



# SOCIAL SCIENCE INFORMATION

Volume 43 (2015)





The year 2015 marked a milestone in all the States under the United Nations. It was the year when each country had to look back and report on how it had progressed in fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight objectives for improving the lives of the world's poorest people which became global goals through the millennium declaration in 2000.

Progress on the MDGs was rosy in some respects, in that favorable results had been attained on some of the goals. As noted by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the MDGs "helped to lift more than one billion people out of extreme poverty, to make inroads against hunger, to enable more girls to attend school than ever before and to protect our planet."<sup>1</sup> But it was also depressing in other ways, because there were countries that continued to lag behind, inequalities persisted and poverty remained a dismal problem, especially in the five countries inhabited by 60 per cent of the world's one billion extremely poor people. Furthermore, the disadvantaged position of women continued to persist. Many continued to die during pregnancy or from childbirth-related complications. Progress bypassed them, especially those who were lowest on the economic ladder or were disadvantaged because of their age, disability or ethnicity. Rural and urban areas disparities also remained pronounced.<sup>2</sup>

Clearly, the fight against poverty, inequality and other circumstances that constrict human development is not over. At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, a larger set of objectives, 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), were identified to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. The SDGs seeks to complete what the MDGs did not achieve, particularly in reaching the most vulnerable. It reaffirms all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights treaties.<sup>3</sup> The framework of the

SDGs is more inclusive than that of the MDGs. It recognizes that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to meeting all the Goals and targets. Alongside development priorities such as poverty eradication, health, education, food security and nutrition, it sets out a wide range of economic, social and environmental objectives. It also promises more peaceful and inclusive societies.<sup>4</sup>

The goals of the SDGs implicate the work of social scientists, who are the ones most deeply aware of the human condition, including behavioral manifestations of welfare or disadvantage, structures of inequality, forms of diversity and the interrelationships between human and environmental progress. The work on promoting a sustainable planet now and for future generations also necessitates the consciously coordinated work between the social, physical and natural sciences. But just as there are a broad set of goals in the SDGs, there is also a wide latitude of approaches to understanding and acting to achieve a sustainable world. In this issue, the potpourri of themes, theories and methods of the social sciences for attaining sustainable futures are described and dissected by Filipino social scientists. The work of the Council in 2015 likewise illustrates its continuing commitment to cultivate knowledge dissemination in the Philippine social sciences, especially in terms of research, scholarly reports and interactive dialogues during conferences.

We embrace diversity of ideas, epistemologies and methods as essential elements to attain our unified goal —sustainable development.

**AMARYLLIS T. TORRES**

1 UN 2015. *The Millennium Development Goals Report*. NY: UN, p. 3.

2 *Ibid.*

3 UN. 2015. *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

4 *Ibid.*

## The PSSC SOCIAL SCIENCE INFORMATION

The PSSC Social Science Information (PSSC-SI) is published yearly by the Philippine Social Science Council with offices at PSSCenter, Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City; UP Post Office Box 205, Diliman Quezon City 1101, Philippines.

In line with the mandate of the PSSC, the PSSC-SSI seeks to promote the dissemination of social science knowledge and research findings and their use in public policy-making.

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**ISBN 0115-1160**

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# THE PHILIPPINE SOCIAL SCIENCES ENGAGED: RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGES OF THE SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA<sup>1</sup>

Ma. Simeona Martinez and Cynthia Neri Zayas, Ph.D.

## Introduction

Two decades after the adoption of Sustainable Development (SD) as a platform for national and local development strategies among the majority of countries worldwide, sustainability continues to be a challenging goal at both local and regional scales of planning and decision-making. Conventional models of progress pioneered by developed countries turned out to be unsustainable due to their high dependence on non-renewable resources, adverse environmental impacts, and the inequitable distribution of benefits and negative impacts of development. As the development paradigm shifts from primarily espousing economic prosperity to one that would secure intergenerational human development and well-being without compromising the ecological integrity of the environment, social scientists face the challenge of further exploring and explaining the nature of the social-ecological systems in which we operate; the “nature and scope of changes” (World Social Science Report, 2010) that would foster human security until future generations; the social, historical, and political contexts of the causes and solutions to sustainability issues; and of crafting more incisive interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research and knowledge-building projects in collaboration with local communities and development practitioners.

In the Philippines, the social sciences have been actively engaged in addressing various social issues since the institution of academic programs and training centers in the early 1900s. According to the Philippine Social Science Report published in 2012, there was an increase in the last 30 years in the number of schools that offered social science courses especially in communication, political science, public administration, sociology and psychology (Miralao

and Agbisit, 2012, p. vii). Despite the expansion of the disciplines in terms of enrolment, the quality of education has not reached optimal status due to the incommensurate growth in the number of master’s or doctorate degree holders who have attained the qualifications for teaching in academic institutions. Moreover, opportunities in other fields of professional practice locally and abroad compete with educational institutions in employing social science graduates.

Outputs in other key areas such as research production and publication are disparate among the social science disciplines. While the number of graduate students finishing their degrees is relatively higher in psychology and political science, smaller pools of researchers from other disciplines pose a challenge to sustaining local disciplinary journals and to some extent also compromise the impact of the disciplines in knowledge-building and dissemination. Another constraint to research productivity and disciplinary innovations in the social sciences is the competing demand for their expertise in non-academic sectors and industries. While engaging in consultancy work and commissioned projects is an avenue through which the social sciences significantly contribute to the needs of different sectors and related professions, these contributions (reports, appraisals, training manuals, implementation guidelines, etc.) are rendered invisible to the conventional channels of knowledge accumulation in the academia.

The social sciences have in various means and ways impacted the Philippine society, especially in the areas of public policy, health, human development studies, review of official country statistics, promotion of local cultural heritage, resource and land use management planning, aside from the

<sup>1</sup> Paper prepared for the Conference on “Social and Sustainability Sciences in the ASEAN Community: National Reviews, Regional Perspectives and Critical Reflections,” Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University, August 19-21, 2015



primary task of advancing social science knowledge and education in the country. Such accomplishments are nonetheless unpopular. Despite the involvement of social scientists in high-impact policy research, partnerships with local and national government agencies, or assuming advisory responsibilities in national and regional government and civil society organizations, and other similar endeavors, their contributions are not accredited to the disciplines where their specialization is founded.

This paper presents a brief review of the institution of social science disciplines in the Philippines, followed by a description of select circumstances in recent history that challenged our notion of sustainability and how the social sciences responded to their impacts. A section on sustainable development and sustainability discourse as well as emerging themes relating to disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM), climate change, urbanization, and ASEAN integration provides an overview of how sustainability has been articulated in the works of social scientists from the 1990s to present. It concludes with a few musings on the prospects and possibilities for Philippine social sciences to continue asserting its relevance in addressing sustainability issues and in keeping up with the complexity of interrelated social and physical processes that we are trying to “sustain”.

## **INSTITUTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE SOCIAL SCIENCES**

The institution of academic departments was one of the milestones of the social sciences in the early American period (Bautista, 2000, p. 177)– of anthropology in 1914, sociology, economics, and political science in 1915; and psychology some 11 years after. In 1926, the Department of Economics became a separate department in the College of Liberal Arts, but by the latter 1920s became part of the School of Business Administration (De Dios 1999, p. 98-103, as cited in Bautista, 2000, p. 177). At about the same time, geography was a course under the College of Education of the University of the Philippines (Juanico, 2009, p. 100), although it has been taught in the elementary and high school levels since 1904.

In the 1950s, with Filipino scholars returning to the country, further development in the disciplines

emerged – the formation of professional organizations, separation of anthropology and sociology departments, and the “gradual shift in the perspectives and content of the disciplines” (Bautista, 2000, p. 178). These involve methodological reorientation such as studying political systems and institutions from legalistic studies in political science, analytical and quantitative economics from descriptive and historical approaches for economics, and the refocusing of anthropology to linguistic, demographic and ethnographic studies of ethnic communities (Bautista, 2000, p. 178). Another significant contribution of social scientists in the postwar era was the inception of training institutions that promptly responded to the needs of the Philippine society that was in a state of distress and disorder after the war. The Institute of Public Administration was “tasked to provide in-service training for civil servants” and was “conceived as a center for research, academic and in-service training and consultation services in public administration” (Carino, 1972 and Ramos, 1957, as cited in Reyes, 2000, p. 74). Other than IPA, the Institute of Philippine Culture, the Research Institute for Mindanao Culture, the Institute for Economic Development and Research, the Community Development and Research Council and the Center for Research and Communications were also established during this period. It was also in the 1950s when the School of Journalism was founded in Lyceum University, and in the early 1960s in the Philippine Women’s University. By the end of the 1960s, the discipline of communication commenced in eight more Metro-Manila and provincial private and state universities and colleges (Rosario-Braid and Tuazon, 1999). In addition, professional groups such as the National Press Club, Manila Overseas Press Club, the Public Relations Society of the Philippines, the Philippine Association of National Advertisers, and the Philippine Press Institute were all inaugurated from 1950s until the latter part of the 1960s. The Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC), the umbrella organization of professional associations of the social sciences (see table of national social scientists organizations below), was founded in 1963. The founding of other professional organizations, mostly national in scope, as well as their publications, is detailed in the table below:



**Table 1: PSSC Members-Associations by Year of Establishment, Journal Title and Year of First Publication of Discipline Journals**

<b>PSSC Member-Associations</b>	<b>Year Founded</b>	<b>Name of Journal</b>	<b>Date of First Publication</b>
Linguistics Society of the Philippines	1969	Philippine Journal of Linguistics	1970
Philippine Association of Social Workers, Inc.	1947	Social Work	1956
Philippines Communication Society	1987	Philippine Communication Journal	1986
Philippine Economic Society	1961	Philippine Economic Journal	1963
Philippine Geographical Society	1950	Philippine Geographical Journal	1953
Philippine Historical Association	1955	Historical Bulletin	1967
Philippine National Historical Association	1941	Journal of History	1941
Philippine Political Science Association	1962	Philippine Political Science Journal	1974
Philippine Population Association	1987	Philippine Population Journal	1978
Philippine Society for Public Administration	1981	Philippine Journal of Public Administration	1957
Philippine Sociological Society	1952	Philippine Sociological Review	1953
Philippine Statistical Association	1952	The Philippine Statistician	1952
Psychological Association of the Philippines	1962	Philippine Journal of Psychology	1968
Ugnayan Pang-AghamTao	1977	AghamTao	1978

Source: Philippine Social Science Report 2012

Acting as the umbrella organization of the social sciences in the country, PSSC has played an integral role in the proliferation of the disciplines through organizing their rich learning resources, the provision of support to young social science scholars in the form of research grants and trainings, facilitating social science knowledge-building and dissemination through reinforcing scholarly publications and supporting the annual conferences of member organizations, along with coordinating with key regional and international bodies. To date, the Council has 14 regular member-organizations and 34 associate member-organizations (PSSC, 2014)

## **RESPONSIVE AND ENGAGED SOCIAL SCIENCES – MAJOR TURNS IN FOUR DECADES OF PHILIPPINE HISTORY**

### *The Social Dimension of Sustainability*

Despite the debates over the meaning of sustainability and sustainable development, presenting the stake

of the social sciences in the sustainability agenda requires some discussion on the social aspect of sustainability. Attention to social sustainability has been particularly lacking – a situation that Koning finds to be “intriguing,” considering sustainability’s association with “well-being, future generation, quality of life” (Koning 2001, as cited in Partridge, 2005 p. 7). Similarly, engaging in sustainability among the social sciences has been short of environmental content or orientation. Sustainability therefore is inherently, or ultimately, social in character – imbued with concerns for equity, social justice, empowerment, welfare, among other social constructs and human aspirations. As stressed by Robinson (2004, p. 379-80, as cited in Partridge 2005, p. 7):

Sustainability is ultimately an issue of human behavior, and negotiation over preferred futures, under conditions of deep contingency and uncertainty.



For Becker, et. al., defining sustainability involves analytical, normative, and political elements. Partridge (2005) writes,

In an analytical sense, sustainability means that the 'social development can no longer be viewed without considering its natural prerequisites, but must be inseparably coupled with the production of them' (Becker et. al., 1995:5). It thus uncouples development and economic growth. It also questions the assumption that there is an ideal way for human societies to develop, emphasizing the 'diversity of paths for societal transformation, depending on the particular cultural or political as well as ecological starting points'... The normative features of sustainability are justice for future generations, the subordination of economic goals to social and ecological constraints, gender and democratic participation in decision-making process. The political dimension is inherent in the focus on relationships between people and the environment, and the systems of governance, policy development and institutional arrangements that determine those relationship (Becker et. al., 1999, p.5).

#### *Major Turns in Philippine History: Impacts on/of the Social Sciences*

Delving into some of the events in the last four decades that had massive and lasting impacts on the lives of Filipinos and how such events influenced social science discourses can provide a concise context to our conjecture on the potential directions of social science research using sustainability as a framework of analysis. Events of such magnitude have arguably compromised social and environmental sustainability at unprecedented scales and elicited prompt action and concerted response from social scientists through various forms of intervention.

#### *Sustaining Democracy*

Threats to democratic governance have marred the political landscape of the Philippines since its independence from colonial rule. While the Philippine social sciences were still at the early phase of struggling against the grip of Western influences, oppressive elements from within the local structures of power emerged with the leadership of former president-

dictator Ferdinand Marcos. In the 1970s, during his second presidential term, more management and governance problems emerged such as worsening poverty among the poor, slackened economic growth, the "threat" of Communism to national security, and the failure of land reforms, to name a few (Overholt, p. 1139-45). Nicanor Tiongson, Philippine Studies academician, describes the situation:

The decades of the 60's and 70's was marked by a passionate attempt on the part of the intelligentsia and the masses to rethink the whole structure of Philippine society. The presence of Americans on the Philippine economy, the feudal structure of land ownership in the country, as well as the corruption in the government, and the object of plight of the masses of workers and peasants, were all exposed. Demonstrations protesting the anomalies and injustice of Philippine society became more and more frequent and cultural organizations sprang from the ranks of the students and workers which sought to help in the general call for politicizing the masses. (Tiongson, 1985, p. 80, as cited in Cortez, 2013, p. 55)

With the media silenced, manipulation of key government institutions such as the Judiciary (Unjieng, 2009), and rampant corruption, social scientists etched an avenue for critiquing Marcos' leadership as much as the broader context of oppression in a capitalist economy through public scholarship and teaching that is inspired by Marxist perspectives – a predictable tendency considering the global popularity of Marxist approaches during this period. Structuralist perspectives such as dependency theory and world systems approach, for instance, were topics of comparative politics, social and political thought, sociology of development, among other courses in sociology and political science (Bautista, 2000). Public scholar Alexander Magno cited the work of Paulo Freire (Brazilian philosopher and author of *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* published in 1968) in his 1977 article expounding on the interconnections of psychology, politics and the society. He emphasized the political nature and contexts in developing Filipino psychology in which "the psychologist cannot hide anymore in the cloak of objectivity" (Cortez, 2013, p. 59). The same



reference, alongside the works of Latin American theologians and that of Karl Marx, were the topics of debate of student activists during the presidency of Marcos (Cortez, 2013). In anthropology, Marxist-inspired movement intersected with advocacy for self-determination of indigenous communities. Themes such as anthropology of resistance, human rights and ancestral land, ethnicity and national unity, and the environment, became the areas of engagement for anthropologies way into the 1980s. On the other hand, political economy remained to be marginal in the discipline of economics (Bautista, 2000).

Against the backdrop of colonial influences and authoritarian rule, the critical stance of the social sciences would endeavor toward articulating our knowledge and experience that is removed of our colonial, Western orientation. Indigenization traces its beginnings from the anti-colonial movement of during the Spanish occupation, but the systematic and more organized efforts toward indigenization of the academia can be attributed to the social scientists of the 1960s (Mendoza, 2007, p. 161). *Sikolohiyang Pilipino* (Filipino Psychology, SP) traces its inception back to such endeavors. The brainchild of social psychologist Virgilio Enriquez, *Sikolohiyang Pilipino* was the outcome of collaborative research among psychologists, historians, anthropologists, and academics from the humanities that sought the realization of a “culturally-appropriate science of psychology attuned to the nuances and differing cultural characteristics of Filipinos” (Mendoza, 2007, in Navarro and Lagbao-Bolante, 2007, p.1). SP discredits “colonial master narratives” (Navarro and Lagbao-Bolante, 2007, p. 4) through a counter-discourse on Filipino identity and subjectivity – negative traits that were largely described by foreign researchers such as *bahalana* (fatalism), *talangka* (crab mentality), and *utang na loob* (debt of gratitude) were re-examined and explained through indigenous lenses and meanings. Through academic engagements and research, Enriquez and colleagues produced several publications, as well as a personality test, *Panukat ng Ugali at Pagkatao* (Measure of Character and Personality), a locally-developed personality test (Navarro and Lagbao-Bolante, 2007, p. 2). *PantayongPananaw* (For-Us Perspective) of Dr. Zeus

Salazar is another indigenous framework which aims to imbue among Filipinos a collective consciousness and understanding of Philippine history through discourses made by and for Filipinos. PantayongPananaw’s general assumption is “that an indigenous perspective cannot emerge without employing codes, concepts, and meanings commonly shared by all” (Navarro and Lagbao-Bolante, 2007, p. 20).

#### Disasters and Social Science Response

An unexpected event that inadvertently pioneered social science research in the area of disaster risk and disaster management happened when Mt. Pinatubo in Zambales in the island of Luzon erupted on June 15, 1991, the second largest volcanic eruption of the 21st century<sup>2</sup> and the 6th largest in history<sup>3</sup>. Global temperatures were reduced temporarily in the next two years by 1°F, while lahar deposits along river channels posed threat to inhabitants in the area even until the fifth year from the eruption. Around 81,000 houses were damaged and 300,000 families affected (De Guzman, 2004). Such unprecedented extent of impact proved consequential to the research engagement of a group of social scientists from the University of the Philippines, who were on fieldwork that time in relation to a research project on agrarian reform. The team, composed of a geographer, historians, sociologists and a psychologist, had to reconstitute their research design to address the pressing need for analyzing the physical and social components of a natural event as immense as the Pinatubo eruption, thus the pioneering work in the social sciences on disaster, “In the Shadow of the Lingering Mt Pinatubo Disaster.” In the words of Dr. Cynthia Bautista, who was the lead researcher of the said project:

We could not see ourselves going into an area in which there was hardly any social science tradition in the Philippines. After all, the study of disasters has always been outside the mainstream of social science concerns here and abroad (Bautista, Ed., 1993, p. xv). Such “academic distance” (Bautista, 1993) owes to the perceived rarity of such an extreme event and the localized impacts of fast onset disasters. In the case of Mt Pinatubo’s eruption, the drastic regional

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2 Source: USGS

3 Source: LiveScience



environmental changes as well as its global atmospheric effect were certainly not localized phenomena. In the absence of literature to guide the team in formulating their research design, the members relied on field observations and their disciplinary interests. This situation shows the adaptive nature of social science research, as well the caliber of social scientists in investigating abrupt social processes and unexpected turn of events at different scales of analysis.

