

Jake Atienza

Transdisciplinary Researcher

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My interests primarily lie in an epistemological framing of mining in the Visayas, Philippines. I pay particular attention to the historically-situated context of mining by focusing on epistemology, patronage politics, everyday violence, archipelagos, human geography, political and eco-theology, social and legal theory, world-systems analysis, Bisayan studies, counter-mapping, and participatory research. My practice centers Bisayan epistemologies and lived experiences around mining that tend to be obscured. I work with text, maps, images, audio, and video recordings, including primary interviews and legal documents, which become source material for academic texts, public scholarship, and multimedia projects. While my main focus is the island province of Cebu, my interests span a broader archipelagic context across Southeast Asia and Oceania. I live on the traditional and unceded ancestral homelands of the Acjachemen and Tongva Nations now known as Irvine in Orange County, California.

Education

PhD Global Studies – University of California, Irvine (Us)	Fall 2024-present
M.A. Sociology - University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (Us) <i>Thesis: "It Runs in the Blood: Towards an Epistemology of Extraction"</i>	Spring 2021 - Spring 2023
Certificate IV Community Services - Technical and Further Education (TAFE) NSW (Au) <i>Work Placement: The Haymarket Centre</i>	Fall 2014- Spring 2015
B.A. Communication - Hanze University of Applied Sciences (Nl) <i>Thesis: "A Place, People, and Art-based Learning Model for Sustainable Lifestyles"</i>	Fall 2010 - Spring 2014

Grants

Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies (CGPACS), University of California, Irvine (Us)	2025
Winter 2025 Global Studies Travel Award, Global and International Studies, University of California, Irvine (Us)	2025
Graduate Fellowship, School of Social Sciences, University of California, Irvine (Us)	2025
GSO Grants and Awards Program - Graduate Student Office, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (Us)	2023
Corky Trinidad Endowment - Center for Philippine Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (Us)	2022

Fellowships

- Visiting Research Fellow, Sectoral Transparency Alliance on Natural Resource Governance Cebu (STANCe) (Ph) Feb 2025-Jan 2026
Participatory research and public research with mining-affected communities in Cebu.
- Visiting Research Fellow, University of the Philippines-Diliman (Ph) Oct 2023-Jul 2024
Data analysis and visualization, data collection (archival), journal submissions, and a lecture for the UP Department of Geography and the Philippine Geographical Society.
- Visiting Scholar, East-West Center Honolulu (Us) Jan-Feb 2020
Analysis of primary data and delivered a public lecture on extractivism.
- Visiting Artist, 'Atenisi Institute (To) Oct 2018-Mar 2019
Fieldwork, including interviews and audio-video documentation, on mining.

Publications

- Atienza, Jake. 2024. "Not Deadly Enough? The Erasure of Lived Experiences as the Epistemological Violence of Mining in Cebu, Philippines." *Comparative Law Journal of the Pacific Hors Série XXVII*:53-92. Retrieved from <https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/law/research/publications/about-nzacl/publications/special-issues/hors-serie-volume-xxvii-2024/6-atienza.pdf>
- Atienza, Jake. 2022. "An Island for Sale: Bantayan, Philippines." Pp. 246–49 in *Climates. habitats. environments*, edited by U. M. Bauer. Cambridge: The MIT Press.

Digital Humanities

- Atienza, Jake. 2025. "The 2018 Naga City Landslide: Seven Years Later." Sectoral Transparency Alliance on Natural Resource Governance Cebu (STANCe). Retrieved from <https://www.stance.biz/newsletter-and-articles/atong-kaagi>
- Atienza, Jake. 2025. "Community Voices Take Center Stage: 'Our Experiences and Stories of Mining in Cebu' Workshop a Resounding Success." Sectoral Transparency Alliance on Natural Resource Governance Cebu (STANCe). Retrieved from <https://www.stance.biz/newsletter-and-articles/community-voices-kaagi-workshop>
- Atienza, Jake. 2024. "Etched into the Landscape: Fieldwork Report on Mining in Cebu, Philippines". *Center for Philippine Studies*, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Retrieved from <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/philippine-studies/funding/scholarship-recipients/>
- Atienza, Jake. 2022. "Part 2: Bantayan Island, Cebu (Philippines)." *Claiming/Making*. Retrieved from <https://arcg.is/1u5qGG>.
- Atienza, Jake. 2021. "Part 1: Darlington, Sydney (Australia)." *Claiming/Making*. Retrieved from <https://arcg.is/GqX4W>.
- Atienza, Jake. 2021. *What About the Youth? Situating Young People in Agriculture*. Manila: Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas.

