

In an interview discussing the motivations behind his book on Filipino American sporting cultures, the author shares his personal journey growing up in the Bay Area and his experiences in sports. He reflects on a lack of information about Filipinos in sports during his upbringing and how this led him to pursue higher education in ethnic studies. The author emphasizes that sports have been a critical aspect of Filipino American identity, providing a means for belonging and engagement with American culture.

He explains how he conducted extensive research through experiential ethnography, involving personal participation in sports and interviews with community members. The findings reveal that sports serve as important arenas for race and identity formation, challenging stereotypes and providing a sense of community among Filipino Americans. The author highlights the significance of figures like Manny Pacquiao, who embodies the aspirations of the Filipino community, showcasing ideals of masculinity and success.

He also discusses how future research could explore the experiences of diverse populations within the Filipino diaspora, particularly looking beyond prominent figures and mainstream sports to understand the broader implications of sports in different cultural contexts. The author believes that analyzing these dynamics can contribute to a more nuanced understanding of identity and community among Filipino Americans and their counterparts globally.