



# SOCIAL SCIENCE INFORMATION

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## WHIPPING THE TAIL OF SUPER TYPHOON YOLANDA: WORKING WITH PEOPLE TO REIN-IN THE EFFECTS OF A CALAMITY

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# Whipping the Tail of Super Typhoon Yolanda: Working with People to Rein-in the Effects of a Calamity

Whatever else we may wish to remember of 2013, all of these are eclipsed by the memory of Super Typhoon Haiyan, code name “Yolanda” in the Philippines. On 8 November 2014, Yolanda made landfall in Guian, Eastern Samar, bringing winds, rains and storm surges of a strength and volume unprecedented in history. Hardest hit by the Super Typhoon were Samar and Leyte provinces, with additional damages reported in Bohol, Cebu, Palawan, and the provinces of Panay Island. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reports that 16 million people were affected by the super typhoon, resulting in 6,300 deaths associated with the disaster. Of the affected population, more than 890,000 families, or over 4 million persons, were displaced, many losing their homes, belongings and productive resources. More than 1 million houses were destroyed, and damages to both infrastructure and agriculture come close to almost 90 billion pesos. Around 60,000 people left typhoon-affected areas in Eastern Visayas via the Tacloban airport and Ormoc seaport for Cebu and Manila, many of them without plans of returning to their residences.

Aggregate statistics, while already daunting, do not express the terror of families seeing the storm surge coming towards them, or the anguish and loss that each survivor suffered, or the feelings of helplessness that engulfed those whose households and communities were left in total disarray. Disasters strike at the hearts and guts of those in affected areas. What is a mother to do, who has lost her children and husband to the storm surge? Who can an orphaned child now depend on, now that his/her parents have perished? How can one sleep without recalling the terror of the howling winds and the high waves? How can a fisherman continue to support his family after having lost his boat to the high seas? How will children's health be protected in ill-kept evacuation centers? How can the risk of trafficking of economically distressed women and vulnerable children be eliminated?

People-centered responses are required to address the needs of survivors throughout the different stages of work following a disaster: relief and response, rehabilitation and recovery. To begin with, governance mechanisms in disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) must be systematic, scientific, timely and linked to the immediate and long-term needs of affected communities. This brings to the fore the clear need to implement the spirit and intent of the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 (RA 10121). Flows of communication for preparedness and disaster response need to involve community-level communicators trained for this purpose, who can provide correct and timely information to prepare the people for a calamity, report on what is happening on the ground to communication centers in local or regional centers, and help channel important information to first-responders and other service providers. Survivors of Yolanda, for instance, decried the lack of reliable information regarding their security and safety, the distribution of supplies, their entitlements and compensation, and the nature of rehabilitation programs. All of these have led to greater inefficiency in evacuation and rehabilitation efforts.

Post-traumatic stress reactions are well-known and documented among survivors of natural disasters. Yet, how many of our first-responders are sufficiently trained to identify and to respond to – or refer – these behavioral changes? Six weeks after the typhoon, for instance, children from the typhoon-affected communities mentioned that the sounds of the wind or of waves triggered feelings of fear and worry among them, especially at night when they were trying to sleep. Can parents, teachers or school counselors deal with these fears? In another case, a school teacher faced a moral dilemma: she took part in looting the groceries because she needed to secure the milk supply of her infant child. On hindsight, she regretted this action and could not believe that she was capable of stealing. Other

survivors possibly face the same dilemma, including those who ignored the cries for help of others at the height of the storm, in order to save themselves. Are there professionals available to listen to their stories, assuage their anxieties, and enable them to move on?

Finally, many of the citizens lament the fact that relief and rehabilitation efforts tend to be top-down, and that affected communities are not involved in any part of the planning process or decision-making for relief and rehabilitation. Practitioners of participatory disaster risk management testify to the increased ability of families and communities to face the challenges, and rein-in the effects of calamities, when they are part of the decision-making processes – from preparations, planning immediate responses, to rehabilitation and recovery. This is also the strategy recognized as integral to the framework of RA 10121. But our local governments need to understand and value these processes better. More importantly, communities have to be organized around the goal of building community resiliency, to enable them to rise above the stress and adverse effects of the disaster, and to eventually rebuild their lives.

Aside from weather reports, vulnerabilities maps, early warning systems, and other technologies from engineering and meteorological science, social technologies are important in providing immediate and long-term responses to disasters. The safety and well-being of people – men, women and children of all ages, ethnicity and ability - are the most important concerns when a disaster strikes. We, in the social sciences, have a tremendous responsibility in this respect – to apply our expertise, techniques and methods to help people regain their strength, self-respect, judgment and agency in the aftermath of a disaster. The human face of social science becomes pre-eminent in disaster risk reduction and its management.

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## RESPONDING TO DISASTERS: The Journey of the Psychological Association of the Philippines

MA. REGINA M. HECHANOVA

*President, Psychological Association of the Philippines*

"*Wala na ang Tacloban ko,*" says a resident as she forlornly looks at toppled buildings and debris. "*We don't feel safe,*" says another student as they recount what it was like not to be able to sleep at night for fear of intruders or ghosts or both. Many have flashbacks. Others tremble in fear at the sound of rain. Some who have lost their family cannot even begin to articulate their grief. Although the reaction to disasters is as expected, with more than 6,033 dead, 27,468 injured, 1,779 missing, and 16 million affected,<sup>1</sup> the scale of the damage caught us all off guard.

It was the scale of this disaster and the fact that it came close on the heels of a siege in Zamboanga and an earthquake in Bohol that made us realize that the Psychological Association of the Philippines (PAP) could not respond as it normally does. In the past, PAP's role was typically to communicate requests for disaster response to its members, provide a venue for training on disaster response, and be a channel by which its members could share their interventions and research. Psychologists respond individually, by center, school or

in partnership with non-profit organizations. However, the demands of the three successive disasters made it clear that not one individual or even institution would be able to respond to the needs of the survivors.

A different approach to respond to this particular disaster was needed because of the dearth of psychologists. Today, the ratio of psychologists to Filipino population is 1:250,000 with most of them located in major cities. As we found out, there were no psychologists in Region 8 and the nearest was a psychology department in UP Tacloban, but many of its faculty were survivors themselves. Thus, PAP developed a Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) plan that involved a number of elements.

### **MHPSS goals**

The organization articulated that its MHPSS goals were to facilitate the delivery of MHPSS in the form of: 1) public education and information related to coping, 2) psychological first aid, 3) specialized services (i.e. trauma/grief counseling), and 4) community recovery interventions.

<sup>1</sup> National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, 14 December 2013.

## MHPSS strategies

PAP identified four major strategies:

- 1) empowering local psychologists,
- 2) creating a coordinating structure,
- 3) building capability, and
- 4) utilizing and developing common tools and materials.

## Empowering local psychologists

We knew that the best people to deliver sustained assistance were psychologists on the ground. Given this, we empowered local psychologists in the region so that they can provide sustained MHPSS in affected areas. We appointed regional coordinators in the affected areas who would serve as hubs for communication, training, and deployment. The role of PAP was to support these coordinators by providing financial resources and materials.

## Coordinating structures and systems

PAP created a coordinating structure to enable synergy and synchronize efforts. We agreed that at the national level, PAP would focus on training, documentation and evaluation, resource generation and management, information and communication, and knowledge management (see Figure 1). PAP appointed an MHPSS coordinator, Dr. Pia Ramos, whose role was to

set up systems and structures for the immediate future. It also approved the creation of one of its first special interest groups—Mental Health and Psychosocial Support—to bring together psychologists doing disaster-related work.

## Core principles

In providing support for survivors, we adhered to a number of guiding principles. First, we have chosen to work with government agencies, local government units, or non-profit organizations that can give us an assessment of the needs of their people as well as provide support towards the attainment of these needs. Secondly, to ensure sustainability, we tapped local resources whenever possible and built capacities of local psychologists, counselors, social workers, and health workers who could provide psychosocial support to the community/organization. Third, our commitment extended not only during the emergency stage, but also during the recovery phase of the community. Fourth, we assumed that survivors have the capacity and should be empowered to help themselves. Fifth, we have chosen to be sensitive to local culture to the best of our ability. And sixth, we ensured access to psychosocial support, especially to those who need it most but who cannot afford it.

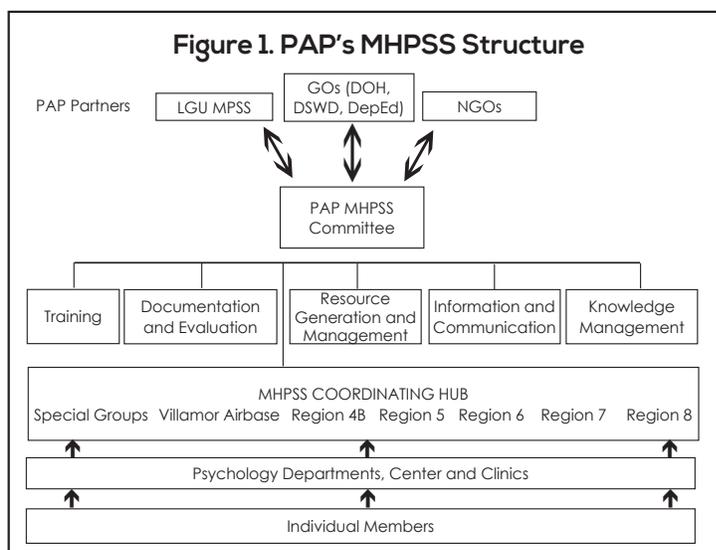
## Emergency phase interventions

Although most survivors will recover in time, studies show that people who do better over the long-term are those who feel safe, connected to others, calm and hopeful, have access to social, physical and emotional support, and regain a sense of control by being able to help themselves. In the past, the common interventions used were Critical Incident Stress Debriefing or Crisis Counseling. However, given evidence of the harmful effects of a one-time debriefing, PAP chose to advocate the use of Psychological First Aid (PFA) during the Emergency Phase. The goals of PFA are to: 1) help people feel safe, responding to their most basic needs, 2) reduce distress and help calm them, 3) identify and assist with their current needs, 4) help them establish support connections, and 5) foster belief in their ability to cope. The purpose of stress management training is to provide survivors strategies to help them cope with common reactions after disasters. All of these interventions are in alignment with the recommendations of the World Health Organization on appropriate interventions during the emergency phase immediately after disasters. Teams of psychologists from all over the country provided training or conducted PFA in disaster sites.

Beyond providing Psychological First Aid, PAP in partnership with the Philippine Psychiatric Association, came out with a list of centers and clinics that can provide free trauma counseling for survivors, media and volunteers.

## Capacity building

With assistance from several universities including Ateneo de Manila University, Miriam College, University of the Philippines, De La Salle University, and University of San Carlos, a series of orientations on Psychological First Aid was conducted. PAP also sponsored



a program called Healing the Healer on 7 December 2013 for 35 psychologists, and Group Trauma Therapy with Dr. Honey Carandang and her team on 9 December 2013 for 70 psychologists. On December 14, PAP sponsored a talk by Dr. Joop de Jong on the role of psychology and public mental health during disasters, in partnership with World Health Organization. This was followed by training workshops on Disaster Response by a disaster expert, Dr. Rony Berger, at the University of Santo Tomas and University of San Carlos, Cebu. PAP subsidized the travel of regional psychologists from Iloilo, Cebu, Davao and Tacloban so they would have access to these programs. PAP likewise sponsored a workshop on Mindfulness for Disaster Response by Dr. Lynn Waelde of Palo Alto University.

**Partnerships**

PAP has been collaborating with partners and other providers of MHPSS to ensure systematic and holistic approach to recovery. It worked with the Department of Social Work and Development and the Department of Health in assisting evacuees who came through Villamor Airbase. During such time, we had trainers and PFA volunteers available even during graveyard shifts. We were



also tapped by organizations such as the Department of Agrarian Reform, Philhealth, and Energy Development Corporation to conduct PFA with their employees affected by Yolanda. We worked with the Department of Interior and Local Government to provide psychosocial support and training for local government personnel. It is also part of the Citizen Network for Disaster. PAP also partnered with non-profit organizations such as Save the Children and Health Futures Foundation Inc.

**Information and education materials**

To reach a wider population, one of the first interventions of the association was to rework materials for coping with disasters it had created for previous disasters, and had them translated into Waray and Cebuano. Guides and training materials on PFA were also created. Upon the request of the Department of Education, a Manual for Helping Student Survivors that included information and modules on what teachers can do in class was also created. All of these were posted in the PAP website so they would be accessible to all.

