

SOCIAL SCIENCE INFORMATION

Volume 47-48 (2019-2020)

historical fact and fiction

In this issue:

THE MILITARY AND AUTHORITARIANISM
IN THE PHILIPPINES: ENDURING LEGACIES,
PERNICIOUS CONSEQUENCES

PUSHING BACK AGAINST THE LIES:

EFFORTS TO FACT-CHECK THE MARCOSES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

MINDANAWON
IDENTITY FORMATION

functions no

AND PHILIPPINE HISTORY

BERNARDITA R. CHURCHILL:
A HISTORIAN AT HEART



THIS ISSUE

IN THIS ISSUE, we feature three articles on history, recognize a social scientist, and provide updates on significant Council events in 2019 and 2020.

The theme for this issue emanated from prepandemic times when voices of dissent on the revision of some Philippine historical facts began to reverberate among historians, academics, and watchers of societal events. The Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) responds to this concern and uses the Social Science Information (SSI), to contribute to the discourse and lay out the social sciences' perspectives on the making of history.

"Historical Fact and Fiction" starts with Aries Arugay's article, "The Military and Authoritarianism in the Philippines: Enduring Legacies, Pernicious Consequences," as it casts suspicion on the return of military rule far worse than the Marcos' Martial Law in the '70s and '80s. In a Facebook (FB) post of PressOne. ph., Manny Mogato succinctly writes, "The military has never enjoyed the kind of leeway it has tasted under Duterte," echoing Arugay's exposition of (ex-) military personalities crossing over from their familiar (military) roles and actually occupying top civilian posts in government institutions, such as health, social work, environment, local government, customs, housing, and communication, among others.

Citing parallels between Marcos and Duterte's governance, Arugay's article traces the military's historical role—performed through the Marcos generals then and being performed now through the Duterte retiree generals and other ex-officers in a lingering militaristic fashion—inevitably contributing to the erosion of democracy.

When outright lies and fake news proliferate on social media, the SSI's second feature article by Dianna Limpin, "Pushing Back Against the Lies: Efforts to Fact-Check the Marcoses on Social Media" provides hope as she shares how a group of researchers from the University of the Philippines Third World Studies Center (TWSC) and a group of private individuals thwart the social media disinformation machinery of the Marcos family.

Limpin narrates how the two groups painstakingly fact-checked information from the Marcoses and their supporters, who were mounting futile efforts to rehabilitate the tarnished reputation of the late dictator and his regime. She describes how they used social media to engage their readers on some of the most controversial issues involving the Marcoses, such as the late dictator's burial, Bongbong Marcos' loss in the vice presidential race and Imee Marcos' bogus graduation at the Princeton University. And, finally, the article drumbeats the need for social media literacy.

The third article transports us to cultural Mindanao through Faina Abaya-Ulindang's "Mindanawon Identity Formation and Philippine History." It showcases the steadfastness of the Muslim identity and underscores the resilience of the Mindanawon native culture. Abaya-Ulindang describes how, historically, the Muslim culture has co-existed with other ethnic groups, and that, despite their plurality of identities, they are bound by certain shared common goals, such as food security and poverty-alleviation, among others. This article may well

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COVER PHOTO SOURCES

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Historical Fact and Fiction

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This issue...

serve as a reminder to our people's identity—whether Muslims or non-Muslims—united in our sense of being a distinct Filipino nation.

This issue will also introduce readers to a new section—the MEMBERS' PAGE, which features our members' initiatives for the period. It provides a space for two news items: the "PHA 65th Anniversary Virtual International Conference on Southeast Asia" and the "PNHS 41st National Conference on Local and National History Online Amid the Pandemic."

And since the SSI's present theme deals with history, IN FOCUS hails the achievements of a true blue historian, who is no other than Dr. Bernardita R. Churchill: A Historian at Heart. Through an interview, Limpin weaves an interesting narrative of Dr. Churchill's journey as a historian and why, till this day, she still writes history.

The account of Dr. Churchill's professional life features influencers and mentors, including her parents, who shaped her work ethic and scholarly attitude. She pays tribute to them and, with gratefulness, recalls how they inspired her to succeed. Her love for history connects with how it should be taught to students, who, in their turn, should use a critical mind in understanding our colonial past and the current authoritarian regimes.

The rest of the issue's contents treat us to COUNCIL NEWS, which will bare PSSC's prolific outputs, notwithstanding the pandemic. Under the

present leadership, a Strategic Planning Workshop succeeded in formulating PSSC's Vision, Mission and Core Values. It also conducted training workshops on Digital Approaches to Qualitative Research; Philippine Migration Research Network's "Migration Dialogues"; and Statistics and the Social Sciences, in partnership with PSAI.

Furthermore, it screened nominees for the "Virginia A. Miralao Excellence in Research Award," reviewed research protocols, and issued ethics clearance certificates to researchers and research organizations conducting studies on various topics.

In 2020, PSSC's resilience surfaced in confronting the COVID-19 pandemic as it dauntlessly carried out its mission to serve the social sciences. Adapting to the "new normal" and digital technology, PSSC persistently countered the health threat by disseminating knowledge related to COVID-19, through a series of webinars and a special SSI issue. Despite pandemic-related limitations, the PSSC strengthened its partnership with local and international institutions, launched a book, and started to implement its two approved research projects.

Fruitful years, indeed, amidst the pandemic!

LOURDES M. PORTUS, Ph.D. *Issue Editor*

PSSC SOCIAL SCIENCE INFORMATION

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In line with the mandate of PSSC, the PSSC-SSI seeks to promote the dissemination of social science knowledge and research findings and their use in public policy-making. As a newsletter, PSSC-SSI aims to circulate activities and events of its member-association.

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FEATURE

INVITED ARTICLES RELATED TO THE ISSUE THEME



ARIES A. ARUGAY, Ph.D.

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Much time has passed since formal democratic rule was restored in the Philippines, but the military remains a powerful institution enjoying spheres of autonomy and various political prerogatives. The current Duterte government has put the military front and center in governance ranging from security policy, bureaucratic leadership, peacebuilding, and even in its COVID-19 pandemic response.

Previous administrations in the post-authoritarian period undertook re-democratization that sought to impose civilian supremacy and control over the armed forces through legal and institutional reforms. Though necessary, this has not been sufficient in keeping the military in the barracks during political crises and in its ability to exercise undue influence in different policy

areas, as well as matters related to defense and security (Arugay, 2011). The "original sin" of the military's undue political involvement in the Philippines was Marcos' authoritarian regime, which featured a unique combination of a personal dictatorship with elements of military rule. There are stark parallels on the reliance of the Marcos dictatorship on the military with the current political milieu as the Philippine democracy continues to erode under Duterte.

This short essay traces the evolution of the political roles of the Philippine military and how the legacies of martial law continue to dictate contemporary civil-military relations. As the political influence of the military continues to rise in Duterte's Philippines, it casts its democratic regime under possible new threats

in the future. If the past is to be considered a prologue, political instability and factional conflict may define the country's politics in the future.

THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY: HISTORICAL LEGACIES

At the outset, the de jure mission of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) was to defend the country from foreign aggression. In practice, however, the military concentrated on internal security. The presence of US bases, acting as the country's defence shield, prevented the AFP from achieving competence in their original mission. As training and equipment acquisition conducive to external security took a back seat, the AFP evolved into an entity made up of a disproportionately large army (engaged in guerrilla warfare) and an underdeveloped navy and air force, even though this is inconsistent with the country's geopolitical and strategic needs as an archipelago with a vast coastline. Further, US socialisation helped the AFP acquire a heavy anticommunist bias and led them to treat future insurgents as enemies of the state that needed to be crushed (Greitens, 2016).

This gradual acquisition of roles associated with counter-insurgency since the 1950s saw its institutionalization during the Marcos period. The relentless internal conflicts from two fronts: communist insurgency and Moro secessionism have made the civilian government dependent on the military for domestic security. The dictatorship ushered changes that included the continuous enlargement of military functions to include non-traditional military roles, the institution of structural changes that 'merged' the police with the military through the single leadership of the PC and the Integrated National Police within the AFP, and the suppression of civil liberties, including elections, freedom of expression and association. As a "partner in national development, the military institution became "the principal wielders of power over a highly personalized authoritarian regime" (Miranda, 1992).

With new roles come more resources and access to the Philippine state. Apart from the skyrocketing increases in its budget, the ranks of the military swelled four times during martial law. Apart from this, Marcos appointed military officers to key civilian posts, such as some of the government-owned and controlled corporations. But it is the crucial powers of appointments and promotions within the military institution that

enabled Marcos to keep the armed forces under his control. His employment of what Huntington called "subjective civilian control" of presidential prerogatives frequently transgressed the formal chain of command by the retention of generals loyal to him beyond the retirement age and favoring his own choices over the more qualified (Hernandez, 1979). This inevitably had increasing implications on the professionalism of the military. Thus, it was not a surprise that there would be discontent among the junior officers. In time, they would hatch the plot to oust Marcos within the context of the snap presidential elections of February 1986. As they say, the rest is history.

THE EROSION OF DEMOCRATIC CIVILIAN CONTROL DURING MARTIAL LAW

While other presidents before Marcos gave the military non-traditional missions, Marcos was different since side by side with the politicization of the military is the destruction of democratic institutions of civilian oversight over the military under his rule. As the personalist dictator concentrated power, he also undermined other sources of civilian oversight such as the legislature, judiciary, the bureaucracy, and even nonstate actors such as the media and civil society. The immediate effects of this "explosive cocktail" would be seen in the (failed) coups in the 1980s under the Corazon Aquino administration (Fact-Finding Commission, 1990).

Even if the Philippine military did not exercise a moderating power as the "nation's guardian" often seen in liberation armies, it found itself playing a major role during the authoritarian period (Loveman, 1999). The manner in which officials from the military were selectively used by Marcos for his own purposes, as well as the fact that it is the few disgruntled officers who instigated the failed coup that ultimately led to the 1986 "People Power Revolt," revealed the splits that exist in the military. Thus, rather than being a unified political actor speaking with one voice and protecting a set of core interests, the military is a mélange of different factions mostly aligned with segments of the Philippine political and economic elite.

THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY UNDER DUTERTE

The so-called restoration of democracy after the 1986 People Power Revolt had tremendous implications for the country's military. Given its tremendous role in maintaining the dictatorship, the forces that made the

democratic transition in the country possible realized that it was pivotal that civilian control is imposed and the military's role is clarified.

Military reform had its ebbs and flows since 1986. Professionalism has gradually improved and the military's embrace of the framework of security sector reform (SSR) since 2010 can be seen as the peak of democratic civil-military relations. However, this changed with Dutere's sudden rise to power.

From its bloody war on drugs to its various policies to deal with the lingering communist insurgency and Mindanao conflict, the Duterte administration has exhibited a steadfast resolve to address the security challenges facing the Philippines. One striking observation is its heavy reliance on the security sector, particularly the military and police, to accomplish its security goals (Esquerra, 2019). Clearly favoring military officers for their apparent efficiency and obedience, by 2017, President Duterte had started to appoint more than the usual number of retired generals to the executive branch of the government. To date, he has the greatest number of retired generals in any presidential cabinet in the post-dictatorship period (Ranada, 2018). Although defense and security institutions (such as the Department of National Defence) are usually led by former military officers, the Duterte administration distinguishes itself by also appointing them to the cabinet to head government departments such as those dealing with the environment and social welfare, and even the office in charge of the peace process.

It is not a coincidence that national peace policy started to shift with the appointment of more exsoldiers to the government. It is also noteworthy that some of these ex-soldiers replaced officials endorsed by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) who formed part of Duterte's first cabinet. Despite the Duterte government's promising start, the window for peace negotiations with the communists started to close. Duterte's policy reversal from all-out peace to all-out war became evident with the issuance of Executive Order No. 70 at the beginning of December 2018, which created an inter-agency body tasked with ending the local communist armed conflict, and the official designation a year earlier of the New People's Army (NPA) as a terrorist group. With both retired and active leaders of the AFP in charge of implementing this executive order, it seems that the military is determined to put a violent, rather than a negotiated, end to perhaps the longest Maoist-inspired insurgency in the world.

The appointment of retired military officers to the civilian government is common in the Philippines (Gloria, 2003). What sets the Duterte administration apart is not only these officers' unprecedented number but also the portfolios that they are responsible for and the dominant voice they possess in the current government. Decades of fighting the communist insurgency led these excombatants to decide that what is needed is a "whole-of-nation" approach, with former military officers being appointed to head key civilian institutions instead of civilian officials. This threatens to undermine democratic civil-military relations, especially in a country where the military has often exercised political autonomy vis-à-vis politicians and bureaucrats (Arugay, 2011).

Under Duterte's leadership, a powerful politico-military network serves as a critical informal institution through which the security sector exerts tremendous and undue influence in Philippine governance. There is little doubt that this group of retired generals dictate current peace and security policy. More than that, their placement in other agencies involved in rural development and public services delivery obscures the civil-military divide that is essential to maintaining civilian supremacy in governance structures and democratic civilian control over the military. This trend also potentially confounds the AFP's reformist stance and reorientation toward external defense that form the focus of its current doctrine and strategy.