The recent disaster induced by typhoon Haiyan (local name: Yolanda) which severely affected several communities in the Visayas has posed a challenging task to social scientists who are engaged in disaster research or in development work in general. Known as the strongest typhoon to ever make a landfall on Philippine soil, Haiyan left more than 6,300 deaths, about 1,000 persons missing and 28,689 injured (Locsin, 2014). Nearly two years after the typhoon hit the Philippines, Community Development academics and researchers from the University of the Philippines in Diliman published their research output entitled “Shifting Paradigms: Strengthening Institutions for Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.” It is one of the relatively few social science research projects provided support by the Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Industry Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) that was originally proposed as a Participatory Action Research on Strengthening Community Structures and Mechanisms for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. The study investigated the institutional arrangements and capacities related to DRRM of four barangays in the Visayas that were traversed by Typhoon Haiyan (IACAD, n.d.). Some of the key findings of the study were the lack of awareness at the community level on the national policies on DRRM, as well as the need to develop capacities for disaster prevention and mitigation and not just for emergency response. In this regard, social science disciplines are apt for the role of building and disseminating key results of disaster studies and further integration of case study results to broaden the analysis of disaster experiences and institutional processes that constitute DRRM in Philippine communities.

## **SUSTAINABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DISCOURSE IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES**

The Philippine Strategy for Sustainable Development was drafted in 1987 with the overall goal of achieving “economic growth with adequate protection of the country’s biological resources and its diversity, vital ecosystems function and overall environmental quality.” This was launched in 1996 as the Philippine Agenda 21: National Agenda for Sustainable Development for the 21st century. Initially focused on two of the three dimensions of sustainable development, i.e., economic and environmental, PA 21 aimed to implement a shift from traditional development approach into an ecosystem-based and people-centered approach toward the attainment of “a better quality of life.” The action agenda of the program fosters “enabling conditions to (a) assist the various stakeholders to build their capacities towards SD and (b) directing efforts at conserving, managing, protecting, and rehabilitating ecosystems.” Management strategies to address issues on human health, population, natural resources, land use, agrarian reform, human settlements, quality of water resources, among other social and environmental concerns, were identified as targets of the program in its inception (IISD, 2004, pp. 4-6). The critique of traditional economic models of development resonates within the academic community as much as it had among development workers and civil society groups, that the social sciences have organized various conferences on sustainable development since the early 1990s. In January of 1993, one year after the Earth Summit, the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) held its Silver Jubilee symposium of which theme was, “Environment and Sustainable Development: Social Science Perspectives”. The papers discussed in the symposium were published under Volume 21 of the PSSC Social Science Information (SSI) and tackled several environmental issues such as forest degradation, the Mt. Pinatubo eruption, population and carrying capacity, health, environmental planning, the Philippine Agenda 21 and the administrative implementation of SD, among others. The table below summarizes the content of the said SSI issue.



**Table 2. Papers published in the 21<sup>st</sup> Volume of Social Science Information**

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>
Overview of Environment and Sustainable Development	Zelda Zablan, Ph.D.
Sustainable Development: A Historical and Theoretical Explication	Prof. Mary Constaney Barrameda
Overview: Policies, Strategies and Administrative Implementation for Sustainable Development	Prof. Carmencita Aguilar
Government Appropriations for the Environment and Sustainable Development	Commissioner Sofronio Ural
A Paper on the State of the Environment	Fr. Ibarra Gonzalez, S.J. and Olive Hofilena
Health, Environment and Economic Productivity	Alejandro Herrin, Ph.D.
Population Carrying Capacity of Potential Food Production from Land and Aquatic Resources	Candido Cabrido, Ph.D.
'When Sister Earth Suffers, Women Suffer Too:' Women's Perspectives on Sustainable Development	Amaryllis Torres, Ph.D.
Environmental Impact Assessment: A Policy Need for Sustainable Development	Telesforo Luna, Jr. Ph.D.

It can be gleaned from the list of paper titles that following the Earth Summit and the early phase of consultation between the government and development stakeholders on PA 21, social scientists persistently attempted to unravel the three dimensions of sustainable development by presenting the pressing environmental concerns of the time in framing the social and political dynamics that bring about the degraded state of the environment. Another approach was to draw out and explain the elements that constitute core development concepts such as carrying capacity, environmental awareness, women and care, and the administrative apparatus and processes necessary for realizing the sustainable development framework

The SSI Volume 21 1993 issue was followed by another issue on environment and sustainable development, which featured papers that underscore economic policies and sustainable development (Aguilar, 1994; Llanto, 1994), the experience of the Aytas in San Felipe in Zambales after the Mt Pinatubo eruption and their efforts toward rehabilitation after the disaster (Bennagen, 1994) and the administrative capability of agencies and institutions implementing an environmental plan (Alejos, 1994). In Torres article (1994), she identified the following contributions of

the social sciences towards sustainable society:

1. Environment-friendly statistics – citing the work of De Guzman et. al., in 2004 the application of statistics and stochastic modeling such as in hydrology as well as other environmental studies was considered important in “understanding the underlying mechanisms of environmental phenomena” (Torres, 1993, p. 16).
2. Indigenous values on person-society-nature relations – the works of Caballero (1993) in the Cordilleras and of Duhaylungsod (1993), anthropologists, with the indigenous communities offer new insights on the ecological links between indigenous peoples and their ancestral domains
3. Interrelated links between human behavior and physico-chemical events - to elucidate feedback and back-flow systems between humans and the environment, Dr. Torres cited the research works of Cabrido (1993) on food carrying capacity as well as other studies that focused on “environmental quality, health and nutrition; and resource utilization, human settlements and economic development.” (p. 16).
4. Education on ecology and environmental education – the participation of social scientists



in multidisciplinary efforts through the offering of baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate degrees on environmental management and the formation of the Environmental Education Network and its potential for further institutional collaboration is another area of engagement for the social sciences (p. 17).

Another notable contribution of the social sciences to discourses on sustainability in the 1990s was the accomplishment of the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Social Science Congress in 1993, of which main was Empowerment and Accountability for Sustainable Development: Towards Theory Building in the Social Sciences. Three essential features of sustainability were undertaken as themes of theoretical frameworks for sustainable development: sustainable strategies for natural resource management, industrialization, and democratization. Dr. Ponciano Bennagen underscored the importance of looking at nature as humanity's partner and not subordinate to the latter, and to consider the harmonious relationship between humans and nature as necessary element in sustainable development. He also pointed out that the new paradigm of sustainable development acknowledges creative thought, non-determinism and multi-causality in contrast to the unilinear and deterministic perspectives of the old. He also put forth the stewardship theory of land rights "which accounts for the direct responsibility of local communities to protect and, therefore, sustain resources" (Bennagen, 1994, p. 247). On the other hand, Dr. Rene Ofreneo laid out several comments in relation to the institutional constraints that degenerates economic development such as bureaucracy, educational system as well as the media; failure to optimally capitalize on overseas workers' remittances; questions on the role of civil society in industrialization and how the mass participation in industrial development can be utilized, among other points, before finally concluding that economic nationalism should be re-evaluated in view of present-day interdependent global economy (p. 253). Dr. Temario Rivera noted that enhancing democratic participation and public accountability while "pushing political elite economic players" to engage in strategic industrial projects were important to be able to realizing sustainable development.

## **EMERGING SUSTAINABILITY THEMES**

Two decades after the Environment and Sustainable Development symposium of PSSC, member organizations and social scientists continue to deliberate on sustainability with emerging themes such urbanization and urban development, disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM), and the ASEAN integration. Majority of social science professional organizations have incorporated the aforementioned themes in their annual conferences and symposia in the last five years. From the traditional subjects of research of public administration such as policy studies, fiscal administration and public enterprise, and public sector reform, scholars of the discipline of public administration have ventured into DRRM and climate change, gender equality, and on problematizing the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community. The Philippine Society for Public Administration (PSPA) organized several local and international conferences that tackled a broad array of issues relating to the ASEAN integration, such as the "3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on ASEAN Connectivity: Current Issues and Future Prospects towards an ASEAN Community" that was held in Thailand early this year. Climate change has also figured in many of the academic papers presented by the members of the organization in various conferences (D. Reyes, personal communication, July 15, 2015). On the other hand, the published papers in the Philippine Political Science Journal and paper presentations at the annual conferences of the Philippine Political Science Association (PPSA) indicate that DRRM has consistently been a topic of panel presentations since 2012, primarily concerning policy-related issues (housing reconstruction, preventive mechanisms such as watershed protection, gender implications of disasters, among other specific themes). Regional security in the context of the ASEAN as well as the prospects of the ASEAN Economic Community are some of the accomplished works featured in these conferences that are relevant to ASEAN integration (H. Kraft, personal communication, July 15, 2015).

Geographic studies that focus on select sustainability issues comprise nearly half of the research projects completed by the faculty of the Geography Department, the sole higher education institution in the Philippines that offers degree programs in geography



over the last seven years. Most of these tackle the vulnerabilities of specific municipalities or regions (e.g. Bulusan, Sorsogon for volcanic hazards or Metro Manila for typhoon-related hazards) or underscore the methodology in generating spatial information that are relevant to DRMM (e.g. participatory three-dimensional mapping or P3DM). Fewer are those that directly address climate change. On the other hand, topics that are relevant to urbanization focused on land use conversion, urban consumption, neoliberal production, and resilience of cities to disasters. In addition, field methods and technologies such as computer-assisted mapping through Geographic Information Systems or GIS, and collection of environmental data through remote sensing are methods that have been recently integrated in the undergraduate and graduate curricula of Geography to equip students and practitioners with spatial analytical skills that are necessary to organize and manage spatial information that are integral in addressing development issues.

Linguists in the country have been influential in the implementation of the Mother Tongue Based Multi-Lingual Education (MTBMLE) in the basic education sector (R. I. Lucas, personal communication, July 15, 2015). MTBMLE was introduced to the basic education units in 2013 with the implementation of the K-12 Basic Education Program. For anthropology, recent research themes such as community participation in securing rights to ancestral lands, cultural heritage and claiming of identities, transitions and negotiations of identity in foreign territories, and new approaches such as multi-sited and mobile ethnography have expanded the ambit of the discipline (S. Roldan, personal communication, July 15, 2015). Meanwhile, information transparency and access among ASEAN countries are deemed important in maintaining transnational engagements and cultural exchange – conditions that facilitate the ASEAN integration. Arriola and Portus (personal communication, July 15, 2015) emphasized that a good communication plan and support for the media is instrumental in communicating risks and addressing other sustainability issues.

The recent conferences organized by the Philippine Population Association (PPA) focused on disaster research in relation to population issues such as health, human impacts on disasters, demographic

impacts of disasters, population movement, food security, vulnerabilities, to name a few. Similar to disasters, urbanization was a theme adapted in the Association's 2013 conference alongside related issues of migration and population movement (PPA, personal communication, July 15, 2015). On the other hand, several papers in the 2012 Annual Conference of the Philippine Historical Association (PHA) focused on security issues, national identity and economic relations in the context of the ASEAN Integration. Interestingly, historical approaches also involve the documentation of urban social phenomena using photos and their interpretation using urban semiotics (Miranda and Miranda, 2012), while Boncan (2012) investigated disasters and climate change in the literature of economic history (PHA, personal communication, 2015).

### **PROSPECTS AND POSSIBILITIES FOR THE PHILIPPINE SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Based on the foregoing discussion, the Philippine social sciences have been engaged in diverse research projects that initially focused on exploring models of sustainable development that would not yield the same unsustainable patterns of consumption and use of resources that caused the decline in the condition of the environment in developed countries. The past years have also witnessed the confluence of themes that are being addressed by social science research, such that it is now hardly imaginable to tackle urban development without talking about vulnerability to hazard and disasters, or to discuss the prospects of the ASEAN integration without considering its implication on human security, migration, or the national vis-à-vis regional labor market. As communities become increasingly interconnected, so are our concerns and problems. The social sciences should continue to enhance approaches and methods that can help us explore these interconnections, as noted by O'Brien (2013):

While historical and cultural contexts of human development vary across nations and cultures, the scale of environmental change (some of which are human-induced), such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and land use modification transcends national boundaries and political jurisdiction. Such



complexities require a broad perspective on the interconnected physical and social processes that generate and perpetuate these changes (O'Brien, 2013, p. 11).

Focusing on the capacity of humans as agents of change should also be strongly advocated in the academe. Rather than dwelling on the negative impacts of human activities to the environment, transformation toward sustainable practices may also help create sustainable futures, depending on the trajectory of development a society decides to take:

Current analyses of global environmental change under-represent the role of humans in the larger system. The potential of people to be deliberate and reflective agents of transformative change is seldom acknowledged, and this leads in turn to a sense of deterministic inevitability about global change... Attention to beliefs and worldviews is as relevant for scientists researching social-ecological systems as it is for activists trying to shape them, and for politicians and practitioners trying to design policies to manage them. (Krishna & Krishna, 2013, p. 77).

Social science disciplines should also extend more effort in supporting the basic education institutions. The inclusion of the social sciences in the Core and Specialization strands of the academic track on Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS) under the K to 12 education system is an innovation created through the close coordination between the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education and in consultation with various schools and universities in the country. Under K-12, senior high school years students are taking Core (15) and Contextualized and Specialization Track (16) subjects, where a student can complete a maximum of 13 (4 under the Core subjects and 9 under the Specialization subjects) social science and humanities subjects. One of these subjects, entitled Disciplines and Ideas in the Social Sciences (DISS), will facilitate introductory lessons to Grade 11 students on the disciplines of Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Linguistics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology and Demography, and identifies approaches in the social sciences such as Structural-Functionalism, Marxism, Symbolic

Interactionism, Psychoanalysis, Rational Choice, Institutionalism, Feminist Theory, Hermeneutical Phenomenology, and Human-Environment Systems as part of the content of the said subject. On the other hand, Disciplines and Ideas in the Applied Social Sciences puts emphasis on counseling, social work, and communication in expounding on the interconnections of the social science disciplines when applied in specific professions and life situations (DepEd, n.d.). Helping high school teachers organize professional training and avail of enhancement courses may be pursued by social science departments in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) as institutional activities under extension services.

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**The scale of environmental change, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and land use modification transcends national boundaries and political jurisdiction.**

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National Higher Education Research Agenda (NHERA-2) 2009-2018

The social sciences were identified as one of the disciplines supported by the NHERA 1 which was implemented from 1997 until 2008. This CHED program had three goals, namely: (1) to increase the research productivity of Philippine higher education institutions and individuals, (2) to establish a system of research-based policy environment through periodic commissioned researches, and (3) establish support structures that would ensure long-term sustainability of research activities in Philippine higher education institutions. Over PhP254M were provided for the program's implementation, an amount that supported the operations of Zonal Research Centers (58%), the research of individuals or institutions (34%) and activities that enhanced capability-building and research productivity (8%). In an evaluation of NHERA 1 participated in by 53 CHED grantees, 30 percent performed research in the disciplines of the social sciences. The continuation of the program, NHERA 2, identified the social sciences as one of the nine research clusters to which it will provide support. The specific research areas are presented in the table below.

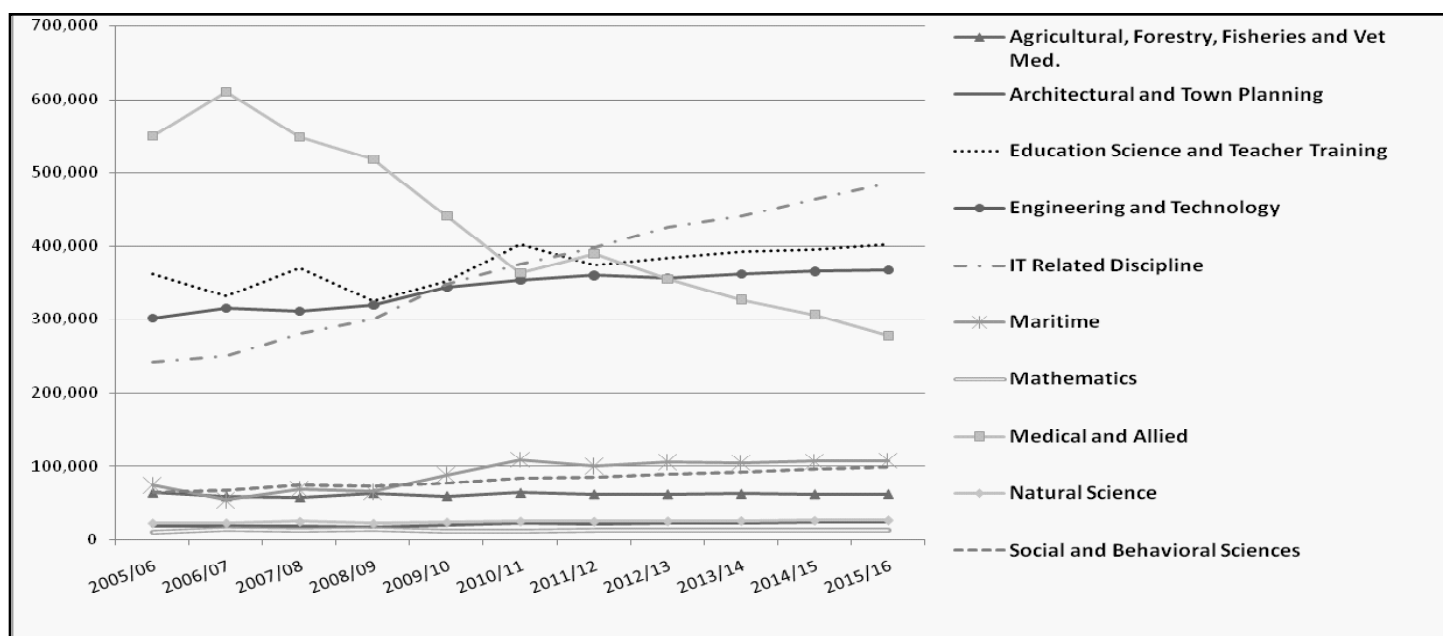


**Table 3. Priority Research Areas in the Social Sciences**

MAJOR ISSUES	PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS	SUGGESTED AREAS
Families and communities transition	Drivers, processes and consequences of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community transitions</li> <li>• Labor migration</li> <li>• Changing family structure</li> <li>• Evolution of social institutions in response to changes in family and community structures.</li> </ul>	descriptive research; cross-section trend research; panel/longitudinal research;
Education	Alignment of human capital development goals in school, in communities, and Philippine society; social processes and factors that shape educational policies and processes at national, community, school and individual levels; efficacy of educational processes (instructional, management, policy, etc.) in the development of quality human capital; social processes and dimensions of educational reforms and educational institutions	descriptive research (including GIS mapping); cross-section trend research; panel/longitudinal research; historical research; action research; evaluation of programs and policies; theory and model building
Disaster	Social antecedents of disaster; social determinants of vulnerability to disaster; social response (community and national levels) to disaster mitigation and adaptation; social processes in relief and developmental responses to disaster; short-term and long-term consequences on well-being of individual and communities in disaster-stricken and/or vulnerable areas	descriptive research (including GIS mapping) cross-section trend research; panel/longitudinal research; historical research
ICT and social change	Description and analysis of changes in social institutions such as education, governance, church/religious organizations, financial and agricultural institution, etc.; social dimensions of adoption and utilization of ICT in individuals, organization, and communities; social analysis of virtual communities and interactions	descriptive research; cross-section trend research; panel/longitudinal research; historical analysis; action research; theory and model building

Source: CHED Memorandum Order No. 41 s. 2010

**Figure 1. Student Enrolment Trend in Higher Education Institutions**



Source: Commission on Higher Education, November 2011

Note: AY 2011/12 up to 2015/16 are projected



Programs such as NHERA 2 can help address the paucity in graduate research funding, which hampers the rate of graduation in the HEIs. As the enrolment data from 2005 to 2015 (above) shows, social and behavioral sciences do not get as many students as the sciences or engineering degrees.

