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## **Affective Journey—National E/motion in Carlos Bulosan’s *America Is in the Heart*\***

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### **Abstract**

This paper explores the complex structures of ethnic mobility in Filipino American writer Carlos Bulosan’s *America Is in the Heart*. The protagonist Carlos’s active pursuit of a national ideal during the course of his journey is enhanced by the structure of feelings produced in the intimate encounters between the colonizers and colonized. I draw upon Ann Laura Stoler’s conceptualization of “tense and tender tie” and Sara Ahmed’s exposition of politics of emotion to analyze the complex ways in which these intimate encounters help suture the gaps and contradictions between the peril of the Filipino migrant worker in a racist society that sees him as hypersexual, beast-like, and unfit for

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assimilation, and his steadfast faith in the Nation. This subtle biopolitical governance of the U.S. imperialism over the colonial/migrant bodies assures the double command of the empire which includes the colonized in the form of exclusion, or excludes in the form of inclusion and renders the trace of governance invisible. Bulosan's text seeks to expose the racism and injustice of the nation, but the force of resistance is often compromised by the biopolitical governance of empire. This imperial "haunting" characterizes Filipino American literary tradition at its seminal stage, and remains an important subject of reflection in subsequent Filipino American literary intervention.

**Key Words:** Carlos Bulosan, nation, biopolitics, imperial intimacy, emotion

## 情感之旅：卜婁杉《美國在心中》之情動國家

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### 摘 要

本文討論菲裔美國作家卜婁杉《美國在心中》族裔移動的複雜結構。故事主人翁積極追尋國家理想，其追尋之旅深受殖民者與被殖民者之間親密接觸所產生的情感結構的影響與強化。我引用安·蘿拉·史托勒對「緊密而溫柔的牽繫」觀念的闡釋，及沙拉·阿蜜所謂的情感政治，來析論親密接觸如何縫合菲律賓移工國家信念與個人處境之間的鴻溝，他身處一個視他為濫性、禽獸一般難以同化的種族歧視社會，卻對國家抱持不可動搖的信心。本文認為源自於生命權力治理的情感政治，正是美國帝國主義得以確保其對來自殖民地的移工身體進行雙重統御的方式，這種權力機制以排除的方式來進行涵納，或者以涵納的方式來進行排除，使得權力的蹤跡得以遁形。卜婁杉的文本試圖揭露美國的種族主義與不公不義，但主人翁的抵抗能量往往被帝國的生命權力治理所抵銷，這種帝國「纏崇」既是菲裔美國文學傳統必須面對處理的議題及特色，也是一個值得持續追蹤的研究命題。

**關鍵詞：**卡洛斯·卜婁杉、國家、生命政治、帝國親密、情感