The further politicization of the role of the military and its network has far-reaching repercussions for the Philippines. Determined to end the communist insurgency through a combination of military operations and the comprehensive mobilization of state personnel and resources, the Duterte administration is effectively giving the military an opportunity to take control of how internal peace will – in theory, anyway – be achieved. Without genuine civilian input from a diverse set of stakeholders both within and outside government, this might be an unsustainable peace that could prove to be extremely costly for the nation and its democracy.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

Martial law left legacies that continued to politicize the military in the Philippines. Marcos took advantage of the already weak institutions of civilian control over the military as well as the combination of formal rules and informal practices that enmeshed the armed forces in governance. The conscription of the military as a partner in implementing one of the most brutal regimes in the postcolonial world, to borrow the words of political scientist Samuel Huntington, was a necessary development in line with the continued complexification of Philippine society and politics under the framework of weak institutions captured by oligarchic interests. Democracy provided a formal shell for civil-military relations, but the salient role of coercion and violence in the country provided that larger context for the military's vital role in politics.

It was tragic that the much-celebrated People Power in 1986 restored a largely elite-dominated democracy without pushing democratization to a much more meaningful, inclusive, and egalitarian process. Civil-military relations returned to its pre-martial law orientation, but post-authoritarian governments have failed to curb some of the residual prerogatives largely enjoyed by the military. The dictatorship was largely dismantled, but the personalities and grouping that helped it returned to power as either self-proclaimed saviors of the country or self-identified democrats. As seen in multiple episodes of military adventurism, Philippine politics became captive by the threat of military intervention seen in its successful form during the 2001 people power uprising. After that democratic crisis, the military wielded further political influence since it occasioned the political succession from Estrada to Arroyo. The factionalization within the military also made possible the downward spiral of political instability experienced by Asia's oldest democracy with different elite factions recruiting their own military groups for their political agendas.

It can be said that imposing democratic civilian control of the military remains a challenge in Philippine democracy. Enduring legacies borne out of the dictatorship remain, but the lack of institutional and political reforms is likewise responsible. Under the government of Rodrigo Duterte who assumed the presidency in 2016, the recruitment of retired military officials in political appointments expanded and he has relied on the security sector to realize his peace and order agenda. While there seems to be some discipline exercised by the military leadership with the often draconian and impulsive decisions of President Duterte, it remains to be seen whether the military will truly stay in the barracks if the country faces its next regime legitimacy crisis. Martial law has casted a long shadow in Philippine politics. But while the past is often seen as prologue to the present, deliberate restraint and moderation on the part of the government, the opposition, and the military itself are necessary to further democratize civil-military relations in the Philippines as well as avoid pernicious polarization with dire consequences for democracy.

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Pushing Back Against the Lies: Efforts to Fact-Check the Marcoses on Social Media

DIANNA THERESE N. LIMPIN

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Through trolls, bots, audience targeting tools, and the so-called "power law" distribution, social media platforms have precipitated what cyber-risk researchers at Stanford Engineering have described as a virus-like spread of "fake news" (Andrews, 2019). Across the globe, many individuals with political agenda have capitalized on social media's ability to replicate a message at an exponential rate. They pass off their lies as facts and have these "amplified by an extensive network of websites, Facebook pages and groups, YouTube channels, and social media influencers" (Mendoza, 2019). Fortunately for them, without a proper mechanism in place to flag and take down false information online, many are duped into believing their lies. For years now, this has been a major communication strategy of the Marcoses. Researchers, journalists, and fact-checkers have documented the online disinformation machinery built by the Marcos family and their supporters in an attempt to rehabilitate the image of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and erase the atrocities committed by his regime (Marquez, 2018; Mendoza, 2019; Berdos, 2020).

Ultimately, however, social media is just a tool, devoid of moral bearings. While it can be weaponized and used to propagate disinformation to suit one family's political agenda, it can also be used to push back against the lies. Here, we take a look at two Facebook pages that have attempted to do just that—spot and refute false information spewed by the Marcoses and their supporters.

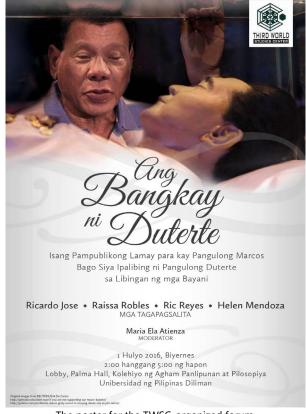
DID A MARCOS LIE TODAY?

The Facebook page "Did a Marcos Lie Today?" (@didamarcoslietoday) and its Twitter counterpart (@did_lie), both created in September 2018, document lies ranging from unsupported claims of utopia during the Marcos regime to Imee Marcos' fake academic records. From scholarly articles to videos, photos, and even memes, their content takes all forms. What they all have in common, however, is evidence. The posts do not stop at pointing out which claims are false. The page administrators take painstaking effort in explaining why they are false, with properly cited sources.

"Did a Marcos Lie Today?" is run by Joel F. Ariate Jr., Miguel Paolo P. Reyes, and Larah Vinda Del Mundo, researchers of the University of the Philippines Third World Studies Center (TWSC). As may be inferred from the name of the page, their "immediate goal is to swiftly counter the lies that the Marcoses often resort to to advance themselves in politics" (J. Ariate and M. Reyes, personal communication, 27 November 2020). On a larger scale, they noted that it is an attempt "to contribute to the wider effort of fact-checkers to make available well-researched facts on the Marcos regime on social media, a platform where the Marcoses and their ilk have long been expert players."

When asked what prompted them to create the page, Ariate and Reyes pointed to "the deluge of pro-Marcos narratives borne out of lies that have colonized social media" and the Center's origin as a bastion of dissent as their motivating factors: It's in the blueprint of the Third World Studies Center (TWSC) as an institution that was established in 1977, at the height of martial law, to articulate dissent on Marcos's authoritarian rule. On social media, the Marcoses continue to perpetuate the lies that they have first crafted during the martial law to mythologize the dictatorship. So we see it as a continuation of the efforts of our predecessors to continue to expose and critique Marcos's one-man rule: that it was brutal, murderous, and corrupt, not some golden age that we must be thankful for.

They first thought about increasing their social media presence in 2016, following an encounter with an army of pro-Marcos internet trolls. After they uploaded an announcement for a TWSC-organized public forum entitled "Ang Bangkay ni Duterte" with "a drawing of Duterte kissing Marcos's glass coffin" on the Center's unofficial Facebook account, they received an onslaught of abusive comments from trolls. "Some wanted to kill us, some wanted to burn the TWSC, some wanted us to join Marcos in his tomb, or that they'd even bury



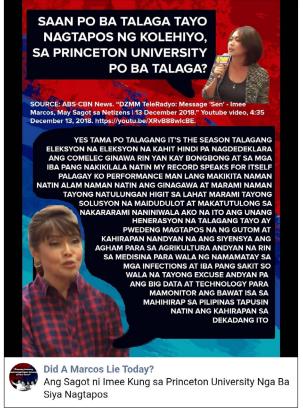
The poster for the TWSC-organized forum "Ang Bangkay ni Duterte" in 2016.

us ahead of him," they recounted. They were also left locked out of their own account after they were mass reported by the pro-Marcos group. Harshly reminded of the "war" happening online, the TWSC researchers eventually decided to pursue "a more engaged presence in social media" through "Did a Marcos Lie Today?"

In order to counter lies, they first need to keep abreast of the falsehoods as they come. Thus, TWSC researchers closely monitor not only the news but the social media accounts of the Marcoses and their supporters as well. They also try to be strategic in deciding how and when to post content. Since they "have found that the Marcoses (especially Imee) have a noticeably opportunistic manner of riding the news cycle," they "consider holidays, national remembrances, and salient news items as opportunities to surface Marcos' lies." Facebook page insights also serve as their guide in deciding how to present information. As their page analytics revealed that videos yielded the highest engagement, they try to "produce videos whenever appropriate."

Since its creation in 2018, the page's top five most popular posts in terms of reach all involve lies perpetuated by Imee Marcos. The first four are related to her academic records—specifically, her fraudulent claims that she graduated from Princeton University and the UP College of Law. According to the page administrators, this is because "at the time, Imee was running for a senatorial seat, and the public craved for updates regarding the senatoriable's dubious records as well as her seemingly fruitless efforts in trying to fend off the issue." On the other hand, the fifth most popular post involves a more recently told lie during a Senate hearing in May 2020. The dictator's daughter boasted about the "success" of her father's Masagana 99 agricultural program, only to be rebutted by Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III, who introduced himself as the "one who cleaned up the mess of Masagana 99" as former President Corazon Aquino's Secretary of Agriculture. People in the comments section reveled at the sight of the senator desperately trying to cover up a blatant falsehood. As Ariate (2019) explained during his presentation at a Philippine Historical Association (PHA) conference in September 2019, "the netizens like catching people in a lie."

Their more than two years managing the page have put the TWSC researchers in the frontlines of a battle for attention. They have strived "to find a balance between offering nuanced information and retaining



A screenshot (caption cropped) of a meme posted by Facebook page "Did A Marcos Lie Today" showing now Sen. Imee Marcos' convoluted and evasive response to an interview question regarding her academic records in 2018.

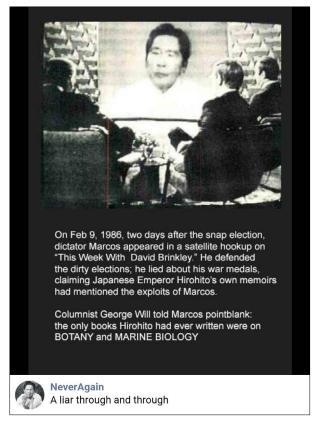
the attention of [their] audience," and with almost 6,000 followers and a maximum reach (for their most popular post) exceeding half a million people (as of December 2020), it is no exaggeration to say that they have fared well, managing to build a considerable audience for themselves. Still, while they "find it crucial to circulate countervailing narratives, at least for those who want to inform themselves," they know that "[their] effort alone [cannot] even compete with the highly-organized, wellfinanced efforts of the Marcoses to promote themselves through historical distortions." They also recognize that helping people break out of their echo chambers and discern fact from fiction is a task easier said than done and would entail a lot more than online fact-checking. "To shake loose this deep-seated mental architecture that rests on confirmation bias will not be the work of social media kibitzers like us, but can be achieved through a more systematic effort in our educational system and in the application of social science disciplines that do painstaking labor establishing details of a case or a history," they explained.

At present, Reyes, Ariate, and Del Mundo work on TWSC's "Marcos Regime Research" program in the production of more scholarly works on the Marcoses and the dictatorship. They have published Marcos-related research in both media outlets, often through VERA Files, and academic journals—such as the Center's in-house journal, Kasarinlan: Philippine Journal of Third World Studies, and the Ateneo de Manila University's Philippine Studies: Historical and Ethnographic Viewpoints. They have also shared their work in academic conferences. On 19 September 2019, they presented papers—of which one was about "Did a Marcos Lie Today?"—as a panel at the PHA National Conference entitled "Facing the Challenges of Historical Distortions and Opening New Directions in History." They also shared the preliminary results of their ongoing research on the "the relationship of pro-Marcos disinformation disseminated online, the printed propaganda that preceded such disinformation, and the heritage works enthroning former president Ferdinand E. Marcos in Ilocos Norte" in an online forum entitled "Where's the Lie? Research Findings on Disinformation" in December 2020 (Reyes and Ariate, 2020).

Alongside content and knowledge production, they also "maintain and develop a resource collection that, in tandem with the vast open-access online document/ primary and secondary source collections, allow [them] to treat various aspects of the Marcos regime comprehensively." They gladly share these resources with fellow researchers "in the hope that those who are overreliant on works in the 'anti-Marcos canon' (e.g., Primitivo Mijares's *The Conjugal Dictatorship of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos, Sterling Seagrave's The Marcos Dynasty*) can note the shortcomings of such material and become convinced to access more authoritative or verifiable resources."

NEVER AGAIN

In contrast with the scholarly approach taken by the researchers of the TWSC who regularly produce content backed by various primary and secondary sources, a group of private, like-minded individuals created a page for more conventional digital content—such as memes, quotes, and nowadays, shared content with commentary—on the Marcos and Duterte regimes. The page is named "NeverAgain" (@NeverAgainToMarcos), a popular rallying cry against martial law and the Marcoses, and is run by eight administrators and five editors on a



A screenshot of a photo posted by Facebook page "NeverAgain" narrating the dictator Marcos' appearance on "This Week With David Brinkley" in 1986.

voluntary basis. Unlike the creators of "Did a Marcos Lie Today?," they are not part of any formal organization. In fact, according to one of its page administrators (who wanted to remain anonymous), the only thing they have in common with one another is their being profreedom and -democracy (personal communication, 29 November 2020).

"NeverAgain" started out as a public Facebook group with the same name. Wanting to reach a wider audience, especially those who may find it troublesome to join a group, the administrators created the page on 20 August 2014. Now, almost seven years later, they have gained close to 29,000 followers (as of December 2020). In the page's "About tab," the administrators dedicate the virtual space they created "to correcting misinformation about the dark days of the Marcos dictatorship." Like "Did a Marcos Lie Today?," however, they tackle falsehoods perpetuated by the Marcoses about themselves, as well as their reign. One of the page's first posts in 2014 narrated Ferdinand Marcos' appearance on the American television show "This

Week With David Brinkley" in 1986, where the dictator was caught red-handed in a lie. He falsely claimed that former Japanese emperor Hirohito had written about his war exploits, to which American columnist George Will replied that Hirohito had only ever written about botany and marine biology.

