

Preface

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"I hope that you, young Filipinos, will find a part of yourselves in this book. Because this is your story, too. I hope it will inspire you to reflect on your identity, perhaps to see it in another light and to be proud of it."

These were my concluding words in the preface of the first volume, *Common Diversities: Junge Filipin@s im deutschsprachigen Raum*. What followed after Sentro's launch of the anthology through presentations, panel discussions, and talks was beyond what I had imagined. *Common Diversities* inspired, catalyzed, provoked—and above all, empowered—the young Filipino Europeans in the diaspora.

And so, *Common Diversities 2: Filipino Europeans Remaking the Past, Shaping the Future* is the continuation of a dream—born from the desire to create a meaningful gift for the youth.

This book does not claim academic authority; rather, it offers a meaningful space for reflection. It brings together sociocultural, historical, and political perspectives, grounded in both research and personal experience. It is a collective effort to understand the evolving realities of Filipino Europeans in the diaspora—those who carry the richness of multiple cultures and who actively shape their own narratives.

"Remaking the Past, Shaping the Future" is a declaration of agency. It is about reclaiming stories, challenging assumptions, and embracing the complexity of identity with pride.

The first volume taught me to approach this second one with greater realism: to seek out a community of committed and passionate volunteer contributors and advisors. Yet, the journey to this volume was not without its challenges: invited contributors withdrew from the project; draft submissions were delayed; virtual feedback sessions required lengthy hours and chapter reviews were intensive. Financing the project was a private and personal endeavor.

To the young Filipino Europeans: I hope you see parts of your own journey—your struggles, your triumphs, and your hopes reflected in these pages. May this book spark new perspectives as you navigate the complexities of identity and belonging, and affirm your place in the ongoing story of remaking the past and shaping the future. Your story matters, and you hold the power to define it with courage and conviction.