**Recovery phase interventions**

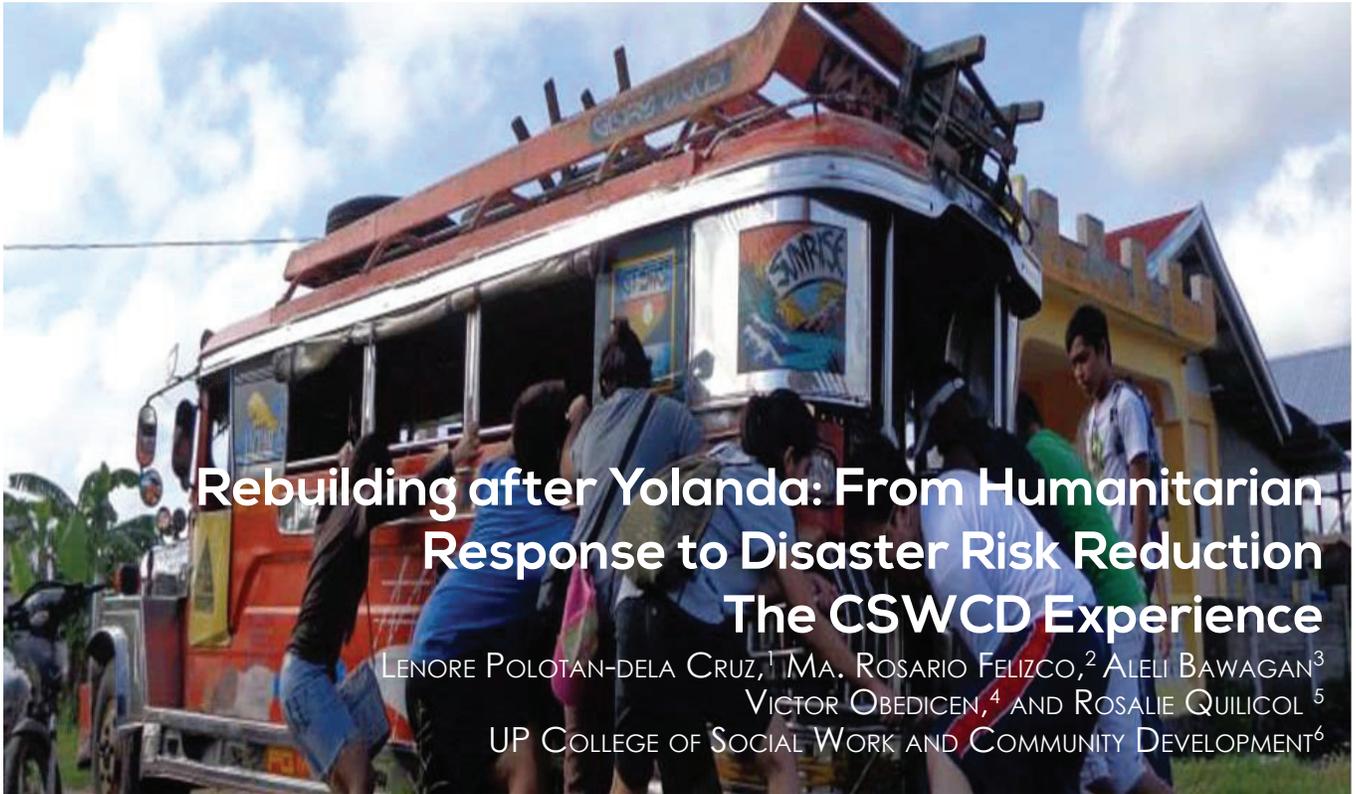
Studies show that 20-30 percent of survivors develop post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD). With 16 million affected, we are looking at potentially 4.8 million survivors whose trauma may linger for years. The emergency interventions we have provided will not be enough for some survivors so we are preparing to deploy and train others on the use of self-help or recovery groups after the new year to build resilience and prevent onset of PTSD. On 4-5 February 2014, psychologists representing nine universities from Leyte, Samar, Davao, Zamboanga, Iloilo, Cebu, Manila, and the USA will come together to design resilience intervention modules for disaster survivors. The program, to be designed, entitled

KATATAGAN, will be based on five basic considerations: 1) the psychosocial needs and strengths of Filipino survivors, 2) adult learning principles, 3) Filipino cultural values, 4) availability of mental health resources in the Philippines, and 5) the need for flexibility. The program consists of six possible modules: *pagpapanday ng kalakasan* (finding and cultivating one's strengths), *paghahanap ng kalutasan at kaagapay* (seeking solutions and support), *pangangalaga sa katawan* (managing physical reactions), *pagsasaayos ng pag-iisip at kalooban* (managing thoughts and emotions), *pagsasagawa ng kapakipakinabang na gawain* (engaging in positive activities) and *pag-usad sa kinabukasan* (moving forward).

It will be piloted in Tacloban (by Ateneo de Manila University and UP Tacloban), in Zamboanga (by Ateneo de Zamboanga University and Ateneo de Manila University), in Ormoc (PAP in partnership with Save the Children) and in Samar (PAP in partnership with Health Futures Foundation). The aim is to provide evidence-based solutions that can be used in the Philippines.

We still have a long way to go; but by laying down the structures, creating evidence based intervention, and most importantly, working collaboratively among ourselves and with other partners, we aspire to make a difference through our discipline. We may not have the resources to help people rebuild their homes. But as inscribed in a baller we gave away to survivors—TINDOG, BANGON, PAGLAUM, PAG-ASA— we can help people rebuild their lives and give hope.





Students participate in the first relief operations in the island municipality of Biri, Northern Samar.

The massive devastation wrought by super typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) that hit the Philippines on 8 November 2013 has dramatically demonstrated the country's increasing vulnerability to disasters. Recognized as the world's strongest typhoon to hit land to date, Yolanda left a trail of death and destruction across a wide area of central Philippines. Yolanda's catastrophic impacts affected over 16 million persons (or 3,424,593 families) and resulted in at least 6,201 deaths, 26,626 people injured, 1,785 missing, and over four million individuals displaced from their homes. The estimated cost of damage to agriculture and infrastructure was placed at forty (40) billion pesos (NDRRMC 2014).

Most of the deaths were reportedly caused by drowning in the wake of devastating storm surges – a phenomenon that has been relatively infrequent and considered novel; and many people and communities were reported to not have fully grasped

its nature and implications. PAGASA had issued warnings two days before Yolanda made landfall (the 6th of November); and disaster risk reduction and management councils in Eastern and Central Visayas were activated at about the same time. Yet the death toll and the time-lag in emergency rescue and response betray a huge gap between disaster preparedness and response measures and actual life-saving impacts. The unprecedented intensity and scale of the disaster has severely tested the key elements across the country's disaster response system and infrastructure (from institutions to governance, from local to national and even international). Typhoon Yolanda exposed the lack of preparedness of some local government units and the vulnerabilities of communities to disaster risks.

Typhoon Yolanda is just the latest among the spate of disasters that have plagued the Philippines year after year -- the Luzon Earthquake in

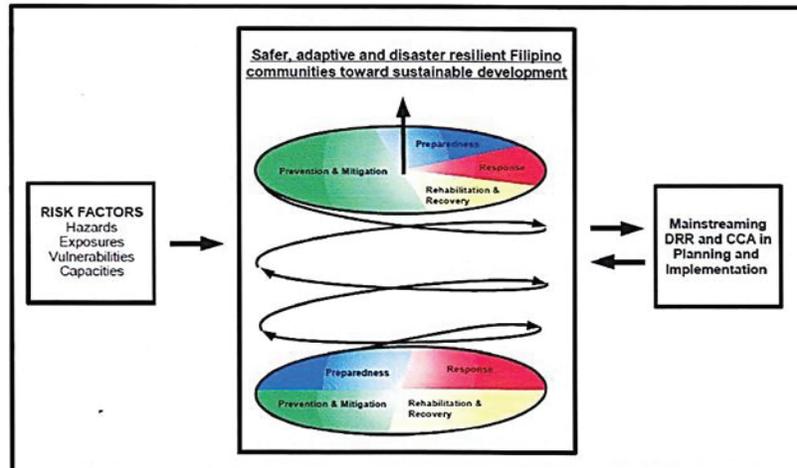
19 July 1990, Mt. Pinatubo eruption in June 1991, Mt. Mayon Volcano eruptions in 1993, 2006 and 2009, the Guinsaugon, Leyte Landslide in February 2006, Typhoon Frank (Fengshen) in 2008, Typhoons Ondoy (Ketsana), Pepeng (Parma) and Santi (Mirinae) in 2009, Typhoons Falcon (Meari), Pedring (Nesat), Quiel (Nalgae) and Sendong (Washi) in 2011, Typhoon Pablo (Bopha) in December 2012, Typhoon Maring and the Habagat monsoon rains in August 2013, the Zamboanga siege in September 2013, and the Bohol Earthquake in October 2013. The combined impacts of these disasters have inflicted thousands of deaths, massive displacement of communities at risk, and costly damage to property.

The Philippines' high exposure to disasters can be attributed to its geophysical characteristics as well as its socio-economic conditions. Its geographic location makes it a hotbed of natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions,

tsunamis, typhoons and other extreme weather events. Being in the humid tropics, the country is most susceptible to climate change-related calamities such as tropical cyclones, droughts, floods, landslides and sea level rise (Lagmay 2010). The country's vulnerability to natural hazards is aggravated by its social, economic, political and cultural conditions. The combination of multi-dimensional poverty, increasing inequality, environmental degradation, competing land use and other resources use conflicts, weak enforcement of environmental laws, poor governance, limited access to essential social services and facilities, and social exclusion have and will continue to weaken the ability of communities to prepare for and cope with the social, economic, environmental and psycho-emotional impacts of hazards. They make poor people more vulnerable to the damaging effects of disasters, contribute to the severity of impacts, make effective disaster response even harder, and could lead to new disasters (Polotan-dela Cruz et al. 2010)

Natural disasters and the impacts of climate change are increasingly shaping the development agenda at the local, national and global levels. The shift to Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) has gained more traction in both humanitarian and mainstream development thinking. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) refers to the systematic development and application of policies, strategies and practices to reduce vulnerabilities and disaster risks throughout a society in order to avoid (prevention) or to limit (mitigation and preparedness) adverse impact of hazards, and facilitate sustainable development (UNISDR, 2009). DRR policies and measures aim to build and increase resilience to natural hazards and ensure that development efforts do not increase vulnerability to these hazards.

Figure 1. National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Framework



Source: NDRRMC, 2011

The Philippine DRRM framework (Figure 1; from the NDRRMC 2011) outlines four interrelated elements necessary to address disasters effectively – prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response and rehabilitation, and recovery. Prevention pertains to the avoidance of hazards and mitigation of their potential impacts through reducing vulnerabilities and exposure and enhancing capacities of communities; preparedness refers to strengthening capacities of communities to anticipate, cope and recover from the negative impacts of emergencies and disasters; response is about providing life-saving assistance to meet subsistence needs of affected populations based on acceptable standards during or immediately after a disaster; and rehabilitation and recovery deals with the restoration and improvement of livelihoods, living conditions, facilities and capacities of affected communities and should be anchored on the principle of “building back better” (NDRRMC 2011: 16-17). The framework also underscores the importance of the community-based and participatory approach to disaster risk-reduction and management. Institutionalization of disaster risk

reduction and management and participatory risk management requires a broad set of strategies and actions that should include the development of a national framework that is embodied in national legislation.

### DRRM in the CSWCD Research and Extension Agenda

The CSWCD is a higher learning institution in the field of social development practice, research and extension services. It offers graduate and undergraduate professional education in Community Development, Social Work, Women and Development and Social Development. Its mission is the pursuit of “academic excellence in the service of the nation and the global community through participatory, gender responsive, empowering and transformative development praxis (CSWCD Vision and Mission Statement 2007).

The CSWCD is a strong advocate of transformative, people-centered, community-based scholarship and sees this brand of scholarship as consistent with the public service mandate of the University (Ofreneo et al. 2014).

Confronted with the challenge of increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters in what has been dubbed "the new normal," the College of Social Work and Community Development (CSWCD) in the University of the Philippines Diliman (UP Diliman) had initiated in the 1990s various emergency relief and rehabilitation programs to address the needs of partner communities affected by disasters. Drawing on its many years of experience in using participatory and empowering strategies such as community organizing, awareness raising, participatory action research and popular education, CSWCD pioneered in promoting a community-based approach to disaster management (CBDM). Anchored on the principles of community empowerment, participation, and people centered development, the CBDM approach integrates the processes of community analysis, community organizing and mobilization, community education and conscientization, and participatory planning into the different areas of disaster management such as emergency response and recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation, and disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation (Luna 2010). From what was then called CBDM in the 1990s, the concept and framework has evolved into what is now referred to as Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (CBDRRM).

CSWCD's Strategic Plans for 2008-2010 and 2011-2013 identified Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Climate Change Adaptation (DRRM-CCA) as one of four priority themes in its research and extension agenda – social protection, migration and peace and governance were the other themes. Research and extension clusters were created to facilitate cross-disciplinary fertilization and more inclusive participation amongst the different departments,

research and extension personnel and the administrative staff on the identified thematic areas (CSWCD Operations Manual 2014).

The specific areas of concern identified within the DRRM and CCA thematic area include the following: 1) community-based DRRM; 2) building livelihoods and community resiliency; 3) adaptive strategies for climate change impacts; 4) capacity building for CBDRRM and CCA; 5) disaster recovery of displaced communities; 6) management of evacuation centers; 7) gender mainstreaming and women's rights; 8) humanitarian response; and 9) other topics such as participatory monitoring and evaluation, indigenous and local knowledge, governance, accountability and institutionalizations they relate to DRRM and CCA.

To operationalize the strategic plans, the DRRM-CCA Cluster was formed in 2008 to carry out the following functions:

- coordination and information sharing on DRRM-CCA related initiatives such as research, training, extension;
- prepare project proposals and undertake research and extension activities/projects related to DRRM/CBDRRM;
- provide leadership on DRRM efforts in the college (and in the university);
- provide technical assistance to requesting individuals and groups (e.g., curricular, project development, teaching materials development);
- provide support in resource mobilization for CSWCD disaster response operations; and
- participate in DRRM-related networks outside the University.

Members of the cluster come from faculty, Research, Extension and Professional Staff (REPS) and administrative staff who have shared interest in the field of DRRM and who have developed (or wish to develop) their expertise in DRRM practice.

Since its formation in 2008 to date, the DRRM Cluster has provided leadership in CSWCD's campaign for creating a culture of safety and disaster preparedness amongst its constituents by conducting periodic hazard assessment of CSWCD premises and instituting mitigation measures, organizing CSWCD-DRRM Coordinating Structure with corresponding functional committees, and conducting regular DRRM Orientations and Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Drills involving students, faculty and staff at the start of each semester. The Cluster coordinated CSWCD's relief operations to assist partner communities in times of disaster and organized public forums on DRRM-related issues (such as on the issue of forced relocation of informal settler families residing in so-called danger zones). Cluster members have also rendered their technical expertise as resource persons in university-wide trainings on DRRM such as those sponsored by UP Padayon, or as consultants and advisers to partners NGOs and community-based organizations.

CSWCD continues to hone and expand its teaching, extension and research activities in the field of DRRM/CBDRRM. The Department of Community Development (DCD) currently offers three formal courses on community-based DRRM in the graduate and undergraduate levels (CD 135, CD 235, and CD 226) even as DRRM and CCA concepts and strategies are integrated in existing CD, SW and WD courses. Faculty and staff conduct policy and action researches, evaluative studies, documentation and pilot community-based projects exploring such themes as governance, accountability, institutionalization, urbanization, and gender and disabilities as they relate to CBDRRM/DRRM and their relevance to social development practice. Knowledge generated from research and extension activities contribute to more

relevant concepts, perspectives, approaches and methodologies, which in turn help improve teaching and curricular development.