Having entered the online sphere in 2014, "NeverAgain" administrators also had the chance to engage their audience on some of the most controversial issues involving the Marcoses in recent times—the late dictator's burial at the *Libingan ng mga Bayani* in 2016, his son's unsuccessful bid for the vice presidency that same year, and continuing futile efforts to overturn the election loss, among others. They have since expanded the topics they cover to include content that criticize authoritarianism and dictatorship or promote freedom and democracy in general. Hence, they now also post about the numerous issues that plague the present administration. They have only one rule in vetting content: no hate speech or threatening messages.

THANKLESS BUT NECESSARY

"Exhausting, never-ending, and thankless. But still often necessary, sadly." This was how one of the administrators of "NeverAgain" described the experience of managing the page. From staying on top of the news to verifying claims to producing eye-catching graphics or videos, the administrators and contributors of the two pages do hard work for almost no personal gain. As Ariate and Reyes put it, "saying something is a lie entails more effort than simply making things up."

They spend valuable time doing research and making historical content palatable to netizens, only to have them reposted without attribution. Not only that, but the ever-increasing political polarization online has often exposed them to insults and threats from supporters of the Marcoses. Despite the evidence they present and the sources they cite, they have been dismissed as "dilawan" and "paid trolls who are hell-bent on discrediting the Marcoses" (J. Ariate and M. Reyes, personal communication, 27 November 2020). While Ariate (2019) admits that their page is both "polemical and partisan," he emphasized that "[it] is partisan in its commitment to the burden of proof as called for in the historical method. Its partisan scholarship is rooted in assiduous research not dictated by turgid ideological lines or mercenary considerations. It fakes no fact nor it traffics in mis- or disinformation."

Perhaps most disheartening, however, is seeing how the Marcos family has seemingly won time and time again—having the late dictator buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani and effectively recognized as a "hero" (Santos, 2016), escaping prosecution for their crimes (Gregorio, 2019), evading punishment despite conviction (Manglinong, 2018), and landing seats in almost every level of government (Fonbuena, 2019). Still, not everything has gone their way. Bongbong Marcos' loss in 2016 is an indication that their loyal supporters do not yet comprise a majority of the voting population. Furthermore, the reach and post engagement of these two relatively new pages, as well as others like them, reveal that there are those willing to take the time to read about evidence-based historical information online. Indeed, working to ensure that facts are not drowned out by a sea of lies is a thankless but necessary endeavor. It is a continuing battle against a longstanding, wellfunded opponent that requires much stubbornness to pursue. And perhaps this stubbornness, combined with hard work and dedication to the truth, is exactly what this country needs to make sure that history is not lost on its people.

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Mindanawon Identity Formation and Philippine History

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The diversity of culture in a multi-ethnic state such as the Philippines is a product of history. It is a residue of pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial experiences of the Filipino, which is a figment of territory carved out of several barangays located in the islands of Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Scholars have debated if there is one Filipino culture with which one could identify. Samuel Tan proposes a "unity in diversity," i.e., recognition of Filipino cultural dissimilarity but with an underlying rootedness or indigeneity from precolonial experiences and relatedness. Other scholars believe that indigeneity, being the basis of this unity should be excavated to form a single Filipino nation not only in form but also in substance. Language is to be emphasized since it mirrors the mind and the soul of this Filipino nation. I am referring, of course, to the school of thought Pilipinolohiya. Others, such as Nick Joaquin aver that there is no basis for Filipino identity other than its history, as "history is culture and culture is history." In other words, our present is the sum total of our cultural identity. It is plural and not entirely native.



The Mindanao Peace Monument in Davao City
Photo credit: [Photograph of the Mindanao Peace Monument in
Davao City]. (n.d.) Business Mirror. https://businessmirror.com.
ph/2017/10/12/mindanawons-looking-forward-to-changes-from-home/

Renato Constantino contends that our colonial experience taught us that whatever impact the colonizers had on our culture, this was merely a product of the colonizers' perception on how they could transform us to conform to their vested interests. The socio-political-economic institutions we have adopted today are reproductions of colonialist designs that we have failed to eradicate, independent though we may be. Colonialist culture persists. And for the Filipinos, this is already integrated into their skin, difficult to shed off. Unless we could truly dismantle these colonial structures, physically and mentally, we remain a nation economically left behind by our neighbours.

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL HISTORY AND IDENTITY FORMATION

Filipino ethnicities were not eradicated but rather were superimposed with colonial color. The Spaniards introduced a powerful religion and so did the Muslim missionaries. Islam and Christianity clashed not only during Spanish regime but throughout the American, Commonwealth, post-war periods, and to a certain extent, even today. Eric Casino believed that ethnic Muslims such as the Tausugs, Maranaos, and Maguindanaos are no more ethnic Christians as the Tagalogs, Capampangans, and Ilocanos. Meaning to say, the practice of these two religions never obliterated indigenous cultural practices of these ethnic groups. It is thus a mistake, according to Casino, to blame the religion Islam for the assiduous, belligerent stance of the Moslems of Mindanao where the issue is basically territorial, not religious. The nuance of their ethnic culture would eventually surface, since they as ethnic groups, have their interest to protect, so to speak. The present conflicts between the Maguindanaoans and the Tausugs bear this out. It is their ethnic culture that distinguishes one from the other, and though they may be of similar religion, even their perception regarding their belief systems differ. Professed Muslims, such as Aboud Syed Linga, however, insist that true Muslims consider that contradiction between their religion and their ethnic beliefs should be accepted as a given; the premise being that the religions Judaism, Christianity and Islam share relics of medieval cultural practices. Furthermore, the believers should be aware of this, and their faith should be paramount more than the perceived dichotomy between their theology and its practice. Thus, it is possible to conceive of an Islamic state. Even the prominent historian scholar Atty. Michael Mastura sees

nothing discordant between Maguindanaoan sociopolitical-economic institutions and Islam because they harmonize each other. Datuism in Maguindanao society is deeply interrelated with Islamic hierarchic protocol. In fact, Najeeb Saleeby, the Syrian American educator, had proposed in his monograph, "The Roots of the Moro Problem," the adoption of `Datuism' as the solution to moro intransigence on American sovereignty. Of course, the American colonizers had other things in mind and ignored Saleeby's proposal.

Following the ethnic lines that designate a plural culture within the archipelago emphasizes the role of mingling among Filipinos historically, as dictated by their political leaders. Alternatively, the response of Filipinos to the colonial policy of segregation, controlled movement of population and diminished human rights under the Spanish Regime, was, among others, an intense desire for freedom that culminated in the Revolution of 1896. Filipino response followed the same pattern under the American Regime. However, American education, just like the introduction of Roman Catholicism, as argued by Renato Constantino, had the effect of supra-incorporation of colonial culture into the native cultural milieu. But there was a vast difference between the Christians of Luzon and Visavas with that of the Muslims of the Mindanao and Sulu. The Tausuq, Maguindanao, and Maranao cultures were barely touched by American public education. At best, the pensionados, who received American education in the United States and Manila, provided intermediaries/ communicators between the American leaders and their (pensionado-Muslim leaders') followers. The same situation prevails, even today. Unlike in Luzon and Visayas where public education was thoroughly imposed and successfully diminished illiteracy (as defined by the mainstream), Muslim areas remained behind. Nonetheless, obliterating native culture, according to Renato Constantino, was the sad result of this American public educational system. The Filipino was transformed into a proverbial 'brown American' who had internalized American tastes and values. Of the values that the Americans ingrained in us, which is the most lasting, according to Constantino, was the belief that our prosperity as a nation lies on remaining an agrarian economy, a peripheral economy providing raw materials to the core capitalist countries. The 'ideal Filipino citizen' from the American perspective would be a farmer/homesteader who is also a self-sufficient producer. This, thus, formed the basis of the American idea of the `ideal Filipino settler' for Mindanao island.

The migration of the Ilocano, Capampangan, llonggo, Cebuano, and Boholano settlers to Mindanao in 1913 coincided with Governor Harrison's policy of Filipinization. The intention was expressed in the motto 'to make a Filipino out of the Moro.' The coming of these settlers added to the mistaken notion of identity that since they happen to be Christians, then they came to be recognized collectively as 'Christian settlers' vis-à-vis the native Muslims and other non-Muslims in the area. Moreover, they came to be regarded as 'models' with which to shape the native idea of how it is to become a 'Filipino.' It also implies 'cultural superiority' over the native with the intention of assimilating them. Their economic dominance further deepened the already brewing resentment of the natives. The migrant settlers not only added to the motley of cultures in Mindanao but supplanted it with their numerical superiority. Notwithstanding the introduction of state colleges and schools during the postwar period, with the intention of broadening the power base of Mindanaoans, most of the poverty-stricken provinces in the country are located in Mindanao.

THE MINDANAWON (PEOPLE OF MINDANAO) IDENTITY

Having contextualized above where I am coming from in this article, we could see that historically, the formation of plural identities is processual. The Filipinos, a collective designation for the diverse ethnic groups populating the entire Philippine Islands, responded to the challenges of colonialism that brought with it the Roman Catholic religion of the Spaniards, and the universal Public Educational System of the Americans were transformed differentially territorially.

The Maranao, Tausug, and Maguindanao, as well as the other ethnic groups—the Bagobos, Tagakaolos, Manobos, Mamanwas and others living in Mindanao, for example—have coexisted with the Ilocanos, Ilonggos, Boholanos, and Surigaonons, though they are of different beliefs and background. This coexistence is, I should say, presently the product of living off the land or their territory—which is the central factor to encourage the development of plural identity.

The demands of the global market have vastly changed the Mindanao landscape. Farmlands in the provinces of Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat, South and North Cotabato, Lanao del Sur, Bukidnon, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Tagum, Com Valley are thoroughly grown with cash crops like pineapples, bananas, rice, corn, and gutta-percha that are shipped to Japan, Kuwait, the United States, China, Singapore and countries in Europe. We have become producers of fruits, grains, shrimps, tuna, and now the island is poised to attract foreign investment in mining and alternative fuels.

In other words, common goals, which are beyond ethnic boundaries, under the template of `food security' and `poverty alleviation,' among others, have diminished cultural conflicts and allowed plural identities to flourish. As a matter of fact, `cultural diversity' was even utilized to promote tourism. Furthermore, better awareness of the dynamics between religion and ethnicity through formal and non-formal education could help eradicate ignorance regarding when and why people are in conflict with one another.

From the above narrative, we could say that the formation of plural identities arises on the basis of their ethnicity, which embodies their culture, broadly defined as the totality of one's material, spiritual, intellectual, and artistic pursuits. With ethnicity comes territory, and with territory, the State. Presently, the phenomenon of Bangsamoro identity cannot be ignored. However, I would rather eschew the topic. As a non-Moro, I do not think I have the authority to talk on this subject matter.

Historically, responses to challenges from external stimuli such as colonialism brought out the diversity in each of these cultures. Actually, their conflict with the outsiders was mainly territorial. Threats to the basic survival of the ethnic groups would lead them to resist. We have seen that, in the Philippines, the trifurcation of ethnic groups in Mindanao into Christian, Muslim, and Lumads glosses over the plurality of cultures. The ethnic identities, thus, could not be ignored. There are still unresolved issues among the Tausugs, the Maguindanaos, the Maranaos and the Lumads, collectively regarded as the Bangsamoro issue. Interfacing plural cultures has also become a factor for the common goals of economic development in the area among the Christian migrants, the Lumads, and the Moslems.

Thus, shared historical experiences under the Western colonial regimes, which largely served as the background for the formation of Filipino identity, which is a unity in diversity, as argued in this paper, developed cumulatively. Because plural identity is processual, awareness of our distinction, ethnically and nationally, may have been eroded by global ICT's. However,

constant reminders of the nation's symbols are taught in our schools, supported by our government agencies such as the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, National Historical Commission of the Philippines, the Department of Education, and the Commission on Higher Education. These institutions may still be able to capture the youth's sense of belongingness to the Filipino nation, which is an identity that has progressed through time in Philippine history.

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MEMBERS' PAGE

NEWS ABOUT PSSC MEMBER-ORGANIZATIONS



PHA Celebrates its 65th Anniversary with a Virtual International Conference on Southeast Asia

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Philippine Historical Association (PHA) celebrated its 65th anniversary with an international conference themed, "Arrivals, Conflict, and Transformation in Maritime Southeast Asia (c. 1400-1800)" and held from October 29 to 31, 2020. Jointly organized with the National Quincentennial Committee (NQC), University of San Carlos-Cebu (USC), and the Southeast Asia Research Center and Hub (SEARCH) of De La Salle University, the event also served as the 7th Conference of the International Council for Historical and Cultural Cooperation-Southeast Asia (ICHCC-SEA). The ICHCC-SEA is a consortium of the Philippine Historical Association (PHA), the Persatuan Sejarah Malaysia (PSM) and the Masyarakat Sejarawan Indonesia (MSI), which have rotated hosting the international conference since 2015.

