

**The Gender Performance and Migration Experience of
Transpinay Entertainers in Japan**

by Tricia Okada

This ongoing ethnographic research aims to examine the gender performance and the migration experience of *transpinay* or male-to-female Filipino transgender entertainers in Japan, a unique Filipino subgroup of entertainment workers. This paper aims to contribute to understanding the ways in which transpinays engage in transnationalism by analyzing the intersectionality of gender, migration, and entertainment work in their lives. It looks into their performance of gender, explaining the discrepancy between how being transgender is in the Philippines and in Japan. Transpinay entertainers provide a significant case for differentiating the meaning of entertainment work over space that links Japan and the Philippines, and for highlighting the temporal aspect of their gender performance and migration experience, in which their commitment toward entertainment work transforms over time.