Alfred W. McCoy holds the Harrington Chair in History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After earning his Ph.D. in Southeast Asian history at Yale University in 1977, his writing has focused on two topics—the political history of the modern Philippines and the covert netherworld of illicit drugs, syndicate crime, and state security.

His first book, The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia (New York, 1972), sparked controversy over the CIA’s attempt to block its publication. But it is now regarded as the “classic” study of global drug trafficking, remaining in print for over 40 years and translated into nine languages, most recently Thai and German. His recent book Policing America’s Empire: The United States, the Philippines, and the Rise of the Surveillance State (Madison, 2009), winner of the Kahin Prize from the Association for Asian Studies, draws together these two strands, covert operations and modern Philippine history, to explore the transformative power of police, information, and scandal in shaping both the modern Philippine state and the U.S. internal security apparatus.

His books on the Philippines have won that country’s National Book Award three times (1985, 1995, 2001), as well as the Goodman Prize for the netherworld of illicit drugs, syndicate crime, and state security.

Natsu Taylor Saito (J.D. Yale, 1987) is a professor of law at Georgia State University’s College of Law in Atlanta, where she has taught Race, Ethnicity and the Law; Immigration: Criminal Procedure; International Law; Human Rights; and Professional Responsibility. Her scholarship focuses on questions of race, citizenship, and the rights of indigenous peoples; national security and political repression; and international human rights remedies for race-based injustices. She has published over twenty law review articles as well as two books, Meeting the Enemy: American Exceptionalism and International Law (NYU Press, 2010) and From Chinese Exclusion to Guantánamo Bay: Plenary Power and the Prerogative State (Univ. Press of Colorado, 2006). Professor Saito is currently writing a book on racial hierarchy as a function of American settler colonialism (forthcoming, NYU Press).