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# A Potpourri of Ideas, Diversity of Research Interests – on Sustainability

## Introduction

In order to prepare the PSSC's paper on Sustainability Science, the various member associations were asked to review their disciplinary achievements along three areas of concern: a) disaster and climate change; b) ASEAN integration and identity; and c) urbanization/the expansion of cities. Seven associations submitted their reviews. The plethora of disciplinary concerns, publications, conference themes and researches reported by the different associations demonstrate the diversity of theoretical and research approaches to investigating and understanding the notion of 'sustainability.'

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## DISASTERS AND URBANIZATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

by Philippine Population Association

Many demographers and population scientists now view both natural and man-made disasters, also known as humanitarian crises, as a relevant field of study due to the intrinsic relationship of population and environment, as well as the increasing frequency and devastation that they have caused in recent times. It is important for the field to account for the effects of disasters not just on demographic events such as mortality, fertility, morbidity and migration, but also the unquantifiable effects that they have on the community. Another topic that is dear to population researchers is urbanization, which has its own effects, both good and ill, on the population and consequently on development. The Philippine Population Association (PPA), a professional organization of demographers and practitioners in the population field, is proud to have played host to local cutting-edge research on disasters and urbanization throughout the years.

### Disaster and Climate Change

As disasters such as typhoons, earthquakes, and conflicts became a more frequent part of Filipinos' lives, the PPA decided that a special focus on

population-based disaster research was but timely. The recent 2015 PPA Annual Scientific Conference, which took place in Davao City last January 2015, had the theme "*Population in Humanitarian Crises*", which aimed to bring to light the most current research on disasters in the population.

The pre-conference activity featured lectures which included a talk on "*Public Health Research for Post-Emergency Stabilization*" given by Debarati Guha, Director of the Center for Research on the Epidemiology in Disasters (CRED) in Belgium.

The opening ceremonies the following day were graced by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Country Representative Klaus Beck as the keynote speaker, who gave a speech highlighting the role of the youth in development, the work that the UNFPA has done in areas affected by humanitarian crises, and the importance of population research to their work as an agency.

One of the plenary sessions had the same theme as the conference and featured both local and international researchers and experts. First was Tony La Viña, former Undersecretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and lead negotiator for the Philippines in international climate change negotiations, who gave a talk titled "*Nature, disasters, and peoples: Linkages and Opportunities*". He was followed by Mary Joy Gonzales, team member of Project NOAH (Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards) of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), who discussed Project NOAH's role in disaster communication in "*Last but not the least: Communicating risks during extreme disturbance*". Current theories and research on disasters were tackled by foreign guests, Debarati Guha and JC Gaillard, the latter a professor of geography from the University of Auckland in New Zealand, whose talks were titled "*Measuring the human impact of disasters: the role of evidence*" and "*Why do disasters occur? Popular discourses, scientific paradigms and policy strategies*", respectively.



In another plenary session, this time on *“Population and Development Data and Informatics”*, disasters were also the context for three of the presentations. Our National Statistician, Lisa Grace Bersales, was the first to share the work of the Philippine Statistics Authority during crises in her presentation *“The Philippine Statistics Authority: Contributing to the Understanding of Populations in Humanitarian Crises”*. The next was by Ana Cañeda of the Office of Civil Defense Region 10 on *“Post Disaster Needs Assessment: Challenges and Sound Practices on Recovery and Reconstruction in the Philippines”*, while another was presented by Rex Victor Cruz of the College of Forestry and National Resources, UP Los Baños, titled *“Aspects of Human Settlements, Climate Change & Development in the Philippines.”*

The recent conference also featured a separate parallel session on disaster research. The presenters, mostly PPA members from Visayas and Mindanao, shared their research in Tacloban City after Typhoon Haiyan (local name Yolanda). Another presenter, a Ph.D. student from the Australian National University, shared her on-going dissertation work on street children and disasters in Manila. The list of researches presented is as follows:

- *Identifying Human Vulnerability Indicators from a Quick Survey of Yolanda Survivors*  
Socorro Gultiano and Delia Carba, USC-Office of Population Studies Foundation (OPS)
- *The Social Impacts of Natural Disaster (The Case of the Philippines)*  
Magdalena Cabaraban, Ramon Gervacio and Maria Teresa Sharon Linog, Research Institute for Mindanao Culture, Xavier University
- *Coping Mechanisms of Haiyan-Affected Adolescents and Pregnant and Lactating Mothers: The Insiders’ Perspective*  
Fiscalina Nolasco, Judith Borja, Josephine Avila and Vicente Jurlano (University of San Carlos, OPS and UN Population Fund)
- *The demographic impacts of disaster on street children in Manila: Exploring the roles of governance and civil society*  
Shelby Higgs, Australian National University
- *Population Movements in Tacloban following the Mega-Disaster Named Haiyan/Yolanda*

Karl Gaspar, St. Alphonsus Theological and Mission Institute

Lastly, Johanna Marie Astrid Acielo of the UP Population Institute, a student member of the PPA, presented a poster titled *“Exploring fertility and environment: An initial exploration of the linkage between fertility, climate factors and natural disaster occurrence in Las Navas and San Roque of Northern Samar from 1980 to 2010”*, while Maria Midea Kabamalan, current Director of the UPPI and former PPA President, had a poster discussing the UPPI’s Humanitarian Performance Monitoring (HPM) project titled *“Data Strengths and Challenges: The Case of HPM Household Surveys”* alongside another student member, Rea Jean Tabaco, also of the UPPI.

Disaster research was also discussed in the preceding conference, the 2014 PPA Annual Scientific Conference, which was held in Clark, Pampanga. One of the plenary sessions, titled *“Population, Development and Environment”*, had presentations on disaster risk reduction and mitigation (DRRM) and migration. Sabine Henry of the University of Namur, Belgium, gave an important presentation on *“Environmental Migration: Chance or Threat for the Philippines”*, while the other two presentations were focused on measures of social vulnerability in Visayas and Mindanao. The presenters were Justin See, Emma Porio and John Paolo Dalupang of the Ateneo de Manila University for *“Measuring Social Vulnerability to Flooding among Urban Poor Households in Metro Manila Riverine Communities”*, and Socorro Gultiano, Celine Vicente, Delia Carba and Leendel Punzalan of the University of San Carlos – Office of Population Studies Foundation for *“GIS-Based Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) and Risk Assessments for Metro Cebu”*.

There were also posters showcasing related research. Maria Theresa Verian of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasig, a PPA member, shared her poster titled *“Understanding the Natural Landscape of and Occurrence of Disaster in a Locality”*, while Ma. Genesis Catindig of the Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas in Luzon had a poster titled *“Planning for Local Food Security Amidst Climate Change and Population Growth: The Case of Jomalig, Quezon”*.



Natural disasters were also a topic of discussion in the 2013 PPA Annual Scientific Conference in Cebu City. There were two parallel sessions on “*Population, Vulnerabilities and the Environment*”, with the following paper presentations:

- *Assessing the Vulnerability of Populations Exposed to Coastal River Flooding in the Philippines*  
J. Andres Ignacio and Sabine Henry, University of Namur
- *Overcoming the Trauma of Natural Disaster: A Portrait of Filipino Resilience*  
Magdalena Cabaraban and Maria Teresa Sharon Linog, Xavier University
- *Mental Health of Children in Conflict and Natural Disaster Situations: its Implication to Scaling up of Health Services*  
Maria Teresa Sharon Linog, Xavier University
- *Surviving a National Reclamation Development Project: Changing Strategies of Household Provisioning Among Urban Fisherfolk*  
Zona Amper, University of San Carlos
- *Poverty, Population and Marine Protected Areas in the Philippines*  
Lourdes Montenegro, University of San Carlos

In the 2012 PPA Annual Scientific Conference in Tagaytay City, a session on “*Population, Economic and Environment Issues*” was formed with two papers having disaster as a topic. One was “*The Regional Economy and Natural Disasters: The Philippine Case*” by Richard Emerson Ballester and Girlie Grace Casimiro of National Economic Development Authority, and the second was “*Philippine prison population: Exploring prison vulnerabilities to disaster and climate risks*”, by Paolo Miguel Vicerra of UPPI and Benigno Balgos of the De La Salle University Manila.

Another session on “*Socioeconomic Impacts of Climate Change and Other Natural Disasters*” had a paper titled “*An Ecologic Study on the Presumable Impacts of Climate Change and Seasonal Patterns on Acute Respiratory Disease and Health Services Utilization in Nueva Ecija from 1999 to 2008*” by John Wong of the Ateneo de Manila University.

The 2011 PPA Annual Scientific Conference in Cagayan de Oro City featured a session on “*Women and Children in Conflict Areas*”, which yielded the following

papers: “*Mental Health of Children in Conflict and Natural Disaster Situations: Its Implication to Scaling-up Services*” by Maria Teresa Sharon Linog of the Jose Rizal College of Medicine, “*The Voices behind the Numbers: Stories of Survival and Hope*” by Gloria Luz Nelson and Girly Nora Abrigo of the UP Los Baños Department of Social Sciences, and “*Impact of Natural Disaster: Interweaving of Economic, Social and Health Cost, its Implication to Health Management in Emergency Situation*” by Magdalena Cabaraban of the Xavier University Research Institute for Mindanao Culture and Maria Teresa Sharon Linog of the Cagayan de Oro Medical Center.

Lastly, the Philippine Population Review (PPR) Vol. 10 No. 2 included an article by Magdalena Cabaraban and Maria Teresa Sharon Linog of Xavier University, titled “*Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation Efforts: Experiences, Practices and Policies and Southern Leyte and Maguindanao*”.

Most of the disaster research presented at the PPA Conferences was conducted by researchers based in the academe, mainly in major universities throughout the country. Many researchers used quantitative data collection and analysis methods, such as surveys and statistical methods, but there were also a number of more qualitative approaches. Most of these papers and presentations had important implications for policy and legislation, especially for disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) on both a local and national level.

### Urbanization

With urbanization seen as a constant issue for population researchers, it was appropriate for the PPA to host a conference centered on this as a theme, and thus the 2013 Conference carried the theme “*People on the Move, Migration, Urbanization and Displacement*”. The first plenary session featured results from the Cebu Longitudinal Health and Nutrition Survey (CLHNS) conducted by the USC-Office of Population Studies Foundation (OPS) and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). Linda Adair of UNC, the CLHNS Principal Investigator talked on “*Urbanicity and Women’s Health in Metro Cebu*” discussing the upside (e.g., improved health care access) and downside (e.g., increased cardiometabolic risk) of the changing



urbanicity landscape of Metro Cebu. In the same session, Judith Borja presented *"Migration Patterns in the CLHNS,"* illustrating urban-rural movements within the study, and citing the inability of such stratification to capture true urbanicity.

A separate parallel session on migration and urbanization in the 2013 Conference yielded two papers on urbanization in Visayas. The first, by PPA member Maria Fe Imbong of the University of San Carlos, was titled *"In the Eyes of the Migrant Transportation Drivers of Cebu City: A Socio-economic Perspective,"* while the other paper by Rey Gimena of Silliman University was titled *"Coping with Urban Growth and Concentration: The Perceived Changes and Adaptive Responses of a Rice Farming Community in Dumaguete City."*

There were also papers on urbanization in other conferences. For the 2015 Conference, we had presentations on urbanization from student members of the PPA. Maria Celeste Hermida of the UP Population Institute (UPPI) shared her research on *"Identifying poor households in Metro Manila using housing variables from census data,"* and Astrid Acielo, also of the UP Population Institute, presented some initial findings from the UPPI project *"Spaces in Transition: Mapping Manila's Peri-Urban Fringe"* in her presentation titled *"Engaging the field: Unveiling the complexities of the peri-urbanization of Manila's fringe through ethnographic accounts"*. The latter was a follow-up presentation to the initial one shown in the 2014 Conference, *"Beyond the Primate City: Spatial Assessment of New Urban Forms and Mega City Regions in the Philippines,"* presented by the Spaces in Transition team, Arnisson Andre Ortega, Celeste Hermida and Astrid Acielo.

The 2014 Conference also had another presentation on urbanization, this time from a more meteorological side, by Robert Badrina, Tolentino Moya and Raquel Francisco of the Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology, College of Science, UP Diliman, titled *"Assessing the Impact of Urbanization on Philippine Climate Using RegCM3"*. Lastly, Armand Camhol of the UP Population Institute presented his poster *"Measuring Parks Accessibility and Deprivation with Spatial Techniques"* in the 2014 Conference. Lastly, the PPR, Vol. 11, No. 1 featured an article by Arnisson Andre Ortega of UPPI titled *"Spatialities of Population*

*Change, Mega-urbanization and Neoliberal Urbanism: The Case of Metro Cebu"*.

Similar to the studies on disasters, research on urbanization within the PPA has primarily been conducted by academic researchers utilizing both qualitative and quantitative techniques. But unlike the previous, most of the research has focused on development of the theory and the area of study in local urbanization.

### **Institutions that carried out these studies and funding sources**

1. **UP Population Institute (UPPI)** is an academic unit under the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of the Philippines Diliman in Quezon City. It is the only academic institution in the Philippines that offers graduate level training in demography and population studies. It performs the three-pronged function of teaching, research and extension, and some of the research studies featured in this paper are:
  - a. Spaces in Transition: Mapping Manila's Peri-Urban Fringe, an on-going study of the rapidly urbanizing areas surrounding Metro Manila, also known as its peri-urban fringe. It is funded by the UP Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs (UP OVPA)
  - b. Humanitarian Performance Monitoring in Disaster Areas (HPM), a completed study of the assistance provided by the UN in disaster-stricken areas. It is funded by UNICEF.
2. **USC-Office of Population Studies Foundation (OPS)** is a population and health research institute affiliated with the University of San Carlos, Cebu City. Among the OPS studies featured in this paper are:
  - a. Cebu Longitudinal Health and Nutrition Survey, an ongoing (1983 to date) community-based prospective study which has been funded mainly by the US National Institutes of Health.
  - b. GIS-Based Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation and Risk Assessments for Metro Cebu, in collaboration with the Manila Observatory and funded by the Philippine Center for Population Development, Inc. (PCPD).



- c. Post-Typhoon Yolanda Rapid Reproductive Health and GBV Assessment, funded by the UNFPA.

### **The Role of the Philippine Population Association (PPA) in influencing programs and policies**

The PPA is an organization of population professionals and advocates united in the mission to promote “a scientific base for addressing population and related issues through research and dissemination, training and extension, and keeps population issues at the forefront of public consciousness”.

The PPA contributes to the scientific discourse on current issues, such as on humanitarian crises and urbanization, through its official journal, the Philippine Population Review, its annual conference and other population-relevant activities. PPA includes members from the academe, government agencies, civil societies, the UN, and the World Bank. The majority of the PPA members, across the country, are involved in research covering population and related topics. Our research findings and publications contribute to the empirical evidence on specific issues, and we work hard to disseminate these to relevant stakeholders in the hope of informing programs and policies.

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## **PHILIPPINE ANTHROPOLOGY'S DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS**

**by Suzanna R. Roldan**  
**Uganayang Pang-Aghamtao, Inc.**

UGAT has held conferences on sustainability themes on disaster and climate change, ASEAN Integration and identity, urbanization and expansion of cities, specifically these are:

- 2010—Manila: 32<sup>nd</sup> Kalikasan in Flux: Indigenous People's Creativity in a Changing Natural Environment
- 2009—Cagayan de Oro: 31<sup>st</sup> The (Re)Making of Cities and Their Consequences
- 2005—Miag-ao: 27<sup>th</sup> The Anthropology of Crisis
- 1995—Nueva Ecija: 17<sup>th</sup> Anthropology of Disaster
- 1993—Cebu: 15<sup>th</sup> Sustainability of Development: the Anthropological Perspective.

The 1996, Vol. 8 journal was an important one with articles on disaster, development and sustainability issues taken from the 1991-95 conferences. The articles document the different types of environmental disasters experienced in the country over 20 years ago—the regularity of tropical cyclones battering the Ivatan, landslides and mudslides in Ormoc, eruption of Mt. Pinatubo that displaced many Ayta communities, deforestation reducing sustainability of agroforestry as a way of life.

Decades ago, anthropologists mainly defined sustainability according to the adaptive character of Indigenous People's (IPs) lifestyle in coping with landscapes they inhabit through their time-tested technologies and local knowledge. Concern for the environment was often linked to sustainability of communities. Authors emphasized agency and group resilience in restoring their sense of community after disasters. They critiqued external development interventions using outsider's notions of a decent life with intent to 'civilize' rather than support desires of the IPs, how external policies disrespect local traditions in managing fisheries, or how *kaingeros* were unfairly blamed for deforestation without a holistic understanding of other environmental stresses to name some of the issues explored.

Ponciano Bennagen insists that development interventions and community mobilization require participation of the affected IPs themselves in order that initiatives are sensitive to their needs. Daylinda Cabanilla reminds readers of the need for a holistic approach in fully understanding issues before one can begin advocacy work. Most authors emphasize the importance to hear the voices of sectors often ignored.

The more recent works do respond to maximizing interventions through community participation. In the 2012 Vol. 21 Journal, *AghamTaong Kaagapay: Anthropology Cares for its Publics*, three articles were on assisting IP communities participate in government programs pertinent to them. For example, in her paper entitled *Training Iraya Mangyan community working groups in ethnography: anthropology and the CADT process*, San Jose documents the anthropologists' process aiding the Iraya Mangyan apply for Certificate Ancestral Domain Titles through training. Help-



ing securing their ancestral lands emanated from understandings that the IP's life was tied to their lands of origin, still seeing agency and cultural resilience as dominant means for sustainability.

Although no single conference or journal focused on ASEAN integration and identities, there are several studies on Filipinos diaspora, migration, global migration and Filipino transnationals/overseas workers shedding light on the transitions and negotiations of identities in foreign lands. Tondo (2009) had this interesting insight to share about living away from home:

There are three important conceptual premises relevant to this paper: first, the concept of heritage as an on-going construction and unfinished project, second, the in-between state of the diaspora's double consciousness of 'home memory' and 'home-making', and third, the on-going social and material connections in the diaspora's triadic or 'trifocal relationship.' (Tondo, 2009).

Claiming of identities through cultural heritage can also be seen in many studies done in local settings in the UGAT's 2009 *Aghamtao* journal, Vol. 18. Many of the articles speak of how identity is appropriated, constructed, articulated and negotiated whether through performances of dance, martial arts, crafts, fiestas, or religious rituals. Blended or 'bastardized' versions of the original performances are still considered authentic in that they are meaningful to its performers. In communities away from home, cultural heritage becomes doubly important in sustaining selves amid issues of dealing with prolonged separation from families, experiencing discrimination and the abrupt changes around them. With forces of globalization and the trend towards the ASEAN integration we will probably only continue to see more studies unfolding issues on intercultural interactions related to 'identity-making'.

The discipline continues to rely on traditional approaches in research. Long-term ethnography is still the ideal for data collection or at least ethnographic research tools (participant-observation; key informant interviews; unstructured and informal interviews, focused group discussions, etc.) are used even in shorter time allotments for research. The strength of ethnographic approaches lies in its flexibility in discovering

fortuitous givens and verifying data on the ground, thereby reducing error. Anthropologists still rely on the reflexive, inductive, explanatory, cross-cultural approaches in research practices.