Originally slated in April this year in Cebu, the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns required the rescheduling of the event and the shift from an inperson to an online gathering. Despite the initial setback, the PHA was able to promote the historical and cultural heritage of Southeast Asia through the virtual conference. It also served as an outlet for the latest historical studies on the Philippines and the region, and a venue for multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary exchange.

The three-day event began with welcome remarks delivered by National Historical Commission of the Philippines Chairperson, Rene R. Escalante, Ph.D., followed by the conference overview by Fernando A. Santiago, Jr., Ph.D., PHA Vice-President and Conference Convenor. Farish Noor, Ph.D. of the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore then gave the keynote lecture entitled "Dragged into the Wars of

Others: Southeast Asia's Entanglement with the Wars of Europe- From the Thirty Years War to the Napoleonic Wars." Dr. Noor explained how "Southeast Asia has always been exposed to external variable factors and influences, and that throughout its modern history from the 16th century to the 20th—has found itself entangled in other contestations for power/hegemony between larger states." He further said that "we need to look beyond the 'presentist' tendency that is all too common in contemporary media reportage, and to locate Southeast Asia within a broader and longer historical-political setting; and to remind ourselves that whatever challenges that the countries of the region may be facing today, such challenges are neither new nor unique to the present moment." He called for the need to relocate Southeast Asian history in "the broader context of global history and its entanglements with Western European history in particular, where we can see that radical newness—here understood as radical contingency outside the economy of the same and the familiar—almost never happens. Rather, the challenges that Southeast Asian states face today are a continuation of processes that began centuries ago, and due to the fact that these developments have all taken place within the same economy of the known and the familiar, they can also be understood and addressed."

The succeeding sessions were dedicated to lectures by representatives of each association, with the Philippine Historical Association represented by Ariel C. Lopez, Ph.D. of the University of the Philippines, Diliman and Ambeth R. Ocampo, D.P.A. of the Ateneo de Manila University. Dr. Lopez discussed "Continuities and Disjunctures: Sulu and Maguindanao in the Malay-Indonesian World, 16th-18th Century" while Prof.

Ocampo spoke about "Maps, Rizal, and the Emergence of the Filipino Nation." The Persatuan Sejarah Malaysia was represented by Prof. Datu Dr. Ahmad Murad Merican of the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization, International Islamic University Malaysia (ISTAC-IIUM), who talked about the "Malay Letters from the Archipelago, 1771-1794: Kedah and Southeast Asia as Global History." The final session was for the representatives of the Masyarakat Sejarawan Indonesia where Andi Achdian, Ph.D. of the Universitas Nasional, Jakarta discussed "Before the Nation State: Anticolonial Struggle and Regional Solidarity in Southeast Asia" while Gani A. Jaelani, Ph.D. of the Universitas Padjadjaran shared his study on "Doctors on Board: Traveling Journals of Colonial Physicians in the Nineteenth Century Dutch East Indies." PHA Board Member, Gloria Melencio of the University of the Philippines-Los Baños then synthesized the plenary lectures to close the first day.

The second day started with the contextualization of Lapulapu as a national hero of the Philippines and a discussion of teaching materials and videos to make sense of the theme "Victory and Humanity" by Michael Charleston "Xiao" Briones Chua of De La Salle University-Manila, Ian Christopher Alfonso of the National Quincentennial Committee, and Jose Eleazar R. Bersales, Ph.D. of the University of San Carlos Museum-Cebu. This was followed by the second day's keynote lecture by Jose Victor Torres, Ph.D. of De La Salle University-Manila on "The Mojares Panel Investigation into the 1521 First Easter Mass Controversy: Accessibility, Technology, and Discoveries." Dr. Torres explained that what made the panel's historical investigation unique was its full use of the technologies of the modern times that provided immediate access to several primary sources and researches here and abroad. This method plus oldfashioned legwork uncovered new information that became part of the final report. Felice Prudente Sta. Maria, Trustee of the National Museum of the Philippines then discussed how Antonio Pigafetta records in Primo Viaggio Intorno al Mondo, "strategies of good will, tolerance, and deception through feeding." She explained how food was received as gifts and as a fair exchange for bartering, and how it was also considered entitlement once a political alliance was made and payment for hostages. She stressed that the historical account warns that even in contemporary times, hunger and sustenance can be determinants in conflict and transformation.

The rest of the second day was devoted to panel sessions on Maritime Trade in Southeast Asia with lectures by Christopher Leslie, Ph.D. of the South China University of Technology, Guangzhou, PRC on "The Science of Sea Voyages in Southeast Asia: Environment and Society"; Andri Setyo Nugroho and Dita Reista Nurfaizah of Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya City, Indonesia on the "International Maritime Trading Network and its Islamisation Process in Java in the Fifteenth Century"; Jasper Christian L. Gambito of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines on "Pre-Hispanic Maritime Trade in Luzon"; Jeffrey James Ligero of the University of the Philippines-Los Baños on "Lantak: The Southeast Asian Roots of the Fire Piston Technology"; Daya Negri Wijaya of the Universitas Negeri Malang, Indonesia on "The Malacca-Moluccas Trade during the Portuguese Period"; and Gloria E. Melencio of the University of the Philippines-Los Baños on "Southeast Asia and the Bisayas Islands: Maritime Trading and Migration (1511-1744)." The day ended with a synthesis by PHA Board Member, Wensley M. Reyes, Ph.D. of the Philippine Normal University.

Fourteen academic papers were presented in six panel sessions on the last day with lectures by John Adrianfer Atienza of the Marist School Marikina on "Screening the Encounter: Historiophoty and the Battle of Mactan in Films," Marlon B. Lopez of Philippine Science High School-Soccsksargen Region Campus on "Haunting of the Hunting Grounds: The Ilaga in Polomolok, South Cotabato," and Romeo Palustre Peña, Ph.D. of the Center for Social History, Polytechnic University of the Philippines-Manila on "Naratibo ng Lubi sa Ating Gunita: Ang Industriya ng Niyog sa Panitikan at Kasaysayang Pilipino, 1940-2018"; on the theme, Contemporizing History. The next session focused on the Dutch in Southeast Asia with lectures by Meenu Rabecca Mathai of Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, Kerala, India on "Love Alone is not Enough': Interrogating VOC Treaties and Agreements in Malabar and Southeast Asia, 1662-1718" and Kimberly F. Apatan-Lusay of Mindanao State University on "The Dutch Menace and the Linao Uprising of 1651." The following session revolved around the Magellan-Elcano Expedition with lectures by Michael Angelo A. Doblado of the Palawan Studies Center, Palawan State University on "The Palawan Landfall of the Magellan-Elcano Voyage in the Philippines" and Fernando A. Santiago, Jr., Ph.D. of the Southeast Asia Research Center and Hub, De La

Salle University on "Assessing the Views on Enrique de Malacca: The First Southeast Asian to Circumnavigate the World."

With the theme Spanish Philippines, papers were presented by Ivan Kaye F. Bantique of the University of Santo Tomas and Mapua University on "The Local Comparisons and Global Connections of Trade in Manila Bay and its Water Tributaries from 1571 to 1644," Nicholas Michael Sy of the University of the Philippines-Diliman on "Estas no se Dan a Yndios: Indigenous Challenges to an Imperial Cap on their Ambitions, 1600s-1700s," and Marcelino M. Macapinlac, Jr., Ph.D. of De La Salle University-Manila on "Los Baños, Laguna from the Spanish Contact to its Transformation as a Travel Destination and a Healing Center, 1613-1898." The last two sessions shared the theme of Christianity in the Philippines with papers by Palmo R. Iya, Ph.D. of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas on "In Nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritús Sancti: Ang Katolikong Ebanghelisasyon sa Pilipinas sa Panahon ng Sirkumnabigasyon"; Mark Inigo M. Tallara, Ph.D. of the Southeast Asia Research Center and Hub, De La Salle University on "Performing Panata in Manila: An Ethnohistorical Analysis of Nuestro Padre Jesus Nazareno of Quiapo"; Danilo Acosta Lumabas of DepEd Manila- Felipe G. Calderon Integrated School (HS) on "Pueblo Amante de Maria: The Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the History of Valenzuela City"; and Melanie J. Magpantay of the University of Santo Tomas on "Msgr. Gabriel M. Reyes: First Filipino Archbishop of Manila (1949-1952)." PHA President and University of the Philippines-Diliman Professor Emeritus Ma. Luisa T. Camagay, Ph.D. then synthesized the lectures of the conference and delivered the closing remarks.

Aside from Zoom where over two hundred PHA members joined the conference, the sessions went on simultaneous livestream on the Facebook pages of the Philippine Historical Association, National Quincentennial Committee, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Education, University of San Carlos Museum-Cebu and Southeast Asia Research Center and Hub, De La Salle University. As of this writing (December 2020), recordings of the various sessions have already received more than ten thousand views from the Philippines and beyond. Thus, the PHA's 65th anniversary conference is significant not only as a successful international event and a contribution to the quincentennial celebrations, but also as a step in the association's present effort towards promoting, propagating and further democratizing historical knowledge and learning in the Philippines.



Fernando A. Santiago, Jr., Ph.D. is the Vice-President of the Philippine Historical Association. He is Associate Professor of History at De La Salle University, Manila where he also serves as Director of the Southeast Asia Research Center and Hub (SEARCH).



Frank X. Lynch Library's Historical Resources

The Frank X. Lynch Library, named after distinguished social scientist Fr. Francis Xavier Lynch, S.J., was set up in 1979 by the forerunners of the Philippine Social Science Council. It was envisioned to be a key part of the Philippine Social Science Center where people could go and learn new information, conduct research, and exchange ideas about the social sciences.

With the passage of time, the library came to accumulate numerous resources on a variety of social science disciplines, including history.

Multiple monographs on the subject of history, both Philippine and world history, are available for viewing. Some examples include the *Philippine Collaboration in World War II*, *History of Western Civilization: A Handbook*, and *Bring History Alive!*. The library is also home to multiple history journals, such as the Philippine Historical Association's *Historical Bulletin*, and Philippine National Historical Society's *The Journal of History*. Different studies conducted through the years are also available for viewing, like Dr. Adriel Obar Meimban's "La Union: The Making of a Province, 1850-1921." These studies, along with the other resources, not only give their readers a glimpse of the milieu during those times but also provide a critical lens through which they can be better understood. Through these, learners can discover new perspectives to interpret past events and perhaps even gain insight on how to approach the future.



PNHS Holds 41st National Conference on Local and National History Online Amid the Pandemic

DIANNA THERESE N. LIMPIN

Publications and Media Officer Philippine Social Science Council

Through a three-day webinar series conducted via Zoom and livestreamed on Facebook, the Philippine National Historical Society (PNHS), in partnership with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts -Committee on Historical Research (NCCA-CHR) and the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC), held the 41st National Conference on Local and National History. The first session, moderated by Edgar Allan M. Sembrano, was held on 24 October 2020. It began with the national anthem, followed by Christian and Islamic prayers, led by Fr. Michael G. Layugan, SVD and Calbi A. Asain, Ph.D., respectively. NCCA Chair Arsenio J. Lizaso and PSSC Executive Director Lourdes M. Portus, Ph.D. then delivered the opening remarks. Chair Lizaso emphasized the key role played by historians in society, especially during times of crisis, and noted that future generations will someday rely on the important work to be done by today's historians. He also paid tribute to the PNHS and its co-sponsor, the PSSC, for organizing the conference and "[providing] multifaceted research and discussions... necessary for the education of the next generation of Filipinos." Likewise, Dr. Portus praised the PNHS and PSSC's other social science member-organizations "in their never-ending quest for truth and knowledge [and] their incessant struggle to keep their disciplines alive by mounting conferences, conducting research and publishing worthwhile studies."

Conference co-convener Maria Nela B. Florendo, Ph.D. then took the floor to give an overview of the three-day webinar series. She explained that the conference would feature papers on historical events being commemorated the following year, such as the first circumnavigation of the world, the introduction of Christianity, and the victory in the Battle of Mactan. Apart from these, there would also be paper presentations on the commemoration of the end of World War II, women's inheritance rights during the early Spanish colonial period, and topics relevant to the pandemic. At the end of each paper presentation, Zoom attendees and Facebook viewers alike were given the chance to join the discussion through open forum sessions.

PNHS President and National Conference Convener Bernardita R. Churchill, Ph.D. began the presentations for the day with her paper entitled "Revisioning Philippine History, Knowing the Philippines." She explained that the Philippines—which has been described as "a singular and a plural place," "a many-layered place," and "an archipelago of exchange"—is home to Filipinos who look Asian but act like Westerners and whose "Asian layers. . . seem to have been submerged by later foreign cultural influences." As a retired professor of Philippine history, she observed and expressed concern at the fact that pre-colonial history, culture, and heritage are often glossed over when the subject is taught, thereby "obscuring the various racial and cultural traditions that underpin Filipino identity." Thus, in her presentation, Dr. Churchill advocated "to re-vision Philippine history in its natural setting in Southeast Asia and, consequently, to really know the Philippines-history, culture, and heritage." To conclude her presentation, she called for the creation of "inclusive history programs" that would tackle Martial Law and the histories of Muslim Filipinos and indigenous peoples.

