

## Locating the Davao Film Culture: An Exploration of the Relationship of Geography and the Cinema of a Regional City Center

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**Abstract :** Using Lefebvre's (1991) Spatial Triad, this study explores the relationship of geography and cinema and asks the question: how does geography shape the film culture of a regional city center located at the periphery of a country's capital? This research aims to locate the contemporary film scene of the city in question, Davao City, Mindanao through contextualizing the politics and culture of its tri-people. This study shows that primarily because of local filmmakers' affection and sense of place, progressive films focusing on the tri-people and their struggles mainly due to issues on land have been born. To further understand the city's film culture, this study maps the following areas: 1) filmmakers and cineastes, 2) films, 3) film festivals, 4) financial stakeholders, 5) institutions, and 6) screening places. From these, the researcher learned that although the local film community has established itself for decades, problems on audience, funding, and institutional support continue to persist. Aside from mapping, this study also explores Davao's political, economic, and cultural position within the regional and the national arenas.

**Keywords :** cinema studies, Davao City, film culture, geography, Philippines, place, regional cinema, space

**Conference Title :** ICFMS 2019 : International Conference on Film and Media Studies

**Conference Location :** London, United Kingdom

**Conference Dates :** August 20-21, 2019