In addition to these methods and approaches identified with the discipline, the recent research practices also breakaway from the stereotypes, expanding interest beyond relatively contained communities, especially with diaspora studies and global researches (some examples, domestic helpers in Hong Kong, understanding consumer behavior in global marketing research).

Less immersed, multi-sited ethnography is becoming more popular for its significance in broader based understanding and to capture the multiple voices and actors in many areas of research especially for studies using stakeholder analysis. Interestingly, one finds a publication sharing joint authorship with the local elders in an Ayta Community in Bataan in an attempt to achieve community participation by recording their own knowledge and story (Aghamtao, Vol. 23, 2014). It would be even more interesting to know what the extent and level of their participation in writing the piece was.

There are technology-driven methods emerging in an article on practices in business/corporate anthropology. One such approach is 'mobile ethnography' or people producing photographs documenting everyday interactions thereby eliminating the researcher and reducing bias, but with less room for reflexivity. 'Netography' or 'nethnography', cyber ethnography (one experiences interactions through blogs and chat rooms as guest or members) veers from the notion of the highly 'involved researcher.' This method poses challenges of authenticity in using a platform where one can be anonymous.

Engagements among members of the discipline have promising potentials in problem-solving based on current involvements at various field sites, levels, personal capacities and public practices. Albeit engagements and impacts are uneven, anthropologists have contributed through their involvements in teaching, public education, research, publications, cultural performances, advising local organizations, social critiquing, collaboration, connecting and networking, training



and capability building, advocacy, awareness raising about and giving voice to marginal groups, activism, community organizing, mediation and facilitating dialogue between internal and external bodies (for example, between POs and NGOs or government agencies), livelihood empowerment. The list of engagements is long and so are the possibilities in addressing PSSC sustainability issues.

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## **THE PHILIPPINE POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION AND RESEARCH ON ISSUES OF SUSTAINABILITY (2010-2014): AN OUTLINE**

**by Herman Joseph S. Kraft  
Philippine Political Science Association**

This paper is being submitted in response to a call from the Philippine Social Science Council surveying the extent to which different disciplines in the Social Sciences have looked into three “sustainability issues.” These are: a) disaster and climate change; b) ASEAN integration and identity; and c) urbanization/the expansion of cities. The data utilized is based on the program of the annual International Conference of the PSSC from 2011-2015, and the articles published in the Philippine Political Science Journal from 2010-2014. It in no way claims to be a rigorous study of the recent developments in the discipline especially in relation to the three “sustainability issues” mentioned above. It is simply an attempt to respond to the questions posed in the survey in the simplest way possible and should at best be seen as indicative (rather than a definitive representation) of developments in the discipline.

Political Science, as with most Social Sciences, is a field of study that is continuously evolving in terms of epistemology, ontology and methodology. The last five years provide a glimpse of how these disciplinary issues are threshed out by those interested in the theoretical aspects of the field as well as in its practice. A quick look at the list of papers presented and panel presentations at the annual conference of the PPSA as well as the titles of articles published in the Philippine Political Science Journal shows that there has been a continuing interest in democracy and the political institutions associated with it as they

impact on the Philippine political scene. Also related to this but having its own research direction are papers and articles on local governance and migration issues. Interestingly, these have some convergence with discussions on disaster and climate change especially in the context of disaster risk mitigation and preparedness. At a much lesser scale, there have also been overlaps with discussions on ASEAN integration and identity, especially on papers and panels that discuss education and political science. This has been particularly evident with panels on the K-12 program. There has been even less attention to the issue of urbanization and the expansion of cities. This could have had space in research conducted on local governance but this variable has not really factored into the formal discussions in PPSA.

On the issue of disaster risk management, the PPSA annual conference has had at least a panel on the topic every year since 2012 with a number of papers being presented. These papers range from policy questions at local to national levels, to questions about the impact of language and symbolisms, to the way government responses have been represented in media. These articles, papers and presentations are generally much more descriptive than explanatory but nonetheless have the potential to contribute to the discourse and understanding of the issue. In particular, a number of these papers have potential importance to policy, especially for local governments. These include papers on housing reconstruction, on the protection of watersheds to prevent extreme flooding conditions, health risk reduction, and the gender implications of extreme weather conditions and natural disasters. These studies were conducted by individual researchers or teams of researchers from Dela Salle University, Ateneo De Manila University, and Mindanao State University. There is not much that is new that can be gleaned theoretically or conceptually from these studies except for a post-modern exploration conducted by Antonio Contreras that looked into texts, discourses and images of the Yolanda experience and the realms where these contended with each other.

As noted above, the case of ASEAN is a different one as themes and presentations on ASEAN were not as frequent. There were a number of papers presented



during the PPSA conferences but unlike the issue of disasters, ASEAN was not a topic that was consistently part of the PPSA conference program. Furthermore, the presentations focused more on questions of the geopolitical impact of ASEAN on regional security rather than on integration and identity. In 2014, there was a panel on ASEAN integration, and a presentation on another panel that looked into the prospect of the ASEAN Economic Community and the influence of European integration in this process. The case of 2014, however, is more of the exception in terms of the thematic interest on ASEAN in the context of the PPSA. While there are potential linkages to policy in some of these presentations, the lack of a clear attempt to look at this in terms of Philippine foreign policy does not make that link explicit. The discussions are mostly in terms of the prospect of success of ASEAN integration. These could have also had implications for theory especially in the context of International Relations, but none of the papers were really directed at making contributions to theory. Eduardo Tadem's paper presented at the 2014 annual conference was critical of the prospect of ASEAN integration but does not really make any explicit theoretical or conceptual claims. The same is arguably true of Alfredo Robles' article in the PPSJ (2012) on ASEAN FTAs with the EU.

As stated early on, there were no papers presented at the PPSA annual conferences and none were published in the PPSJ between 2010 and 2014 that specifically looked into urbanization or the expansion of cities.

Methodologically, most of these papers were empirical studies using qualitative methods. Most proceed using an institutional framework or a policy analysis approach. Some authors have tried to introduce a more critical perspective and taken a post-modern, discourse-based approach especially in terms of looking at the experience of disaster-affected communities and groups.

As far as Political Science is concerned, however, the PPSA and the PPSJ do not exhaust the entirety of work conducted by Political Scientists on the three "sustainability issues" that is the subject of this survey. There is more work conducted on disaster risk management and on ASEAN than is indicated by the two sources utilized in this outline. Certainly, there are

some Political Scientists who may have gone deeper into the question of urbanization and the expansion of cities than is suggested by their non-presence in the PPSJ and in any of the PPSA conferences. These studies, however, are outside the scope of this outline.

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## **THE DISCIPLINE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN THE PHILIPPINES:**

### **DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS**

**By Danilo de la Rosa Reyes,  
Philippine Society for Public Administration**

As a field of study, the discipline of Public Administration in the Philippines has increasingly adapted and ventured into various trends and directions that invariably involve the promotion and support of good governance in society.

In recent years, there has been a continuing broadening of research interests and development of concerns in the discipline from its generally considered traditional areas of attention or sub-fields of specialization in the discipline, embodied in such classic subject matters on the bureaucracy and public sector reform, organization and management, policy studies, national and local government relationships, fiscal administration and public enterprise, among others.

As a discipline, its scholars, researchers, practitioners and students, while not completely abandoning mainstream concerns such as local government and urbanization, have ventured into compelling areas that have exerted important significance in the management of society and public affairs.

These areas involve such topics as disaster risk reduction and mitigation (DRRM) and climate change, volunteer organizations and civil society participation in policy and implementation processes, gender equality issues, geographic information systems (GIS), and, of late, the agenda and problematique of the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Connectivity (AEC).

These are reflected in the activities and programs spearheaded by the PSPA that involve conduct of research and publication of findings, presentation



in national and international conferences and the promotion of discourses in these important areas with its Asian counterparts.

The PSPA, for example, has served as co-organizer of the meeting of “The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on ASEAN Connectivity: Current Issues and Future Prospects Towards an ASEAN Community” held in Thailand in 2014 and organized by the College of Public Administration and Governance (COPAG) of Mahasarakham University.

The faculty members and students of Public Administration in the Philippines who presented papers on ASEAN Integration in this Conference include, among others:

1. Dr. Danilo de la Rosa Reyes.\* 2015. “Dynamics of Supranational Institutions and Nation-States: Issues and Challenges for the ASEAN Integration.” Sonsri (ed.). Proceedings of Conference. COPAG: Mahasarakham, Thailand: 23-34.
2. Gina S. Salazar.\*\*\* 2015. “ASEAN Integration: A Mover in the Sectoral Cultural Governance in the Philippines” Sonsri (ed.) Proceedings of Conference. COPAG: Mahasarakham, Thailand: 47-54.
3. Elizabeth F. Milo.\*\*\* 2015. “An evaluation of the Philippine land-based transport facilities in the context of the ASEAN Integration.” Sonsri, (ed.) Proceedings of Conference. COPAG: Mahasarakham, Thailand:114-135.
4. Dr. Ebinzer R. Florano.\*\* 2015. “Compliance with, and Effective Implementation of Multilateral Agreements: Looking Back at the Transboundary Haze Pollution Problem in the ASEAN Region.” Sonsri (ed.) Proceedings of Conference. COPAG: Mahasarakham, Thailand: 183-202.
5. Mary Kris N. Visperas.\*\*\* 2015. “Collective Action in ASEAN: The Philippines and Thailand’s Business Case against Corruption.” Sonsri (ed.) Proceedings of Conference. COPAG: Mahasarakham, Thailand: 277-287.

6. Dr. Jocelyn C. Cuaresma.\*\* 2015. “Public Finance in the ASEAN: Trend and Patterns.” Sonsri (ed.): 317-331.
7. Abigail A. Modino.\*\*\* 2015. “Financing Universal Healthcare and the ASEAN: Focus on the Philippine Tax Law.” Sonsri (ed.) Proceedings of Conference. COPAG: Mahasarakham, Thailand: 332-341.
8. Dr. Maria Faina L. Diola.\*\* 2015. “ASEAN, Food Security, and Land Rights: Enlarging a Democratic Space for Public Services in the ASEAN.” Sonsri (ed.). Proceedings of Conference. COPAG: Mahasarakham, Thailand: 342-358.

In addition to these studies focused on ASEAN Integration, Dean Fe V. Mendoza of the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG) also presented a on paper climate change, “Private Sector Engagement in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: Implications on Regional Governance” (also in Sonsri, 2015: 167-182). Retired Professor of the U.P. NCPAG, Dr. Proserpina D. Tapales, also presented a paper on gender equality, “Climbing the Hill toward Political Equality: Data and Stories from the Philippines and Beyond” (Sonsri, 2015: 359-362).

In this same Conference, U.P. NCPAG DPA Candidate Lizan Perante-Calina explored the topic on “Philippine Response to Curb Human Trafficking of Migrant Workers” (Sonsri, 2015: 211-218) while DPA student Rose Gay E. Castaneda embarked on a study of “Decentralized Local Governance in the ASIAN Region: Good Practices of Mandaluyong City, Philippines” (Sonsri, 2015: 253-262).

The dynamism of the discipline into other themes are also reflected in International Conferences it hosted annually where various issues impinging on public administration and governance are discussed and presented as outputs of research papers of faculty members and students of various Philippine educational institutions, as well as from other

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countries. The International Conferences and their themes are:

1. PSPA 4th International Conference, October 9-11, 2014, Davao City; "Public Sector Reforms and Governance Reforms and Innovations."
2. Organizer and Host of the International Conference of the Asian Association for Public Administration (AAPA), February 6-8, 2014, Cebu City: "The Study and Practices of Public Administration in Asia and the rest of the World: Trends, Nuances, and Challenges."

The PSPA and its members also participated as paper presenters and discussants of the Korean Association for Public Administration (KAPA) "World Conference for Public Administration held in Daegu, Korea from June 25-27, 2014, as well as the aforementioned International Conference on ASEAN Connectivity in Mahasarakham University, Mahasarakham, Thailand, November 17, 2014.

On July 2-4, 2015, the PSPA and its co-organizers, led by the University of Northern Philippines, also held its 2015 International Conference in Vigan, Ilocos Sur on the theme, "The Continuing Search for Good Governance: Patterns, Practices and Prospects—Higher Education Institutions as Catalysts for Decentralization and Democratization for Development." In this Conference, the PSPA launched with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) its 3-D project, Decentralization and Democracy for Development. Some 25 plenary speakers presented papers on climate change, public sector reform, decentralization and higher education institutions' involvement in decentralization, while 60 paper presenters were highlighted in simultaneous panels.

In 2014, the PSPA also started publishing the Philippine Governance Digest, a quarterly magazine on public administration that publishes abridged papers presented in PSPA Conference.s This publication presents highlights of the papers presented in PSPA International Conferences and covers a wide range of topics that set the mood for continued discourses on various issues.

The PSPA has also established linkages with its counterparts in other countries by entering into Memoranda of Cooperation with public administration

associations in Asian countries. Presently, the PSPA has standing MOAs with the Taiwan Association for Public Administration (TAPA) and the Taiwan Association of Schools of Public Administration and Affairs (TASPAA), the Indonesian Association for Public Administration (IAPA), the Public Administration Association of Thailand (PAAT) and the Korean Association for Public Administration (KAPA).

The PSPA has also entered into agreements and partnerships for research with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the National Graduate Institute of Policy Studies of Japan, the UNDP and several other institutions.

All these reflect the continuing dynamism of the discipline in the conduct of researches, publications and linkages today.

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## PHILIPPINE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

### ASEAN Integration and Identity

The 2012 Philippine Historical Association (PHA) Annual Conference Proceedings entitled "The Philippines in Asia" (2013) has contributed to the discourse on ASEAN Integration. The articles "Trade and Growth Areas in Asia" by Alvin Ang, "The 2012 Scarborough Shoal Stand-Off: From Stalemate to Escalation in the South China Sea Dispute" by Renato Cruz De Castro, "Terrorism in Asia and the Philippines: An Assessment of Threats and Responses 11 Years after 9/11" by Rommel Banlaoi, and "Overseas Filipinos' Search for National Identity in Foreign Lands: An Agenda for Migration Historiography" by Jeremiah Opiniano are pertinent works that deal with Philippine economic, political, security and identity issues in relation to its Asian neighbors.

The authors are active faculty from academic departments.

J. Opiniano (2013) gave importance to a critical examination of concepts pertaining to migration studies such as identity and class before delving into the topic of inquiry which is the search for national identity in foreign lands. All authors used empirical and inter/trans/multidisciplinary approaches. The major methodological approach applied in most of the



works is qualitative methodology, with the exception of Ang (2013) who applied quantitative methods. R. De Castro's (2013) article employed the *realpolitik* or power political perspective to scrutinize the escalation of the Philippine-China dispute over the Scarborough Shoal, while J. Opiniano (2013) used a grounded theory approach to explore Overseas Filipino Workers' construction of national identity in the context of living and working in foreign lands.

New approaches and conceptual and theoretical considerations emerged from these researches. R. De Castro's (2012) employment of the *realpolitik* or power political perspective as analytical frame may be utilized by historians in examining historical phenomena. J. Opiniano's (2013) use of the grounded theory approach can help historical researchers make sense of the large amount of data that they are able to gather from various sources. Also, Opiniano (2013) gave suggestions on migration historiography, specifically areas for future historical research such as writing histories of Filipinos' entry and settlement into a foreign land, and linking 'migration histories' to other topics related to migration, such as important Philippine events/social phenomena and cultural diplomacy.

### **Disaster and Climate Change and Urbanization/Expansion of Cities**

In the 2011 PHA Annual Conference Proceedings, entitled "Magkakatuwang na Larangan, Magpapatungkad ng Kabuluhan: Ang Paggamit ng Agham Panlipunan sa Pagtuturo ng Kasaysayan" (History with the Other Social Sciences) (2012), the PHA contributed to the discourse on disaster and climate change and urbanization/expansion of cities through the following articles: "Ang Pagkakaugnay ng Sosyolohiya at Kasaysayan: Ang Kahalagahan ng mga Teorya sa Sosyolohiya sa Pag-aaral ng Kasaysayan" (The Relationship between Sociology and History: The Importance of Sociological Theories in the Study of History), by Evelyn A. Miranda and Praksis A. Miranda, and "Kasaysayang Pangkabuhayan ng Pilipinas: Pagsusuri ng Nakaraang Daan, Hamon sa Pangkasalukuyan at Tunguhin sa Hinaharap" (Economic History of the Philippines: Analysis of the Past, Challenges in the Present and Trajectories in the Future), by Celestina Boncan.

E. A. Miranda and P. A. Miranda (2012) include in their discussion the use of visual methods in both historical and sociological research. Disaster and climate change were mentioned in how sociologists would use pictures/photos in order to describe or help an interviewee/respondent recall the events that transpired in a specific contemporary social phenomenon (e.g. a photo of a flooded municipal hall can be shown to a flood victim). In terms of the urbanization discourse, sociologists can take pictures/photos of urban social phenomena, symbols and architectural designs in order to describe these or analyze these using theories in urban semiotics. As a contribution to theorizing on urbanization, the authors cited examples of historical researches that used sociological theory as analytical frame, one of which is Joson's (2007) masteral thesis on the relationship of colonial policies to the development of land transportation in Luzon from 1863-1945. Using ideas from André Gunder Frank's (1978) Dependency Theory as part of the conceptual framework of the study, Joson argued that colonial policies deterred development, for these policies catered to the interests and objectives of the colonizers.

Boncan's work (2012) included disaster and climate change in the survey of literature on economic history, specifically pertaining to Linda Newson's "Conquest and Pestilence in the Early Spanish Philippines" (2009) and Luis Dery's "Pestilence in the Philippines: A Social History of the Filipino People 1571-1800" (2006), on how important environmental forces and calamities were in destabilizing Philippine economic life during the Spanish Period. Literature on urbanization, in particular urban economic history, were also mentioned, such as Norbert Dannhaeuser's "Chinese Traders in a Philippine Town: From Daily Competition to Urban Transformation" (2004) and Alfred McCoy's "Philippine Social History: Global Trade and Local Transformations" (1982), as well as works on urban demographic history such as Daniel Doepfers' "Manila 1900-1941: Social Change in a Late Colonial Metropolis" (1984) and "Population and History: The Demographic Origins of the Modern Philippines" (2000). The author suggested that aside from train systems, future researches on transportation studies must discuss other systems of transportation such as jeeps, bus lines, shipping lines and airlines.



The authors are retired (Evelyn A. Miranda) and active (Celestina Boncan and Praksis A. Miranda) faculty from academic departments.

E. A. Miranda and P. A. Miranda's article (2012) emphasized the importance of a theoretical approach to research. Also, both E. A. Miranda and P. A. Miranda's (2012) and Boncan's articles (2012) used empirical and inter/trans/multidisciplinary approaches. The major methodological approach applied in both works is qualitative methodology. One of the theoretical influences in E. A. Miranda and P. A. Miranda's (2012) article is urban semiotics.

It can be surmised that new methods and conceptual and theoretical considerations emerged from these researches. For example, E. A. Miranda and P. A. Miranda (2012) suggested the theoretical consideration of urban semiotics as analytical frame in writing and assessing historical works, and for historians to be methodologically oriented to the utilization of visual methods in the construction and reconstruction of contemporary historical and social phenomena. Also, Boncan (2012) suggested the elaboration of conceptual insights in urban transportation studies, specifically the historical exploration of understudied systems of transportation such as jeeps, bus lines, shipping lines and airlines.