Conferences & Public Scholarship

<p>“They Took My Father’s Land”: Counter-Mapping as an Expression of Bisayan Epistemologies. - Association for Asian Studies (Ca)</p> <p><i>Narrating the Archipelago: Geonarratives and Spatial Storying in the Philippines</i></p>	Mar 2026
<p>Telling Our Stories: A Collaborative Ethnography of Extractivism in Cebu, Philippines. - Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies (CGPACS), University of California, Irvine (Us)</p> <p><i>CGPACS Grad Student Conference</i></p>	Mar 2026
<p>Voices from the Barrio: Researching Extractivism as Epistemicide. – Unifying Sectoral Responses on Environmental Protocols in Sibonga (USREPS) & Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ)</p> <p><i>The Save Sibonga Movement Assembly</i></p>	Sep 2025
<p>Epistemological Turns: Legal Interpretation as Mining Violence in Cebu, Philippines - International Society for Third-Sector Research (Ph)</p> <p><i>Beyond Natural Resource Governance: An Interdisciplinary Framing of Extractivism in the Philippines, 13th Asia-Pacific Regional Conference</i></p>	Apr 2025
<p>Epistemological Markers of Place-based Encounters: Mining in Cebu, Philippines. - Association of American Geographers (Us)</p> <p><i>Knowing Place: Violence as Epistemological and Temporal Encounters</i></p>	Mar 28 2025
<p>Not Deadly Enough? The Erasure of Lived Experiences as the Epistemological Violence of Mining in Cebu, Philippines - Visayas State University (Ph)</p> <p><i>World Philosophy Day</i></p>	Nov 2024
<p>Epistemological Excavations: Enduring Fixed Boundaries of Knowledge as Mining Violence in Cebu - In Other Words Incorporated and the Cebuano Studies Center, University of San Carlos, Talamban (Ph)</p> <p><i>The Common Places of Our Lives: Hulagway Conversation Series</i></p>	Sept 2024
<p>Written Out of the Narrative: Knowledge Production as Mining Violence in the Cebuano Bureaucracy - University of the Philippines-Diliman and the Philippine Geographical Society (Ph)</p> <p><i>Heo/Geo Lecture Series 2024</i></p>	Mar 2024
<p>OCEAN / UNI Pacific Resistance - TBA21 Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary</p> <p><i>Session 3: Indigenous Ocean Knowledges</i></p>	Feb 2024
<p>Silencing and Hearings on Mining in Cebu - University of Hawai’i at Mānoa (Us)</p> <p><i>Public lecture series, Center for Philippine Studies</i></p>	Nov 2023
<p>Bantayan Island: An Island in Transition - ASEAN Foundation (Id)</p> <p><i>Climate Futures #1: Cultures, Climate Crisis and Disappearing Ecologies</i></p>	Dec 2022
<p>Bantayan Island: An Island in Transition - Orange County Museum of Art (Us)</p> <p><i>Sea Change Symposium: Transformative Currents for Art and Action in the Pacific Ocean.</i></p>	Nov 2022

Language Politics in the Cebuano Judiciary - US Fulbright Program (Ph) <i>Project Magsayod 2022 – Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program</i>	Jul 2022
Documenting the Invisible: Mining as a Process of Institutional Violence - University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (Hi) <i>School of Pacific and Asian Studies (SPAS), Graduate Student Conference</i>	Apr 2022
Talk Story: Inundation - Donkey Mill Art Center (Us) <i>Live Aloha Arts Festival</i>	Mar 2021
The Extractive Industry as a Perpetuation of Colonialism's Transformational Power - East-West Center Honolulu (Us)	Feb 2020
Liquid Futures Round Table - East-West Center Honolulu (Us) <i>International Graduate Certificate Program</i>	Apr 2019
Art as an Investigative and Documentary Practice - Government of the Kingdom of Tonga (To) <i>Climate Change Department</i>	Nov 2018
Art as an Investigative and Documentary Practice - 'Atenisi Institute (To) <i>John Perkins Memorial Lecture</i>	Oct 2018.
The Nature of Intervention - Rara Books Livraria & Cafe (Br)	Sep 2018
Re-Imaging and Re-Imagining Island Life - Toi Pōneke Arts Centre (Aotearoa) <i>Critical Forum</i>	Jul 2017
Re-Imagining & Re-Imaging Island Life - Darwin Community Arts (Au)	Jan 2016