The next and last presentation for the day was delivered by archaeologist and National Museum of the Philippines Senior Researcher Mary Jane Louise A. Bolunia, Ph.D. In her paper entitled "Research in the Time of Pandemic: The Tale of Philippine Archaeology," Dr. Bolunia gave "a broad account of individuals

and institutions who have worked in the country's archaeological sites or participated in the analysis of finds that bear on the cultural milieu of the archipelago." She focused on the developments in the field in the last 25 years, coinciding with the time she first became an archaeologist. Being in a discipline that is largely reliant on fieldwork, Dr. Bolunia also talked about the challenges brought about by the pandemic in the conduct of research and how many archaeologists such as herself were forced "to do the next best thing—work in the laboratory where previously collected artifacts are kept or conduct archival and library research, or both."

The second webinar, held on November 14 and moderated by Lorelei D.C. de Viana, featured four paper presentations on various topics. University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman history professor Mercedes G. Planta, Ph.D. opened the session with her paper entitled "The Philippines and Pandemics in World History: An Overview," where she sought "to ground the Philippines and its pandemic experiences in terms of a global pandemic history." Dr. Earl Jude Paul L. Cleope, Professor of History at Silliman University, followed with a discussion of "the unhampered operation of the [Silliman] University in the jungles of the mountains of Negros Oriental despite the occupation of the whole campus by the Japanese Imperial Forces" in his paper entitled "The Jungle University 1942-1945: Silliman University During the Japanese Occupation in Negros Island."

The last two papers for the day were presented by Regalado T. Jose, M.A., University of Santo Tomas (UST) archivist and faculty member; Edgar Allan M. Sembrano, Associate Researcher at the UST Graduate School Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (CCCPET); and Maria Nela B. Florendo, Ph.D., Professor of History in UP Baguio. Using a 1694 will with 170 entries and more than 70 pages, Prof. Jose and Mr. Sembrano painted "a rare portrait of a 17th century Tagalog lady" in their paper on "Juana Manahin, Bulacan heiress, and her 1694 will." Going back to topic of the pandemic, Dr. Florendo closed the session with her paper entitled "Tuloy po kayo sa Virtual Classroom ko: Teaching Philippine History Online," wherein she introduced the UP Baguio Virtual Learning Environment (UPBVLE), gave an overview of the university's revised Philippine history course, and talked about "the limitations as well as the potentials of delivering online instruction."

The third and last webinar, moderated by University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) Prof. Grace Liza Y. Concepcion, Ph.D., was held on November 28. It featured three papers from Prof. Rolando O. Borrinaga, Ph.D. of the School of Health Sciences in UP Manila; Prof. George Emmanuel R. Borrinaga, Ph.D. of the Department of Anthropology, Sociology and History at the University of San Carlos (USC); and Prof. Marcelino M. Macapinlac, Jr., Ph.D. of the De La Salle University's (DLSU) Department of History. As may be gleaned from his paper entitled "San Pedro Calungsod: The Bisayan Saint from Leyte," Dr. Rolando Borrinaga presented his take on the birthplace dispute involving the second Filipino saint, arguing that Calungsod was "a Bisayan who came from Leyte." On the other hand, in his paper on "Cholera and the Rise of the Dios-Dios Movement in Leyte, 1882-1890," Dr. George Emmanuel Borrinaga endeavored to "[examine] the links between the social impact of the 1882-1883 cholera epidemic on the Spanish Philippines and the emergence of the Dios-Dios Movement" in the province. The final presentation of the conference took the audience back to the Second World War. In his paper entitled "Liberation and Retaliation: How the Japanese Occupation Ended in Laguna," Dr. Macapinlac discussed the guerilla movement in Laguna, the province's eventual liberation, and the brutal retaliation that followed from Japanese troops who "refused to accept defeat from the unified forces of Filipino and Chinese guerrillas and American soldiers."

In the next part of the conference, Dr. Florendo facilitated the launch of two PNHS publications: (1) the 66th volume of The Journal of History, containing twelve papers from the 40th National Conference on Local and National History held in 2019, and (2) the 20th volume of the PNHS newsletter, detailing PNHS activities, linkages, announcements, and research opportunities. This was followed by an acceptance message from the host of the 2021 Conference on Local and National History, Prof. Delilah R. Labajo, M.A., the Chair of the USC Department of Anthropology, Sociology, and History. Finally, PNHS President Dr. Churchill officially concluded the conference with a closing message of hope.

Stirred by its dedication to the advancement of the study of Philippine history, the PNHS was able to successfully conduct the 41st National Conference on Local and National History despite the unprecedented health crisis. More than 1,600 individuals from all over the Philippines and across the seas registered for the event, and thousands more tuned in via Facebook.

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BERNARDITA R. CHURCHILL

A Historian at Heart

by DIANNA THERESE N. LIMPIN

Publications and Media Officer Philippine Social Science Council

Now a historian for more than six decades, Prof. Dr. Bernardita "Nita" Reyes Churchill did not always have her heart set on pursuing a career in history. Had her father had his way, she would have become an entirely different kind of doctor. He wanted her to become a medical doctor and had even saved up his World War II Veteran's Benefits to finance the medical course he had envisioned for his daughter. Not wanting to disappoint him, Dr. Churchill initially enrolled at the University of the Philippines (UP) in a pre-med course and spent her first three semesters studying the required science courses botany, zoology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics. Despite her excellent performance in school, however, Dr. Churchill realized early on that medicine was not for her; her experience dissecting a frog and the thought of eventually having to dissect a cat and, then, a cadaver proved decisive. Thus, with the help of her doctor uncle, she convinced her father to let her shift to B.A. major in History, beginning her journey as a student of history.

It was History 5, a required General Education (GE) course in Philippine History, that officially marked the beginning of Dr. Churchill's life as a history student. Coincidentally, it was also the first class she taught in the university as a graduate assistant. With great fondness, she recalled the "thick mimeographed Readings in Philippine History by Nicolas Zafra" that was the required reading for the course. The instructor was Oscar M. Alfonso, and Dr. Churchill remembered how she "shuddered in fear" every time he shuffled class cards and pulled out her name to answer a question in graded recitation.

According to Dr. Churchill, it was in UP that she realized that, until then, she "had acquired only a superficial knowledge of Philippine history and needed to know more." She finished her elementary and high school education at a sectarian school—the Holy Ghost College (now the College of the Holy Spirit along Mendiola Street in Manila)—where she read *Philippine History for Catholic High Schools* by Gregorio F. Zaide. In fact, she noted that she enjoyed history not because, but despite, the rote learning methods often instilled in

elementary and high school students when studying the subject.

"As a history major [in UP], I was interested in filling in the gaps in my historical knowledge from my elementary and high school history classes...it was incumbent upon me to learn all I could about Philippine history and the history of Southeast Asia where the Philippines is situated, and also the rest of Asia, like China and Japan and beyond—to Spain/Europe and the United States of America (USA)/Mexico, where Philippine history intersected during two colonial periods," she said.

She completed her bachelor's degree in UP in 1958, graduating magna cum laude and class valedictorian of the College of Liberal Arts. Shortly after, she juggled life as a graduate student and graduate assistant at the Department of History. At the rate of PhP1.00 per hour, she taught six units of the Philippine History GE course, proctored and marked exams for senior faculty members, and performed other "odd jobs" in the department.

What stood out to her as a particularly unforgettable experience as a teaching graduate assistant was a sudden assignment to take over teaching the Department Chair's Rizal Course, a class composed of students only a semester younger than her. Taken aback by the new and unexpected teaching load, Dr. Churchill's initial response was characterized by fright and flight:

My reaction to this "command performance" was to cry because how could I teach a course —ora-orada, right then and there—when I had just recently taken the course and had no prior notice to prepare to teach the course? Thankfully, the Assistant to the Department Chair, Dr. Alfonso, my former history teacher, "rescued" me and sent me home. I don't know how he explained my "disappearance," but he obviously appeased the Professor—with the assurance that I would handle the class at the next meeting. And I did exactly that and taught the course until the end of the semester!"

Despite the difficulties she encountered as a "newbie," Dr. Churchill looks back at that time in her life with triumph, taking pride in the fact that she "survived" that semester as both student and Instructor.

Dr. Churchill, early on, studied history in UP with then Chairs of the Department—Prof. Gabriel Fabella, who had established the Philippine Historical Association (PHA, 1955), and Prof. Dr. Guadalupe

Fores-Ganzon. She took her first class in Southeast Asian History with Prof. Fabella, who encouraged her to join the PHA, where she remains a life-member to this day. Dr. Churchill remembers vividly the assignment given by Dr. Ganzon to her senior historiography class—transcribing the Filipino propaganda paper *La Solidaridad* from a microfilm copy using the huge old microfilm reader. Dr. Ganzon was then engaged in the project of translating *La Solidaridad* into English, two volumes of which were published by the UP Press. Dr. Churchill treasures these copies in her library, as well as the complete set of *La Solidaridad*.

Her stay in the UP Department of History Graduate Program did not last long. Having secured a Southeast Asia Tuition Scholarship from the Southeast Asia Program (SEAP) at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, she went on to complete in 1961 her Master of Arts in Southeast Asian History, minor in Chinese History. There, she was mentored by distinguished Southeast Asian scholars, such as D.G. Hall (SOAS London – Burma, history), C.D. Cowan (SOAS London – Malaysia, history), Lauriston Sharp (Thailand, anthropology), Frank H. Golay (Philippines, economics), John M. Echols (Indonesia, linguistics), George McT. Kahin (Indonesia, politics and government), and Knight Biggerstaff (China, history).

She also met her future husband, Malcolm H. Churchill, then an M.A. student in economics at Cornell. He eventually spent a career in the U.S. State Department and served diplomatic postings in Manila, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Canberra (Australia), and Washington, D.C. In order to accompany her husband to his foreign postings, Dr. Churchill resigned from her tenured full-time appointment at the UP Department of History in 1966 (then chaired by Prof. Teodoro A. Agoncillo), without prejudice to reinstatement.

In 1972, with her husband's re-posting in Manila, she was reinstated in the UP Department of History and tenured again as Assistant Professor. After her husband completed his assignment in Manila and was once more posted overseas to Canberra, Australia, she took leave from UP and enrolled for the Ph.D. degree at the Australian National University (ANU). In 1981, she obtained her doctorate in Southeast Asian History in ANU, working with Hector Kinloch (U.S. History) and H.H.E. Loofs-Wissowa (Vietnam/Laos archaeology/history). The Chairperson of her Department—Asian Civilization—was A.L. Basham, whose book, *The Wonder that was India*, she had used as a textbook while teaching the course in UP. She also met there Southeast Asian

scholars Anthony Reid (Indonesia), Jamie A. Mackie (Indonesia), Milton E. Osborne (Cambodia), David G. Marr (Vietnam), Barbara Watson Andaya (Malaysia), Leonard Andaya (Indonesia), James J. Fox (Indonesia), and Alfred M. McCoy (Philippines), among others. She remembers well that she also had the privilege of meeting C.R. Boxer, who was invited by Anthony Reid to visit and give a seminar at ANU.

Her doctoral dissertation, published in 1983 by the National Historical Institute (now the National Historical Commission of the Philippines), was on *The Philippine Independence Missions to the USA, 1919-1934*, a topic suggested by her former Professor and later senior colleague in UP, Prof. Teodoro A. Agoncillo. In writing her dissertation, Dr. Churchill conducted extensive research in Australia, as well as in the Philippines and the USA. She visited the Library of Congress and the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and American university libraries with Philippine collections, including Harvard, Yale, Michigan, UCLA, UC Berkeley, and Stanford.

Dr. Churchill was also appointed as the first Philippine Studies Fellow in ANU in 1981, tasked with teaching the course "History and Civilizations of the Philippines" to a diverse group of students and contributing to scholarly research on the Philippines in Australia. She returned to the Philippines after her fellowship appointment, ready to share her newfound historical knowledge with Filipino students.

Dr. Churchill taught in four Philippine universities. She served as Professorial Lecturer in Adamson University (1990), De La Salle University (1990-2001), and the University of Santo Tomas (2000-2002). From 1958 to 1966 and from 1972 to 2003, she was a faculty member

in her alma mater, the University of the Philippines, moving up the ranks from Instructor to Professor, serving as the Chairperson of its History Department from 1984 to 1987, and retiring at the highest rank of Professorial Lecturer 5.

Dr. Churchill accompanied her husband in his foreign postings as U.S. Foreign Service Officer (in the State Department), during which time she arranged to teach only for one semester and took a leave-ofabsence (without pay) when she was out of the country. This arrangement was approved by the two successive deans of the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy (Prof. Dr. Leslie E. Bauzon and Prof. Ofelia R. Angangco), concurred with by the University Administration (Quezon Hall). Subsequently, she was asked by the Department to give up her full-time appointment, and she continued teaching only in the first semester as Professorial Lecturer, a position she maintained until retirement. At the same time, she accepted the position of Professorial Lecturer at the De La Salle University Graduate School and Department of History (at the invitation of Dr. Bienvenido Medina), and for a brief while, at the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School, and Adamson University (at the invitation of the University President, Fr. Rolando S. Delagoza).

