

Microphones in the mud: Linguistic fieldwork in the northern Philippines

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ABSTRACT:

Laura Robinson, a PhD candidate in linguistics, conducted linguistic fieldwork in the far northern Philippines from January through November, 2006. She studied the language Dupanangan Agta, spoken by a group of semi-nomadic hunter gatherers. This presentation will address Agta culture, the presenter's fieldwork experiences, her fieldwork equipment, and her data management workflow. The Agta are Philippine Negritos, cultural and ethnic minorities who settled the Philippines long before the majority Austronesian speakers, although they have since adopted Austronesian languages. The Agta are primarily hunter-gatherers, although the presentation attempts to show that they have a much more economically varied life than is often popularly imagined for hunter-gatherers. The presenter will address her interactions with the Agta and the majority Filipino communities and discuss various fieldwork experiences, including problems with personal security. Next, she will discuss the audio, video, solar, and other equipment she employed in the field. Finally, she will address the data workflow and data management, including the tools she used in the field to manipulate the data, the processes of elicitation and the creation of new material for elicitation.