

Gazing at the Pinoy Pride's Body: Manny Pacquiao's Athletic Body as Metaphor-Product of the National/Colonial Imaginary

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Abstract:

This critical paper discusses how the body of champion boxer Manny Pacquiao serves as a metaphor-product of the Filipino community's national imagination - a communal imaginary that undergoes habitual conditioning/s in preparation for that moment of absolute alliance, but has recently emerged with injuries and/or alterations that have ruptured this cycle of the nation's imaginary. The three phases in which the boxer's body is situated – training, fighting, and injury – will be the key contextual spaces in the analysis of Pacquiao's body as metaphor for the Filipino people and product for the West. Furthermore, the seminar paper examines the consequential nature on how this national/colonial imaginary is constructed. This formation and patronage of Pacquiao's boxing career throughout the years is received and substantiated by two gazes: one by the Filipinos who translate his muscular body as affirmation of a robust national identity, and the other by the Western fans and athletic companies who inadvertently produce a colonial imagination of the Philippines.

Keywords: Postcolonial, national identity, Philippines, Filipino, body as nation