Throughout her career, Dr. Churchill became a member of thirty-six professional organizations in the Philippines, the USA, Australia, and Spain. At present, she is still part of five social science associations in the Philippines—the Philippine National Historical Society, Inc. (PNHS), the Philippine Studies Association (PSA), Philippine Historical Association (PHA), the Philippine Association for Chinese Studies (PACS), and the Manila



Dr. Churchill (2nd from right) with her fellow History professors in UP Diliman (1999).



Dr. Churchill hosted a lunch for Dr. Napoleon Casambre in her UP Village residence (June 2008) with colleagues Samuel K. Tan, Justina S. Ocampo, Josefa Saniel, Eden M. Gripaldo, Gil G. Gotiangco, Jr. II.

Studies Association (MSA)—of which all but the MSA are member-organizations of the Philippine Social Science Council. She currently serves as the President of the PNHS and the President emeritus of the PSA and the MSA. In the USA, she remains a member of the Philippine Studies Group (PSG), Southeast Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies (SEAC), Association for Asian Studies (AAS), American Historical Association, Smithsonian Resident Associates, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Asian-American Forum, the Philippine Arts, Letters and Media (PALM) Council, and the US-Philippines Society.

Looking back, Dr. Churchill considers it providential that she was able to continue her career as historian and teacher of history after she gave up her full-time appointment in UP. She was able to work in a wider academic field through her memberships and involvements in several professional organizations both in the Philippines and abroad. In 1994, UP historian colleague, Prof. Dr. Dean Leslie E. Bauzon, turned over to her the presidency of the PNHS. This provided her with a bigger platform to promote the study and teaching of history, especially local and national history, as they carried on the tradition set up by their predecessors—Marcelino M. Foronda, Jr., among others—to convene local and national history conferences, which is now entering its 42nd year in 2021, the pandemic permitting.

She also assumed the presidency of the Philippine Studies Association, Inc. in 1984 and had convened the PSA National Conferences since, as well the International Conference on Philippine Studies (ICOPHIL), which was initiated by Prof. Dr. Belinda A. Aquino of the University of Hawai'i at Mano'a and of which Dr. Churchill is currently the Chair. The 11th ICOPHIL Conference was planned to be convened in September 2020 at the Universidad de Alicante, Spain, had the coronavirus not upended the much-awaited international conference held only every four years, alternating between the Philippines and a foreign venue. In 2016, the ICOPHIL Conference was hosted by Silliman University in Dumaguete City.

In the hopes of the pandemic ending and in anticipation of the commemoration of the quincentennial of the Magellan Expedition to the Philippines in 1521 and the subsequent Spanish colonial period in the country, the year 2021 will be filled with national and international conferences. The PNHS is scheduled to convene the 42nd National Conference on Local and National Conference in Cebu, to be hosted by the University of San Carlos.

Dr. Churchill has convened, presented in, and served as keynote speaker in countless conferences, the



Dr. Churchill (right) with Dr. Belinda Aquino, convenors of the 8th International Philippine Studies Conference

latest being the PNHS's 2020 National Conference on National and Local History, where she served as both co-convener and presenter. From 1976 to present, she has also written for and edited almost sixty journal—the *Philippine Social Sciences Review* (UP CSSP), *Manila* (MSA), The *Journal of History* (PNHS), and *Filipinas*—and book publications.

To say that Dr. Churchill has lived a prolific life would be an understatement. However, among the numerous positions she has held and the various professional activities she has participated in, she noted that teaching remains the highlight of her career. "I am most proud of being a history teacher to countless students, some of whom have done very well in their careers as historians, always acting as honorable academics as expected of those in our profession," she said. "Reading, teaching, research, and writing history has been my life's work, which I have tried to do as best I can."

In the same way that she has taught and mentored many of today's prominent historians, Dr. Churchill considers herself lucky for "[having] had very good mentors as a student of history who inspired [her] to be the best historian [she] can possibly be." While she paid tribute to all of her history professors, Dr. Churchill singled out Prof. Teodoro Agoncillo as a "major influence in [her] life as a historian." She recounted,



(L-R) Dr. Churchill with Drs. Maria Cynthia Rose B. Bautista, Isagani R. Cruz, Bienvenido L. Lumbera, and Fr. Jose M. Cruz, SJ during the Philippine Studies Conference in 2003.



Dr. Churchill with NCCA Executive Directors Malou Jacob (left) and Carmen D. Padilla (middle) during the Launching of Cuerpo de Vigilancia Calendar of Documents by NCCA in 2011.



Dr. Churchill with the Balagtasan orators -Galileo Zafra, Michael Coroza, Vim Nadera - with PNHS Board Pacita Carluen during the PNHS 2019 National Conferences at National Museum of the Philippines.

...he was very generous in sharing his knowledge and encouraged mastery of history, not only as my Professor but eventually as a senior colleague in the Department of History. He instilled in me the love for books on the Philippines, not just in history but also in literature, culture, and the arts. He always advised/alerted me of a new publication, which he urged me to buy for my personal library... On some occasions, Prof. Agoncillo would himself gift me with an extra copy of a book he had just acquired or had been given. And he also allowed me to photocopy out-ofprint books which I needed for my graduate courses or research, as well [allowed] me to take home rare Filipiniana books from his library collection... "Kapalit ng buhay mo iyan," he would admonish me, if I did not return the book and in the same condition that I had borrowed it from him!

Prof. Agoncillo was a contemporary of her parents in UP, then in Padre Faura, Ermita, in downtown Manila.

She also remembers well her other UP professors—Prof. Gabriel Fabella, Prof. Dr. Guadalupe Fores-Ganzon, Prof. Dr. Josefa M. Saniel, Prof. Dr. Honesto Villanueva, Prof. David Wico, Prof. Dr. Oscar M. Alfonso, Prof. Donata V. Taylo, Prof. Aurelio Estanislao (who taught their French class the French National Anthem, the "Marseillaise," and "La vie en rose" in his golden baritone voice and even sang at her wedding in 1962), and Prof. Dr. Serafin D. Quiason. Furthermore, she acknowledged the "support and comfort that [she has] received from many colleagues both in and outside the UP Department of History," as well as the friendships she has developed with many of her students, whose achievements as historians have filled her with utmost pride.

Most of all, Dr. Churchill expressed gratitude to her parents. Despite her father initially wanting a different career for her, she described them as being "very supportive parents who indulged [her] passion for history books and afforded [her] with the resources [she] needed to acquire any history book [she] needed and wanted for [her] studies." Her parents' support was mainly instrumental in building Dr. Churchill's "most precious possession/treasure," a collection of

at least 5,000 history books "on the Philippines, the USA, Mexico, [and] Europe, including those written in foreign languages." The BRC Library is presently in UP Village, Quezon City and Washington, D.C. The bulk of the collection will be donated to the Silliman University Library in due time.

With the sudden rise of authoritarianism across the globe and the intensification of efforts by the powers-that-be in the country to rewrite history to their advantage, the importance of history in Philippine society cannot be overstated. Quoting Canadian American historian William H. McNeill, Dr. Churchill explained that "history provides the best guide for understanding 'the practical problems of real life,' and is the 'best available guide for public action'... [It] should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future."

Drawing from her years of experience as a historian, Dr. Churchill gave two pieces of advice on "[dealing] with the past." First, she encouraged the Filipino public to embrace the unvarnished truth about the country's past, including those aspects of Philippine history deemed unpalatable by some:

There are those who would "exorcise" our colonial past from our collective memory as a people. I do not think we can and should do that. We cannot have nationalism that negates our past, not even a colonial past. We cannot re-arrange our nation's history and blame all of our current problems and inadequacies on our colonial past. We cannot bypass four hundred years of colonial rule—as some people would propose. That is wishful thinking that will only serve to blur historical fact. We cannot downgrade those periods in our history nor can we discount their impact on the present. We must accept the reality of our colonial past and build from the beginnings we have made as a nation—even as early as colonial times in the 16th century and, latterly, in 1896, in 1898, in 1946, in 1986, in 2001, and in 2010. But a nation's history cannot be made up only of beginnings—we must attempt to move towards the completion of our many beginnings and fulfill nationalistic expectations of national

unification and socioeconomic development begun earlier in the nineteenth century, working together towards these goals and standing on our own resources as a people.

Second, she emphasized the importance of proper history education for all Filipinos, especially for the youth and the Indigenous Peoples:

It is important that Philippine history is taught well in the elementary level for here is where we can teach the young the traditional values and love and pride in country. The dynamics of cultural development need to be understood. History should also be provided to the not so young, including adults, so that we become fully aware of what constitutes "total history" for all Filipinos, including and especially those who have been neglected and set aside in our history because they are in the minority—these are the Indigenous Peoples and the Filipino Muslims—so they feel we belong together as Filipinos in the Philippines.

In order to prevent the mistakes of the past from recurring, historians today face the great challenge of teaching the past with a critical lens. More than 60 years since she taught her first history class as a graduate assistant in UP, Dr. Churchill continues to play her part in educating the public through her active involvement in professional organizations—especially the PNHS, the PSA, and the MSA—and her various academic activities in the Philippines, Japan, the USA, Spain, the Netherlands, and France. She has spoken on "Enhancing the Teaching of Philippine History to include Martial Law, and the Histories of Muslim Filipinos and Indigenous Peoples" and recently presented her paper on "Revisioning Philippine History, Knowing the Philippines: History, Culture, Heritage" during the 2020 PNHS National Conference on Local and National Conference.

Having already had a long and fulfilling career, however, Dr. Churchill noted that she "will eventually slow down and move out of the scene," and as she passes the torch to her colleagues in the years to come, she is comforted by her confidence that they "will carry on the tradition [their predecessors] have set up."

COUNCIL NEWS

HAPPENINGS WITHIN THE PHILIPPINE SOCIAL SCIENCE COUNCIL



The NSSC 9 logo

PSSC Gathers over 250 Social Scientists, Delegates in a Timely Conference on Resilience

For the first time, the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) brought the National Social Science Congress (NSSC) to the southernmost city of the Philippines, General Santos City. First held in 1983, NSSC is PSSC's signature program that serves as a platform for social scientists to share their latest research, test concepts, theories and ideas, and critically examine issues of social significance.

With the conference held every three years, the 9th NSSC, with the theme *Resilience in our Times*, was held on 20-22 February 2020 at SunCity Suites hotel. It gathered over 250 students, audience, academicians and social scientists—majority of which coming from Mindanao—to discuss the dimensions of resilience in the face of climate change, imperialist plunder, war and peace, and other environment, gender, and cultural issues.

PSSC partnered with the Holy Trinity College (HTC) of General Santos City in holding the Congress. Atty. Josemar Albano, HTC's Board of Trustees chair and vice president for administration, welcomed the delegates to the tuna capital of the Philippines.

PSSC Executive Director Dr. Lourdes M. Portus officially opened the Congress saying, "What better time to hold a relevant discourse on resilience than the present time when we, Filipinos, are not only witnessing, but also, experiencing one calamity after another in, and across, our country!" She noted the issues hounding Filipinos such as the COVID19, African Swine Flu, Taal Volcano eruption, the government's "drug war," the series of earthquakes, as well as the West Philippine Sea dispute. "These challenges test the Filipino's resilience, or coping capacity and lead us to conclude that this, the 9th National Social Science Congress, with its multidisciplinary character and its inclusive perspective, has come at the most appropriate time, indeed," Dr. Portus added.

Retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio, known for his advocacy of defending Philippine sovereign rights in the West Philippine Sea, delivered the keynote address during the first day of the congress. Justice Carpio stressed the importance of the South China Sea (SCS) in the geopolitical scene, China's creeping expansion in SCS despite its fake historical claim on its islands and waterways, including why the Permanent Court of Arbitration invalidated China's claims in favor of the Philippines. Justice Carpio highlighted crucial steps to take in light of the issue, such as upholding freedom of navigation and overflight operations in the SCS by the world's naval powers, educating the Chinese people that China has no historic claim to the SCS, and resorting to the Rule of Law as embodied in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

"We must know the history of our own country and this is very material, because if we do not know that the West Philippine Sea belongs to us, who will defend it? It will only be defended by Filipinos, and only if we believe that it belongs to us," Justice Carpio said in an interview after his speech.

"We should take very seriously the defense of the West Philippine Sea because this is a very huge area, larger than our total land area, it's rich in fish, oil, gas and other natural resources. These resources belong not only to this generation but to future generations of Filipinos. And if we lose it to China now, we lose it forever," he continued.

Dr. Alfredo Mahar Lagmay, Executive Director of the University of the Philippines Resilience Institute, meanwhile, led the plenary discussion on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and shared his insights on how physical and social sciences and arts could play an instrumental role in increasing public awareness on disaster resilience and literacy. For his part, Richli Corp. consultant Mr. Ronaldo Pinto introduced the company's efforts to create a sustainable water source in parts of Bohol, as well as the need for a sustainable water management in the country.

One of the highlights of the NSSC 9 is the awarding of the Best Paper Award. Forty-two full research papers were submitted and vied for the award. Of the 42, fifteen were blindly shortlisted by the NSSC9 scientific committee composed of interdisciplinary experts. Samantha Javier from the University of the Philippines Diliman won the Best Paper Award for writing "Risk Reduction Through Disaster Literacy Among School-Age Children in a Vulnerable Community: The Case of Barangay Parian, Calamba City." Reymund Flores' "Modeling the Organizational Willingness for Cross-sector Collaboration in Disaster Risk Management Planning" and Eulalio Guieb III's "Dailiness of Cultures of Resilience of a Community in Conservation: Kin Groups, Social Affiliations, and Fishing Organizations as Alliances of Interests in an Island Fishing Village in Central Philippines," won the second and third place, respectively.

