

1968 Annual National Convention: An Editorial Note

This issue of the Philippine Sociological Review is reserved for papers read at the 1968 Annual National Convention of the Philippine Sociological Society. The convention was organized by the Visayas-Mindanao Chapter of the Philippine Sociological Society and chaired by Dr. Lourdes Quisumbing, University of San Carlos, Cebu City. Generous financial support from the Asia Foundation enabled numerous social scientists, especially from the Visayas and Mindanao, to attend the Convention, which was held from June 2-4, 1968, at the University of San Carlos in Cebu City.

The overall theme of the Convention: "Social Theory and Development", created a great amount of interest not only among social scientists, but likewise among political and civic leaders faced with the task of providing quick and satisfactory solutions to the multi-faceted social and economic problems besetting a developing nation like the Philippines.

In the course of the convention, two basic ideas were emphasized:

- 1) Social scientists today cannot be satisfied any longer with the formulation of grand hypotheses and theories only, but have to involve themselves in increasing measure in attempts to translate knowledge gained into action projects.

- 2) Political leaders cannot afford any longer to disregard research findings of

social scientists and to offer nothing but makeshift solutions or "social programs" based on ad-hoc impressions.

If the Cebu Convention succeeded in developing better rapport between some political and civic leaders and some social scientists, it has served a useful function.

The Philippines is a developing nation. Development implies change. If this change is to proceed in orderly fashion, the various cultural and social forces operating in different population groups today have to be understood first before they can be directed. Most papers read at the convention were devoted to this aim rather than to the presentation of all-embracing theories. To synthesize the knowledge obtained from "spot checks" made so far is the challenge still facing the social scientist of the present generation.

Of twenty-one papers delivered at the Cebu Convention, five dealt with specific religious, and seven with various other cultural aspects of different subpopulations scattered throughout the Philippines. Only two papers, one on school administration, and the other on interview techniques, attempted to draw a more general picture. Demographic problems experienced by the nation were given special attention in four papers. The three final papers were oriented toward action programs, touching on the squatter problem, rural development, and settlement of a minority group.

Speakers and List of Papers

I. *Studies on Philippine Culture*

William T. Liu and Siok-hue Yu:
The Lower Class Cebuano Family:
A Preliminary Profile Analysis

MacArthur Corsino:
Rizal Folklore

Thomas M. Kiefer:
Reciprocity and Revenge in the Phil-
ippines: Some Preliminary Remarks
About the Tausug of Jolo

Charles Hutterer:
Exchange and Reciprocity Among
the Ifugao

Harriet R. Reynolds:
Modern Marriage and Courtship
Among the Isneg, Apayao

Fermin Dichoso:
Some Notes on Hanunoo — Mangyan
Culture

Hubert Reynolds:
Overseas Chinese College Students in
the Philippines: A Case Study

II. *Religious Ethos in Philippine Culture*

Francisco Demetrio:
The Engkanto Belief: An Essay in
Interpretation

John Rich:
Pinatikan: Religious Tattoos in a
Davao Sect

Cultural Research Center,
Silliman University:
Sorcery in a Folk Medicine Frame-
work on Siquijor Island: A Prelimi-
nary Report

Jan Pieter Raats:
Burial Jars — Houses of the Dead

Glicerio Tan:
Constants and Variables in North
Mindanao Folk Ritual

III. *Filipino Values*

Raymond Quetchenbach:
A Socio-Psychological Theory of
Administration in a Philippine School
Setting

Gerry E. Hendershot:
Characteristics of the Interview
Situation in a Manila Survey

IV. *Population Growth and Dynamics*

Marilou B. Palabrica:
Attitudes and Motivation Underlying
Large Families in the Philippines

Etta Talibong:
Late Marriage

Mercedes B. Concepcion and
Wilhelm Flieger
Family Building Patterns of Young
Manila Couples

Alfonso C. del Fierro, Jr.:
Economic Impact of Labor Mobility
on the City of Cagayan de Oro

V. *Social Action*

Francis C. Madigan:
The Local Corporation: A Socio-
logical Approach to the Philippine
Rural Development

John H. Osmeña
The Squatter Problem in Cebu: A
Challenge to Urban Administration

Timoteo Oracion:
Panamin Pilot Project in Isabela,
Negros Occidental: Problems in
Settlement

Due to limitation of space and a back-
log in editorial work not all papers pre-
sented at the convention could be accom-
modated in this issue. Of the twenty-one
included, nine were summarized and ap-
pear in abstract form. Requests for com-

plete copies of these articles should be addressed directly to the authors. The paper of Vice-Mayor Osmeña on the Cebu Squatter Problems, which has appeared as a separate booklet ("The Squatter Problem—A Challenge to Urban Administration," Cebu City Department of Housing and Development, 1968) and Fr. Madigan's paper on Rural Development, the main ideas of which have been outlined in an article published in a previous issue of the *Philippine Sociological Review* ("A New Approach to Rural Development in the Philippines: The Local Corporation." Vol. XVI, No. 1-2 (Jan.-April), 1968, pp. 74-91) were omitted.

Editorial work on the papers of Oracion and Hutterer was not completed at the time this issue went to press. They will be considered for inclusion in the next number of this journal.

One final note: The 1968 Annual Convention was a success in terms of participation and organization, and a reflection of growing social awareness in the country. Congratulations have to go to Dr. Quisum-

bing for her splendid efforts as overall chairman, and to all members of the various convention committees. The Administration of the University of San Carlos, which provided the facilities, and the Officials of the Province and City of Cebu, who helped to make the convention a pleasant experience, deserve special thanks.

If a suggestion may be made, it is this: Most of the sessions at the convention were plenary sessions, and a large number of papers had to be crowded into each one of them. Too many people in a large auditorium and too many papers delivered in too short a period of time make in-depth discussions difficult. Not enough time was available for professionals and others interested in specialized or technical matters to engage in fruitful dialogues. Participants interested in particular papers only had to sit through overloaded plenary sessions until their topic of interest finally was brought up. Future conventions as well as their participants might perhaps benefit even more from a somewhat balanced combination of fewer general and more special sessions meeting concurrently.