Arguably the most notable and publicized of CSWCD's DRRM initiatives have been the series of disaster relief operations involving partner communities and organizations in the aftermath of Typhoons Ondoy, Pedring, Quiel, Sendong, Pablo and Maring, the Habagat monsoon rains, the Zamboanga City siege, the Bohol earthquake, and most recently super typhoon Yolanda. Through these disaster response operations, CSWCD has been able to demonstrate its commitment to uphold the humanitarian imperative which states that those affected by disasters or conflicts have a right to *life with dignity*, and therefore a *right to assistance*; and that all possible actions should be taken to alleviate human suffering arising out of disaster or conflict (The Sphere Project 2004: 16). Therefore, disaster response aims to minimize and relieve the suffering of people affected by humanitarian crises, to save lives, and to increase community resilience to future disasters.

### Operation Bangon - the CSWCD disaster response to Yolanda

CSWCD through *Operation Bangon!* (Rise Up!) was among the first unit in UP Diliman to mobilize its constituents to extend emergency

assistance to Yolanda-affected communities. Launched three days in the aftermath of the typhoon, the CSWCD Dean, members of the DRRM cluster, faculty, staff and students speedily set up a disaster response structure to run Operation Bangon's many fronts. CSWCD linked with partner organizations and alumni already based in the Yolanda-affected regions and who were in a better position to assess and determine the location and needs of disaster survivors.

Learning from its many years of experience in managing relief operations, CSWCD disaster response system has several elements organized into task forces or committees – resource generation/mobilization; volunteer recruitment and management; public information and communication; partnership and community needs assessment and validation; documentation and donor reporting; and logistics management which includes purchasing, sorting and repacking of relief goods, inventory and storage, transportation, delivery and distribution of relief goods. The backbone of this system comes from the ranks of students, faculty, staff and alumni who are deeply animated by the spirit of *damayan*, volunteerism and humanitarianism.

Public appeals for cash and in-kind donations and call for volunteers were posted in the College website and Facebook page, as well as in the CSWCD Alumni page. Students

and staff also conducted room-to-room campaigns for donations in other colleges and offices in UP Diliman. In rallying for donations, we were guided by the principles of gender responsiveness, rights-based and upholding the human dignity of disaster survivors. Aside from the provision of food aid, clothes and medicines, particular emphasis was given to the specific needs and concerns of women, children and the elderly that were often neglected. Apart from sharing updates on plans and activities, donors and volunteers were gently reminded to give responsibly by donating appropriate goods and not view relief operations as an occasion for getting rid of unwanted personal junk. Volunteers were given basic orientation on the system of relief operations and why it was important to carefully sort and pack the relief goods even if it was laborious and time consuming. Public messages were deliberately crafted using empowering and gender-sensitive language by referring to the men and women affected by disasters as survivors and not "victims."

It helped a lot that CSWCD was able to pool a very modest Disaster Response Fund (DRF) coming from earmarked cash donations from private groups and individuals. The DRF is held in trust by the Sikhay Kilos Development Association and is reserved for jumpstarting relief operations when necessary.



Actual relief distribution in Biri, Northern Samar.



Despite the devastation wrought by Yolanda, singing and laughter abound in the communities - a testament of the people's resilience and strength.

Through Operation Bangon, CSWCD was able to provide funding support to Ugnayan ng Pahinungod Manila, which sent a medical and relief mission to Tacloban and Palo, Leyte on the third week of November. It also extended relief assistance to fisherfolk communities in Busuanga, Palawan in partnership with Community Centered Conservation Philippines, Inc., an NGO working on marine conservation in the island. Other communities reached were in Salcedo, Eastern Samar (through the Citizens Disaster Response Center and the Center for People Empowerment in Governance) and in Estancia, Iloilo through the National Network of Informal Workers (HOMENET Philippines). We also coordinated with the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs to provide support to some students from UP Visayas Tacloban College who have cross enrolled in UP Diliman.

As with our previous relief operations, the enthusiastic response to Operation Bangon from our community within and outside UP was very overwhelming. These include students, faculty, staff, alumni, and their family and friends, our partner organizations and individuals from within the country and abroad such as the Filipino migrant workers community in Taiwan. All of them have generously heeded the call and saw the occasion as a means to manifest compassion, solidarity and good citizenship.

### Supervised field instruction in Yolanda-affected areas

During the second semester, AY 2013-2014, CSWCD deployed Community Development (CD) and Social Work (SW) students and faculty members to Yolanda-affected areas in Mondragon, Northern Samar and Leyte as part of their Field Instruction Program (FIP). The team that went to Samar was composed of six students and two faculty supervisors from the CD Department. Team Leyte was bigger with 13 members: six CD and four SW students, two CD and one SW faculty supervisors.

Partnerships were established with two NGOs already engaged in humanitarian response in their respective areas – the Center for Empowerment and Resources Development (CERD Inc.) in Northern Samar, and Assistance and Cooperation for Community Resiliency and Development, Inc. (ACCORD, Inc.) in Leyte. Both agencies provided counterpart funding to cover some of the costs of the students' field placement, while CSWCD shouldered the travel costs of faculty supervisors from its MOOE budget. The CD Department was also able to mobilize additional funding from CAMP Asia, one of its partner NGOs based in Manila.

For one semester, FIP students and faculty engaged in a wide range of disaster-related concerns. During the emergency phase (from November to January), the

students took part in large-scale relief distribution of food and non-food items as well as shelter repair kits. Students were able to immerse in the details of relief work and gained experience in conducting damage and needs assessment, beneficiaries' targeting, validation and planning, preparing access cards, relief delivery, post distribution monitoring and community audits. They confronted issues and concerns and were constantly challenged by how CD and SW principles and methods could be applied in these phases.

During the early recovery phase (February to March), they will pursue shelter rehabilitation concerns, plan for livelihood recovery and DRRM. Students will the opportunity to facilitate the conduct of Participatory Vulnerabilities and Capacities Assessment (PCVA) in selected barangays. PCVA is a participatory assessment tool designed to reflect the perspectives and experiences of disaster survivors and recognizes the importance of local knowledge built on people's experience of disasters. PCVA integrates the capacities and vulnerabilities analysis framework earlier developed by Mary Anderson and Peter Woodrow in 1989 with the participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tools in order to provide more opportunities for communities and other stakeholders to participate and learn from the assessment process itself (De Dios 2004).



Scenes from the Participatory Capacities and Vulnerabilities Assessment (PCVA) conducted by the students with local research facilitators (that they helped train) in Barangays Dona Lucia and Roxas, Mondragon, Northern Samar.

PCVA is an effective tool for linking disasters with development. It enables development facilitators to listen to people and understand their perceptions of risks, coping strategies and development priorities from the community's perspectives. PCVA can also be a powerful tool to demonstrate how a bottom-up approach to DRRM is possible.

In Barangays Roxas and Dona Lucia, Mondragon, Northern Samar, CD fieldwork students organized men and women leaders as local research facilitators and trained them in the PCVA methodology and tools. Assisted by the students, these local research partners facilitated community orientations, focused group discussions and conducted household interviews as part of formulating their household, resources and hazard maps. The PCVA results were then subjected to a Community Validation Workshop and was presented to the Barangay Council officials as a basis for their DRRM and contingency plans. The local research facilitators also became core members of the Barangay DRRM Councils when these mandated structures were revitalized.

Students were also involved in advocacy work. For example, the Samar Team lobbied with the Mondragon municipal (local government unit) to organize a municipal-wide Stakeholders' Consultation on DRRM and CCA among barangay leaders and representatives of municipal line agencies, civil society organizations, academe and peoples' organizations. Welcoming the initiative, the municipal government provided resources and encouraged the participation of LGU officials, such that all barangays attended the consultation. Upon learning of the PCVAs in Roxas and Dona Lucia, other barangays have also requested for CERD and LGU support to conduct PCVAs in their own barangays.

The Leyte Team organized "ARTindog para sa Pag-asa" – a psychosocial intervention for students of the Candagara Elementary School in Dagami, Leyte who experience trauma in the aftermath of Yolanda. Through a day-long art, music and theatre workshops, disaster survivors and caregivers were able to rest and recuperate from the demands of humanitarian response.

The Social Work Department also carried out other Yolanda-related activities. In December 2013, four Social Work faculty members conducted stress debriefing training in Catbalogan City for personnel of the provincial Department of Health who were in charge of psychosocial interventions for Yolanda survivors. The faculty also engaged children and adult survivors in separate stress debriefing sessions in Barangay Tingib, Bassey, Western Samar.

### **Rebuilding after Yolanda: Reflections and insights**

It was fortunate that CSWCD was able to secure the commitment of CERD and ACCORD as partner agencies and organized the required human and financial resources quickly within a fast-moving situation. This speaks well of the College's track record and good reputation with partner agencies and donors, the flexibility of our faculty, and the responsiveness of both students and faculty.

The partnership with CERD and ACCORD proved to be very productive. Both organizations played a very active role in the whole process of guiding and supervising the students. Being a Social Work graduate of CSWCD herself, ACCORD's agency supervisor had a good understanding of the FIP's academic purpose and requirements. ACCORD's team leaders and staff were also very supportive of the students, especially when they had to perform other tasks to accomplish their academic requirements. On the part of CERD, the agency's long

track record and good relations with their partner communities as a whole helped facilitate the students' entry and integration in the community. A key strength of CERD is the way the organization practices its values of community participation and learning from the people, such that this is one of the students' major takeaways from their fieldwork in Samar. Both organizations recognized the big role that the students played in program implementation.

Overall, CSWCD considers the FIP placement to Yolanda areas a huge achievement. It gave the students tremendous learning experience, considering that humanitarian work was a new field to them. Many were also new to life in a rural community. It mattered a lot that the students were all excellently motivated, willing to learn, open to criticism, had very good teamwork and leadership abilities, and also quite reflective on their own.

Students were happy with the exposure they had on emergency response and DRRM and how CD and SW can be made relevant and applied in these phases. They were able to see how empowering strategies such as community organizing, capacity building, leadership development, conflict management and advocacy work can be applied in practice. This was also a good opportunity that CD and SW students were fielded in one program as there were opportunities to learn from each other.

Aside from gaining more handles on the practical and conceptual aspects of DRRM, students also came to appreciate the value of providing humanitarian aid. During the early stages of the relief distribution, some of the students were under the impression that this was merely providing dole-outs. However, once they became part of the distribution teams and saw how desperate the condition of people in the communities were, they also came to understand that there are situations where providing

immediate relief is essential to saving lives and upholding rights and dignity. At the same time, the students gained valuable insights on issues and challenges between mainstream or large-scale humanitarian work and community-based approaches.

For example, humanitarian response is often faced with the constant tension between the desire of international aid agencies to respond to humanitarian needs quickly, efficiently and with high quality, on the one hand, and the longer-term vision of enabling local communities and actors to respond themselves, on the other. Humanitarian response is also gauged through layers of quality standards and accountability principles such as those defined in the Sphere Standards that often times are contrary to existing values, dynamics and priorities of the communities they wish to serve. (The issue of targeted distribution versus blanket distribution of aid is a good

example). Worse, the politics of aid can often disenfranchise small local NGOs as against well-resourced international aid agencies.

Disasters are generally unexpected and mostly affect the most vulnerable individuals or communities at risk that are then unable to cope and thus external humanitarian response becomes essential. Disaster recovery cannot be seen in isolation from poverty and other development issues and concerns of affected communities and the country as a whole.

Rebuilding after Yolanda will require bridging the gap between humanitarian response and development work. CBDRRM must be integrated with humanitarian response at the beginning or early stage of a humanitarian response programme. CBDRRM also needs to be integrated into development programmes especially in areas with more exposure to hazards and risks. Development programming must be informed of potential disaster risks

and act upon this information. This would mean supporting CBDRRM and building community resilience in development initiatives and not just within the realm of a post-disaster context.

## Endnotes

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- 6 The authors served as Faculty Supervisors of Community Development and Social fieldwork students who were deployed to Northern Samar and Leyte for one semester in the aftermath of Typhoon Yolanda.

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# Re-engineering Social Science Research to Meet Global Challenges\*

AMARYLLIS TIGLAO-TORRES  
*Executive Director*  
*Philippine Social Science Council*

## Introduction

This afternoon, I have been tasked to speak about how social science research can meet the global challenges that we face with the rest of the world. In order to address these issues, we will first discuss the goals of social science research apropos national and global challenges and goals, pinpoint the tools we need to attain these avowed objectives, and identify the institutional changes that are needed to complete the process of re-engineering social research.

## The goals of social science research

In the present century, based on a keener understanding of the interconnectedness of factors and events, social science research needs to move even more quickly into multidisciplinary studies. Sociological issues can be viewed from the standpoint of economics; the use and abuse of power can be explained by psychology; gender discriminations are related to sociological and economic factors, as well as to culture, location and history.

I am glad you recognize the value of this viewpoint, and I hope that you will leave this Conference convinced of the value of multi- and trans-disciplinary research. In addition, the intersection between the disci-

plines should not be confined to the social sciences. Indeed, many of the complex problems we face today are best addressed by natural and physical scientists, biochemists and molecular biologists, hydrologic and materials engineers, to name a few, along with social scientists of various disciplines, in partnership with doctors, lawyers and other professionals concerned with public safety, security and welfare. We will return to these important concerns later.

## Development and inclusive growth

The goal of development in our nation today is encapsulated by government's framework to pursue the attainment of 'inclusive growth.'

What is inclusive growth? It is growth that is rapid enough to matter, given the country's large population, geographical differences, and social complexity. It is sustained growth that creates jobs, draws the majority into the economic and social mainstream, and continuously reduces mass poverty.<sup>1</sup> All of these goals implicate the social sciences: the pursuit of growth and job creation concern economics; population growth and dynamics are within the purview of demography and statistics; geographical differences concern the discipline of geography and

linguistics; social complexity is studied by anthropology, sociology and psychology. Understanding social diversity to promote social inclusion is the usual undertaking of social work, psychology, history, anthropology and sociology but also of political science and mass communications. Underlying the pursuit of these national goals is governance, which falls within the fields of political science and public administration. And, the goal of reducing mass poverty is one that all the disciplines hope to address.

How can attention to the attainment of inclusive growth be useful to your research undertakings? Let me venture a few answers.

Vigan is called the Heritage City. Its rich cultural heritage provides vast opportunities to study the past, to comprehend how such information can influence present patterns of relationships, political, economic and cultural events. For instance, what researches on your local history and cultural traditions can enrich present efforts to increase employment and promote tourism? How can traditional kinship values and power centers improve local governance in ways that win the trust of the people? How can the geographic and cultural resources of the area increase investments in the region to attain increased economic growth?

