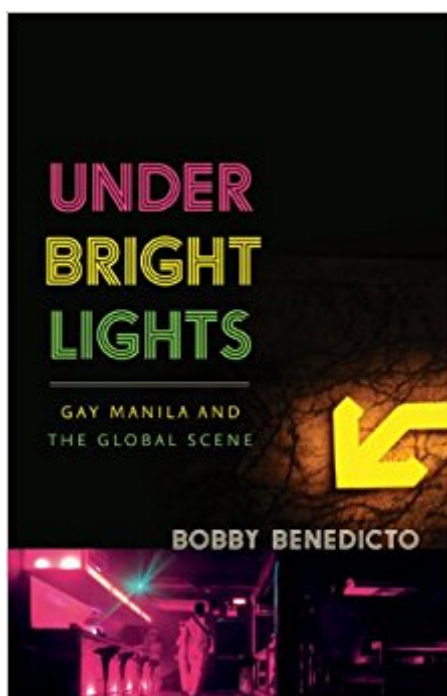


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# Under Bright Lights: Gay Manila And The Global Scene (Difference Incorporated)



## Synopsis

Gay-friendly dance clubs, upmarket bars, and party circuits—such commercial venues evoke the image of a gay globe, but what happens when they are bound to a landscape of disorder, mass poverty, and urban decay? Vividly describing this world of contradictions through the prism of twenty-first-century Manila, *Under Bright Lights* challenges popular interpretations of the world queer—as a necessarily radical figure. Drawing on ethnographic research, Bobby Benedicto paints a remarkably counterintuitive portrait of gay spaces in postcolonial cities. He argues that Filipino gay men's pursuit of an elusive global gay modernity sustains the very class, gender, and racial hierarchies that structure urban life in the Philippines. Benedicto examines, for example, how practices such as driving enable the emergence of a classed gay cityscape, and how scenes of networked global cities engender discourse that positions Manila within a global system of gay capitals. And yet he also analyzes how the fantasy of gay globality is imperiled when privileged gay men from Manila, while traveling abroad, encounter Filipino labor migrants and come face-to-face with the exclusionary racial orders that operate in gay spaces overseas. Unique in its methodological approach, *Under Bright Lights* employs affective, first-person storytelling techniques to capture the visceral experience of Manila and gay life in a third world city.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Under Bright Lights is a sophisticated, energetic, and highly engaging meditation on the practices of world-making undertaken by what Bobby Benedicto describes as contemporary privileged gay

men in Manila." â "Martin Joseph Ponce, author of Beyond the Nation: Diasporic Filipino Literature and Queer Reading"Benedictoâ™s deep ethnographic engagement, careful conceptual argument, and lucid prose make this book a critically important contribution and a truly enjoyable read."â "Environmental and Planning D: Society and Space"A landmark offering and a marvelous achievement."â "American Anthropologist

Bobby Benedicto is an Andrew W. Mellon postdoctoral fellow in the humanities at McGill University.

<http://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/newmandala/2015/11/20/review-of-under-bright-lights/>

I purchased the book because I hoped to read about real interactions between human beings. How they met, how their relationships developed and possibly ended. Instead the book is littered with half finished (or started) stories that illustrate abstract points about race and class while completely missing anything about how anyone lived or loved. But the biggest challenge to enjoying this is the author's desire to impress his graduate advisers with how many books he can quote. I'll summarize it for you. Most people, according to Benedicto, want to be rich and white. This might not be false, but it does not make for a pleasurable read. I hope he got a high grade for his thesis.

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