

# Shifting the lens on Rizal's heroic activism

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The talk will focus on literary engagement of the Philippine national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, as part of a humanist emancipatory process that mirrors a complex historical period in the late 19th century: when oppressive conditions in his native country (the Philippines) under Spain's ("the motherland") imperialist order were not consonant with enlightenment values that Rizal was experiencing while studying in Europe. Considering Rizal's writing from the perspective of exile, the speaker hopes to shed light on reading his works and practices of cultural heroism: as matters of politics that are distinct from interpreting them solely or heavily as patriotic nationalism to incite revolution through political independence for nationhood. Thus the talk will provide reflections to consider Rizal's discursive courageous acts in the public space as "heroic poetics of diasporic effect": why & how the hero dealt with 3 cultural values still crossing borders without finding stable homelands in today's globalised earth: race, reason and religion. In this regard, the role of Prof. Ferdinand Blumentritt from Leitmeritz, Bohemia as special friend among crucial influencers will be spotlighted on.

<http://www.philippinen.at/rizal-blumentritt-symposium-2023/>