

GOAL

The main aim of the program is to map, review and analyse 'traditional' and 'contemporary' material culture studies on the Philippine Cordillera in general.

Specific Objectives

1. To map and review existing literature on material culture on the Philippine Cordillera by collating data from university libraries, museums and archives found in Northern Luzon (and nearby areas).
2. To conduct interdisciplinary research on the material culture in the Cordillera, with the aim of publishable output. The areas of focus are weaving, woodcarving, winemaking, musical instruments, metal and pottery.
3. To create a consortium or pool of researchers, scholars, academics whose research interests are in Cordillera material culture studies.
4. To develop a university museum which will serve as a repository of substantial Cordillera collections of objects and written researches about them.



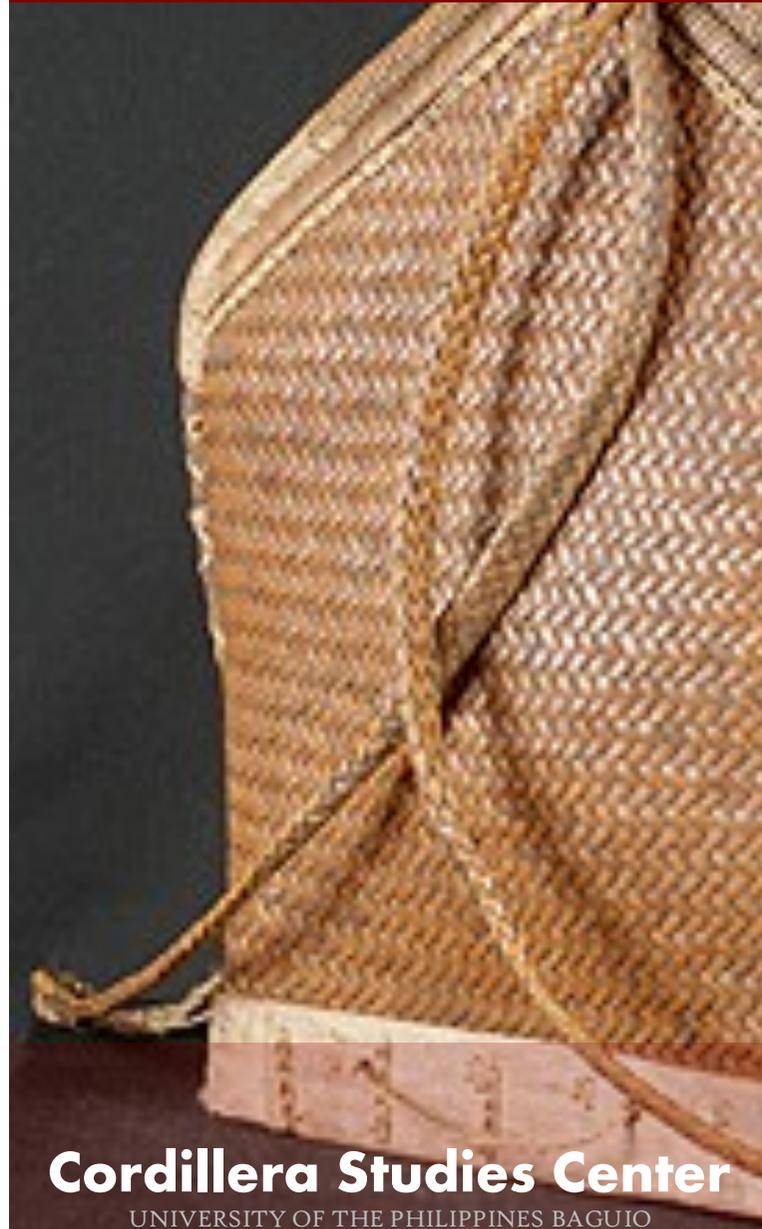
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Program for
**MATERIAL
CULTURE**

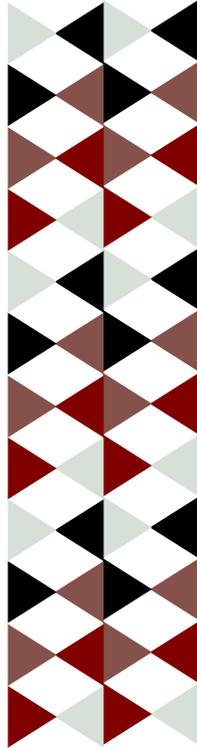


Cordillera Studies Center
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Background and Rationale

Even with the rich material culture in the Cordillera region, there is no systematic examination of the studies done on material culture. Most of the studies and published literature have been focused on other indigenous institutions such as kinship, religious life, marriage, autonomy, political systems and others (Tolentino 2012).

Studying the material object can lead to the understanding of the different facets of the social, economic, political elements present among indigenous peoples. Furthermore, by studying culture and encouraging material culture research [...], we can better understand both social structures and larger systemic dimensions of culture, human action and meaning. Objects might be seen then, as a crucial link between social and economic structures, and the individual actor.



What is material culture?

The term 'material culture' emphasizes how apparently inanimate things within the environment act on people and are acted upon by people, for the purposes of carrying out social functions, regulating social relations and giving symbolic meaning to human activity (Woodward 2007:3).

Program Components

Research and Publication

The primary concern of this component is to assess on the extent of what researches have been done in the material culture of the Cordillera. A comprehensive analysis of all these literature will help identify the gaps, and areas that need attention for research.

Curriculum/Instruction

The main objective of this component would be to determine the extent to which material culture studies and the methodologies of studying them can actually and potentially be taught and discussed in the curriculum.

Networking through University-Community Partnerships

By this component, producers of material culture in local communities become co-producers and authors of knowledge. In this way, indigenous peoples are empowered with their contribution to material culture studies in the Cordillera region,

Museum Building

This component shall be the repository of researches on material culture complemented with the objects being studied.

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Works cited:

Tolentino, D. (2012). "Making artifacts speak: the study of material culture in the Cordillera, 1980-2010," CSC Jubilee Lecture, July 26, 2012, CSS-AVR Baguio City, Philippines.

Woodward, I. (2007). *Understanding material culture*. London: Sage Publications.