Contemporary data can also be investigated more assiduously in relation to the goals of inclusive growth. There are many ways. For example, how is the population of Region I related to the poverty incidence in the Region? (Both of these, by the way, were lower than national data in 2010).<sup>2</sup> What factors in culture, gender relationships or geography can explain the disparity in the employment rates of women and men in the province or Region? What governance mechanisms can be instituted or enhanced to be able to respond to the career aspirations of the Ilocano youth? What knowledge, skills and attitudes can be incorporated in curricula to enable our graduates to be competitive in local and global employment opportunities? How can psychological research enhance the utilization of its skilled human resources?

### **Poverty research and human development**

It is a sad note that poverty continues to hound our society. Poverty represents the anti-thesis of human development. It is symptomatic of discrimination in access to resources, inequalities between classes, ethnic groups and genders in rights and privileges, and disempowerment brought about by poor education, unemployment and other forms of human insecurity. It propelled our forefathers to rebel against the colonizers, fuelled the communist rebellion, and continues to be a significant factor in many areas of conflict and unrest.

The notion of poverty as it is examined today has become multidimensional. It is no longer confined to measures of economic deprivation, as measured by the poverty threshold or poverty incidence. The definition of poverty implicit in the UNDP's Human Development Report, for one, reduced the definition of poverty to three dimensions of deprivation: poor health, illiteracy,

and unsatisfactory levels of living. Thus, human development can be represented by good health, high levels of educational attainment, and satisfactory levels of living.

The multidimensionality of the experience of poverty is constantly borne out by studies. In wealth and well-being rankings done by the income-poor, for instance, rural people perceive deprivation and 'ill-being' to have many dimensions, including not only lack of income and wealth, but also social inferiority, physical weakness, disability and sickness, vulnerability, physical and social isolation, powerlessness and isolation.

Negative indicators of well-being derived from participatory rural appraisal highlight the following experiences of deprivation: having to skip meals in lean production months, having more mouths to feed and less hands to help, inability to send children to school, child labor, dependency on common property resources, accepting low status or demeaning work, social isolation, being poor in people, inability to decently bury the dead, alcoholism and other addictions, chronic illness, mental and physical disability (Chambers 1997, cited in Torres 2010).

I encourage you to continue to investigate the expressions and lived experiences of poverty amongst our people. We, Filipino social scientists, need to use our intellectual and institutional resources to understand how we can contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of the nation, and the development of a just and humane society.<sup>3</sup>

### **Future Earth**

In the past year, from June 13 to 22, Brazil hosted the 3rd United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD). Also called Rio +20, the UNCSD aimed to reconcile the economic and environmental goals of the global community. The outcome document of the Conference

is entitled *The Future We Want*. It affirms that the eradication of poverty remains the greatest global challenge facing the world today, and is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

It recognizes that people are at the center of sustainable development, not rapid economic growth, per se, or technology and innovation. As such, UNCSD enjoined participants to strive for a world that is just, equitable and inclusive. It urged all nations to work together in order to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection, and thereby to benefit all.<sup>4</sup>

In support of the goals of Rio +20, an alliance of international partners<sup>5</sup> from global science, research funding and UN bodies, launched a new ten-year initiative on global environmental change research during the Conference. Future Earth proposes to provide a cutting-edge platform to coordinate scientific research for global sustainability (UNESCO 2012). It intends to mobilize thousands of scientists in joint research activities, while strengthening partnerships with policy-makers and other stakeholders. It will strategically link international scientific cooperation with collaboration in sustainable development (ICSU 2013).

Prof. Yuan T Lee, winner of the 1986 Nobel Prize in Chemistry and President of the International Council for Science (ICSU), stated:

Future Earth will connect scientific research, policy development and action, and enhance the interface between science and policy to support sustainability. (UNESCO 2012).

The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of the ICSU held a Regional Workshop on Future Earth in 2012. Participants to the Conference were of the opinion that the Asian region has the ability to lead the move towards global sustainability under

the Future Earth programme. They believe the scientific community in Asia and the Pacific is ready to support integrated research that would build the knowledge and solutions necessary for the transition to sustainability (ROAP 2013). This view was affirmed by participants to the Annual Conference of the Science Council of Asia (SCA) earlier this month.

Asian scientists in a Panel Discussion at the SCA stressed that many answers are needed from Asia and the Pacific on the question of global sustainability. For instance, alternatives are needed to the energy- and materials-intensive approach to development practised by industrialised countries. Research is needed on events that result from climate changes around the region, such as on transformations occurring with the Indian Monsoon and on the thawing of the Siberian permafrost and release of greenhouse gases (ROAP 2013). The panel highlighted the need for a new form of science that is trans-disciplinary in character, a regional scale research that is holistic in character, involving international partnerships of social and natural scientists working on specific themes, such as on freshwater security and coastal vulnerability (UNESCO 2012).

At the simplest level, Future Earth aims to arrive at answers to fundamental questions about the threats to a sustainable future:

- o How and why is the global environment changing?
- o What are likely future changes in the global environment?
- o What are the implications of environmental changes on the well-being of humans and other species?
- o What choices can be made to enhance resilience, create positive futures, and to reduce harmful risks and vulnerabilities?
- o How can this knowledge support decisions and sustainable development?<sup>6</sup>

Social and natural scientists in the Philippines can examine these research themes, and work our collaborative studies on climate change issues that are of paramount importance to sustainable development in our country.

The National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) aims to focus on vulnerability assessments, demonstration sites for eco-towns, and research to support renewable energy and sustainable transport systems. Some of you may already be involved in developing these innovations for a green environment. You can transform your involvements into a research mode within the ambit of Future Earth. Indeed, the ultimate goal of the NCCAP is centered on human-development:

...to build the adaptive capacities of women and men in their communities, increase the resilience of vulnerable sectors and natural ecosystems to climate change, and optimize mitigation opportunities towards gender-responsive and rights-based human development (CCC 2011).

Thus far, I have tried to illustrate how social science research can be pursued in ways that will make a difference to Philippine society, our Asian geographic region, and our planet. There are other areas of investigation that are equally valuable, but which we cannot tackle here, for lack of time. Such interdisciplinary concerns implicate agricultural production and rural development; population, migration and urban development; information technology, virtual communications and human relationships; food, water and housing security; peace, conflict and human security; gender, work and social protection; violence against women and girls; and many other concerns. The important thing to remember is that today, scientists around the globe are of the same opinion — that collaborative, multidisciplinary studies are more

powerful avenues to address both basic and practical questions on “the mysteries of the universe.”

### **Re-tooling for multidisciplinary research**

Not all social scientists may be comfortable with multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary research. To begin with, it involves having to acquire new ways of looking at and doing research and scholarly work. Then, it may mean having to work in research teams alongside other scientists from different disciplines. Consequently, it entails long discussions, arguments and negotiations on developing the research framework, research methods and analytical approaches. It may also lead to clashes in authorship: who will be the primary author? Whose name will come first or last?

I have had the occasion to coordinate such research programs in the University, and it was not easy. One program collapsed altogether because the collaborators did not spend enough time to agree on their approaches. The program which succeeded, however, was literally swept away – moving from the realm of University research to one funded by UN agencies, and eventually became the bases for a national program of action. To this date, the framework, methodology and research values which we developed in that program on child labor continue to influence ongoing research, program and policy initiatives.

Those of us who embark on multidisciplinary research must be ready to learn. Each researcher must be willing to engage in building consensus among themselves, learn new methods, analytical approaches, theoretical perspectives and conceptual frameworks. It may involve having to acquire new languages, roles, and cultures. Often, it means having to walk outside the pristine walls of the university, and mingling with diverse groups of people in the streets, and

experiencing floods, earthquakes, fields, forests or seas, absorbing the dust, stench, noise, rejections and risks of field research.

In our wired universe, it is now easier for multidisciplinary research to transcend geographic boundaries. In this regard, social scientists have to re-tool their research methods – possibly having to apply both face-to-face research management and tele-mediated research collaborations. Research on Future Earth may entail new platforms for data-collection, including GPS, computer and phone-based data collection, alongside community immersion to better understand the impacts of climate change on human security and development. Scientists biased for quantitative research need to see how qualitative data can enhance their understanding and explanation of obtained results, and vice-versa. Triangulation, multimethods and diverse procedures for data analyses can enhance validity and increase the reliability of results.

These days, I believe there are no limits to how we can be innovative in social research. We only need to be more creative and adventurous, to think 'outside of the box', to explore all possibilities and - to be willing to make mistakes and to try again and again.

### **Institutional support to social science research**

The promotion of research entails massive support from university or college officials. It needs to be promoted in rules and policies, and supported by budget – either from the institution itself or from external donors.

*Let us first consider faculty researchers:*

The first institutional support an academic institution should provide is time for research activities. Teachers and scholars cannot be super humans. There are only so many hours in a day to do work. Thus, the academic load for faculty

should incorporate time to be used for research activities, and not merely focus on unit loading for teaching.

Of course, the faculty will have to be accountable for the research load he or she is provided. In this regard, the University can institute policies or activities to ensure that researches are completed and disseminated. Research forums, university publications, and other modes for sharing research results also need to be promoted so that scholars will be encouraged to write-up their research results.

Official time for research has to be complemented by *financial assistance* for the research activity. The academic institution has two avenues for this: from internal funding, or through proposals funded by external donors. A research agenda and an ability to develop proposals ready for funding are important means to get research budget. My organization, the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) is ready to extend assistance in this regard.

*How can students be engaged in social science research?*

Apart from faculty, undergraduate and graduate students can also contribute to multidisciplinary research. Faculty advisers need to be alert to their interests and effectively match these with the *research agenda* and ongoing projects of the college or university. In fact, the competencies of students can be systematically built-up by requiring research-based papers for major subjects, culminating in individual thesis projects or dissertations in their last year of schooling.

*Financial assistance* for student research can also be part of university policy. In the UP, for example, graduate students can apply for research funds. For the added information of students at this conference, the PSSC provides supplementary funds for student research through its Research Awards Program.

A *mentor-mentee relationship* can also be cultivated as part of the culture of the institution. With this, newer research scholars (either students or faculty) can learn from the experience and broader perspectives of the more seasoned researchers. In some colleges, this relationship is laboratory-based (for example, a lab on marine life, climate change and work). A multidisciplinary research program can also be organized in ways such that collaborators learn from one another in a spirit of discovery and investigation.

Finally, institutions should continuously engage in *intense dialogues and discussions* on matters of current importance. If our researches are to be relevant, then we will need to know in what avenues of discovery our social science foundations are to be most useful.

### **Be a Part of PSSC**

I represent the Philippine Social Science Council, a non-profit organization of professional social science associations geared towards the consolidation of Philippine social science resources. Congruent with this purpose, the PSSC is mandated to develop, stimulate, support, or encourage social science research projects, particularly those of a cooperative and multidisciplinary nature, that tend to meet national problems. I would like to invite the scholars and researchers in this conference to share our concern, and to contribute to a better understanding of social issues, both within your provinces and regions, and in relation to national and global concerns.

In the PSSC, our dialogues transpire within and across the professional associations in the organization. We engage in conferences and forums, do collaborative research, teach and train one another on new methods and approaches.

We invite you to join any one of the professional associations affiliated with PSSC. We also welcome research units of academic institutions to be our associate members. In the next few months, we plan to organize a forum on the ASEAN Economic Community and what researches we need to effectively take part in the AEC before 2015. We will organize another forum on Future Earth, in collaboration with the National Research Council of the Philippines. We are also preparing a package of training programs on research methods, which we can undertake with your academic institutions. From May 29-31, we will be holding the National Social Science Congress in Manila, and I invite all of you to attend.

There is no limit to what we can do in social science. We just need to set our directions and map out our strategies to be responsive to ongoing challenges. Let us work together to promote the development and relevance of social science research in our nation, to meet both local and global goals towards a gender-equal and sustainable future.

### Endnotes

- 1 Chapter 1 of the Philippine Development Plan (2011-2016).
- 2 The population of Region I in 2010 was 4.7 million, comprising only 5% of the national figure (92 M). In 2012, the poverty incidence in the Region was 16.7% and 11% in Ilocos Norte, both of which were well below the national poverty incidence of 22.3%.
- 3 Paraphrased from the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of PSSC, 1988.

- 4 From Our Common Vision in The Future We Want, 19 June 2012.
- 5 Future Earth is a joint initiative of the International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISSC), the Belmont Forum, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations University (UNU), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) supportive, and actively involved in the establishment of Future Earth. Future Earth will build on the strengths of the current Global Environmental Change Programmes: Diversitas, IGBP, IHDP and WCRP.
- 6 Paraphrased from UNESCO. (2012). Future Earth: Global platform for sustainability research launched at Rio+20.

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# UP Professor Receives First VIRGINIA A. MIRALAO EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AWARD



Mr. Marco Lagman, Assistant Professor at the University of the Philippines' Department of Geography and member of the Philippine National Historical Society (PNHS), was conferred the first Virginia A. Miralao (VAM) Excellence in Research Award for his article entitled "Land as Property and Resource in 19th Century Pampanga" (*Journal of History*, Volume 58, pp. 18-41).

Mr. Lagman used archival notarial records and urban land tax documents to examine how land properties were regarded, used, measured and acquired by Kapampangans and regulated by Spanish authorities in the 19th century. The Award Committee selected Mr. Lagman's article for its interdisciplinary and integrative approach—intersecting geography, history, urban land use, agriculture, commerce, property, policy and other areas of social concern—and for filling a gap in Philippine historiography.

The VAM Excellence in Research Award honors the best-written article, book, or book chapter produced by a young and promising social scientist. The funds for the Award were provided by Dr. Belinda A. Aquino, professor emeritus at the University of Hawaii-Manoa, who donated USD5,000 to PSSC shortly after the retirement of Dr. Virginia Miralao as PSSC Executive Director in December 2009.

Mr. Lagman received the Award and its accompanying cash prize during the PSSC General Assembly on 16 February 2013 at the PSSCenter Auditorium. He was nominated for the Award by the PNHS where he has been a lifetime member since 1999.