### Conclusion

All the aforementioned journal articles are important to social science theory building for they provide theoretical and conceptual insights that may be used for future researches, as well as enlighten policy analysis, formulation and reformulation. Such theoretical and conceptual insights will help develop the ASEAN integration and identity, disaster and climate change and urbanization discourse.

The Philippine social sciences influences programs and policy interventions relative to sustainability issues by providing theoretical and conceptual lenses that may aid in analyzing, formulating and reformulating programs and policies on sustainability issues. It also opens the doors to new ways of empirically validating sustainability issues by introducing program and policymakers to various methodological orientations.

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## SOCIAL AND SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCES IN THE ASEAN COMMUNITY: THE PHILIPPINES COMMUNICATION SOCIETY (PCS) PERSPECTIVE

Lourdes M. Portus and Joyce L. Arriola

The Philippines Communication Society (PCS) is the biggest organization of communication, communication research, and journalism educators and practitioners, experts and media executives in the country. As a dynamic organization, PCS's goals include providing a space for discourse, disseminating relevant information, participating in meaningful advocacies, and affording opportunity to understand current and urgent issues affecting Philippine society, particularly from the perspective of the social sciences, the academe and the media. Through the years, it has continuously mounted conferences, seminars and various fora to discuss relevant and timely issues in Philippine Society. Its members are also active organizers and presenters in various local and international conferences.

The PCS has likewise continued to annually publish its Philippines Communication Society Review (PCS Review) to provide a venue for the dissemination of its members and stakeholders' research and other academic and scholarly outputs. In addition, since 2009, the Philippines Communication Society Review (PCS Review) has been re-configured in order to address contemporary concerns in communication and media studies. A number of issues have addressed ASEAN Integration and identity in more subtle ways. Basically, the communication of an ASEAN identity has been reflected in some of the issues.

Specifically, the 2009 issue on "Information Access and Transparency" has problematized the need to sus-



tain the flow of information not only in the Philippines but also in the Region. Meanwhile the 2010 volume, “Media, Culture and Technology,” includes articles on how cultures are sustained through the use of media and technology. ASEAN identity, more specifically the one which has been forged through the cyberspace, has been highly dependent on technology. Borders have become porous and transnational engagements among the neighboring nations have provided an exciting dimension to diplomacy, trade and cultural exchange.

While the 2011 issue, “Youth and Media,” did not specifically tackle sustainability issues per se, it featured works on the youth’s use of the Internet—the global conduit for information explosion on any subject matter. Other issues tackled sustainability of cultures as several articles in the 2012 Open Issue and 2013 “Communication, Culture and Ethnicity” identified culture as the glue that sustains human societies. Even the 2014 volume “Children, Youth and Media” contained articles that point to the important role of communication in maintaining human interactions and societal functioning. The PCS Journal’s bias in favor of identity issues reflects its take on ASEAN and sustainability concerns as a culturally-specific formation.

PCS Conferences, however, though more focused on the practice of communication and journalism, reflect ASEAN concerns as they address the function of media institutions in ensuring good governance and sustaining Philippine democracy.

Annual Conferences, fora and panel discussions which were solely organized by PCS, adopted diverse themes. The September 2010 “Making Sense of Journalism Today” held at the Philippine Social Science Center had Alice Villadolid, Francisco Tatad, Rod Reyes, Herminio Coloma, Joseph Alwyn T. Alburo and Rowena C. Paraan, as speakers. They talked about the past, present and future of Journalism in the country. It must be noted that the speakers emphasized the role of information and communication in sustaining the quest for democracy, transparency, people’s participation, and freedom through information seeking and dissemination.

Seminars that were co-sponsored with other organizations, such as the Philippine Press Institute and the

government’s Philippine Information Agency, inquired about the sustainability of the Philippine Media. The “Forum on the Future of Historical Research on Philippine Media” and “Preserving and Promoting Communication Through Access to Information”, which were all conducted in 2014, were attended by more than 300 who were mostly students and teachers of communication.

We know that being dubbed as the Fourth state, media or the press function as watchdogs, gatekeepers, filters and windows in society. These functions maintain society and provide balance among government, industry and the citizens. The roster of speakers in the co-sponsored seminars mentioned above, namely, Georgina Encanto, Nick Deocampo, Florangel Braid, Elizabeth Enriquez, Alice Villadolid, Marco Polo, Atty. Nepomuceno Malaluan, and Rowena Paraan, all hoped for a more sustainable society that may be achieved by learning our lessons from the past, becoming more vigilant and promoting communication.

PCS’s latest conference dealt with children and youth, the future citizens and leaders of the country. The speakers, Herminio Coloma and Maria Cecilia Pana of ABS-CBN, talked about programs and projects for the youth and children. The papers presented in this conference, which were also about how media has been shaping the minds of the children and the youth, were later subjected to the PCS’ refereeing process and almost all were published in the PCS Review. Despite the fact that the papers did not directly address sustainability, the theme of sustaining society by nurturing the youth and children could be gleaned from most of the articles.

It would appear that sustainability, as defined in the communication discipline, might not necessarily be about disaster and climate change, ASEAN integration and identity or urbanization and expansion of cities. All these and more other sustainability concepts are supported by the PCS communication discipline. It is a fact that communication permeates all human activities. So, mitigating disaster and making people aware of climate change are functions of communication. ASEAN integration and identity as well as urbanization and expansion of cities can only be achieved with a good communication plan and support of the media.



The direct involvement of PCS with ASEAN integration and disaster was evident in its co-sponsorship of national conferences with the Communication Research Department of the College of Mass communication at the University of the Philippines. Since 2012, the PCS has collaborated with the Department in establishing student research conferences in the field of communication. Some of the themes addressed are risk communication and globalization.

- The conferences had a back-to-back forum for teachers. In these teachers' fora, several methodologies on conducting research were discussed. There were sessions on how to get published and the ethics of conducting research. All these topics are considered pertinent to social science theory building and in the development of several areas of studies related to the communication discipline. For instance, the use of technologies, particularly the Internet and the social media, are becoming research topics being scrutinized not only by the students but the faculty as well.
- Alongside these studies are the development of conceptual frameworks that will make people understand the onslaught of globalization to the Filipino psyche and culture. Similar to Western models of communication theory-building, Philippine communication has been attended by "fragmentation," owing to its broad base and the dual humanistic and scientific tradition that dichotomize communication research methods. On the one hand, the academe is method-oriented; on the other, the emphasis on an industry-driven communication practice somehow "delays" serious pursuit of indigenous theories.

Since our regular partners are government and private agencies such as the PIA and PPI, the possibility of influencing programs and policy interventions relative to sustainability issues is so high. PIA and PPI play a critical role in disseminating information to the public in both print and broadcast forms. Their audience reach is nationwide and their influence touch not only the upper and middle classes of the Philippine society but the more so, the poor and neglected sectors.

The conferences co-organized with UP-CMC include the following:

- 1<sup>st</sup> National Communication Research Conference: "Creatively Rediscovering Communication and Media", January 13 to 14, 2012, UP Diliman  
The conference papers were mostly about critical analysis of media products, particularly advertisements that influence the audience.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> National Communication Research Conference: "Communication Research in a Globalized World", February 15 and 16, 2013, UP Diliman  
This conference discussed some sustainability issues such as the fading away of traditions and cultures because of global influences, which media help to propel.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> National Communication Research Conference: "Communicating Risk", February 7 and 8, 2014, UP Diliman  
This is the conference that tailored-fit the sustainability issues on disaster and climate change. Most of the papers confronted the issue of risks, such as natural calamities and environmental degradation. The discipline of communication served as the anchor in evaluating media portrayal and the framing of media coverage on risks. How risks are communicated provided perspectives on how people respond to and are affected by the disaster.
- 4<sup>th</sup> National Communication Research Conference: "Communicating Health, Wellness, and Leisure", February 16 and 17, 2015  
The sustainability issues discussed here were related to sustaining life through good health and undertaking stress-free activities. The topics were about sustaining the elderly, caring for HIV-AIDS victims, reproductive rights and occupational safety, tourism and some gender issues.

The conferences held and journals published by the PCS have been mostly academic in research orientation but they are conducted in collaboration with consultancy and research agencies and government institutions as well. The methods are mixed; i.e., quantitative and qualitative communication research methods. The designs were mostly drawing inspiration from traditional social science. With the exception of the Historical Research Conference, the PCS is yet to enter the portal of critical social science through



the engagement of postmodern research methods. It is the aspiration of the Philippines Communication Society that one day it may be at the forefront of erasing theoretical, conceptual and methodological “divides” by addressing the politics that separate academe from industry; theory from practice; and, methods from issues. The last five years of PCS has proven to be about achieving a synthesis of such diverse impulses.

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## **LINGUISTICS SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES (LSP)**

**by Rochelle Irene G. Lucas**

### **On Academic Programs**

English Language Studies, Linguistics, Bachelor of Education major in English are all assessed, evaluated and accredited by the Philippine Center for Higher Education (CHED) and the ASEAN University Network (AUN) specifically for the three top universities in the Philippines namely: Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University and University of the Philippines. Through regular monitoring and accreditation, higher education institutions offering these courses are assured of quality as regards the implementation of these academic programs. Through the AUN, these member institutions have collaborations with other ASEAN schools in terms of student exchange, faculty and research collaborations and resource sharing.

### **Research and Publication**

There are diverse research endeavors in the field over the years such as language acquisition, language learning, discourse and corpus analyses, syntax, phonology, sociolinguistics, pragmatics, forensic linguistics to name a few. Researches done in these fields are supported by individual grants from research centers of universities. Moreover, faculty members and graduate students can also apply grants from agencies such as the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) for dissertation-writing grants. Or they can do collaborative projects with different non-government organizations such as the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) and UNESCO Bangkok for their research initiatives on language maintenance and preservation.

But much has been done on language policies that affect the Philippine educational system. One of which is the Mother-tongue Based Multilingual Education or MTB-MLE.

### **The Mother-tongue Based Multilingual Education in the Philippines**

Mother-tongue Based Multilingual Education or MLE is the use of more than two languages for literacy and instruction. It begins from where the learners are, and draw from what they already know. This means learning to read and write in their native or first language or L1, and using it for other subjects such as math, science, social studies and the like (Nolasco, 2010).

The 1996 UNESCO Universal Declaration on Linguistics Rights in Barcelona, Spain has instituted the use of the native language in learning and instruction to alleviate the quality of education. Thus, several initiatives have been done by agencies such as UNESCO, SEAMEO and the World Bank in the propagation of the use of the mother tongue in education, particularly in South East Asia (Kosonen and Young, 2009).

It has been noted that if children are taught in languages which are different from their native language or mother tongue, they tend to drop out from school, suffer from low academic performance, and repeat classes due to poor performance and high academic attrition rate (Lartec, et al., 2014).

Young (2003) posits that a majority of Filipino students begin their learning in a language that they do not understand and do not speak as well as their mother language. Considering the fact that the Philippines is a multi-lingual and multi-cultural country where almost 170 languages are spoken, neither English nor Filipino is the mother tongue of children studying in the Philippines.

With the institution of the Bilingual Education Policy in 1987, which emphasizes the need to develop literacy in Filipino as a linguistic symbol of national identity and unity and in English as a language of wider communication, it seems that this policy does not recognize the diversity of the many linguistic communities in the country. And as such, Baker (1996 in Young, 2003) points out that, in order to cope with their learning, children must use a language that is



sufficiently well grounded, to be able to process the cognitive demands of studying.

However, the Department of Education (DepEd) challenged the Bilingual Education Policy in 2009 by issuing an order that called for the institutionalization of mother tongue-based multilingual education or (MTB-MLE). This requires the use of the learners' first language as the medium of instruction for all subject areas in pre-kindergarten through grade three, with Filipino and English being taught as separate subjects (Philippines Department of Education, 2009 in Burton, 2013).

In 2012, another order was issued which offered more specific guidelines for MTB-MLE and embedded the reform in the newly adopted K to 12 Basic Education Program (Philippines Department of Education, 2012, in Burton, 2013). This shifted from the original mother tongue approach by specifying initially twelve major regional languages to be used as the languages of instruction. Under this order, teachers are provided learning materials in their regional languages and are expected to adapt them in order to encourage the students' use of their first languages.

In January 2013, the Congress of the Philippines officially supported this effort by passing the Enhanced Basic Education Act. In addition to shifting toward a K-12 educational structure, this legislation requires instruction, teaching materials, and assessments to be in the regional or native language of the learners from kindergarten through grade three with a —mother language transition program from grades four through six. Even though the current president has not yet signed the bill into law, its national implementation has begun. Gradual implementation started with grade one students in 2012 and will be followed by grades two and three in 2013 and 2014 respectively (Burton, 2013).

Several studies have been done in the country to articulate the importance of teaching and learning using the mother tongue or the native language. Initially, Dumatog and Dekker in 2003, conducted an initial study in Lubuagan, Kalinga. They found that students are more empowered to learn in their own language, perform better academically and are likely to succeed in school (Dumatog and Dekker, 2003).

This was followed by a longitudinal study done by Walter and Dekker in 2008, when they conducted the Lubuagan Mother Tongue Education Experiment. The experiment looked at the educational implications of the early addition of two second languages (Filipino and English) to the curriculum of students in their first three years in the elementary level. They have found that students taught in the native language performed academically better than those who were taught using English and Filipino (Walter and Dekker, 2008).

Aquino in 2012 suggested in her study that monolingual instruction in either Filipino or English had a stronger effect on the children's literacy skills compared to bilingual instruction and learning. Her data also demonstrated that mother tongue-based instruction, as compared to second-language instruction, had stronger effect on the preschoolers' literacy skills (Aquino, 2012).

In a similar vein, Sario et al., 2015 found in their study that the use of the students' mother tongue significantly improved their performance in mathematics. The results also showed that occasional translation, code switching and code mixing, facilitated students' understanding of concepts, resulting to active reception and learning (Sario et al., 2015).

Studies were also done on language policies and professional development for better articulation of MTB-MLE in the Philippines. Young in 2011 proposed the development of effective and sustainable policies that can support systems of basic education for children from minority ethno-linguistic communities in the complex multilingual context of the Philippines without sacrificing their own ethno-linguistic and cultural identity (Young, 2011).

Results from Burton provided teachers' and parents' views of MTB-MLE, focused on the short-term benefits of the policy and the long-term disadvantages (Burton, 2013). While both groups appreciated the increase in student understanding, they expressed concern about the future implications of learning in their native language (Bikol) rather than proficiency in English. They supported the language policy in terms of complying with the requirements, but showed resistance in their words and actions. The implications of the study look at the way language policy is managed. Rather than a



top-down approach that does not consider the local context, language policy must be implemented through interactions between the top and the bottom.

Stone-Paulston (2012) investigated attitudes of teachers towards language and education. The study intends to help program designers develop professional development initiatives that would address some of the challenges teachers face when transitioning into Mother Tongue Based Multi-Lingual Education (MTB-MLE), which include negative attitudes. The study proposed protocols and issues that trainers should undertake when designing professional development for MTB-MLE teachers.

By and large, several efforts have been made to promote the use of the mother tongue in the country. Several problems, such as lack of learning materials in the major languages, the need for continuous professional development, and resistance to MLE from some parents may pose as challenges for its successful implementation. It is hoped, however, that the nationwide effect of its usage will be to benefit learners through better performance in their academics and to develop deeper appreciation of their respective first languages.

### **On Education/Training of Social Scientists**

As regards the assessment of the quality of training in the field, several faculty members are encouraged to pursue graduate studies as part of the faculty development program of their respective universities. As such, they are updated with the newest trends in their fields. Moreover, faculty members attend national and international conferences where they present their researches and their publications. Some would also avail of post-doctoral programs in other international universities through USA's Fullbright, AusAID's Endeavor Scholarship and Fellowship, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Erasmus Mundus to mention a few. Others are invited as Visiting Professors within the AUN member universities.

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## The Human Face of the Soldier: A Multidisciplinary Panel<sup>1</sup>

Contrary to international normative premises that see the military as a “last resort” for disaster response, the Philippine military is historically and legally assigned a role in disaster management. Under Republic Act 10121, or the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (NDRRM) Law, the Armed Forces of the Philippines has a role in each of the four pillars of disaster management: from prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response, to rehabilitation and recovery. In January 2015, the PSSC organized a multi-disciplinary panel that features researches on the military for the Philippine Population Association.

Two papers in the panel examine military engagements with civilians in two critical disaster events: typhoons Pablo (Bopha) and Yolanda (Haiyan). One paper demonstrates the functionality and dynamics of the disaster risk reduction and management councils (DRMMCs) as platforms for military-civilian engagement, and analyzes the effect of variable security considerations (high versus low threat environment) on military-civilian engagement. The second paper describes how an emergency situation offers an opportunity to witness the changing role of security forces as it appropriates a new mission in disaster areas. It shows how the military provides a semblance of order when the civilian government in the devastated



Multi-disciplinary Panelists: Gail Ilagan, Rosalie Hall, and Neil Pancho

locality is disoriented by the scale of devastation, and how a disaster situation can “silence the guns” between the military and the rebels.

The third paper recounts the progress of trauma management among a group of soldiers who survived an encounter with rebels. Psychological assessment was undertaken to mitigate the risks of long-term distress among soldiers who survived a battle which claimed 19 soldiers (killed in action) and left 15 of the government troops wounded in action. Recommendations are made for operational debriefing among participating troops, and operational post-mortem among officers, to dissuade the hardening of revenge as a motive, and to prevent the formation of a collective myth surrounding the event.

In all, the papers in this panel describe alternative images of soldiers, as partners in disaster management and governance, and as victims of encounters, rather than as active combatants in subnational conflicts.

### **Localizing Bayanihan in Disaster Response: Military Engagements with Civilians In the Response to Typhoon Pablo and Yolanda**

**Rosalie Arcala Hall, PhD**  
**University of the Philippines**  
**Visayas**

Contrary to international normative premises that see the military as a “last resort” for disaster response, the Philippine military is historically and legally assigned a role in responding to the many disaster events in the country. Under the National Disaster Risk Re-

1 PSSC Multidisciplinary Panel for the 2015 Philippine Population Association (PPA) Annual Scientific Conference, 28-30 January 2015, SEDA Abreeza, Davao City.



duction and Management (NDRRM) Law (Republic Act 10121 of 2010), the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has a role in each of the four pillars of prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response, and rehabilitation and recovery. These include: (1) in prevention/mitigation, construction of dikes and other flood control structures by military engineering units; (2) use of military mobility for the prepositioning of food and non-food items in disaster-prone areas; (3) using military units to disseminate early warnings and advisories as well as evacuation of residents; (4) military personnel and assets for search and rescue operations, road clearance and relief delivery; and (5) in rehabilitation-recovery, rebuild public infrastructures (roads and bridges) and houses by military engineering units. In a recent reform of the NDRRM guidelines, the AFP was assigned the lead role in the search and rescue pillar.

Given the relatively short deployment periods and relaxed security considerations in a disaster response, local military units interface with local civilian authorities in this mission area in an entirely different manner compared to counter-insurgency operations. Stakeholder engagement, which is required under the military's internal security strategy (Internal Peace and Security Plan or Bayanihan) lends itself to better application in the context of disaster response. With an institutionally-prescribed local chief executive-led coordination platform (disaster risk reduction and management councils or DRRMC), the military's engagement with ci-

vilians, in general, is expected to generate unique dynamics. Civilian control or the assertion of elected authorities' lead over military tasking and missions is better attained where institutional frameworks that define civil-military relationships are present and where the military accepts a secondary role.