Selected Experience

Teaching Assistant – Department of Global and International Studies, University of California, Irvine (US) <i>Teaching discussion sections, student supervision, administration, and grading assignments/papers for courses Race & Ethnicity in Latin America (Intl St 179) and Global & International Forum (Intl St 183A).</i>	Sept 2025-Present
Assistant Case Manager - Tenderloin Housing Clinic (Us) <i>Manage caseloads of several units of formerly homeless single adults, conduct outreach visits, and support tenants in accessing resources and services.</i>	Jan-July 2024
Teaching Assistant - Department of Sociology, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (Us) <i>Student support, administration, and grading assignments/papers for courses in Survey of Sociological Theory, Criminology, Survey in Drugs & Society, Sociology of Gender, and Law, Politics & Society.</i>	Spring 2021-2023
Guest Lecturer - University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (Us) <i>Interdisciplinary research methodologies and ethics through art and research projects (RT 611 Grad Seminar in Studio Art and ART 481 Museum Interpretations)</i>	2020-2021

Island Coordinator - Viva ExCon Inc. (Ph) <i>Coordinated for the Visayas Islands Visual Arts Exhibition and Conference</i>	Nov 2020-Jul 2021
Journalist - Special Broadcasting Services (SBS) Australia (Au) <i>Produced pre-recorded interviews for broadcasting, podcasting, and online and social videos.</i>	Sept 2016-Feb 2018
Project Manager - Special Broadcasting Services (SBS) Australia (Au) <i>Produced weekly podcasts "Viva" and "The Settlement Guide" and coordinated content projects.</i>	Mar-Jul 2018
Journalist - Kantor Berita Radio (Id) <i>Produced radio news packages, which involved interviews, SFX recordings, script/feature writing, and voice-overs.</i>	Jun-Dec 2017

Selected Projects, Festivals & Group Exhibitions

Aton Banwa (Collaboration w/ GOODLand), Transformative Currents: Art and Action in the Pacific Ocean (PST ART: Art & Science Collide) , Oceanside Museum of Art (Us)	2024
Filipina/x in Hawai'i: Our Movements, Archives, & Memories , Thomas Hale Hamilton Library, University of Hawaii at Manoa (Us)	2021
Making/Claiming, Memoirs of Time and Presence , Vinyl on Vinyl (Ph)	2021
Making/Claiming, Kalibunan Series , Qube Gallery (Ph)	2021
Tidal (Collaboration as DAKOgamay), The Nature of Cities Festival (Nz)	2021
Tidal (Collaboration as DAKOgamay), Bamasa Film Festival (Au)	2020
Tidal (Collaboration as DAKOgamay), Inundation: Art and Climate Change in the Pacific (Au)	2020
Fauna/Flora, Tubô Cebu Art Fair (Ph)	2019
Harvest, Hobiennale 2019 (Au)	2019
Our Islands 2015-2017, Around The Outside/Do You Know this Feeling? , Firstdraft (Au)	2019
Work 37, 150, 1800 hrs, 55 Sydenham Rd (Au)	2017
Harvest, **Crybaby Screening , Hobiennale (Au)	2017
Harvest, Erratic Symbiosis, Parkes Shire Library (Au)	2017
Harvest Scene, Recess.net.au (Au)	2017

Collaborations

Student Representative, UCI Decade (Us)	2025-2026
Project Coordinator/Writer, Para sa Aton (Ph)	2013-2015
Project Coordinator/Writer, My Navel is Buried in the Sea (Ph)	2012

Languages

Bisaya, Dutch, English, Tagalog