### **"Land as Property and Resource in 19th Century Pampanga"**

***Journal of History* Volume 58 (2012)**

The analysis of historical documents can be used as a means of revealing aspects of a society that may otherwise be overlooked. In this regard, this study attempts to reveal certain features of Pampanga society and Spanish colonial policies and regulations pertaining to land during the latter part of the nineteenth century that can be examined from selected *Protocolo* and *Fincas Urbana* documents from the Province of Pampanga.

Using concepts from the discipline of geography and land use, this study intends to show the growing importance of real property among Kapampangans both as an item of increasing value and as an object that can be handed down to their heirs. Careful study of these documents also helps uncover the variety of ways in which Kapampangans use their land assets as a commodity that can be employed as collateral or a resource that can be utilized as a direct input in agricultural and aqua-cultural production and as a platform for commercial and residential activities.

Moreover, the notarial records and land taxation papers that were studied also yielded particular features of Philippine society, such as the increasing domination of certain landowners in particular places, the ability of Kapampangan women and ethnic Chinese to be owners and active buyers of property, the increasing monetization of the economy and commoditization of land, and the manner in which the colonial government assessed taxes on what up to the present is one of the more important sources of income of our local and national governments.



Speakers and member-delegates at the opening-plenary of the 20th AASSREC Biennial General Conference. Front row (L-R): Indralal de Silva, Abdur Rahim Khan, Yasuhiko Saito, Edgardo Angara, John Beaton, Isabel Martin, Amaryllis Torres, Hyun Chin Lim. Back row (L-R): Susan Bastani, Khadijah Alavi, Grace Cruz, Ngo Thi Tuan Dzung, KS James, Kaoru Sugihara, Sukhadeo Thorat, Richard le Heron, Wonho Jang, Matori Yamamoto

## PSSC Hosts AASSREC Regional Conference on Aging

JOANNE B. AGBISIT

*Philippine Social Science Council*

The Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) successfully hosted the 20th Biennial General Conference of the Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils (AASSREC) on 4-5 April 2013 in Cebu City. Since the 1976, the conference has been held alternately in AASSREC member-countries/organizations, with PSSC, a founding member of AASSREC, having served as conference host in two previous occasions.

"Ageing in Asia Pacific: Balancing the State and the Family" was AASSREC's chosen theme for the 2013 conference. According to Dr. Isabel Pefianco Martin, AASSREC President and PSSC Chairperson, the topic of aging is "a timely and common concern among all countries and territories in the region." She said that the conference aims to initiate discussion on "the demographic shifts that have altered the size, composition and role of the family- the traditional source of support for older adults- and placed pressure on public institutions to share the burden of care" and "the approaches and strategies employed by governments, given national contexts and available resources, to ensure the wellbeing and security of their ageing citizens."

AASSREC Secretary-General, Dr. John Beaton, and PSSC Executive Director, Dr. Amaryllis Torres, formally opened and welcomed participants to the conference.

Keynote lectures, meanwhile, were delivered by Dr. Yasuhiko Saito, an expert on aging from Nihon University, Japan, and Senator Edgardo Angara, author of the Senior Citizens Act of 1991 and its expanded version.

In his lecture, Dr. Saito shared the measures instituted by the government of Japan to ensure the successful aging of its elderly population. These include policies and programs on health and welfare, social participation, employment, and housing and transportation. Dr. Saito challenged the audience to ponder not only "what constitutes successful aging," but also "what successful aging hopes to accomplish." Dr. Saito noted that the Japanese term *ikigai*, which means "making life worth living" or "having a purpose in life," best represents what Japan seeks for its elderly citizens.

Sen. Angara, meanwhile, highlighted the socio-economic consequences of an aging Philippine society, and reviewed existing laws that cater to the country's elderly (such as the Senior Citizens Act and the Personal Equity and Retirement Accounts Act). He also proposed the establishment of an Institute for Aging that will "serve as our own think-tank to study aging as an integrated, multidisciplinary science in the context of our own culture and demographic peculiarities."

Member-organizations of AASSREC from Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan,



South Korea, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Vietnam, New Zealand, and Taiwan presented state-of-the-art papers on the conference theme during the two-day conference. They interrogated their own country's support mechanisms for the elderly and provided policy and program directions (see pictures above).

In addition to the 30 participants from AASSREC member-organizations, over 70 other individuals joined the conference discussion. Included among them were foreign and local delegates representing government agencies, non-government groups, academic institutions, and the media. The participation of some international participants (e.g. from Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand) was made possible through the support of the UNESCO South East Asia Centre of Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Development. PSSC's other partners in organizing the conference were The Japan Foundation, University of San Carlos, and the Philippine Population Association.

After the conference, AASSREC held its Business Meeting to elect a new set of officers and discuss organizational concerns. PSSC, represented by Dr. Martin, was reelected President of AASSREC and thus will continue to hold office until 2015. As AASSREC President, PSSC will be actively involved in planning the next biennial conference which will be organized and hosted by Academia Sinica (Taiwan).

The conference ended with a Cebu City Heritage Tour sponsored by the Department of Tourism. The conference delegates, many of whom were first-time visitors to the Philippines, visited the Taoist Temple, Magellan's Cross, Basilica Minore del Santo Niño, Fort San Pedro, Plaza Independencia, Heritage of Cebu Monument, and Museo Sugbo.

The papers presented at the AASSREC conference will be published in a volume which PSSC plans to release in early 2014.

# 7th National Social Science Congress held at PSSC

JOANNE B. AGBISIT  
*Philippine Social Science Council*



Filipino social scientists gathered for the Seventh National Social Science Congress (NSSC) on 29-31 May 2013 at the Philippine Social Science Center in Quezon City. Started by the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) in 1983, the NSSC is held every five years to promote dialogue and collaboration among scholars, practitioners, and students of the different disciplines of the social sciences.

For the 7th NSSC, PSSC decided on the overarching theme "Generations." Operating on the notion that generations are shaped by historical and growing-up events occurring within their lifetimes, the Council invited social scientists to examine generational shifts and differences in the environment, outlook, expectations, values, behaviours, and concerns of new and past generations of Filipinos.

The three-day Congress was opened by Prof. Randolph David, sociologist and Emeritus Professor of the University of the Philippines. In his Keynote Lecture, he spoke about the country's successor generation— how his own children and grandchildren struggled and broke free from the "tyranny of expectations" and carved their own paths; and why generational succession in Philippine politics remains problematic even if they produce young and promising political leaders.

Prof. David also commented on today's generation's seemingly more individualistic and self-centered attitude compared to earlier generations' preoccupation with nation-building and social cohesion. He noted, though, the penchant of each passing generation to think unfavorably of the new one and cautioned against "telling the young how to build their lives and make use of their own time." He concluded: "The problems they will face will surely be different from ours. If we leave them alone, they will develop their own defenses and necessities, and there is a great chance they will even shine."

The 7th NSSC programme featured 20 parallel sessions covering a wide range of topics. These include continuity and change in Philippine politics, varied language use across generations, political mobilization across time, changing Philippine demographics, connecting generations through the internet and social media, changing concerns and aspirations of the youth, social development and poverty programs, indigenous societies in transition, changing faces of migrant labor, Philippine democracy through generations, generations and the Philippine revolution, negotiating power and identity in cyberspace, disappearing spaces, and review of the Philippine language. A total of 142 individuals



Attendees on the first day included [L-R] Virginia Miralao, James Rush, Manuel Diaz, Wilfrido Villacorta, and Randolph David (left picture); Isabel Martin and Marilu Madrunio (right picture).

from the academe, research organizations, professional societies, and government institutions participated in the conference.

One of the more popular sessions was on the panel topic "Disappearing Spaces: Vast Lands to Skyscrapers." The session featured Dr. Fernando Zialcita, professor of anthropology at Ateneo de Manila University, who discussed the continuing role of local anthems, cultural icons and expressions (such as the fiesta), and the plaza in affirming the community's identity; Dr. Celestina Boncan, immediate past president of the Philippine Historical Association, who traced the physical and social transformation of Binondo as a center of commerce since the 19th century (upper right photos); and Ms. Melane Manalo who examined the allocation of street space among private motorists, public commuters, and pedestrians.

The 7th NSSC concluded with two special sessions featuring eminent Filipino social scientists of their generation — demographer and national scientist, Dr. Mercedes Concepcion, and economist and former National Economic and Development Authority Secretary-General, Dr. Cayetano Paderanga Jr. (lower right photos). Dr. Concepcion recounted the founding and early years of PSSC. Dr. Paderanga, meanwhile, discussed the macroeconomic history of the Philippines after World War II.

PSSC organized the 7th NSSC with funding support from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts as well as the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines. Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista sponsored lunch for all the participants on the first day.

PSSC is set to publish selected papers from the 7th NSSC in 2014.



Dr. Fernando Zialcita



Dr. Celestina Boncan



Dr. Mercedes Concepcion



Dr. Cayetano Paderanga Jr.



Past PSSC chairpersons who attended the Congress include [L-R] Mercedes Concepcion, Felipe Miranda, Isabel Martin, Ronald Holmes and Virginia Miralao.



Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista together with Amaryllis Torres and Oscar Evangelista (R-L).



# PMRN Launches *Interrogating Migration: New Questions and Emerging Trends in the Philippines*

On 30 May 2013, the Philippine Migration Research Network (PMRN) launched the volume *Interrogating Migration: New Questions and Emerging Trends in the Philippines* at the Philippine Social Science Center.

Supported by the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines (UNACOM), the volume contains seven new researches that invite the re-examination of existing assumptions, discourses, and policy issues pertaining to the Philippine migration experience. It is the 9th publication of PMRN.

Dr. Amaryllis Torres with authors, Dr. Ma. Elissa Lao and Dr. Jean Franco.



Mr. Ricardo Casco of the International Organization for Migration and Mr. Jose Molano Jr., speaking on behalf of Sec. Imelda Nicolas of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, lauded the continuing effort of PMRN to enrich the country's migration literature and presented comprehensive and thought-provoking reviews of the publication. Dr. Jorge Tigno, editor of the volume and Secretary-General of PMRN, expressed his appreciation for and responded to the main points raised by the reviewers (see photos below).

In addition to Dr. Tigno, three of the volume authors, Ma. Elissa Jayme-Lao, Jean Franco, and Jean Paul Zialcita, graced the event. Also in attendance were representatives of PSSC member-organizations and migration scholars from the academe and government (bottom left photos). Dr. Virginia Miralao, Secretary-General of the UNACOM, delivered the closing remarks.

PMRN dedicated the publication to the memory of PMRN's first president, Dr. Benjamin Cariño, who passed on in August 2012.



Mr. Jose Molano Jr.



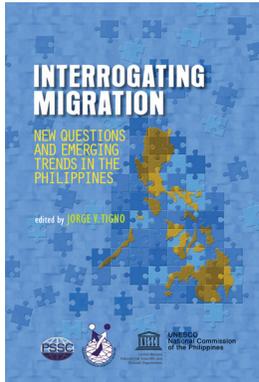
Mr. Ricardo Casco



Dr. Jorge Tigno Jr.



Dr. Virginia Miralao



**Interrogating Migration:  
New Questions  
and Emerging Trends**  
*Jorge V. Tigno*

**Labor Code for Overseas  
Filipino Workers:  
Necessary but Insufficient**  
*Carmel Veloso Abao*

**Are Local Governments  
Ready for Migration?**  
*Maria Elissa Jayme Lao*

**Migration and Democracy:  
Competing Logics between  
Nonresident Filipinos and  
Extraterritorial Voting**  
*Jorge V. Tigno*

**International Migrants:  
Agents of Political Change?**  
*Jean Paul L. Zialcita*

**Bagong Bayani and  
Migrante International:  
Is There an Alternative Discourse?**  
*Jean S. Encinas-Franco*

**A Re-examination of the  
Evidence on the Household Impact  
of Overseas Migration**  
*Geoffrey M. Ducanes*

**Gendered Protection and Care:  
Predeparture Orientation  
for Migrant Women from  
the Philippines**  
*Jorge V. Tigno*

## Interrogating Migration: New Questions and Emerging Trends in the Philippines, Edited by Jorge V. Tigno

RICARDO R. CASCO

*National Programme Officer*

*International Organization for Migration, Philippines*

### Introduction

I am very thankful of the opportunity for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to participate in this prestigious book launch. I believe in the continuing need for “interrogating migration,” in the search for philosophy behind policies, programmes, discourses, and research undertakings.

The Philippine Migration Research Network seems to indeed be re-awakening to provoke the policy community and migration network in this series of bold research and policy advocacy undertakings. The essays are all very interesting, thought-provoking, and will be probably disturbing to some sectors. I hope I can do justice in sharing a quick review of these contributions.

### On Labor Code for Overseas Filipino Workers: Necessary but Insufficient, by Carmel V. Abao

The subject of migration is tackled in different legislative materials in the Philippines while the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995 (RA 8042 as amended by RA 10022) presents itself as the omnibus law. Today, this set up remains a most-admired model in the world, along with the continuing advocacy for legal reforms and innovations in the country.

The very title of this contribution reminds me of the many instances that evidence that present migration-related laws have often generated situations for “Juan dela Cruz” and non-lawyer citizens or simply non-lawyers, which draw need for legal assistance or counsel, whether paid or public service, to constructively interpret the laws according to their respective parochial interests. Without the simplicity and convenient accessibility to stakeholders, the laws can be less empowering as they are intended to be. Therefore I would see that codification of migration-related laws will lend much to the legal education of stakeholders.

The citations of this study on theoretical perspectives of codification are very helpful in grasping the compelling need for the process, particularly for establishing contextual harmony, political purpose (such as improving regulation), transparency to the public, and enabling a tracking process for legal history.

That while codification is necessary, the most striking reality that this paper has highlighted is that it is insufficient as a platform or instrument to address the unpinning issues pertaining to location of migration

policy within a broader development framework. This has a semblance to the persistent argument that while the Constitution adheres to foreign investment restriction of 60-40, the business climate is not benefited without the factoring in of the market dynamics of the time. I am reminded of my days in government when the National Leadership then engaged an inclusive process of visioning exercise....with the matter on labour migration or overseas employment seen as a particular subject area for development. It was a challenging process with the government lawyers who remained trapped within what is under the Labor Code. And then the visioning facilitator shared a host of tips - to dream beyond the status quo and the legal structure; envision how public servants can listen more attentively to legitimate client needs and establish mutual interests of transacting parties, rather than immediately asserting legal prohibitions, subsequently pre-empting what could potentially be an optimum response; look at the market forecasts and global trends. The facilitator proceeded to remind that though it is painstaking to change laws, laws are man-made and man can change what he made or at least, interpret the law not merely according to its letters but to its spirit (or its philosophy), virtually in protection of those who have less in law.