This paper examines military engagements with civilians in two localised disaster events: Typhoon Pablo (2012) and Typhoon Yolanda (2013). Typhoon Pablo directly hit Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental, which form part of the 66 and 67th Infantry Battalion area of operations, respectively. Typhoon Yolanda hit northern Panay island which in turn includes the area of operations of the 301st Brigade, comprised of 82 and 61 Infantry Battalions. Panay island is a small, low-kinetic theatre in the communist insurgency campaign. Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley, by contrast, are active conflict zones where incidents of direct armed engagement between government troops and communist insurgents are still notable. This paper maps and describes engagements by local military units with civilians (local government authorities, NGOs and communities) in the context of disaster response. A comparative analysis will be offered as to (1) the functionality and dynamics of the DRRMCs as platforms for military-civilian engagement; and (2) the effect of variable security considerations (high versus low threat environment) on military-civilian engagement. The paper draws from field-based research projects involving interviews of key military

officers under the Asian Public Intellectual (API) Collaborative Grant (Typhoon Pablo); UPV In-House Grant and Peace Winds America (Typhoon Yolanda).

### **Soldiers in Disaster Zone: Appropriating Institutional Roles in the Aftermath of Typhoon Bopha (Pablo)**

**Neil Ryan P. Pancho**  
Assistant Professor III, Ateneo de  
Davao University

The security forces and the rebels battled in patches of territory in Southern Philippines, especially in the town of New Bataan. But the armed confrontations had to be put on hold after a devastating typhoon "Pablo" struck Southern Philippines in December 4, 2012.

After the typhoon had passed, a localized mobilization of inter-branch security units of the AFP's Eastern Mindanao Command (EastMinCom) occurred. Security forces performed an impromptu rescue operation, converting combat vehicles into mobile rescue units and helicopters as workhorses for relief goods and medicines. Soldiers acted as first responders against the pile of mud, trees and raging water, taking civilians out from danger. Internal security operations (ISO) momentarily disappeared. Military units concentrated on responding to emergency situations.

The situation in New Bataan offers an opportunity to see the changing role of security forces as it appropriates new mission in disaster areas. This particular shift of role confirms the growing literature of



the military in disaster areas. They provided the semblance of order when civilian government in the local level appeared to be wobbling and disoriented by the scale of devastation. The military filled the vacuum of authority to keep things running until national agencies and international non-government organizations (INGOs) arrived to conduct rehabilitation projects.

The disaster silenced the guns, too. There were no records of violence between the security forces and rebel units. This made the security forces concentrate on disaster management without being harassed by the rebels.

Above all, security forces delivered the primordial role in disaster management and appeared to be cognizant of its limit. The security forces recognize that long term rehabilitation belongs to the civilian government and civil society organization.

### **Trauma Event Management of the 18 October 2011 Albarka Encounter Survivors**

**Gail Tan Ilagan, PhD, CSOP  
Ateneo de Davao University**

Following Kardiner's Proximity, Immediacy, and Expectancy (PIE) principle on support interventions for potentially traumatizing events (PTEs), psychological assessment of 12 encounter survivors was undertaken to mitigate risk of long-term distress from the 18 October 2014 debacle that claimed 19 KIAs and 15 WIAs among government troops. Results on PC PTSD Screen one week after the

event showed elevated measures on hypervigilance, intrusion, and avoidance. The survivors' memory of the combat experience featured the perception of heavy and continuous attack; death of unit members; accidents due to environment and human error under fire; exposure to human suffering; and frontline issues. Except for two, reduced levels on the PC PTSD Screen were reported a month after. Positive factors to recovery included the perception of safety needs adequately met, stabilizing presence of social support

in military medical facilities, and affirmation in the public outrage. A month after, assessment of impacts indicated improved sense of self, with sense of mission and purpose intact. There, too, was perception of higher tolerance to hardship, pain, and injury. Recommendations were made for the conduct of operational debriefing among participating troops and operational post-mortem among officers to dissuade hardening of the revenge motivation and prevent formation of collective myth surrounding the event.



**Panelists pose with officers of PPA. L-R: Joy Arguillas, Sharon Linog, Rosalie Hall, Neil Pancho, Amar Torres, Gail Ilagan**



## **Towards Good Water Governance for Development: A Multi-Case Analysis<sup>1</sup>**

**University of the Philippines System Emerging Interdisciplinary Research (EIDR)**

For the 2015 International Conference on Historical Education mounted by the Philippine Historical Association, PSSC chose to feature an ongoing multi-disciplinary research program from the University of the Philippines. Water is hardly a topic that comes to mind when we say 'history,' so it was a challenge to present research on water governance and distribution in the Conference. Yet, the three papers presented in the panel aptly demonstrate that natural resource management has a history of its own, affected by the political system, economic programs, people's demands and governance theory. Actions related to access and distribution of water is a "product of complex competition and collaboration among institutions and their constituencies in different hierarchies of governance." So, don't take your drinking water for granted.

### **Where History Flows: The Evolution of Water Governance in the Philippines**

**Corazon L. Abansi, Agnes C. Rola, Rosalie Arcala  
Hall, Joy Lizada and Ida Siason**

The evolution of water governance in the Philippines is embedded in attitudes and practices that constitute various paradigms of water - as a spiritual and holy substance; as a common good; as an economic good or commercial commodity; or as a chemical compound (Hassan, 2011). Using secondary information and review of literature, this paper traces the history of Philippine water governance in four major periods: (i) the predominance of customary rules, (ii) the rise of the central state authority, (iii) the move to decentralized governance, and (iv) the turn to partnership in water governance. In pre-colonial times, informal or customary rules governed water ownership and use, with the right to access and use of water rooted in the concept of land and guided by the idea of water as common

property and by the spirit of collectivism. From 1946 to 1955, most water supply systems were operated by local authorities but were later placed under the national government. The period 1965-1985 was characterized by a strong central state that controlled water resources and held them in public trust. Following the government's devolution policy in the 1990s, the locus of decision-making went down from national to local government agencies/offices, representing a movement towards subsidiarity and a mindset that water governance is location and context-specific. The new millennium brought in the concept of distributed governance, given challenges to the state's role by cohesive civil society, private sector and international organizations. In the process, the water sector has been beset by conflicts between formal and customary rules and among competing water uses; complex but fragmented institutional set-up in state rules; and weak water rights assignation. How history shaped laws, policies and institutions has relevance to a more proactive water governance mechanism for sustainable water supply in the Philippines.

### **Institutional Analysis of Water Resource Management in Metro Iloilo**

**Joy C. Lizada, Rosalie Arcala Hall, Agnes C. Rola,  
Ida M. Siason, Rhodella A. Ibabao  
and Teresita S. Espinosa**

With increasing water scarcity and frequent occurrences of water-related conflicts at the macro and micro levels, the institutional arrangements governing water resource development, allocation, and management are receiving increasing policy attention worldwide (Saleth, 2004). Institutional factors are often among the most formidable obstacles to the development and implementation of feasible water resource programs (Ingram et. al,

<sup>1</sup> PSSC Multidisciplinary Panel for the International Conference on Historical Education, Historical Education in Asia: Issues and Challenges. Philippine Historical Association, August 27-28, 2015, University of Santo Tomas, Manila.





Dr. Mark Abenir, Faculty of the University of Sto. Tomas, directs a question to the multidisciplinary panel.

1984). Water decisions and actions are not events that occur by themselves, but a product of complex competition and collaboration among institutions and their stakeholding constituencies in different hierarchies of governance (Malayang, 2004). The fragmentation of responsibilities in the governance of water is one of the casualties of the historical evolution of institutions (ACIAR, 2001).

This paper analyzes the historical evolution of local domestic water resource management arrangements in Metro Iloilo. This institutional arrangement has two major water-related organizations—the Metro Iloilo Water District (MIWD) on the demand side and the Tigum –Aganan Watershed Management Board (TAWMB) on the supply side. Over the years, MIWD service coverage has remained low and service delivery poor. MIWD is withdrawing most of its water from Tigum–Aganan river (surface water), the watershed for which TAWMB is responsible for oversight and monitoring of conservation, development, protection and rehabilitation activities, programs and projects. The general disconnect between the institutional arrangements governing domestic water provisioning for Metro Iloilo (demand side) and the watershed conservation efforts focused on upstream stakeholders

(supply side) result from the fragmented treatment of water as a policy area. Through a review of government and project documents, focus group discussions and key informant interviews, the paper describes past and existing institutional arrangements, patterns and issues arising from these arrangements, and interaction among water organizations. How these arrangements affect the water resource over time is also probed.

### **From Water-Rich to Water-Scarce: Surface Water Transfers For Domestic Use in the Era of Uncertainty**

**Rosalie Arcala Hall, Agnes C. Rola, Joy Lizada,  
Corazon Abansi, Maria Helen Dayo**

In the Philippines, the governance of water is premised on the state's exclusive property rights to the resource. As owner of all surface and ground water, the state grants usufruct rights to individuals and groups/collectives for domestic use through water permits issued by the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), government concessions or by legislation. Water permits and concessions lay out the terms for coverage and pricing, and can be leased, transferred, modified, reduced, suspended, revoked



or cancelled. Since the 1990s, the management, supervision and monitoring of water resources is devolved from the national to local governments/offices. Accordingly, local governments have taken a stronger interest in their subsidiary role, coming up with their own codes/laws that articulate management imperatives towards watershed protection, anti-water pollution and conservation within their administrative boundary. The national government has also allowed the privatisation of water districts and private water competitors to water districts within the same coverage area. However, the government's presumed role in the lease and transfer of water permits, and pricing beyond cost recovery, are as yet unclear.

This paper traces the evolution of organisations and institutional arrangements for physical transfer of water resources, both surface and ground, for domestic use across politico-administrative boundaries through a contract between private water permit holders, water districts and LGUs. Transfers permit water-scarce communities to meet rising demand for domestic water brought about by rapid urban expansion. The paper examines the conflicts generated by these transfers given that the NWRB process does not require public disclosure nor prior consultation with riparian communities. Tensions between rival claims by permit holders, LGUs and civil society are explored. How these conflicts produce changes in inter-governmental arrangements for water governance is examined.



Woman power: the PSSC Multidisciplinary Panel. Left to Right: Amar Torres, Rosalie Hall, Agnes Rola, Joy Lizada, and Corazon Abansi.

### **The UP-EIDR Research Team:**

Dr. Agnes C. Rola (Program Leader, UP Los Baños)

Dr. Ida M. Siason (UP Visayas)

Dr. Juan Pulhin (UP Los Baños)

Dr. Rosalie Arcala Hall (UP Visayas)

Dr. Ma. Helen Dayo (UP Los Baños)

Dr. Joy C. Lizada (UP Visayas)

Dr. Corazon Abansi (UP Baguio)

Prof. Jessica Carino (UP Baguio)

Dr. Myra David (UP Los Baños)

Dr. Rhodelia Ibabao (UP Visayas)



## Reforms in Philippine Bureaucracy Tackled at the Philippine Economic Society Annual Meeting by Joanne Agbisit, Head, PDMS, PSSC

Reforms to rid the Philippine bureaucracy of corruption and improve its efficiency were discussed at the concluding sessions of the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Philippine Economic Society on 10 November 2015.

Government bodies leading the anti-corruption drive presented their plans and programs in the plenary session “Reforming the Bureaucracy: Perspectives from Key Government Institutions,” which was jointly organized by the Philippine Social Science Council and the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB).

Civil Service Commission (CSC) Chair Alicia Bala shared CSC’s vision to be the leading center of excellence for strategic human resource and organization development in Southeast Asia by 2022 and the whole of Asia by 2030. “To attain this vision, CSC is shifting its orientation from regulation to proactive human resource and organization development interventions to help government agencies achieve their organization’s goals,” Ms. Bala said.

These interventions include a program to institutionalize meritocracy in career advancement and excellence in human resource management practices; a performance management system that aligns individual performance with agency mandate and priorities, organizational performance, and national development plans; and measures to fast track the disposition of cases filed against erring government employees.

Ms. Bala added that in line with the Anti-Red Tape Act, CSC established a hotline service called *Contact Center ng Bayan* dedicated to receiving and addressing the complaints of citizens against “fixers,” discourteous personnel, and poor service, to name a few. CSC also launched the Report Card Survey, a “mechanism to get feedback on government frontline services and measure client satisfaction.”

The Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG) is also bent on improving the efficiency of government agencies within its ambit. GCG Chair Cesar

Villanueva stated, “Our aim is to transform the government corporate sector into a significant tool of the state to attain inclusive growth and economic development.”

He said that GCG has power of “life and death” over GOCCs and their appointive directors under Republic Act No. 10149 or the GOCC Governance Act of 2011. Since its creation, Mr. Villanueva noted, GCG has abolished or deactivated 22 government corporations that were not performing their respective mandates.

GCG is also working to eliminate “bad practices” within government corporations, such as the multiple and unwarranted allowances and bonuses given to board directors. “We have instituted two levels of performance evaluation, one at the organizational level and another at the director- or board member-level,” Mr. Villanueva explained. “Good performance has become the basis for bonuses in organizations as well as the basis for reappointment of board members.”

Mr. Villanueva said GCG is pursuing the institutionalization of these reform initiatives to ensure their continuation after the Aquino Administration. “GCG has set up an integrated corporate reporting system which aims to make data on GOCC finances, such as compensation and per diems, available to the media and the public,” he said. “GCG is likewise adopting a whistle-blowing mechanism where ordinary citizens can write to GCG for complaints or send anonymous tips about irregularities.”

The Commission on Audit’s (COA) reforms, meanwhile, are designed to increase transparency in public financial management, simplify and update accounting and auditing rules, and educate public officials about these rules. According to COA Chair Michael Aguinaldo, these reforms include harmonizing public sector accounting standards with international standards, adopting the revised



chart of accounts for government organizations, and preparing government accounting manuals for public officials.

One of the most important strategies that COA is pursuing, Mr. Aguinaldo said, is the “multisectoral participatory audit of government programs and projects.” Since COA has a limited number of auditors, it has tapped the assistance of civil society organizations in monitoring and evaluating infrastructure projects, such as flood control and farm-to-market roads. It also continues to solicit feedback from beneficiaries, particularly to verify if the project is being used for its intended purpose.

“With the help of the World Bank and other agencies, we have pilot tested a system that will enable citizens to take photos of any infrastructure project as it is being built and upload these photos in a public site,” Mr. Aguinaldo shared. He said that this will help COA monitor the progress of the project in real-time and eliminate the occurrence of “ghost projects.”

With only 180 days before the next elections, Commission on Elections (COMELEC) is focusing on the promotion of inclusive participation and informed choice, and ensuring clean and credible elections. “We

launched the campaign *PiliPinas* to encourage eligible voters to register and participate in the electoral process,” said COMELEC Chair Andres Bautista. He considers the campaign a success, having drawn some 54.6 million registered voters.

As part of its electoral reform initiatives, COMELEC is also working on the conduct of Presidential and Vice Presidential debates in 2016 to encourage the voting population to make an informed and rational choice. “We want the public to base their decision on the candidate’s platform and veer away from personality-based politics,” said Mr. Bautista.

Mr. Bautista claimed that COMELEC is fully committed to clean and honest elections, and sees the P14-16 billion election budget as an investment in the country’s democratic system of governance. “Credible elections pave the way for institutional reforms and political stability, which are necessary for economic development,” Mr. Bautista said.

OMB believes that for anti-corruption efforts to be successful, there should be basic understanding of the embeddedness of corruption in everyday government transactions and the agencies that are most vulnerable to corruption. These concerns are addressed in



Left to right : Alvin Ang—PES (Moderator); Michael Aguinaldo—Chairperson, Commission on Audit; Alice Bala—Chairperson, Civil Service Commission; Andrew Bautista—Chairperson, Commission on Elections; Cesar Villanueva—Chairperson, Governance Commission for GOCCs; and Alan Cañares—Director OMB Public Assistance and Corruption Prevention Bureau.



the National Household Survey on Experience with Corruption in the Philippines, which is administered every three years by the Philippine Statistics Authority as a rider to the Annual Poverty Indicators Survey.

OMB Public Assistance and Corruption Prevention Bureau Director Alan Cañares shared that the 2013 survey results show that overall, fewer families paid bribes or grease money compared to the 2010 data. However, he noted an increase in the incidences of bribery or payment of grease money in the area of social services such as education, healthcare, social security and employment.

Data further indicate that bribes were demand-driven. “Payment of bribery or grease money was initiated by government officials, rather than given voluntarily,” said Mr. Cañares. “Seven out of 10 families gave bribes or grease money when asked, especially in transactions involving securing registry documents and licenses.”

While there is an increase in the number of families reporting petty corruption to public authorities, the figure is still not significant. The reasons for not reporting include fear of reprisal, lack of time, and low amount of bribe, according to Mr. Cañares.

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales delivered the closing keynote address after the plenary presentation of the five agencies.

In her speech, the Ombudsman cited the positive impact of the government’s anti-corruption campaign on the country’s economy. “Our anti-corruption efforts have been acknowledged by the international community and have contributed to the country’s progress as shown by the latest growth figures and investment upgrades,” she said.

Ombudsman Morales stressed that the country cannot afford to lose this momentum, noting that the gains will ultimately benefit the Filipino people. She called on the academe, the private sector, and other groups not to be “passive,” and to “do the right thing” and “help the OMB and other constitutional bodies fulfill their mandates and attain their commitments.”

“I challenge everyone to work together to fight graft and corruption,” she said. “Let this be our commitment and legacy to the next generation of Filipinos.”

**“I challenge everyone to work together to fight graft and corruption. Let this be our commitment and legacy to the next generation of Filipinos.”**

**—Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales**



Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales delivered the Closing Remarks at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Philippine Economic Society



## When Psychologists Need to Turn to a Multidisciplinary Approach to Support Disaster Survivors

Gail Tan Ilagan

Center of Psychological Extension and Research Services  
Ateneo de Davao University

When Typhoon Haiyan made landfall in Eastern Visayas on 8 November 2013, it spawned gigantic storm surges that left over 6,000 people dead. Six months after, government records would show that almost 30,000 were injured and more than a thousand remained missing. And despite the unprecedented outpouring of humanitarian assistance, recovery work was frustratingly slow, especially in Tacloban City where post-disaster relief and aid seemingly became mired in political contestations and general disarray.

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) held in June 2014 found that despite the huge amount of relief and rehabilitation money that the mega-disaster had raised and the participation of international humanitarian agencies in guiding these efforts, very little was seen by way of improving the life conditions of Haiyan survivors. In the landmark Tacloban Declaration that was released after the ASEM, the humanitarian agencies admitted that they needed the help of other stakeholders, especially those that can employ more indigenous methods that may be more culturally appropriate towards building community resilience.

The Association of Psychologists and Helping Practitioners, Inc. (APHP), a non-stock, non-profit NGO established by psychologists from the Ateneo de Davao University Center of Psychological Extension and Research Services (COPERS), pitched in to assist psychosocial recovery efforts in 15 storm surge-hit villages in Tacloban City and one barangay in Palo, Leyte. Funding for the 16-month Leyte Community Resilience Enhancement Project (LCREP) was provided by the Germany-based *terre des hommes*, augmented by support from the Columban Society in the Philippines. The Redemptorists-Tacloban and the Civil Affairs Office of the Philippine Army's 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division provided logistical support to the LCREP staff in its field operations.

