***Old Dominion University***

***College of Arts and Letters***

***The Graduate Program in International Studies***

## **Doctoral Dissertation Defense**

***Nasser P. Lidasan***

**THE COMPLEXITY OF ARMED CONFLICT IN MINDANAO: BEYOND ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION, DISCRIMINATION, AND INEQUALITY**

**Abstract**

Studies on internal conflict focus on bringing a violent conflict to non-violent. Economic development and good governance are most attractive since essential services are provided to people, regardless of ethnic affiliation. Autonomy for minority groups to maintain the integrity of a state is another option. Applied in Mindanao conflict, negotiated settlement, separation, and military victory did not create a lasting peace. This study applies *the levels of analysis* framework to investigate the conflict and considers the *sub-state level* as vital. It suggests the role of local actors as crucial in intrastate conflict. It examines the dynamics of conflict at the local level and the interactions of national and local leaders in the occurrence of *war* and *peace* in an armed conflict-stricken state.

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Room 215

May 3 at 10:00 am