There is perhaps a big dilemma: would codification achieve efficiency but provoke rigidity in public service, or without it, would there be more space for responsive application of laws for the needy but create a big market opportunity for lawyer's trade or temptation for corruptive practices? Would codification build public managers or implementing bureaucrats? Would codification anticipate applicability to a widely heterogeneous migrant labour situations?

Migration situates in a rather complex and dynamic development frame, shaped by time, changing socio-economic and political realities.

Each regime comes in pursuit of a medium term development plan, in the Philippines for a time frame of six years. That's why, with the absence of codification of migration-related laws, administrators and government executives play room with managing regime policy thrusts and development goals, sometimes through special executive or administrative orders, amidst a given legal backdrop. Operatively, the frontline service bureaucrats carry on the letter of implementing rules, memorandum circulars, and administrative issuances with the intent of achieving labour market efficiency while adhering to standards of protection to migrant labour.

One observation often made which is a relevant parallel issue is that "codal provisions" tackling employment contracts for OFWs provided for in the 1974 Labor Code constitute as an across-the-board rigidity factor in recognizing the reality that the global labour market has undergone a generation of transformation. Employment contracts today are concluded along mutually agreed terms and conditions, following market-based determinants which put premium on the capacities of contracting parties which include industry-level norms.

As a minor point, in comparing RA 8042 and RA 10022, it is important to note that the latter is an amendatory law to the former. RA 10022 introduced amendments and additions to RA 8042; original provisions of RA 8042 which are not subject of amendments remain in force and therefore non-mention in RA 10022 do not make the latter a lesser law.

### **On Are Local Governments Ready for Migration?, by Maria Elissa Jayme Lao**

IOM is specially thankful for Ms. Lao for devoting her contribution to this publication by tackling the readiness of local governments in implementing their roles as part

of the innovations of RA 10022, specifically by looking at local government units (LGUs) in the National Capital Region (NCR). This modest contribution is of much critical importance. In recent years, the broad nexus of migration and development or M&D had been increasingly associated with the challenge of engaging the local governments in adopting the M&D lens in their governance, particularly in harnessing the development potentials of migration to local development. However, the innovations of RA 10022 do not tackle this direction; rather it institutionalizes long-time running programmes of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) on anti-illegal recruitment, pre-employment orientation seminar (PEOS) and information campaign, with the aim of engaging LGU responsibility and resource appropriation. The task of bringing forth an intensive outreach programme nationwide in these thematic areas is huge and requires a multipronged approach at the local level which POEA regional offices and extension units may not handle exclusively to be effective given the organizational limitations.

The observation of uneven or inconsistent implementation of programmes at the local level as observed by the study in the NCR may stem from the tradition, rightly or wrongly, that national agencies have always been visibly, and to a large extent effectively, in charge of migration concerns and issues. The dependence is probably much unlikely to wane quickly in the NCR where the national agencies are based and accessible to their constituencies.

As it is said, good laws always come forth, implementation is another thing. The political motivation of LGUs to assume more role in migration may not be clearly established at this stage among local elected officials. To some, it may be a question of stake for votes. What do they immediately gain during their three years or six

years of incumbency to facilitate emigration? It may mean loss of voters, a concern particularly raised to the IOM years ago by a municipal mayor in Batangas who shared that there are more migrants than voters in his town. LGU officials likewise do not benefit from Overseas Absentee Voting. These factors may restrain the willingness to appropriate resources from local budget.

On the other hand, how much do LGUs value labour migration as an employment service option, and programmes like the PEOS and the Anti-illegal Recruitment as a protection service for their vulnerable constituencies and a community police programme? How much do they value the potential to channel remittances to community level entrepreneurship, investments and development priorities of the locality? Further research on perceptions and intentions may perhaps be devoted into these areas of concern in the immediate future.

### **On Migration and Democracy: Competing Logics between Non-resident Filipinos and Extraterritorial Voting, by Jorge Tigno**

I would only tend to agree in the analysis and prescriptions presented in this paper, which is very informational. It would perhaps be very useful for readers to further validate observations and arguments from the recently concluded mid-term election experience. I, of course, trust that this comprehensive analysis is brought up to the Commission on Elections, Senate, and other bodies so that all practical and motivational bottlenecks in the administration of Overseas Absentee Voting or OAV Act are addressed to narrow the gaps between expectations and results, and achieve an improved, meaningful and resource-effective extraterritorial voting in the Philippines.

The whole situation calls for deepening the advocacy efforts

and clarifying the stakes of absentee voters in the process. I can only imagine that this will go through an evolution in the political maturation process that begins with electorate education among youth resident citizens. Further research and policy studies indeed must guide future action of all sectors of influence.

### **On International Migrants: Agents of Political Change, by Jean Paul L. Zialcita**

I must congratulate Professor Zialcita for venturing to raise interrogations in a subject area hardly touched. I always believe and in many occasions had the opportunity to say that the nexus about migration and development is not just about remittances, shelter construction, migrant entrepreneurship, diaspora engagement, increasing consumption...but also about political development.

The Devesh Kapur framework which offers four channels of analysis—prospect, absence, diaspora and return—has been aptly demonstrated in the essay. The discussion on the state intervention in the nursing sector was a prime choice to validate the prospect hypothesis. The situation begins at the very time that the prospect for employment or recruitment contract emerges out of some bilateral discussions between governments. I remember a parallel situation in 2003 when the Philippines was approached by Japanese institutions inquiring about caregiver training and certification system. Too soon, a public announcement in the Philippines was made on the prospect and state systems were mobilized to accredit caregiver training centers all over the country, producing large numbers of expectant graduates from a six-month course, while Japan market finally did not open to foreign caregivers. A caregiver training industry rose in a bandwagon and collapsed quickly. A number of caregiver training institutions were

supported by local government authorities, carrying the hope of providing jobs to their constituencies.

It is perhaps useful for future research to do parallel analysis of what is happening in the seafarer market, now threatened by an EU ban, for allegedly failing to meet the standards of training and certification due to substandard training centers and maritime schools. Just about 18 months ago, the matter of seafarer training was transferred from the Maritime Training Council of Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) through an Executive Order on the aim to make the seafarer standing more competitive.

In the experience of IOM in Mabini Batangas, known to be one key source of Filipinos working and living in Italy, the absence and diaspora channels may be interestingly demonstrated. As mentioned earlier, then municipal mayor shared that there were more migrants than voters, left-behind families look forward to joining their family in Italy and during waiting period, have become dependent on remittances, not aiming to study, work or contribute meaningfully to the community, resulting in largely remittance-funded community, rather than drawing support from its own productive and service industries. There arose a fear of Bicolanos taking over farming in the municipality as a result. Ironically, Filipino diaspora leaders in Italy have made names in local Italian politics and migrant policy circles.

The Kapur analytical framework can also be interesting if explored with communities known for conflict-driven movement. Indeed, politically charged environment especially at the local level tend to force neophyte political voices to backtrack when threat of physical violence and reprisal emerges. There are perhaps political leadership material among migrants returning home who have become entrepreneurs, industry leaders, and advocacy champions.

How much promise would this breed of homecoming migrants would be good to account for.

### **On Bagong Bayani and Migrante International: Is There an Alternative Discourse?, by Jean S. Encinas-Franco**

Professor Franco's discourse is perhaps most intriguing. But while it is, I am convinced that it is useful to introduce and test the Critical Discourse Analysis or CDA to the specific subject at hand, the *Bagong Bayani* discourse, and for that matter, hint on the larger discourses scenario in the field of Philippine migration. The philosophers behind the development of CDA share the view that discourses are inherently political, and if we can just stop at that for the moment, I should say that the essay is doing a value-added in this series of interrogations. The management of migration issues and concerns, which often carries difficult dilemmas, can be mired with politically charged words and slogans for some purpose that may present themselves as representation for genuine advocacy or be a pure recourse to the management of public perceptions.

The essay's core argument that bagong bayani has become a discursive tool used by the state in expanding and justifying its role in labour export is by itself loaded with controversial bearings. For one, I know that government has ceased articulating "labour export" and replaced that with labour migration or overseas employment since even before the Flor Contemplacion tragedy and national crisis in 1995. The birth of the term bagong bayani in 1988 occurred when then President Cory Aquino banned the sending of "domestic helpers" worldwide to establish a negotiating leverage with all destination countries, after a DOLE mission documented a series of abuses to female Filipino domestic workers in at least three countries in the Gulf. President Cory

introduced the bagong bayani notion for the global community to realize that Filipino OCWs were beyond contract employees, needs recognition, and humane treatment. The state action resulted in a wave of appeals for lifting of the ban, bilateral negotiations, and mutual agreements on recruitment and employment terms for Filipino domestic workers until the ban was lifted gradually per country. Her government was installed by a people revolution, thus her reference to overseas contract workers as bagong bayani may have been running consistent with the recognition of the "people power" foundation of her regime.

In his time, President Ramos had likewise referred to OFWs as internationally shared human resource in the APEC community to draw attention to the reality that the Philippines invested in the education and skills training of its labour force or human resources but are tapped and taken advantaged of for profit goals of the APEC business community. The concern was raised in line with the goal of lifting barriers to labour market access and enabling the competitive bid of qualified skilled workers to derive fairer wages. In her time, then President Arroyo referred to OFWs during a bagong bayani awards ceremony in the Palace as Overseas Filipino Investors in line with the thrust to recognize their potential and lure them to invest their earnings in the country.

Bagong bayani has indeed been articulated in most cases in the discursive themes cited – migrants as "victims," "in vulnerable occupations," and "poor." The Bagong Bayani Foundation, Inc., a private sector-led foundation operating with government counterpart administrative support, institutionalized an award system since 1989, highlighting the other side of the Bagong Bayani, qualities of awardees depicting acts of heroism (especially in times of crisis),

consistency in professional or job performance excellence, display of leadership and contribution to the community.

The bagong bayani discourse, either by the State or transnational NGO, is probably an acceptance of the reality that economic driven migration would always remain a recourse, and for those who take it as a no-choice decision, they do so with vulnerabilities to illegal recruitment, forced or cheap labour, and social costs to the family, thus the sacrifice and the risk. The recognition accorded by the discourse is fair and the assumption of responsibility by the state to protect its economic heroes is due, regardless of the management consequences entailing expansion of service institutions. Observably through the discourse, the government had courted arrogance in transaction lines when failed expectations compel bagong bayanis to demand utmost service convenience in exchange for the remittances they send home, perceived to be the source of the payroll of bureaucrats. The bagong bayani discourse built demands and expectations for highest level state intervention for release and repatriation of OFWs jailed for crimes, irregular status and other distress situations, which the state had managed to provide with institutional response, regardless of resource mobilization challenges. For whatever it is, the Philippines' migration management model has been admired globally in this context.

So now, is the sacrifice that government has ventured into in the perpetuation of the bagong bayani discourse a tacit reparation for what Migrante refers to as the government failure for sustainable economic reforms that provide competitive jobs at home, among many things said? The ideological foundations of Migrante's bagong bayani discourse are deep, surely dominant in language and all encompassing and seem to

complement the government's own discourse. Thus, I tend to think along the author's conclusion that there remains no alternative discourse.

Finally, allow me to raise the question, does the concept of labour export as a policy still exist? How is labour export policy explicitly articulated in an official instrument? As how it seems from all that is written in the essay, I tend to think that both the government and Migrante essentially articulate the bagong bayani discourse from an acknowledgement that labour migration decisions, along with its risks, are ultimately undertaken by the migrant workers, at will. As the essay mentions, Migrante does not virtually seem to oppose and as explained, government has not seemed to use the phrase, labour export. The search for an alternative discourse in opposing the ill effects of neoliberal policies on the local economy, in any future sequel to this essay, may probably explore contexts outside the trap that this is now. The essay is an excellent, bold adventure which sheds light on a political discourse from a staunch oppositionist of the government which ultimately ends up in no genuine opposition in a setting of a democracy.

### **On Re-examination of the Evidence on the Household Impact of Overseas Migration, by Geoffrey M. Ducanes**

My salutations to Prof. Ducanes for this re-examination of select number of prestigious works of Ang, Sugiyarto, Pernia, Bird, Tabuga, Jha, Tullao, Yang, Martines, Abella, Rodriguez, Ravanilla, Rebleza and more. The analysis is revealing of the dire need for organized and accessible data, greater collaboration among experts and research institutions, inclusive consultations and follow-up research undertakings. It is my view that there is never a perfect research which provides conclusive answers to questions that users would raise because research objectives

would often be delimited by various factors. Such imperfections create the opportunities for sustained research.

While the author admits and the essay clearly states so, most of the findings are negative, this contribution needlessly stirs much needed creative and constructive tension in the research community. The PMRN is probably a very good platform for this to happen more, with policymakers, governing boards and legislative committees in witness.

The account of methodological lapses which tend to exaggerate inferences or overlook critical factors (such that which estimates the impact of remittances in poverty alleviation without due regard to opportunity costs of migration to OFWs) has effectively raised the validity of assumptions and generalization, for example, that only those who are unemployed are migrating for work. In the recent years, a number of sectors have indeed wondered about conflicting research statements that while overseas employment alleviates poverty, many families of OFWs remain poor. The methodological point of replicating and verifying findings of previous studies must probably be taken most seriously in the research protocol in the field of social sciences.

The re-examination ventured into reviewing survey instruments and data validation process, demonstrating that extended data disaggregation is necessary to draw into finer findings.

### **On Gendered Protection and the Governmentality of Care: Pre-departure Orientation for Migrant Women from the Philippines, by Jorge Tigno**

In his essay, Prof. Tigno enumerates a good mix of citations from previous researches in the assessment of the pre-departure orientation seminar (PDOS) as it has evolved through the years and established that, for

whatever the PDOS is today, it has been recognized once more as a pioneering programme in the world respected migration management model of the Philippines.

