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## Desire and Dissidence: Homosexuality and Four Filipino Poets

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## Abstract

This thesis is a critical study of the works of four Filipino poets (Neil Garcia, Danton Remoto, Nicolas Pichay, and Camilo Villanueva, Jr.) whose works deal with homosexuality. Using Jonathan Dollimore's theory of "sexual dissidence," I have analyzed ten poems by each poet in order to look at the representations of homosexuality offered by these writers. In doing this, I have also studied the following: the kind of homosexuality best represented or dominant in their poetry; how their poems have deconstructed the binary privileging the heterosexual male; and most importantly, the strategies of transgression evident in their poetry.

The four poets have offered various forms of dissidence in their poetry, but the most important of these is their affirmation of the homosexual through desire. The other forms of transgression are as follows: appropriation of different forms of dominant and popular discourse, especially religion; dissolution of the binary privileging the heterosexual male and the *tunay na lalake* ("real man"); shattering of stereotypes; the circulation of different homosexual identities; and the dissemination of liberating gay narratives free from the myopia of a



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heterocentric culture. This study ends with a recommendation for studies which a scholar interested in Gay Literature or Queer Studies can consider to advance knowledge in the field.



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