This year's Congress was made possible with the cooperation of the Holy Trinity College of General Santos City, Senator Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao, the Richli Corporation, Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp., the Oscar M. Lopez Center, Philippine Association of Social Workers Inc., Psychological Association of the Philippines, and Gardenia Philippines.









Training Workshop on Publishing Social Science Research

Prior to the NSSC 9 Congress proper on February 20, a pre-congress training workshop on *Publishing Social Science Research* was held on February 19 at the AVR, MSU Graduate School, MSU-CETD Campus, General Santos City. This is in partnership with the Mindanao State University - General Santos City Department of Sociology. Some 41 congress participants, mostly from Mindanao, gained knowledge, attitudes, and skills related to journal writing and publishing from Dr. Fernando Paragas, associate professor from the Graduate Studies Department of the UP College of Mass Communication.

The training provided a framework where participants learned the value and impact of publishing social science research not just for academics, but on the lives of Filipinos and the welfare of communities.





More NSSC 9 photos



Presentors of the MSU-GenSan-organized panel "Initiatives on Building Resilience toViolence and Promoting Peaceful Engagement in Mindanao": (L-R) Jovar Pantao, Jovanie C. Espesor, Mario J. Aguja, together with their moderator, Lizan P. Calina.



Panel members of "Coping and Thriving in Times of Disaster": (L-R) Moderator - Jan Antoni Credo; Paper presentors - Lilian C de la Peña, Maria Aurora J. Felipe, and Enrique G. Oracion.



HTC's BOT Chair and VP for Administration, Atty. Josemar Albano





Holy Trinity College welcomed the delegates with a sumptuous dinner and cultural show by the school's cultural group - Sayaw Gandingan.



PSSC Launches Revamped Website and New Social Media Accounts

As part of its efforts to improve the Council's online presence, the PSSC availed the services of marketing agency Panoptik Digital in May 2020 to revamp and restructure its website (pssc.org.ph). On 8 August 2020, the refurbished website was launched via Facebook. Not only is it more aesthetically appealing and easier to navigate, the new website is now also able to accommodate online payments for PSSC programs and services via the Payment Center (pssc.org.

ph/payment). Social science books and journals may also be purchased online via the PSSC Bookshop (pssc.org.ph/bookshop).

In pursuit of its mandate to promote the social sciences, the Knowledge Archives (pssc.org.ph/knowledge-archives)—an open access repository of academic journals published by PSSC's member-organizations—was revived and repositories of social science lectures (pssc.org.ph/social-science-and-society-lectures) and webinars (pssc. org.ph/webinars) were also created on the website. Member-organizations are encouraged to send their latest journals, lectures, and webinars for inclusion in these online repositories.

From its launch up to the end of 2020, website traffic saw a near 700% increase. In August 2020, the PSSC also created accounts on Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Google MyBusiness to reach even more members of the social science community across the globe.

Want to be updated on PSSC news and events? Visit our website and follow us on social media!



Webinars: PSSC's New Way of Organizing Fora

PSSC Partners with UPCMCFI, PPI and NAC for Webinars on Media and Journalism in Times of Crisis

PSSC partnered with the UP College of Mass Communication Foundation, Inc. (UPCMCFI), the Philippine Press Institute (PPI), and the Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC) in organizing two webinars on the state of media and journalism in times of crisis. The first webinar, titled "Media Freedom in the Time of Pandemic," was held on 3 September 2020 and focused on the public's need for an independent media in times of crisis as watchdog for checks and balances. The resource speakers were Prof. Danilo A. Arao, Associate Professor from the Department of Journalism at the UP College of Mass Communication; Ms. Carolyn O. Arguillas, Editor-in-Chief of MindaNews; and Ms. Tess Bacalla, former Executive Director of the Southeast Asian Press Alliance.

The second webinar, held on 4 November 2020, was titled "Safety of Journalists and Media Workers in Time of Crisis." It delved on the challenges posed by a pandemic and other unfortunate events, such as a massacre, to the safety and security of journalists and media workers as they perform their roles. The resource speakers were Mr. Nonoy Espina, Chairman of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines; and Mr. Red Batario, Executive Director of the Center for Community Journalism and Development. Both webinars were moderated by PPI Executive Director Ariel C. Sebellino.

PSSC and PSAI Organize a Mental Health Webinar for PSA Employees

On 4 September 2020, PSSC and the Philippine Statistical Association, Inc. (PSAI) were commissioned by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) to conduct a mental health webinar for its employees. Attended by around 80 PSA employees all over the country, the "Online Forum on Enhancing Mental Health Resilience in Time of Pandemic" delved on understanding concepts in mental health and well-being; identifying and understanding the sources of depression, anxiety, and stress in times of uncertainties and disasters, such as the pandemic; enhancing mental health and averting sources of depression, anxiety, and stress, especially in the workplace; and understanding the mental health support systems that are and should be present in communities. Resource speakers included Ms. Agnes Hajek, a US-based behavioral health therapist; Dr. Diane Marie U. Consolacion, in-house licensed psychologist at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas; and Dr. Anselmo T. Tronco, Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at the Philippine General Hospital. The reactors were Dr. Divine Love A. Salvador, Associate Professor at the UP Department of Psychology, and Dr. Marc Eric S. Reyes, Vice President of the Psychological Association of the Philippines.







PSSC and ICSSR Kick Off Partnership with a Webinar Series on COVID-19

To officially launch the partnership between PSSC and the Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), a series of webinars entitled "Narratives of COVID-19 from the Social Science Communities in India and the Philippines" was organized from October 2020 to January 2021. The series sought to initiate crosscountry learning exchanges between ICSSR and PSSC, as well as encourage collegial collaborations among social scientists in the two countries.

The first webinar, titled "Examining the COVID-19 Responses of India and the Philippines," was held on 15 October 2020. It looked into the general measures being taken by the governments of India and the Philippines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. ICSSR was represented by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries, as resource speaker; and Dr. Bhushan Patwardhan, Vice Chairman of the University Grants Commission, as reactor. Meanwhile, PSSC was represented by Dr. Michael L. Tan, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of the Philippines, as resource speaker; and Dr. Gregorio E.H. del Pilar, President of the National Research Council of the Philippines, as reactor.

The second webinar in the series, titled "Examining Social Protection Among Vulnerable Groups during COVID-19," was held on 18 November 2020. This webinar looked into the experiences of vulnerable populations amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and examined the areas of social protection that policymakers should be focusing

on. ICSSR was represented by Dr. Ramesh Chand, Member of the National Institution for Transforming India Aayog of the Government of India, as resource speaker; and Dr. Arvind Virmani, Chairperson of the Foundation for Economic Growth and Welfare, as reactor. PSSC, meanwhile, was represented by Dr. Judy Taguiwalo, Professorial Lecturer at the UP College of Social Work and Community Development (UP CSWCD), as resource speaker; and Dr. Rosalinda Ofreneo, Professor Emeritus at the UP CSWCD, as reactor.

The third and final webinar in the series will be held in January 2021 and will delve on economic stimulus packages at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

PSSC Offers Webinar to Aid Students and Educators amid the Shift to Remote Learning

To cap off its webinar offerings in 2020, PSSC conducted a webinar titled "How We Can Learn Fast and Teach Smart? Remote Teaching Tips from an eLearning Specialist," on 11 December 2020. Dr. Almond Pilar N. Aguila, an eLearning specialist and founder of Our eLearning Strategy PH, provided expert advice on remote learning through the principles of 21st century learning, answered pressing questions on how to adjust to the new normal of education, and offered possible solutions to some of the pressing issues surrounding remote learning. She was joined by Asst. Prof. Juvy Lizette M. Gervacio of the Faculty of Management and Development Studies at the UP Open University and Asst. Prof. Jon Paul F. Maligalig of the UP College of Education as reactors.





Philippine Migration Research Network Launches "Migration Dialogues"

On 21 June 2019, the Philippine Migration Research Network (PMRN), under the auspices of PSSC, launched the "Migration Dialogues" at the PSSCenter. The "Migration Dialogues" is an annual event of PSSC-PMRN aimed at bringing together migration scholars, planners, policymakers, and other stakeholders to discuss migration trends, issues, and challenges toward better planning/programming and informed decisions on migration-related matters.

The first ever "Migration Dialogues" tackled two equally important topics: the implications of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) policy mandating dual citizens to renounce their foreign citizenship as a prerequisite to election or appointment into public office and the mechanisms within the Department of Education (DepEd) to monitor and regulate the operations and the curriculum of Philippine Schools Overseas.

Prof. Stella P. Go, Convenor of the PMRN, gave the overview for the first theme, "Nationals or Nationalists Wanted? Dual Citizens as Public Servants." The panel discussion included notable experts in the field, namely, Sec. Francisco P. Acosta of the Commission of Filipinos

Overseas, Asst. Commissioner Ariel G. Ronquillo of the Civil Service Commission, and Dr. Rogelio Alicor L. Panao of the University of the Philippines Diliman Department of Political Science. The panel was moderated by Dr. Jean S. Encinas-Franco.

The second theme was "The Philippine Schools Overseas (PSO) Curriculum: Delivering Basic Education to the Children of Filipino Migrants." Dr. Jorge V. Tigno, Secretary General of PMRN, gave an overview on the topic. The panel discussion included social scientists USec. Astravel Pimentel-Naik of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, Dr. Jocelyn D.R. Andaya of the Department of Education, and Dr. Dennis V. Blanco of the University of the Philippines Department of Political Science.

The PMRN was organized in February 1996 as part of the Council's goal to advance knowledge and understanding of national and international migration trends and developments. PMRN is composed mainly of social scientists and migration researchers working in the academe, the government, and private and non-government sectors.



Prof. Stella P. Go



Sec. Francisco P. Acosta



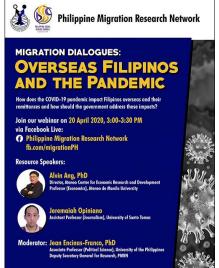
Prof. Jorge V. Tigno



Asst. Comm. Ariel G. Ronquillo



Second PMRN Migration Dialougues resource speakers: USec. Astravel Pimentel-Naik and Dr. Jocelyn D.R. Andaya (first and second from left).













In 2020, the pandemic compelled the Migration Dialogues to turn digital. The online platform allowed the network to reach even more stakeholders worldwide through a series of webinars on the following topics:

- Overseas Filipinos and the Pandemic (20 April 2020)
- Filipinos in the U.K. and COVID-19 (13 May 2020)
- The State of Filipino Seafarers and COVID-19 (25 May 2020)
- Babalik Ka Rin? Challenges of Return and Reintegration Amidst COVID-19 (16 June 2020)
- Quo Vadis, ASEAN? The Future of International Migration in ASEAN Amidst COVID-19 (23 July 2020)
- Migrants in the Frontlines: The State of Filipino Health Care Workers in the United States (20 August 2020)

Resource persons for this series included migration scholars, representatives from the Philippine government, multilateral agencies, and civil society organizations, and Filipino migrants themselves—Filipinos working, studying, and residing abroad.

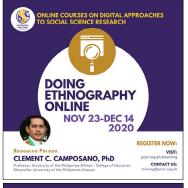
These webinars led to an increase in PMRN's online following. Seeking to further expand its network of migration scholars and researchers, PMRN relaunched its membership campaign in July 2020, reactivating former members and accepting new ones. In connection with this, the network will hold a General Assembly in March 2021, which will also see the expansion of its Executive Committee to a new Steering Committee and the launching of its new publication, Looking Back, Moving Forward: Philippine Migration Issues, Policies, and Narratives, edited by Dr. Jean Franco.

PSSC Holds Online Customized Ethics Training for MSU-IIT Faculty

On 7-9 October 2020, 25 faculty members of Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS) joined the first online customized research ethics training workshop of PSSC. The participants, including CASS Dean Rohane Derogongan, came from the fields of sociology, philosophy, psychology, public administration and governance, anthropology, linguistics, and history.

PSSC expert trainers Dr. Amaryllis T. Torres, Assoc. Prof. Stella P. Go, Assoc. Prof. Peter A. Sy and Dr. Maria Carinnes P. Alejandria led the workshop, which aimed to develop participants' full appreciation of the ethics principles in human-participant research and to apply these in the design and establishment of their own internal review processes. Following the successful training, PSSC Executive Director Lourdes M. Portus, Ph.D. and MSU-IIT Chancellor Sukarno D. Tanggol, DPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on various learning activities starting 2021.









PSSC Training Programs Go Digital

With the objective of continuing learning and engagement among social scientists despite the limitations brought about by the pandemic, PSSC launched an initiative to digitize its training programs in 2020. The Council sought to adapt to changes and take advantage of new technologies and emerging structures and systems for the delivery of knowledge and learning.