In mid-2014, APHP saw LCREP as an opportunity to further advance its knowledge on post-disaster psychosocial support applications and improve on what its expert base had already established in its

two phases of the Mindanao Resilient Communities Project (MRCP) in 2012 and 2013, as well as from its findings from the emergency support it provided from December 2013 to February 2014 to some Haiyan-affected communities in Eastern Visayas.

LCREP commenced in August 2014 with a workshop facilitated by ADDU Department of Psychology chairperson Nelly Limbadan, to assess psychosocial support needs of its 13 partner villages along Cancanato Bay and the San Jose district of Tacloban, as well as two partner villages in Palo. It then proceeded to address these needs for the capacitation of local resources for self-help strategies to deliver on post-disaster tasks. By the end of the year, the LCREP had trained 125 community partners for Psychological First Aid (PFA) and another 161 for Basic Life Support (BLS) Skills. It also conducted Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) training for 31 individuals from the Tacloban academe and civil society groups and delivered child-centered PSS services to 70 children in San Jose.

Thus, the expected retraumatizing effect of the first anniversary of the Haiyan disaster did not exact an unmanageable toll on the partner villages as there were resources on the ground prepared to anticipate and address such when it manifested.

LCREP ended the year with an immersion activity that brought 17 key community partners to learn from the experience of Typhoon Pablo survivors in Compostela Valley Province and Davao Oriental. The 5-day activity gave them much inspiration for self-help strategies they could implement that could help their transitioning communities become more resistant to future disasters. In assessing their post-disaster concerns at the end of 2014, the partner communities indicated adequacy of preparations for community-based psychosocial support. They however identified emerging sources of existential stress stemming from insecure housing conditions and lack of livelihood opportunities.

In response to these articulated needs, APHP redesigned LCREP to deliver socio-therapeutic



interventions for social cohesion and collective agency. Community dialogues became the tool to facilitate the examination of community needs, resources, and solutions acceptable to the survivors.

APHP tapped a widening base of experts in other fields to deliver appropriate training to meet the needs identified during community dialogues. Relational adjustments were addressed through a series of community dialogues on gender sensitivity and male participation in anti-violence against women and children. LCREP also delivered inputs – both material and technical – for operating a child-friendly space facility and managing leisure activities of adolescents in the transitional site where may displaced residents from the partner communities were eventually relocated.

For some villages, it was about their need to perform community rituals, such as the holding of thanksgiving mass, representation in town festivals, and the conduct of communal celebrations, such as Christmas, Santacruzán, and other traditional practices. For most, however, it was about the urgent need to expand their economic opportunities within their villages, and especially for those who had been relocated in the transitional site well away from their former places of work.

Thus, APHP directed its resources and networked with various agencies to help its partners organize to access appropriate training for their desired livelihood projects and manage the grant of materials required to initiate income generating activities. These livelihood opportunities opened up for the survivors: capacitated 101 individuals in fish cage farming, 163 in meat and fish processing (smoking and deboning), 20 in backyard hog raising, entrepreneurship, and business management.

At the close of the project in April 2016, APHP finds that the socio-therapeutic model it employed holds promise for generating a framework to direct MHPSS efforts beyond the post-disaster emergency phase until some measure of community stability is achieved by survivors. Collective efficiency may indeed be enhanced by restructuring the social capital of disaster populations in transit, when undertaken with sensitivity not only to the individual recovery processes but also to the disaster-affected sociocultural context.

## **PSSC's Philippine Migration Research Network Crafts a Crisis Management Manual For Philippine Diplomatic Missions**

**Joanne Agbisit**

The Philippine Migration Research Network has been tapped by the International Organization for Migration to prepare a crisis management manual under its Capacity-building on Crisis Management and Assistance to Migrant Nationals: The Philippines Project.

A pioneer project, the manual seeks to improve the ability of the diplomatic corps and service personnel to secure the safety and wellbeing as well as efficiently respond to the needs of Filipino migrants caught in armed conflicts, calamities, and other types of crises abroad.

The preparation of the manual was guided by a background paper that chronicled the experiences and responses of the Philippine government, recruitment agencies, and other stakeholders in handling crisis situations beginning with the 1990 Gulf War.

The manual includes five modules on the following topics: (a) an overview of the overseas Filipinos' vulnerabilities to crisis; (b) international frameworks and conventions on migration crisis management; (c) Philippine laws and structures for migration crisis management; (d) principles and elements of good migration crisis management at the pre-crisis, emergency response and post-crisis phases; and (e) good practices and useful pointers for each type of migration crisis. Each module consists of a set of exercises to assess the learners' knowledge and competency.

To validate the content of the manual, PMRN participated in a number of IOM-led consultation workshops attended by the Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Social Welfare and Development, POEA, OWWA, migrants' organizations, recruitment/manning agencies, and other stakeholders.

PMRN is now working on the conversion of the manual into an interactive online learning course. IOM and DFA aim to make this online course a pre-deployment requirement, especially for new foreign service officers, labor attachés, and other service personnel.



## Philippine Corruption Research, 1990-2015 Annotating Corruption's Prevalence and Implications

**Andrew C. Lacsina and Jeremaiah M. Opiniano**

Corruption remains pervasive in the 116-year-old Philippine bureaucracy. Its prevalence has helped also made corruption among the most studied topics in Philippine governance. But what is research's role in the fight against graft and corruption and how had this phenomenon been studied and analyzed? This research did an annotated bibliography on Philippine corruption spanning the years 1990 to 2015, citing works (n=218) from social science research, legal research and research work done for journalistic purposes (especially investigative reporting).

The country is not short of measures, laws and programs to curb graft and corruption and to improve the performance of the entire bureaucracy. Various republic acts have also provided the policy framework to address corruption. However, even under an administration—President Benigno Simeon Aquino III's— that committed itself to curb this menace, challenges still prevail. International and national surveys over the years have also revealed how the public's perception on corruption has remained quite high.

Researchers who had studied corruption in the Philippines spanned various disciplines; they produced books or handbooks, legal materials, empirical studies in academic journals, commissioned studies/reports, and investigative stories, as the materials employed quantitative and qualitative research methods. Nevertheless, certain areas remain less explored (e.g., culture and corruption). Panel data on corruption perceptions and estimated amounts lost to corruption also reveal challenging realities surrounding Filipino corruption.

Much is in store for research's role in anti-corruption efforts. The study of anti-corruption in the Philippines leaves a case for robust efforts by Filipino researchers that other countries can

emulate. Anti-corruption agencies continue to find ways how research can pinpoint more and more causes, mechanics and determinants of corruption. But ordinary Filipinos want to see more corruption-busting efforts happen. This is especially because reform measures have yet to see their full fruits to reform the entire bureaucracy and Filipinos' mindsets toward corruption.



## OMB Research Capacity Skills and Training Needs Assessment

**Fernando de la Cruz Paragas, PhD**  
**Jonalou S. Labor, MA**  
**Jeannica Mae M. Rosario**

This project for the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB) was undertaken in coordination with the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) to help the OMB articulate and implement its research agenda. Its objective was to determine the research capacities and requirements of the OMB.

### Methodology

This one-shot assessment employed the following: a triangulated research design which included a unit survey of 36 bureau directors and office heads, a survey of 179 individual employees, and focus interviews with ten officials. The OMB provided a list of participants from which the informants and respondents were identified.



The 29-item unit survey instrument determined the current state of research capability, productivity, and institutional support among OMB units, bureaus, offices and divisions. The 158-item individual survey questionnaire, meanwhile, determined the employees' research skills capability, interests, and motivations. Scales in the instrument had Cronbach's alpha reliability scores between 0.80 and 0.97. Finally, the focus interviews gleaned insights from OMB officials with regard to the organization's research practices, pitfalls and potentialities.

### **Findings and Implications**

Integrating research across OMB is tricky since it is seen as the purview of specific units and not typically identified as a mandate of most offices. However, even units which said they had no research mandate indicated some level of interest and capability to do research. In fact, OMB employees represent such disciplinary diversity--encompassing the domains of arts and humanities, social sciences and law, management and economics, and science and technology--that research clusters can be created and incentivized to harness the OMB's well-educated staff. This disciplinary richness can be channeled towards either discipline-specific or inter-disciplinary clusters that can conceptualize and implement research.

OMB employees identify graft and corruption, and allied issues such as red tape and mismanagement, as the key topics which they find personally interesting and important for the OMB. Thus, these topics can serve as the springboard for a potential research agenda that can be explicated by the research clusters in future training and research projects. However, for the same topics, respondents indicated lower levels of interest compared to how they felt these were important for the OMB. There seems to be a need, therefore, to strengthen the alignment of topics of interest and importance at the personal and institutional levels. In other words, how could the level of interest be made at par with what is perceived to be important for the OMB? Perhaps research can be a tool for self-fulfilling institutional engagement. Employees who study and consequently learn more

about graft and corruption will arguably increase their level of interest about it.

Across research participants, interviewees, who are higher in the OMB echelon, saw research as more strategic and integral in fulfilling the mission of the OMB whereas unit survey respondents, though still somewhat interested in research, were more likely to say research simply was not part of their mandate. Moreover, employees identify very basic operational issues (i.e., budget, workload, manpower, time) which constraints them from conducting research. There is a need, therefore, to institutionalize incentives because, across the survey of units and individuals, employees said there was limited support for mechanisms (i.e., research training, scholarships, conference attendance and organizational membership) which can promote a culture of research at the OMB. This also requires clarity as regards the available funding for research activities.

Finally, data indicate employees tend to be more operational than conceptual in their self-rated research proficiency: higher levels of proficiency in implementation than conceptualization, writing than analysis, data processing than analysis. Initial research training, therefore, has to focus on praxis than theory.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings and their implications, a four-pronged research capability program was proposed: 1) a research visioning workshop to articulate OMB's research vision, mission, goals, objectives, and to tease the corresponding operational implications of the resulting research agenda; 2) short-term courses on specific research activities which are more vocational and practical in nature to channel employees' to build upon current competencies; 3) medium-term training on research conceptualization where trainees can start to ask their own literature-based and theory-informed questions; and 4) long-term mentoring on research implementation where trainees are mentored in implementing their projects.



## **Pathways to Gender Equality in HROD Programs of Philippine Bureaucracy**

**Amaryllis Tiglao-Torres, PhD**  
**Jean Encinas-Franco, PhD**  
**La Rainne Abad-Sarmiento, PhD**  
**Marlene dela Cruz, MAWD**

This research project was undertaken by PSSC for the Philippine-Australia Human Resource and Organizational Development Facility (PAHRODF), as one of the projects awarded a grant under its Research Grant Scheme in 2014. The study examined the pathways to gender equality through human resources management and organisational development strategies introduced in two agencies of the Philippine bureaucracy, namely the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), which are Core Partner Organisations [CPOs] of the PAHRODF. Through a case study of the two offices, the research sought to obtain answers to the following questions:

1. What are the indicators of gender responsiveness in HROD interventions initiated by learning service providers [LSPs]?
2. To what extent are HROD practices of CSC and DSWD as Core Partner Organisations [CPO] gender-responsive?
3. What are the gender values, attitudes and behavior of top management and HR managers in CSC and DSWD?
4. In what ways have gender-responsive HROD practices influenced the gender values, organisational performance and relationships of employees in CSC and DSWD?

The project adopted the framework for gender mainstreaming developed by the Philippine Commission on Women. It proposed that gender mainstreaming can be accomplished through the following channels: policy, enabling mechanisms, people and programs. When taken into context, we note that PAHRODF implements strategic

interventions that aim to improve the levels of capacity, competency and change readiness of core partner organisations to pursue organisational and institutional change. These changes, in the end, should lead to the attainment of the development objectives of the Philippines, which are inclusive growth and the reduction of poverty. Through HROD, CPOs are expected to become more capable, competent, and ready to implement the programs and reform agenda they have articulated in their statements of commitment, and to pursue organisational and institutional change. The guiding framework for the study may be seen in Figure 1. Among the findings of the study are the following:

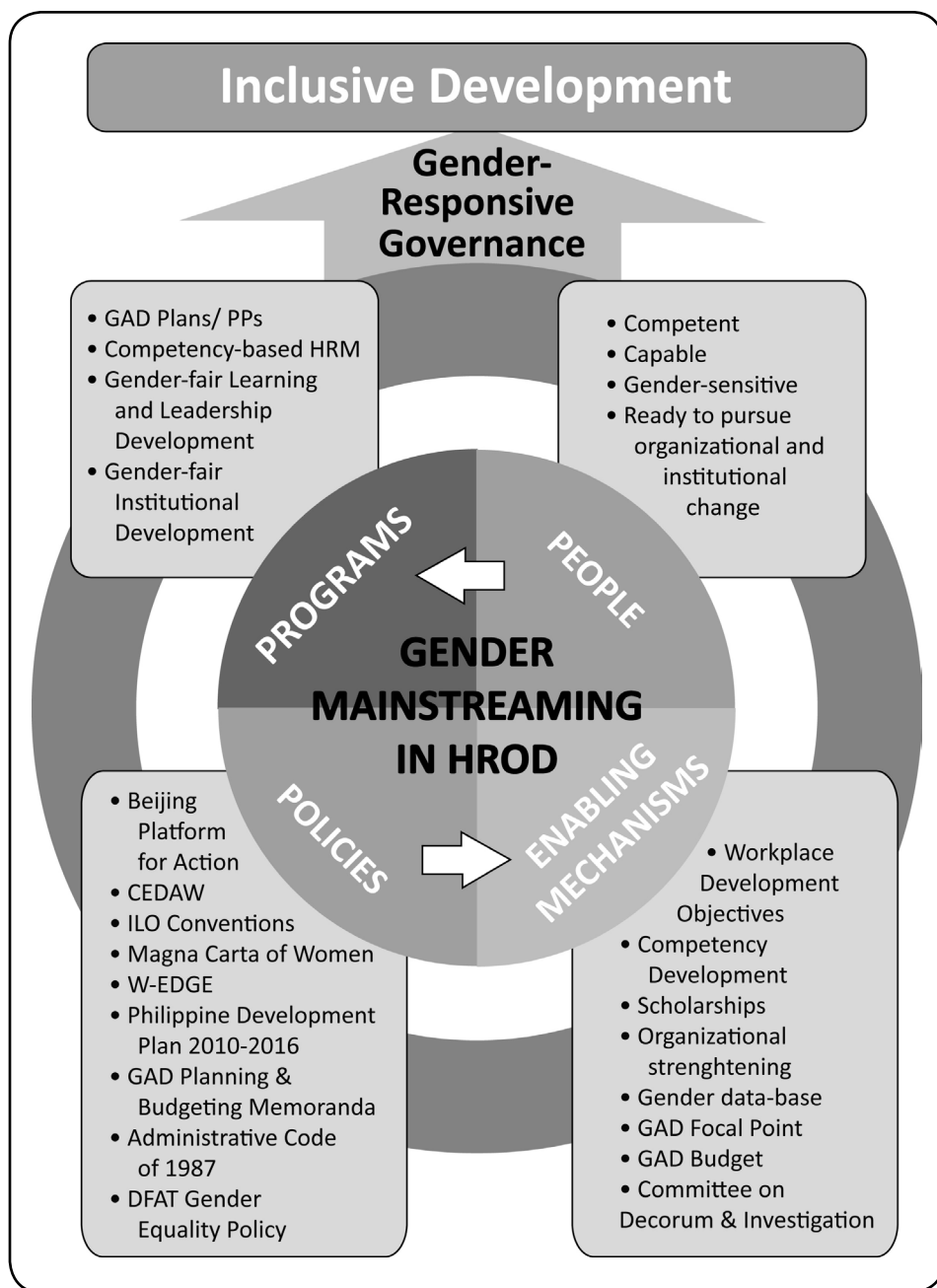
1. The learning service providers (LSPs) did not fully incorporate GAD in their trainings, assessment, and knowledge products, so that the change management programs were gender-sensitive in form more than in content. Nonetheless, the LSPs agreed that it is important to mainstream gender in HROD processes, even while they admitted that they were ill-equipped to integrate gender more prominently in the HROD interventions.
2. The competency-based personnel recruitment and selection systems introduced to the CPOs promote gender equality and are free of gender bias. They prevent discrimination in hiring because of sex, ethnicity, gender identity, or religion.
3. The participatory nature of the change management processes (aligned with the Performance Governance System) were deemed empowering by the technical staff. CSC employees were emboldened to work more actively since they had taken part in the development of standards. In DSWD, the application of competency standards enabled the department to more quickly assess personnel for hiring in the Pantawid Pamilya program, and to meet its demands for more competent staff.



4. According to the informants in DSWD, the greatest gains they have reaped from the HROD interventions are the changes these have wrought in their personal lives as family members and workers. They said the interventions strengthened their appreciation of the need for a more balanced work and family time for the staff. However, the reality of work demands in the Department makes it a difficult goal to attain. In the CSC, the research participants declare that the HROD interventions have made the Commission more strategic and HROD-oriented, rather than merely an agency exercising regulatory functions.

5. But while the HROD programs have been empowering, the research also determined the critical roles played by the GAD Focal Point (GAD FP), an updated GD Plan and gender-sensitive managers, for mainstreaming gender in HROD Processes. Unfortunately, the GAD Focal Point and HROD offices do not always work together.

A set of recommendations were presented to PAHRODF that aim to enhance gender mainstreaming strategies in the HROD programs of the bureaucracy.



**Figure 1. Gender Mainstreaming in HROD Programs of the Bureaucracy**

**The Research Team:**

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Research Coordinator

Jean Encinas-Franco,  
Researcher,  
Civil Service Commission

La Rainne Abad-Sarmiento,  
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Department of Social Welfare  
and Development

Marlene dela Cruz, MAWD,  
Research Officer



## PSSC holds its 2015 General Assembly

The Philippine Social Science Council held its Annual General Assembly on 20 February 2015 at the Mercedes B. Concepcion Seminar Room of the Philippine Social Science Center. Representatives of 12 regular member-organizations and 25 associate member-organizations attended the assembly.

Board Chairperson Ma. Caridad Tarroja briefed the members on the accomplishments of the Council in 2014, while Treasurer Alvin Ang reported on the Council's 2014 financial performance and 2015 budget. Membership Committee Chair Evelyn Miranda gave a report on members' compliance with their membership obligations.

During the assembly, PSSC welcomed its newest associate member, the Research and Statistics Center of Lyceum of the Philippines University-Batangas. PSSC also conferred the Virginia A. Miralao Excellence in Research Award to Dr. Jayeel Cornelio.



Dr. Caridad Tarroja, Chairperson of PSSC, gives her report to the General Assembly



Dr. Evelyn Miranda, shares the decisions arrived at by the Membership Committee, of which she is the Chairperson.



Dr. Alvin Ang, Treasurer of PSSC, renders the Financial Report for the past year, 2014



## **Ateneo professor is third recipient of the Virginia A. Miralao Excellence in Research Award**

Dr. Jayeel Serrano Cornelio, Director of the Development Studies Program of the Ateneo de Manila University and member of the Philippine Sociological Society, is this year's recipient of the Virginia A. Miralao Excellence in Research Award.

