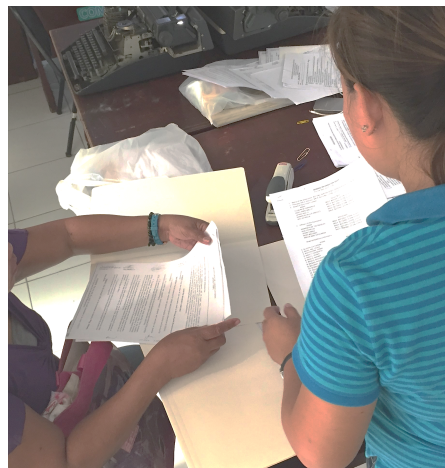




Come and join us for our 35th
Informal Literacy Discussion

**‘Taking hold’ and ‘losing grip’ of
Bureaucratic Literacies:
Insights from The Philippines.**



Monday, 24th June 2019, 4-6pm

Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines
10 Suffolk Street, London SW1Y 4HG
nearest stations Charing Cross, Piccadilly Circus

This seminar led by **Christopher Millora** of the University of East Anglia will consider how volunteering, especially in resource-poor contexts, may be a pathway for participation in development processes. Volunteer organisations increasingly need to collaborate with a wider network of bureaucratic institutions that demand rapid, quantifiable results and evidence of value for money.

How do these bureaucratic processes influence volunteers’ experiences and learning? Drawing on an 11-month ethnography with a youth organisation on HIV/AIDS awareness and an informal settlers’ association in the Philippines, this seminar will explore literacy practices and strategies that volunteers employed to make sense of and engage with (‘take hold of’) bureaucratic processes and texts. I will also discuss how the failure to do so (‘losing grip’) may lead to suspicion, resistance and ultimately non-participation, thus highlighting how literacy practices may construct and/or intensify inequalities within the community.

I will then pose critical questions. To what extent do external institutional practices structure internal ones? What may be the ‘divisive’ tendencies of literacies? How can organisations best support volunteers as they navigate ‘new’ literacies?

Christopher Millora is a PhD researcher with the UNESCO Chair in Adult Literacy and Learning for Social Transformation at the School of Education and Lifelong Learning, University of East Anglia. He researches the participation of ‘marginalised’ communities through volunteering and social activism, and how such processes cultivate or confine members’ learning processes and personal transformation. He holds a joint MA in Lifelong Learning Policy and Management from the Danish School of Education and UCL Institute of Education.

**All are welcome to this FREE seminar, which is kindly hosted by the Embassy of the Philippines. To help our planning, please register your intention to attend by emailing comms@balid.org.uk
Dress is smart casual.**