The essay walks the reader through an analysis of how the PDOS for women migrants is a demonstration of a regime or governmentality of care and protection which in the end concludes that PDOS programme can be seen as a means for the state to embed its institutions into the global economic order, without achieving genuine empowerment. This relationship is presented citing the common assumption that women are weak and vulnerable, making them a docile and subservient workforce in the service of global capitalism.

My observation is that the assumption on the weakness and vulnerability of women is derived from the widespread global advocacy for gendered interventions on governance, based on experiential reference on the conditions of women, their stature in societies and in the workplace, the types of occupations offered to them, and their disadvantaged position in other job bids. I tend to see the point, however, that there may be a need to disabuse this assumption often exaggerated in the tools utilized in orientation sessions.

The Philippines is a forerunner of international conventions for the protection of women and migrants and the PDOS has been a programme in pursuit of these commitments of principles.

The PDOS can be seen as a service paid for by the migrants through the placement fees they paid to recruitment agencies or through their OWWA membership contribution, as part of a package and must therefore come around for money's worth. A system of monitoring and evaluation as cited by various observers must certainly be in order.

I recognize that the ability of the PDOS programme to produce more empowered migrant workers, must be improved, and believe that this is more likely to be attained when PDOS is delivered on an occupation and destination-specific modality, enabling a more interactive session in a better time or series-managed process. PDOS as a generic concept (which I mean here covers the natural briefing the recruiters provide their applicants about the job vacancies, working conditions, the employment contract, and other corporate policies of the foreign employer in every hiring transaction, the expected information that public service institutions like the Public Service Employment Offices do provide, the PEOS or the anti-illegal recruitment and anti-trafficking campaign of the POEA and the special country programmes like South Korea-specific pre-deployment briefing) is an inevitable routine for all potential providers in a democratic setting. I would think that as rational beings, women migrant workers would seek information that PDOS provides even if the structure does not exist. And I have

seen that as a proactive response to a public need, the Philippine government institutionalizes and to the extent possible, mainstreams and decentralizes its services for outreach, consistency and administrative efficiencies.

This programme analysis is very relevant to the intended reforms on the PDOS and therefore best to be delivered to policymakers of the DOLE and OWWA.

### Concluding Comments

The IOM congratulates the PMRN in its 18 years of networking and collaboration, with this book, *Interrogating Migration*, constituting as its 9th publication and garnering the support of the UNESCO and the Philippine Social Science Council. The Philippines' stature when it comes to migration management remains one of continuing global interest and admiration. The democratic space provided to different sectors for various modes of participation in policy, programme and monitoring is a key factor for its dynamic development. It is inspiring to see that the academe and the social scientists are undertaking

initiatives and taking advantage of this space constructively.

IOM sincerely believes that the analysis and recommendations must best proceed for presentation and dialogue with legislators, policy advisors, policymakers, programme implementers and administrators as well as oversight bodies. The grounding of the policy-making and programming processes with theories, academic analysis and philosophical wisdom may lend an equilibrium force to what can otherwise be a politically biased process. The partnership and collaboration between the government and the academic/social science community is not an uneasy goal to achieve as IOM has witnessed that the need for it is recognized by both. Seeking audience with policymakers, for example to the Governing Board bodies of POEA and OWWA among others, for the executive presentation of research recommendations or discussion for a shared research agenda is one such easy big step to institutionalizing the scholarly contributions of PMRN to migration policy.



## OTHER PMRN PUBLICATIONS

(available at the PSSC Book Center)

**State, Politics and Nationalism Beyond Borders: Changing Dynamics in Filipino Overseas Migration**, Edited by Jorge V. Tigno (2009)

**In the Olde Worlde: Views of Filipino Migrants in Europe**  
Edited by Filomenita Høgsholm (2007)

**Exploring Transnational Communities in the Philippines**  
Edited by Virginia A. Miralao and Lorna P. Makil (2007)

**Filipino Diaspora: Demography, Social Networks, Empowerment and Culture**, Edited by Mamoru Tsuda (2003)

**Filipinos in Global Migrations: At Home in the World?**  
Edited by Filomeno V. Aguilar Jr. (2002)

**The Philippines as Home: Settlers and Sojourners in the Country**  
Edited by Maruja M. B. Asis (2001)

**Filipino Workers on the Move: Trends, Dilemmas and Policy Options**  
Edited by Benjamin V. Cariño (1998)

**Philippine Migration Studies: An Annotated Bibliography**  
Compiled by Aurora E. Perez and Perla C. Patacsil (1998)

# Interrogating Migration: New Questions and Emerging Trends in the Philippines, Edited by Jorge V. Tigno

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IMELDA NICOLAS  
*Chairperson, Commission on Filipino Overseas*

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) is pleased to be part of the launch of *Interrogating Migration*, another addition to the growing body of scholarship on the subject of Filipino migration. The editor, Dr. Jojie Tigno, has a history with the CFO. He wrote the paper which was the basis of my first major speech delivered outside the Philippines in 2011 before Metropolis International, a 17-year old international network of researchers, academe, and policy makers on migration, integration, mobility and development. It was also in 2011 that Dr. Tigno gave the CFO staff a very comprehensive presentation on the history of Filipino international migration and on the evolution of the concept of migration starting from the early 1950's to the beginning of the century.

Dr. Tigno points out that "a key element in ensuring the safety of migrants is information" and this book certainly offers a wealth of information on migrant matters. But it also raises questions as much as it informs. A running theme through all the chapters is the need for further studies admitting to the inconclusiveness of much of the material at hand. We at CFO heartily agree.

With the 2013 national elections just behind us, Prof. Jean Paul Zialcita's insights on international migrants as agents of political change are intriguing. In his view, Filipino migrants who were

concerned about the quality of Philippine governance, and were therefore more likely to call for reforms, may be unwittingly weakening the demand for political change by leaving behind the continuance of an undesirable status quo.

But I believe that with the Amended Overseas Voting Act (R.A. 10590) which was signed into law by the President just this week, the situation may change. More of our overseas Filipinos could take advantage of the wider political space, objective discourse, and opportunity through suffrage to push for reforms they sought before they left the country.

With the formation of networks like the Global Filipino Diaspora Council (GFDC) and the European Network of Filipinos in the Diaspora (ENFID)—initiatives taken by the participants of the 1st and 2nd Global Summit of Filipinos in the Diaspora convened by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas—this political activism from our compatriots overseas is expected to become more and more visible.

At this juncture, allow me to share with you the 16-points Social Contract with the Filipino people that President Benigno Aquino III committed to at the start of his term, especially his migration-related Point No. 10. Underscoring his pledge of a transformational leadership, he said: "From a government that treats its people as an export commodity and a

means to earn foreign exchange, disregarding the social cost to Filipino families, to a government that creates jobs at home, so that working abroad will be a choice rather than a necessity, and when its citizens do choose to become OFWs, their welfare and protection will still be the government's priority,"

With those marching orders, the migration-related government agencies with the support of NEDA succeeded in introducing 60 provisions on MIGRATION and DEVELOPMENT in seven (7) out of the nine (9) chapters of the Philippines Development Plan for 2011 to 2016.

Meanwhile, as Carmel Abao points out, the process of codification could lead to the raising and resolution of substantive issues affecting overseas Filipino workers and at the very least, reduce their search costs as they rely on these laws for remedies in situations of distress.

Codification would also be most welcome for one of the CFO's Diaspora to Development (or D2D) program called, Global Legal Assistance and Advocacy Program (GLAAD) which mobilizes the support of overseas and local Filipino lawyers and legal experts to provide legal assistance and advice to overseas Filipinos in distress, as well as advocate for laws, policies and programs to further empower transnational Filipinos in their home or host countries.

Prof. Ma. Elissa Lao's survey on LGUs in relation to Sec. 16 of RA 10022, and Sec. 23 of RA 8042, resonates with another D2D program of CFO: return and reintegration. She finds that the role of the LGU is weakest at this last stage of Migration.

The soon-to-be launched BaLinkBayan of CFO is the Overseas Filipinos' one-stop online portal for Diaspora Engagement. It offers an integrated and comprehensive platform supported by seven government departments which will recommend businesses, investments, products, philanthropic and volunteer activities that overseas Filipinos can engage in the towns, cities and provinces of the country. It would similarly help facilitate on-line transactions with government services at SSS, Pag-Ibig and PhilHealth.

Geoffrey Ducanes' paper on the "Re-Examination of the Evidence on the Household Impact of Overseas Migration" concludes that "we know much less than we think we do about the economic impact of overseas Filipino workers' remittances on Philippine households."

It might be of interest for you to note that with the support of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, UNDP, NEDA and Western Union Foundation, we have established a multi-stakeholder Remittance for Development Council [or ReDC] which, aside from being a regular forum on issues and concerns related to remittances and a policy-recommending body, has one of its functions of encouraging research institutions and the academe to do more studies on remittances. ReDC is made up of partners from migration or remittance related government agencies, the private sector (i.e., banks and remittance agents), NGOs servicing the migrant community and academe.

Another intriguing subject matter is brought up by Dr. Tigno in his essays on "Gendered Protection and the Governmentality of Care." He views the Pre-departure Orientation Seminar (or PDOS) conducted by government agencies such as POEA, OWWA and CFO in the context of protection and the exercise of state power, zeroing in on the PDOS for migrants women.

We take issue though, with his statement that PDOS "conveys a significant degree of instrumentalism and paternalism especially in the context of gendered migration flows and the need to secure the safety of migrants to ensure continued remittance flows."

Remittances are not the government's ultimate concern in its many migrants-related programs including PDOS – it is the protection of the rights of migrants and promotion of their welfare and well-being. One of the most significant proofs of these are the many laws enacted precisely for this purpose and government's being a signatory to various international conventions and bilateral country agreements upholding the rights of Overseas Filipinos.

We presume that the PDOS that is the subject of Dr. Tigno's study is the one undertaken by women migrant workers before they leave for abroad. However, feminization is also evident in permanent migration with women outnumbering men by a ratio of 5:3. This is especially true among marriage migrants, 91 percent of whom are women.

The PDOS that the CFO gives to marriage migrants is more of a one-on-one guidance and counseling that addresses the realities of multicultural marriages and families, settlement issues, and their rights and responsibilities in their respective destination countries.

Asking whether the PDOS has the power to transform migrant women's lives may be a bit too much to expect from a series of half-day seminars. Similarly, claiming that the PDOS is responsible for producing a docile and subservient workforce in the service of global capitalism may attribute too much power to this brief learning session. Let us remember that many conditions are rooted in centuries-old, deeply ingrained, socio-economic structural issues that the Philippines as a nation is grappling with.

Currently, the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) and the CFO are collaborating on a study which would evaluate the short, medium and long term aspects of an enhanced PDOS. These enhancements may include modules to raise financial literacy of migrants of money management skills through savings, financial planning and investing.

The PDOS can be a means for maximizing the benefits of migration for migrants and their families but by itself, we cannot expect it to change certain social realities. Neither can it be responsible for the character of a workforce or population that numbers in the millions.

Just as the book *Interrogating Migration* raises questions on several key migrant concerns, we invite you to help us find answers including ways that the PDOS as a tool might be improved and made more useful for our overseas Filipino.

Question, answer – that is the way to get a conversation going.

The Commission of Filipinos Overseas thanks all of you for this opportunity to start this hopefully continuing dialogue. And congratulations to the editor, Dr. Jojie Tigno, and to the writers of *Interrogating Migration* for producing such a thought-provoking and debate-inducing book.

## PALAWAN STUDIES CENTER PSSC's newest Associate Member

The Palawan Studies Center (PSC) is the research arm of the Palawan State University that undertakes research and serves as a repository of materials and artefacts on Palawan's history, institutions, culture and the arts. It is under the Office of the President and managed by the College of Arts and Humanities.

The PSC was founded in 1994 under the administration of President Crispiniano Acosta Sr. The Center's early accomplishments were the documentation of Tagbanua's socioeconomic, cultural and political life; conduct of ethnographic field research on "Pattern's of Pala'wan Culture" that documented Pala'wan's ethnic music, culture beliefs, dances, medicinal plants and healing practices and oral literature; and the purchase of two ceramic jars of the Sung and Ming Dynasties. The Center seized operation in 1999 due to lack of funds.

The Center was revived in 2002 and appointed Prof. Oscar Evangelista as Chairman. Prof. Evangelista promoted research to generate more materials on Palawan history and culture, and encouraged students and teachers to use these research materials. During the revival period, the Center was housed at the Office of the Dean, College of Arts and Humanities. When Prof. Evangelista was named as the head of the University Publication in 2008, the Center shared a room with the Women and Gender Studies.

The PSC has been actively involved in organizing lectures, seminar-workshops and conferences. Dr. Francisco Nemenzo, Prof. Randy David and Dr. Victor Paz were some key people invited to give lectures at the Palawan State University. It also organized panel sessions in various local and international conferences such as those of the Philippine Political Science Association in 2002 and 2004, and in the Intenational Association of Historians of Asia (IAHA) conference held in Manila in 2006.

The Center moved to its new house when a new building was inaugated in 2011. On 13 April 2012, PSU officially recognized the Center as an integral unit of the University.

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*Source: Various informatiion materials submitted to PSSC.*

The following new graduate researches are now available at the Frank X. Lynch, SJ library of PSSC.

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### **Toward an Endonormative Pedagogic Model in the Teaching of English Grammar in Philippine Higher Education Institutions**

Alejandro S. Bernardo, Ph.D. in English Language Studies

Using qualitative, quantitative, and developmental study designs, this investigation primarily aimed to develop an endonormative pedagogic model for teaching English grammar in higher education institutions in the Philippines. The use of this model plainly implies that in the teaching and learning of English grammar, both language teachers and learners tend to look inward and adhere not only to an inner-circle variety of English but also to local linguistic forms or structures; that is, they also draw pedagogical support from the localized English variety – Standard Philippine English. The study found that distinctive features of English are present in college English textbooks published locally, language tests administered by college English teachers, and college English teachers and college English learners' classroom-based interactions. Furthermore, college English teachers and college English learners welcome the use of American English and Philippine English varieties

in so far as grammar teaching and learning is concerned. These crucial findings warranted the development of an endonormative pedagogic model that endorses two varieties— one exogenous variety (American English) and one homegrown variety (Philippine English). The proposed model was subjected to a test that determined the pedagogical acceptability of selected distinctive grammatical features of Philippine English. The results of the test hint at the fact that there are Philippine English grammatical features that now deserve formal recognition in the ESL (English as a Second Language) classrooms. At the end, this paper advances an instructional approach, the endocentric approach to grammar teaching, in which both language teachers and students shift their linguistic attention and pedagogical interest to the use both Standard American English and Standard Philippine English as their point(s) of reference in teaching and learning English grammar.

