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HUMANITIES
COUNCIL

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Community Conversation Events Focus on Women Writers

"8,000 How Will It Change Our Lives?" Community Conversations on the US Military Buildup in Guam is the Council's effort to encourage island residents to examine the impact of the relocation of military personnel and their families to Guam in 2014, through humanities-based conversations on related themes of service, leadership, sustainability, community, identity and power.

The Council selected the "civic reflection" model to convene community conversations with diverse groups of residents in a variety of settings around the island. Civic reflection is an innovative approach that has been successfully implemented by humanities councils across the country to engage citizens in discussions of important issues that affect civic life.

- Conversations begin with a focused discussion of a selected reading, poem, film or other text.
- Trained facilitators guide the participants through a reflection process that encourages critical analysis, asking questions, and self-expression.
- Through civic reflection, individuals are invited to step into a hospitable space where they may critically think and talk about the values and choices we make while living together as a community.

As part of the project, the Council will bring to Guam Chamorro scholar **Tina Taitano Delisle** to be involved in a weeklong series of readings and discussions with high school and college students, and presentations with the larger public:

- **Community Conversation Event**, Tuesday, October 19 at the Outrigger Guam Resort
- **Fino' Famalao'an – Women Speak**, an evening of readings celebrating Chamorro women writers, Thursday, October 25 at Carmen's Mexican Restaurant. Tickets for *Fino' Famalao'an* are \$25.00.
- **Rethinking the Terms of Engagement – Chamorro Identity and a Gendered History of the U.S. Military in Guam**, UOG Presidential Lecture Series, Friday, October 22 at the UOG CLASS Lecture Hall.



Tina Taitano DeLisle is a Chamorro writer, author, and historian. In 2008, she received a PhD in the joint program in History and Women's Studies from the University of Michigan where she is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the Program in American Culture. Tina's dissertation examines the cultural and historical relations between American naval wives and Chamorro women in Guam from 1898 to 1945. Tina has published essays in *Women Writing Oceania* and *Sovereign Acts*, a forthcoming anthology out of South End Press. She has written on Guam's cultural and political history for the *Hale'-ta* series of textbooks published by the Political Status Education Coordinating Commission, and her poetry has been featured in the Storyboard Journal.

Tina's public scholarship portfolio also includes the curation of several traveling exhibits on Guam and Micronesia: "The Canoes of Micronesia," "Peoples of Micronesia," and "eye/land/people: Images of a Navy Wife in Guam ...", and the production of two documentaries: "Sacred Vessels: Navigating Tradition and Identity in Guam," and "The *Pattera* of Guam: Their Story and Legacy."

The larger conversation event will bring together the many groups who have participated in the project's various conversation series, and will serve as a catalyst for conversations taking place throughout the community. The conversation event is free and limited to registered participants. To register, or for more information on *Fino' Famalao'an*, please contact the Guam Humanities Council.

The Guam Humanities Council is a non-profit organization that provides foundational support and cultural and educational programs for the people of Guam. The mission of the Guam Humanities Council is to foster community engagement and dialogue, inspire critical thinking, celebrate diversity and enrich the quality of life of island residents through the power of the humanities.

"8000, How Will It Change Our Lives?" *Community Conversations on the US Military Buildup on Guam* is partially funded through a grant through the *We The People Initiative*, National Endowment for the Humanities. Additional support has been provided by the Bank Of Guam, Outrigger Resort and Spa, Cars Plus, DeLisle's Beauty Supply, Mariacy Beauty Academy, and Budget Car Rental.

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