

# Notes on the Panelists

**Dean Francis Alfar** is a novelist and writer of speculative fiction. His fiction has been published and anthologized both in his native Philippines and abroad (*Strange Horizons*, *Rabid Transit*, *The Year's Best Fantasy & Horror*, *The Apex Book of World SF*, *The Time Traveler's Almanac*, and the *Exotic Gothic* series among many others).

His literary awards include ten Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature—including the Grand Prize for Novel for *Salamanca*—as well as the National Book Awards for the graphic novels *Siglo: Freedom* and *Siglo: Passion*, the Philippines Free Press Literary Award, and the Gintong Aklat Award. He is a member of the Manila Critics Circle. Dean lives in Manila with his wife, award-winning fictionist Nikki Alfar and their daughters Sage and Rowan.

**Luna Sicat Cleto** has published two novels, *Makinilyang Altar* (University of the Philippines Press, 2002) and *Mga Prodigal* (Anvil, 2010). Some of the awards she received were from the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature, the Madrigal Gonzales Best First Book, and the Cultural Center of the Philippines for her poetry, prose, and plays. She is the translator of John Green's *An Abundance of Katherines* (NBS and Anvil, 2015), and cotranslator of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* and William Shakespeare's *Othello*. Her works in fiction, poetry, and essays have also been anthologized in many publications. She currently teaches creative writing and literature appreciation at the University of the Philippines Diliman, where she is an associate of the Likhaan: UP Institute of Creative Writing.

Fictionist **Jaime An Lim** is cofounder of the Mindanao Writers Group and the Iligan National Writers Workshop. He has won awards for his fiction: "The Axolotl Colony," First Prize in the 1993 Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature; "The Boy and the Tree of Time," Second Prize (Short Story for Children) in the 1993 Palanca Awards; "Encanto," originally titled "Yasmin," Third Prize (Short Story for Children) in the 1990 Palanca Awards; "The Husband," 1984 Ellis Literary Award for Best Graduate Fiction,

Indiana University; “The Liberation of Mrs. Fidela Magsilang,” Third Prize in the 1973 Palanca Awards; and “Outward Journey,” Honorable Mention in the 1973 Focus Philippines Short Story Contest. In 2000, the Unyon ng Manunulat sa Pilipinas (UMPIL) awarded him the Gawad Pambansang Alagad ni Balagtas for poetry and fiction in English.

**Eliza Victoria** is the author of several books including the Philippine National Book Award-winning *Dwellers* (2014) and the novel *Wounded Little Gods* (2016). Her fiction and poetry have appeared in several online and print publications and have won prizes in the Philippines’ top literary awards. A story of hers (“Dan’s Dreams”) is included in *The Year’s Best YA Speculative Fiction 2013*, featuring stories from authors such as Ken Liu, Lavie Tidhar, Sofia Samatar, Nnedi Okorafor, and Neil Gaiman. She served as guest panelist in the 54th Silliman University National Writers Workshop, and was a Writing Fellow in the 54th UP National Writers Workshop.