### **Surviving a National Reclamation Development Project: Changing Strategies of Household Provisioning among Urban Fisherfolk**

Zona Hildegarde S. Amper, Ph.D. Anthropology

This study determines how urban fisherfolk in Cebu City changed their household provisioning strategies as a result of the Cebu South Reclamation Project (CSRP), a national development project in the southeastern part of Cebu. The research primarily utilized ethnographic research methodologies, including key informant interviews with urban fisherfolk in the area; focus group discussions with community organization leaders; deep hanging out; and field operation by the researcher on various aspects of daily community activities. Newspaper research and secondary data analysis were likewise done to trace back the history of CSRP and to supplement field data.

Findings show that prior to the CSRP implementation, primary livelihood strategies of most residents revolve around small-scale fishing practices, commonly *panawom* (diving/spear fishing), *pangihás* (gleaning), *panu* (gathering shrimps and crabs at low tide at night using

mesh nets). The implementation of the CSRP has adversely affected the livelihood of most residents in Sitio Alumnos, leading them to shift from fishing and shell-gathering as primary livelihood to mostly informal irregular, temporary service-related work, which are less lucrative. Strategies employed were not only in terms of livelihood options, but also on tapping social networks, pooling resources, cutting on consumption costs, and joining resistance movements. However, protest actions against the implementation of the CSRP were more pronounced at the beginning of the project but slowly declined over time due to a number of internal and external factors. Community concepts of development highlight basic survival. Community members consider livelihood sustainability as a requisite of *kalambu-an* (development), which entails sustainability of the natural environment as well as sustainability of livelihood strategies employed.

## **Non-suicidal Self Injury: Methods, Functions and Psychosocial Functioning of Filipino Youth who Self Injure, Eight Cases**

Abigaile Rose Mary R. Capay, M.A. Psychology

Using multiple case studies, this qualitative study looked into the psychosocial functioning of eight Filipino adolescents and young adults who engage in non-suicidal self injury (NSSI) to uncover the different personality profiles, affective behavioral, cognitive and social dimensions of their psychosocial functioning that may explain the behavior. The different methods and functions of NSSI were likewise investigated in this study. Using a purposive sampling technique, eight respondents with ages ranging from 14 to 24 years old were asked to participate in an in-depth interview about their family and personal history, emotional adjustment and their experiences with self injury. They were made to answer a clinical inventory as well. The findings of this study resulted from an intensive case analysis of the eight participants' data prior to doing across case analysis. Interview data were processed through a

qualitative content analysis to identify emerging themes from the transcription of the interviews. The participants' nonsuicidal self injurious behaviors include cutting or carving skin, banging the head and other body parts to inanimate objects, pinching, scratching, pricking or inserting sharp objects to the skin, hair pulling, swallowing chemicals and jumping off height. NSSI behaviors are primarily used as a maladaptive coping style that serves the following functions: as an expression of negative emotions, to elicit positive feelings, translate emotional pain to physical pain, as a form of escape and a form of rebellion. In addition, NSSI behaviors serve as self punishment and as an alternative to suicide. NSSI is associated with the MACI clinical syndrome scales of depressive affect, suicidal tendency, substance abuse and impulsive propensity. Self injuring Filipino youth also scored significantly in expressed

concerns such as family discord, identity diffusion, self devaluation, body disapproval, peer insecurity and childhood abuse. The findings of this study further revealed that emotionally, self injurers have the tendency to feel depressed, be highly labile in mood as well as have difficulty in emotion regulation. Behaviorally, they have difficulty with impulse control, engage in risky behaviors, are characterized by violent tendencies and utilize both positive and inadequate coping behaviors. Cognitively, they tend to have a negative or ambivalent self perception, negative body image and high self expectations. They are prone to negative thinking but some also experience insight about non-suicidal self injury. Lastly, they have the tendency to be affected by interpersonal conflicts, experiences of physical, verbal and sexual abuse, social influence, and limited social support.

## **Ang Ikakikilala sa mga Pilipinong Lider: Isang Pag-aaral sa mga Batayang Katangian ng Paglider**

Darren E. Dumaop, M.A. Sociology

Ang mga batayang katangian ng pagkalider mula sa paglalarawan ng mga literature ay sinuri gamit ang mga maka-Pilipinong panukat ng MAPA at PPP sa 133 lider at 143 hindi lider ng Rosario, Cavite. Apat na katangian ang naging makabuluhang ikakikilala ng mga lider: pagiging mas mababa sa pagkadimayabang, pagiging mas matulongin, pagiging mas pala-kaibigan at pagiging mas mababa

sa pagkamaayos. Ang pagiging mas mababa sa pagkamaayos ng mga lider ay naikubli sa unang bahagi ng pagtataya, ngunit matagpuang mapagkakatiwalaan din ng kontrolin ang impluwensiyang pagkamatulongin at pagkapala-kaibigan. Lumabas din na karaniwan sa mga lider ay lalake, higit na matatanda at nakaabot sa kolehiyo pataas. Inisa-isa rin ang

mahahalagang implikasyon sa kasalukuyang modelo ng pagkalider batay sa pagtataglay ng mga katangian sa teorya ng Pilipinong lider at kalagayan ng pamumunong Pilipino. Nagpakita rin ang kasalukuyang pag-aaral ng isang panukalang modelo ng pagpapaliwanag tungkol sa Pilipinong pagkalider ng mga pulitiko sa pamayanan.

## **Coping with Urban Growth and Concentration: The Perceived Changes and Adaptive Responses of a Rice Farming Community in Dumaguete City**

Rey G. Gimena, M.A. Anthropology

This thesis describes the interaction that is currently taking place between a population of sixteen rice farmers and their environment within an urban agricultural zone of Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental, Philippines. It aims to provide additional source of knowledge and information for planning and implementing programs and projects by the study population and the city of Dumaguete's local government unit.

The investigation, which was conducted through participant-observation and interviews, focused on observing how sub-urbanization processes, which primarily involved population growth and migration (invasion), stimulated the rice farming population's adaptive responses to cope with perceived external threats to their farming activities. It was assumed by the writer that these adaptive responses would include those that have a population management effect.

As an anthropological study, the thesis made use of concepts and propositions that are inclined towards the recognition that one of the characteristics of culture is that it enables human to be adaptive to pressures in the environment. Past studies and discourses which were discussed at length in the review of related studies and literature, identified cultural adaptation as the main form of adaptive response that the study is interested to investigate. For the study's theoretical background, the writer applied the Stress-Strain-Response Model which stood in agreement with its purpose of identifying perceived forms of physical, social, and economic perturbations (stress) in the study site as a consequence of the growth and concentration of urban population and settlement (stress) therein.

The writer utilized a combination of a research and participatory-oriented approaches in gathering

data. In the analysis of the collected research information, both qualitative and quantitative forms of analyses were used. The process of analyzing then followed the cyclical stages of data reduction, data organization and data interpretation.

The study revealed that people's perceptions in terms of changes that have occurred in their natural and social environments were manifested in their overt behaviors. In the case of this study, these behaviors were reflected in the manner by which the rice farmers managed to sustain rice production in the study site. These are the coping mechanisms that rice farmers have developed and they tended to follow cultural adaptive strategies that were either indigenous or exogenous in their community.

## **Practices of Identification in the Creation and Consumption of Filipino Novelty T-shirts**

Pamela Gloria Cajilig, M.A. Anthropology

This study examines a consumer trend involving branded novelty T-shirts which appropriate folk and official markers of being Filipino in their designs, such as maps, heroes, and food. By employing concepts about things and clothing drawn from material culture studies, this study assumes that T-shirts are vehicles of political content and therefore not only reflect but shape how people identify themselves and others. Using a multimodal

approach comprised of desk research, cyberethnography, unstructured interviews, focus group discussions and a self administered questionnaire, this research explores how designers and consumers engage with T-shirts as they relate with those who are most influential to their everyday cultural projects. This study emphasizes how designers and consumers rely on various material qualities of the T-shirt to reproduce and resist dominant

cultural categories. In doing so, this study highlights how T-shirts are imbued with agency, and just like human actors, they are able to further and frustrate daily intentions. All in all, this research is an attempt to write a theoretically-informed ethnography that demonstrates the virtues of understanding cultural processes by examining artefacts of fashion at the junction of business culture and the anthropology of consumption.

## Dissecting the Genius Behind the White Lab Coat: Constructing the Images of Filipino Scientists in Films and Biographies

Garry Jay S. Montemayor, M.A. Mass Communication

Guided by Barthes' Visual Semiotics, and Adoni and Mane's Social Construction of Reality in the Media theory, a textual analysis of eight Filipino films produced between 1970 and 2009 and six biographical books of Filipino scientists published from 1975 to 2007 was done to surface how films and biographies portray and describe scientists. A Draw-a-Scientist Test and a Focus Group Discussion with seven students were administered to demonstrate how both sets of

portrayals construct their image of scientists.

Films portray scientists as either an evil expert, a mad intellectual, a helpless victim, a hermit prodigy, a foolish professor, a well-rounded genius, or a heroic creator. Scientists in the biographies are described as a poor kid, a dreamer, a disciplined youngster, an achiever, an accidental scientist, an excellent apprentice, a dedicated worker, a strict educator, a well-rounded researcher, a prolific thinker, an

inspiring mentor, and a nurturing family man/woman. The FGD participants' image of scientists include evil and mad, crazy and absent-minded, boring hermits, hardworking and disciplined, and inspiring heroes.

The study argues that the audiences' subjective images of scientists come from the interaction of meanings constructed both from the scientists' symbolic portrayal in films and objective descriptions in biographies.

## Call for Applications



### Research Award Program

#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

PSSC's Research Award Program (RAP) was established in 1972 to support the training and development of young Filipino social scientists.

RAP provides modest financial assistance to graduate students in the social sciences to enable them to complete their thesis or dissertation. A maximum of P50,000 is available for PhD students and P25,000 for MA students.

#### ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for RAP grants, applicants must:

- 1) be graduate students in any one of the following disciplines: anthropology, communication, economics, demography, geography, history, linguistics, political science, psychology, social work, public administration, sociology and statistics. Graduate students in other fields (e.g., education, philosophy, Philippine studies) whose thesis/dissertation topics relate to the social sciences can also apply, but will be accorded lower priority in RAP grants; and
- 2) have successfully defended their thesis/dissertation proposals at the time of application.

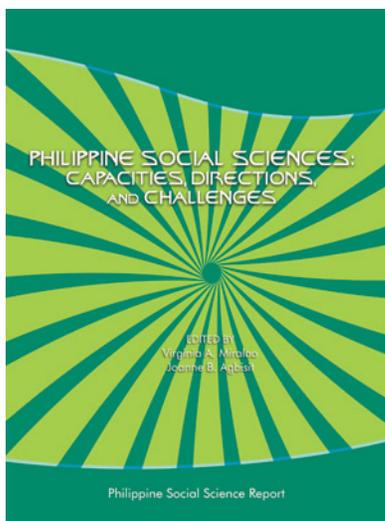
#### APPLICATION PROCEDURE

All applications must be received by the PSSC-RAP Secretariat no later than 15 March of every year. Visit the PSSC website, [www.pssc.org.ph/RAP](http://www.pssc.org.ph/RAP), for the detailed application procedure and requirements.

No application will be reviewed unless all requirements have been received by PSSC, and no application will be returned to the applicant.

Results are announced on the first week of May.

The following are new publications of PSSC and its member-organizations available at the Frank X. Lynch, SJ library of PSSC. These are also available for sale at the PSSC Book Center.



**PHILIPPINE SOCIAL SCIENCES: CAPACITIES, DIRECTIONS AND CHALLENGES (2012)**

Editors: Virginia A. Miralao and Joanne B. Agbisit

This Report takes stock of the progress made by the social science sector in building a pool of Filipino social scientists and enhancing its capacity to produce and propagate knowledge and handle twenty-first century challenges. The Report includes discipline-specific papers contributed by social scientists from PSSC's member-disciplines in communication, economics, geography, history, linguistics, political science, psychology, public administration, sociology, and statistics. A few other papers covering broader or cross-disciplinary social science concerns comprise the latter part of the Report.

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*REVIEWED BY ARNIL PARAS*

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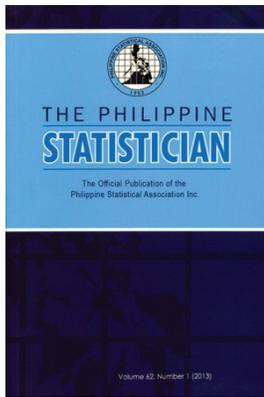
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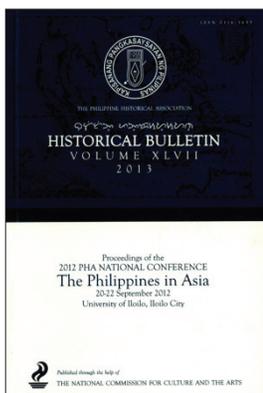
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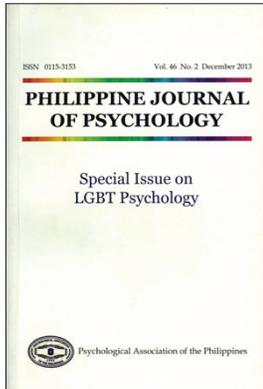
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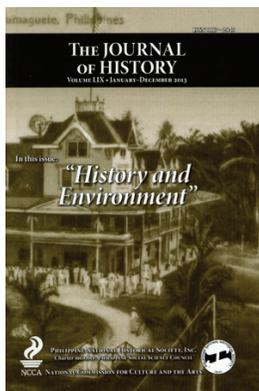
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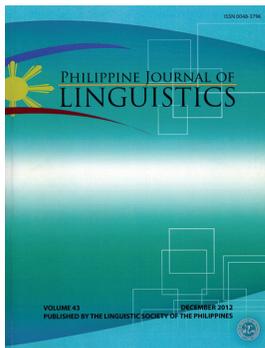
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REVIEWED BY ISABEL PEFIANCO MARTIN,  
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