

## **LOCATING PAGKATAO: SELF-REFLEXIVITY IN PHILIPPINE LGBTQI HISTORY-WRITING**

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### **ABSTRACT**

At a time when a global pandemic has disrupted lives to a large extent across the globe, doing research has become ever more complex, challenging and uncertain. Such unexpected shifts in the dynamics of research, resulting in unpredictable consequences, have prompted the author to further reflect on her positionality as a researcher writing LGBTQI history. In this paper, the author joins scholars who propose self-reflexivity as both an analytical and ethical tool in understanding volatile research contexts. In gender and sexuality studies much has been written about the importance of self-reflexivity in understanding the impact of researchers' social and epistemic locations in knowledge production. The paper argues that self-reflexive practice is especially important in studying the histories of gender and sexual identities in a multiply colonised society such as the Philippines. The author reflects on her own identity and its continuing impact on her research process. Through a decolonial lens, she uses the Filipino psychological concept of *pagkatao* and unpacks its multi-layered meanings as selfhood, humanness and human dignity – three crucial elements in writing the history of identities.

**Keywords:** COVID-19 pandemic, self-reflexivity, LGBTQI history

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Kiel (she/they) is an aspiring researcher specializing in history, gender and sexuality studies (LGBTQI studies) in Southeast Asia. She is currently a PhD student in History at Linnaeus University, Sweden and was a visiting fellow at Lund University, Sweden, and Humboldt University, Germany.