In a previous research I completed a couple of years ago, I explored how indigenous peoples were represented in select oil paintings during the American Colonial period in the Philippines, in the early half of the 20th century. The paintings bore resemblance to how Filipinos were represented in texts – photographs, postcards, articles, etc. that were used to aid in civilizing and colonizing projects. What I wanted to do then was to ‘give back’ ‘power’(?) to those Othered. But writing about them eventually felt disingenuous as I am not from a minority group, an Othered group. And it soon felt like I was trying to speak/assume on their behalf and that didn’t sit right with me.

One of the lessons of that time was to engage with other people. This is one of the things I would like to do for this project. (But how? To follow.)

I am here not unaware of my subjecthood. And I think this is me making strides to reconcile with the ambivalence of my being a postcolonial subject. (There is a lot to say about this, but for another time.)

For now I would like to state that I am approaching this project with the ff. in mind:

* the researcher/writer/artist, a.k.a. me, as human
* knowing/learning histories
* sharing, stories and knowledges
* focus on learning and asking questions, not ‘solving’
* experimental, non-formal, non-academic [?], interdisciplinary, process-based, non-rigid
* alternative methods, e.g. “friendship as method”

This project could also be an exercise in decolonization? decoloniality? Something to do with slow and consistent learning and unlearning of the inherited effects of colonization.