Dr. Cornelio was recognized for his outstanding article "Popular Religion and the Turn to Everyday Authenticity: Reflections on the Contemporary Study of Philippine Catholicism" which appeared in *Philippine Studies: Historical and Ethnographic Viewpoints* in 2014.

The Philippine Sociological Society, which nominated Dr. Jayeel's research, notes that the article "makes sense of the trajectory of scholarship on popular religion since the seminal work of Bulatao on split-level Christianity." It serves as an "important material to anyone who wishes to investigate and theorize popular religion in the Philippines."

The Virginia A. Miralao Excellence in Research Award was established in 2009 to give recognition to young scholars who have written the best social science article or book. The funds for the Award were provided by Dr. Belinda A. Aquino, professor emeritus at the University of Hawaii-Manoa, in honor of former PSSC Executive Director, Dr. Virginia Miralao, who retired from PSSC in December 2009 after 14 years of service.



Dr. Jayeel Serrano Cornelio, Director of the Development Studies Program of the Ateneo de Manila University and member of the Philippine Sociological Society, delivers his acceptance speech after receiving the 2015 Virginia A. Miralao Excellence in Research Award.

### **Biography**

Jayeel S. Cornelio has been recently appointed Director of the Development Studies Program. He was a postdoctoral research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, an adjunct lecturer at Institute for Sociology at the University of Göttingen, and a visiting research student at the Department of Politics, Philosophy, and Religion at Lancaster University. He finished his Ph.D. in Sociology at the National University of Singapore where he received the Asia Research Institute PhD grant. His research interests are in youth, religion, education, and urban studies.

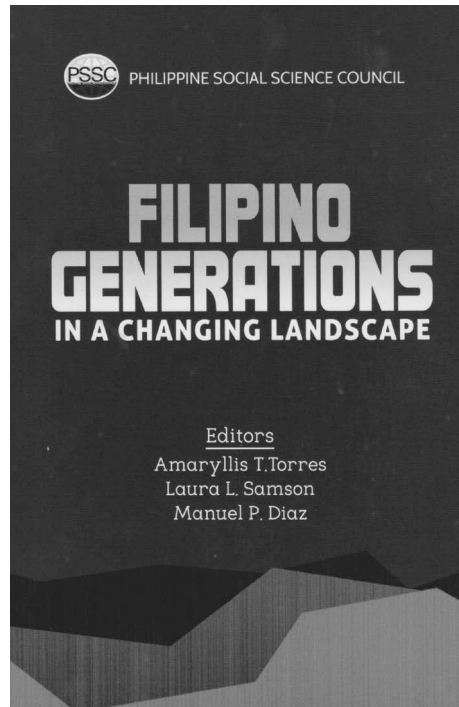
—From ADMU Faculty Profile



## PSSC Launches *Filipino Generations in a Changing Landscape*

The Philippine Social Science Council launched its latest publication *Filipino Generations in a Changing Landscape* at the concluding session of PSSC General Assembly on February 20, 2015. The book features research articles that examine the continuities and changes, and adaptations and transformations that have occurred across generations, as well as new issues confronting today's generation.

The articles were selected from papers presented at the 7th National Social Science Congress on the theme "Generations" held on 29-31 May 2013 at PSSC. Edited by Dr. Amaryllis Torres, Prof. Laura Samson, and Dr. Manuel Diaz, the book includes the conference keynote speech of Prof. Randolph David of the University of the Philippines (The Tyranny of Expectations), and 15 other article contributions of scholars from various social science disciplines. Some of topics covered include identity construction and culture reproduction among three generations of IrayaMangyan, changing roles of Chinese Filipinos in the development of Puerto Princesa, tangible and



intangible legacies of 19th century Binondo, changes in the corporate social responsibility discourse from the 70s, and phonological changes in the Filipino language.

The book is now available at the PSSC Book Center, 2/F Philippine Social Science Center, Commonwealth Ave., Diliman, Quezon City. Copies may also be ordered from the PSSC Book Center Online (<http://www.css.pssc.org.ph/>) or through email [ededios@pssc.org.ph](mailto:ededios@pssc.org.ph) or [philsocsci1968@gmail.com](mailto:philsocsci1968@gmail.com).



ABOVE: Dr. Amaryllis Torres, PSSC Executive Director, talks about "Generations," the latest publication of PSSC.

BELOW: Some of the social scientists whose papers were included in "Generations" receive their book copies from PSSC Chairperson Caridad Tarroja (2<sup>nd</sup> from the right).





## PSSC establishes the PSSC Knowledge Archive

Joanne Agbisit, Head, PDMS, PSSC

The Philippine Social Science Council announces the establishment of the PSSC Knowledge Archive

<http://k-archive.pssc.org.ph/>

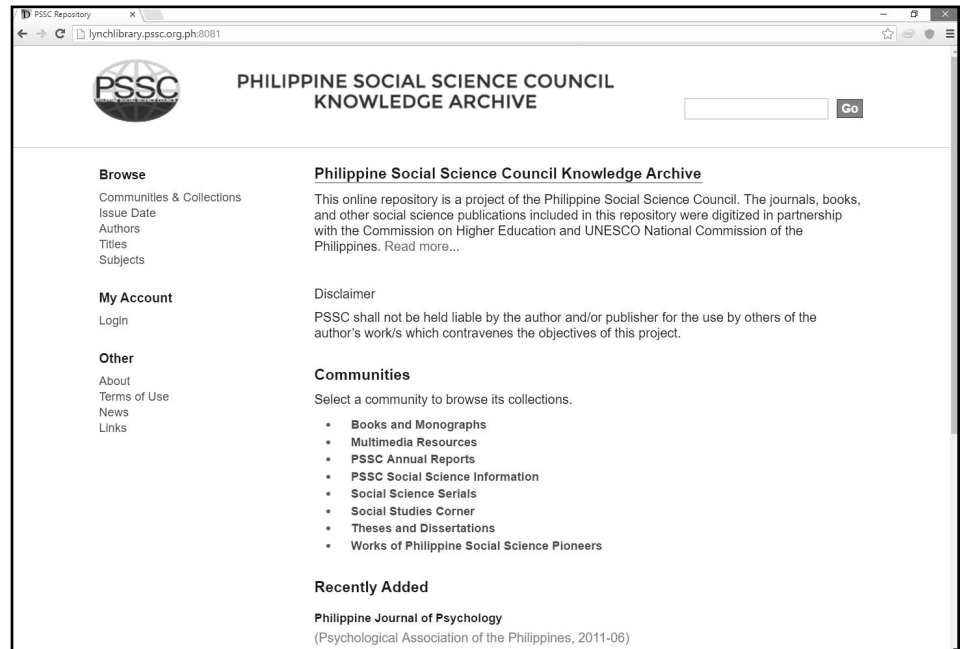
an open access repository of books, journal articles, research papers, and other publications produced by Filipino/Philippine-based social science researchers.

Through this Archive, PSSC aims to make knowledge outputs accessible to students, researchers and educators whose institutions lack or have a limited range of materials containing current debates as well as emerging theories and methodologies in various social science disciplines. Poor knowledge production and substandard research quality in province-based institutions are often attributed to the lack of available social sciences resources.

At the same time, PSSC aims to increase the visibility and availability of Philippine social science materials to an international audience, particularly scholars who are interested to study the Philippines. A quick review of the web will show that knowledge outputs by Filipino social scientists are not easily discoverable or visible, and are dispersed in various portals.

The Archive currently contains the following:

- Works of Filipino social science pioneers (e.g., Mercedes Concepcion, Gelia Castillo, Raul Fabella, Andrew Gonzalez, Felipe Miranda)



- Philippine Social Science Council publications, including the annual reports and the PSSC Social Science Information
- Philippine Migration Research Network publications
- Articles from the Philippine Sociological Review, Philippine Journal of Psychology, Philippine Population Journal, Philippine Population Review, Aghamtao, Philippine Journal of Public Administration, Philippine Planning Journal, Philippine Geographical Journal, The Philippine Statistician and Institute of Philippine Culture Papers
- Abstracts of Research Award Program theses and dissertations

PSSC has adopted a Creative Commons Attribution - Non-commercial 3.0 Philippines License for content included in the Archive. This will allow users to view, download, share, and adapt the content for research, educational and other related purposes, as long as the original author and publisher of the work and the URL source are cited or given appropriate acknowledgement.

Most of the materials included in the repository were digitized and uploaded with the assistance of the Commission on Higher Education and the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines.



## **AN INVESTIGATION OF BOHOLANO AS A SEPARATE LANGUAGE OR A VISAYAN DIALECT FROM A LINGUISTIC AND SOCIOLINGUISTIC PERSPECTIVE**

**Daylinda Luz R. Laput**  
**Ph.D. Applied Linguistics**

This investigation answers the penultimate challenge in applied linguistics to document endangered minority Philippine languages. Though the language in focus is not facing extinction, the study looks into the possibility of Boholano as a separate language or a Visayan dialect from a linguistic and sociolinguistic perspective. Several studies believe it to be a variety that has semblance to Cebuano syntax, but because Ethnologue (Lewis, 2009) stated that —Boholano is sometimes a separate language then, there is an issue worth investigating.

Specifically, this study discusses the phonological, lexical, and grammatical variations of Boholano and Cebuano; the language attitude held by speakers of Cebuano, Boholano, and other Visayan speakers, particularly the Dumagueteño toward Boholano language; and the perception of Boholanos towards the status of their language. Using the frameworks of Rickford (2002) on regional dialectology, Dixon's (1979, 1994) and Dixon & Aikhenvald's (2000, in Liao, 2004) Basic Linguistic Theory, Kobari (2009, in Tajolosa, 2009) on language attitude and use, and Bell (1976, in Groves, 2008) on sociolinguistic typology, this study is bordered within these theories.

Using a total of 412 respondents from three different Visayan speaking areas, Bohol, Cebu, Dumaguete, seas were crossed from the researcher's point of origin Mindanao to Negros Oriental, passing by the Sibulan bay to Cebu, the straits of Bohol channelling the Cebu trench and back to Dumaguete cruising the Bohol straits, in six months to conduct the survey. Random sampling and purposive sampling techniques were used in choosing the respondents. In time of the investigation, major calamities in 2013 affecting the whole Central Visayas region interrupted the itinerary. There was the magnitude 7.2 earthquake affecting Bohol and Cebu provinces and the super typhoon Yolanda that left Leyte province in a dismal situation; thus, this study was compelled to impose certain limitations.

Findings reveal that on the regional variations between Cebuano and Boholano speakers; phonologically, they slightly differ but grammatically, they are the same with the exception of some different lexicons. On the language attitude held by speakers in Cebuano and Boholano and other Visayan speakers, the three language groupings significantly differed on their language attitude towards Boholano. Based on the finding on the sociolinguistic typology, the perception of Boholanos towards the status of Boholano language confirmed and fulfilled five categories. These were the issues on standardization, vitality, historicity, mixture and de facto norms, for which the respondents positively responded to Bell's typology. Furthermore, Boholano was found to be heteronomous and reduced, but not a full language. These two are key points in differentiating a language from a dialect. This investigation conclusively and categorically resolved that Boholano is a Visayan dialect. From a sociolinguistic point of view, this study recommends a redefined typology involving other Philippine languages to find the new generation's response to issues on autonomy and reduction.

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## **VIDEOS OF THE UPRISING: CONSTRUCTING MOBILIZING MEANINGS IN THE EGYPTIAN SPRING OF 2011**

**Karen A. Calderon**  
**M.A. Sociology**

It had been unthinkable, but the 2011 Egyptian uprising happened and brought about the end of the three-decade Mubarak regime. Through videos of the uprising, this thesis explores the sudden turning of the previously unimaginable into the possible. It examines how videos of the 18-day event—produced and circulated through new media technologies between January 25 and February 11, 2011—helped the anti-Mubarak protesters in constructing collective action frames, mobilizing ideas that sought to idealize collective direct action and delegitimize the Mubarak regime.

Based on a discourse analysis of 80 Al Jazeera English (AJE) videos and citizen videos on YouTube, this research describes how moving images of the uprising became sites for the forging of a collective



“anti-Mubarak” identity that demanded the end of the Mubarak regime. The visual and verbal elements of the videos were separately examined to elicit the salient themes underlying the images and sounds in the videos—solidarity, huge protest turnouts, non-violence, police brutality, and the construed heroism and martyrdom of the protesters, among others. This thesis demonstrates how these themes constituted a discourse that made the downfall of the Mubarak regime appear possible and necessary. It argues that the selective highlighting of certain aspects of the Egyptian uprising through audiovisual representations conjured up a coherent narrative of the 18-day event, in effect reinforcing the protesters’ resolve to overthrow the regime.

This thesis also explores the interaction between AJE’s coverage of the uprising and “citizen journalism,” arguing that in the case of the Egyptian uprising, the simultaneous video production by professional journalists and amateur footage takers created a plethora of audiovisual materials that corroborated each other, in effect subverting the official narrative of the regime. Thus, this thesis argues that videos of a contentious collective action can constitute an “audiovisual repertoire of contention,” whose power lies in the capacity of videos to convey mobilizing meanings.

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## **NEW PUBLIC MANAGEMENT (NPM) AND REINVENTING GOVERNMENT: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE OF PPP/BOT PUBLIC MARKETS IN THE PHILIPPINES**

**Jack B. Isolana**

**Ph.D. Public Administration**

The study inquires into the reform efforts of New Public Management (NPM) and Reinventing Government at the local level using Public Private Partnership (PPP), a tool for local infrastructure development and service delivery. Its main objective is to assess whether or not PPP, as an instrument in reforming public organizations like public markets has improved the operation of public markets. To substantiate the assessment, five PPP/BOT public markets were examined, namely; Mandaluyong Public Market, Carmen and Cogon Public Markets, Suki Market and Bocaue Public Market. It used NPM’s core-values of reform such as policy, service orientation, productivity

and accountability as criteria and “organization and management,” “scope of facilities and services,” “LGU and market vendor’s income” and “client’s satisfaction” as PPP/BOT public market performance indicators. The data of the study were obtained through combined research methodologies and analyzed using quantitative and qualitative tools of analysis.

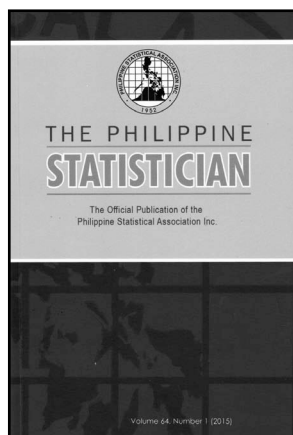
The study showed that while PPP has succeeded in providing LGUs with their much needed new public market buildings equipped with essential market facilities and services for market operation, these gains and other advances were not sustained by the LGUs. During the early period of management and operation of PPP/BOT public markets by their project proponent-operators, the markets have shown improved performance. It increased though not significant the income of both LGU and market vendors and has provided efficient delivery of market services and high level of maintenance of market facilities. However, when management and operation of PPP/BOT public markets were transferred to the LGUs, the latter have failed to sustain them. Many of the perennial problems of public market re-emerged.

The study also showed that only two (2) out of four (4) LGUs were able to internalize some of NPM’s core-values of reform, namely; Mandaluyong and Quezon City while Cagayan de Oro and Bocaue failed. The study found out that the failure of LGUs to sustain the reforms in public market was primarily attributed to the non-institutionalization of reform-values in the structures, processes, and mindsets of leaders and stakeholders in the local government. Such failure was further seen as the result of the lack of operational mechanism in all PPP/BOT contracts that supposedly have facilitated the transfer of managerial skills, traits and other capacities of the private sector in handling business enterprises to the local government as envisioned by NPM and Reinventing Government.

And finally, the neglect of local officials to include such important operational mechanisms in all PPP/BOT contracts is found to have led to the low level of efficient-managerial consciousness of local officials in handling local enterprises and their continued denial that their public markets are poorly managed. All of these have resulted in the total failure of LGUs to sustain the reforms introduced by the private sector in managing and operating public markets in the Philippines.



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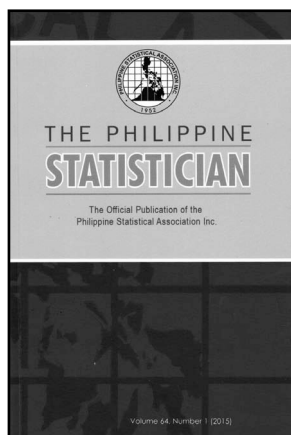
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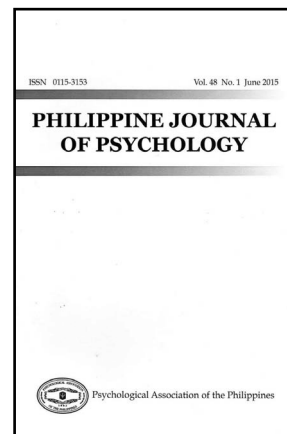
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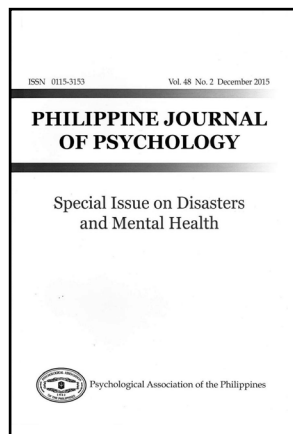
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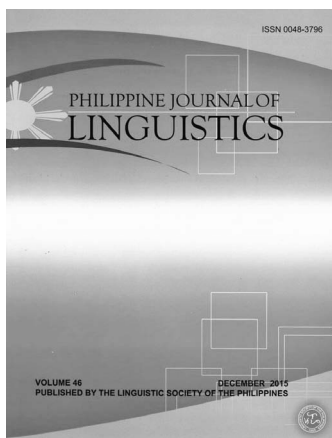
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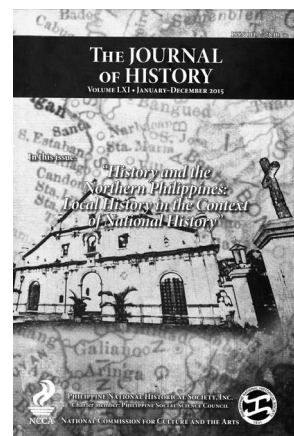
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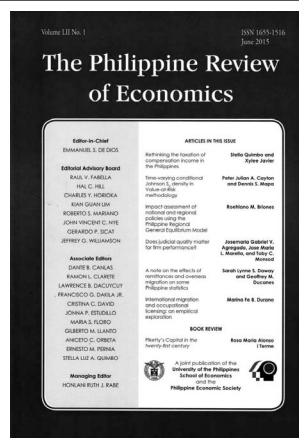
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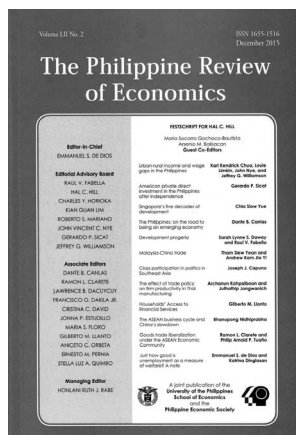
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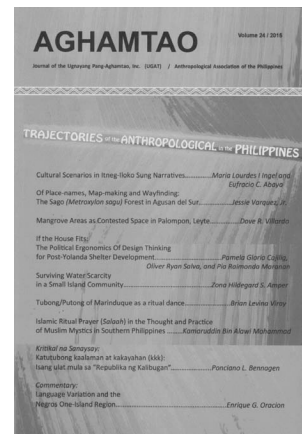
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