From November to December 2020, PSSC conducted its inaugural e-Learning Courses, focusing on "Digital Approaches to Social Science Research." The courses were led by Dr. Clement C. Camposano of the University of the Philippines (UP)-Visayas (on Doing Ethnographic Research Online), Dr. Julienne Thesa Y. Baldo-Cubelo of the UP College of Mass Communication (on Doing Interviews and FGDs Online), and Prof. Martin Augustine B. Borlongan of the UP School of Statistics (on Doing Surveys Online). The courses took a blended format, with a mix of synchronous sessions through videoconferencing in Zoom, and asynchronous activities through PSSC's new online learning platform, the e-Learning Academy (academy pssc.org.ph).

The online courses also benefited a wider range of social science researchers, educators, and students, as the new platform and format allowed more stakeholders to participate with less cost and resources being consumed. A total of 110 researchers from the academe, government, and private sector nationwide participated in the courses.

General evaluation of the trainings revealed that their strengths lay in the new insights and practical tips shared by the resource persons, as well as their expertise and experience in using the methods in their own research projects.

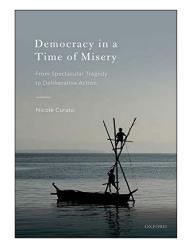
Virginia A. Miralao Excellence in Research Awardees



Launched in 2012, the Virginia A. Miralao Excellence in Research Award is an annual celebration of a promising young scholar in the social sciences who has published an outstanding research article, chapter, or book. The recipient of the VAM Excellence in Research Award is given a cash prize and a trophy designed by distinguished Filipino artist Toym Imao.

Dr. Nicole C. Curato was named as the eight Virginia A. Miralao Excellence in Research Awardee (for 2020) for her book, *Democracy in a Time of Misery: From Spectacular Tragedy to Deliberative Action*, published by Oxford University Press. According to Prof. Septrin John Calamba, Vice President of the Philippine Sociological Society (PSS), "the book is a profound and remarkable contribution to understanding people's misery enlivening democratic action. Dr. Curato's work is exemplary in disaster- and conflict- affected communities providing strong theoretical insights and methodological reflections. Drawing from deliberative democratic action, the book unpacks varying modes of how political agents articulate, enact, and contest their spectacular tragedies to deliberative action." Dr. Curato, who was nominated by PSS, is the first female in the roster of VAM Awardees.

The seventh Virginia A. Miralao Excellence in Research Award (in 2019) was conferred to Dr. Kristoffer B. Berse of the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance and the Philippine Society for Public Administration for his book chapter, "Cities as Aid Agencies: Preliminary Prospects and Cautionary Signposts from Post-disaster Interurban Cooperation in Asia." Anchored on network-based city-to-city cooperation, a relatively young and underexplored form of decentralized development cooperation, the chapter presented the experience of select Asian cities in extending outbound relief and technical assistance and in promoting risk reduction measures outside their territorial boundaries.





Nicole C. Curato



Kristoffer B. Berse

WHO IS VIRGINIA A. MIRALAO?

Dr. Miralao was the Executive Director of the PSSC from 1996 to 2009. During her term, the Council's assets and resources expanded and PSSC's involvement in research and publications, training, organizing conferences and administering project grants and scholarships became more visible. She also strengthened PSSC's linkages with regional and international social science entities, including the Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO. After retiring from PSSC, Dr. Miralao assumed the post of secretary general of the Philippines National Commission for UNESCO from 2011 to 2016.

Master Class on Data Privacy Protection

To start the year, the Philippine Social Science Council offered a Master Class on Data Privacy Protection and Records Management in Research from January 21 to 24, 2019. The workshop aimed at training and mentoring a select number of researchers interested in specializing and becoming masters in data privacy in research. The Master Class was structured in accordance with the draft modules on data privacy protection in human-participant research, which were developed by Prof. John Erwin S. Bañez (UP Diliman), Dr. Ma. Carinnes P. Alejandria (UST), Dr. Amaryllis Torres (PSSC), and Prof. Peter A. Sy (UP Diliman). The preparation of the modules was funded by the Metrobank Foundation Inc.

In all, fourteen individuals participated in the Master Class. Two of the participants of this Master Class have since organized data privacy workshops in their own institutions with Prof. Sy, Dr. Alejandria, and Prof. Bañez serving as mentors and resource persons.



Dr. Amaryllis T. Torres



Prof. Peter A. Sy



Prof. John Erwin S. Bañez



Dr. Ma. Carinnes P. Alejandria



PSSC Holds Training Workshop on Digital Approaches to Qualitative Research

From 26 to 27 March 2019, the Council held a Training Workshop on "Digital Approaches to Qualitative Research." The goal of the program was to develop the participants' ability to design and plan a qualitative study using digital research methods. Furthermore, it aimed to equip participants with practical skills in conducting virtual/cyber ethnography and online interviewing and underscore ethical/privacy considerations in conducting internet-based or online research. Resource persons from member-organizations were invited—Dr. Clement Camposano from the Philippine Studies Association and Dr. Julienne Thesa Baldo-Cubelo from the Philippines Communication Society—both of whom are professors from the University of the Philippines Diliman. The workshop was attended by 33 participants from the government, academe, and media and market research organizations.





PSSC welcomes its new Executive Director



The Philippine Social Science Council welcomes Dr. Lourdes M. Portus as its new Executive Director, who formally assumed the post in March 2019 following the end of the six-year term of Dr. Amaryllis T. Torres.

Dr. Portus, "Odette" to her colleagues, is not new to PSSC. She served as the Council's Chairperson from 2016 to 2019 and its Vice Chairperson from 2013 to 2016. As president of the Philippines Communication Society, she represented her organization in the PSSC Board of Trustees from 2013 to 2016.

Dr. Portus was a professor of Communication at the College of Mass Communication (CMC), University of the Philippines Diliman. In addition to teaching, she was appointed to several academic posts at UP, including Special Assistant to the UP President, College Secretary, and Chair of the Communication Research Department. She also served as secretary of the CMC Foundation, Inc., the Philippine Association of Communication Educators, and the CMC Alumni Association. As a researcher, she has conducted both academic and commissioned researches, which she has presented in local and international conferences held in more than 20 countries.

She has written a number of articles and book chapters which were published in refereed journals locally and internationally. She is the Editor-in-Chief of *PCS Review* and has edited books, the latest being the *Doing Social Science Research: A Guidebook* published by PSSC.

A Strategic Planning Workshop by the BOT

The PSSC Board of Trustees, led by the newly appointed Executive Director Lourdes M. Portus and Chairperson Cynthia Neri Zayas, conducted a two-day strategic planning workshop on 29-30 March 2019 at Cocoon Hotel in Quezon City. Attended by 12 BOT representatives, five PSSC staff, and two guests from PSSC member-organizations, the strategic planning workshop aimed at drafting the mission, vision, and goals (MV&G) of PSSC for the medium and long-term. The MV&G will serve as the PSSC management's guidepost in developing and pursuing programs, projects, and services of PSSC in the next few years.

Dr. Elena E. Pernia, Vice President for Public Affairs of the UP System and former Dean of the College of Mass Communication in UP facilitated the workshop that produced two outputs: the new PSSC logo and the mission-vision of the Council.



VISION

One Social Science in solidarity with other disciplines for Filipinos and the global community.

MISSION

To advance thought leadership, social forecasting and advocacy in Philippine social sciences by

- Leading in social science knowledge creation and sharing;
- Nurturing an environment for disciplinal advancement; and
- Linking social science knowledge to public policies.

CORE VALUES

- Integrity
- Reflexivity
- Service
- Excellence
- Inclusivity
- Independence







STANDING (L-R): Miguel Alvaro L. Karaan, Shirley N. Dita, Maria Elissa J. Lao, Elma P. Laguna, Joseph E. Palis, Enrique G. Oracion, Ma. Isabel "Rissa" P. Silvestre, Arminda V. Santiago, Joanne B. Agbisit, Jenie G. Darang, Ron R. Resurreccion, and Jose V. Camacho Jr. (SEATED): Lourdes M. Portus, Evelyn A. Miranda, Elena E. Pernia, Cynthia N. Zayas, Evangelyn M. Guinto, Eva Ponce de Leon, and Maria Cristina B. Barrios.

The New PSSC Logo (2019)

Inspired by PSSC's 50th anniversary statuette, designed by Toym Imao, the PSS design a new logo for the Council.

The tounges of fire shaped to form the acronym PSSC

The circle loop evokes PSSC's vision of unity as One Social Science

The color indigo, of deep midnight blue and violet, conveys integrity, dignity and sincerity. It reflects great devotion to the social science discipline, and characterizes PSSC's programs guided by the values of justice along with fairness and impartiality and service to humanity



PHILIPPINE SOCIAL SCIENCE COUNCIL

established 1968

The flames symbolize PSSC's continuous generation of knowledge and passion to promote the social science disciplines, which are represented here by the

The gold color, which befits PSSC's more than 50 years of existence, represents PSSC's achievements, which are associated with quality, prestige, value and cultural sensitivity.

PAST PSSC LOGOS





2013 LOGO

The sphere denotes global consciousness. The plum/purple color denotes professionalism, wisdom and enlightenment. The upper/unshaded part of the globe depicts PSSC as an umbrella organization, while the lower arc/half circle at the bottom is representative of a vessel which symbolizes movement or voyage.



LOGO in the 80s - 90S



LOGO in the 70s

PSSC Furthers Ethics in Social Science Research

The Philippine Social Science Council continues to forward its advocacy on ethics in social science research through its activities in 2019. The Council held two two-day training workshops on ethics in social science research and a short introductory lecture on social ethics.

The first training was held from April 25 to 26 and was designed specifically for the faculty members of Far Eastern University (FEU). The training was spearheaded by Dr. Amaryllis Torres, Prof. Stella Go, and Prof. Peter Sy, who are known experts in the subject, and was attended by 25 participants from FEU. The trainers introduced the participants to basic ethical principles for conducting research with human participants. They also held workshops in which they presented common research scenarios with ethically challenging cases for the participants to work on. Finally, they gave pointers on the establishment of an institutional review board for the university.

The second training, held from August 28 to 29, was geared to the needs of the general public—individuals who wanted to learn how to apply basic ethics principles, especially the principles of privacy and confidentiality, in the review of research proposals in the social sciences. It was led by Dr. Amaryllis Torres, Prof. Stella Go, Prof. Peter Sy, and Dr. Ma. Carinnes Alejandria and was attended by 19 individuals.

Lastly, to broaden its reach and to further spread awareness on ethics in social science research, the Council, led by Dr. Lourdes Portus and Dr. Cynthia Neri Zayas, went to Mindanao to give a short introductory lecture on ethics in social science research on 9 July 2019. Their audience included students and faculty members of the Mindanao State University-General Santos City and surrounding schools.

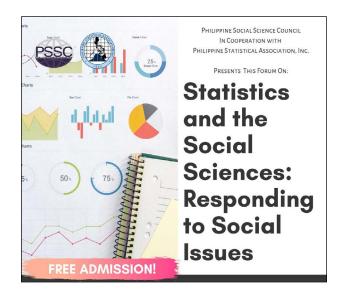




PSSC Partners with PSAI to Conduct a Social Science Forum

The Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC), in cooperation with the Philippine Statistical Association, Inc. (PSAI), presented the forum "Statistics and Social Sciences: Responding to Social Issues" on 29 July 2019, attended by an audience of more than a hundred coming from the academe, government, and private sector.

The forum aimed to heighten the awareness of the social science community on available official statistics generated by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA); advocate the use of these statistics in the visioning, program planning, research, and training projects of the various social science disciplines; and develop partnerships between the official statistical community and the social sciences toward the attainment of the Philippine aspirations articulated in the Philippine Statistical Development Program 2017-2023.



Dr. Lisa Grace Bersales, former National Statistician, Vice President for Finance of the UP System, and Professor from the University of the Philippines School of Statistics, headlined the forum and presented the findings of the PSA Census as she challenged the social sciences to use the data in their programs and services.

Responses from the social science fields were given by Dr. Lawrence B. Dacuycuy (Economics) of the De La Salle University, Dr. Clarence M. Batan (Sociology) of the University of Santo Tomas, and Dr. Grace T. Cruz (Demography) of the University of the Philippines Diliman. The attendees likewise participated in an open discussion. The forum was capped off with a synthesis by current National Statistician, Dr. Dennis S. Mapa.





Two National Statisticians Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales (top) Dr. Dennis S. Mapa (bottom)



(L-R) PSSC Executive Director Lourdes M. Portus, Dr. Clarence M. Batan, Dr. Grace T. Cruz, Dr. Lawrence B. Dacucuy, PSAI Vice President Frances Dayrit and National Statistician Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales.

NEW RESEARCH

COMPLETED RESEARCH FUNDED BY THE PSSC RESEARCH AWARD PROGRAM

THE CASE FOR A CULTURAL-DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH TO MORAL REASONING: INSIGHTS FROM URBAN FILIPINO YOUNG ADULTS

DANIELLE P. OCHOA Ph.D. in Psychology

The development of moral reasoning has been widely examined for decades. However, there remain gaps in our understanding, particularly in considering moral reasoning as actively constructed within sociocultural contexts and the developmental period of young adulthood, especially in the Filipino setting. Thus, the research examined moral discourses used by select urban Filipino young adults in making sense of moral concerns and the ways by which they adopted and adapted these discourses in their moral talk. It also analyzed how these discourses functioned to legitimize or contest power relations within these young adults' developmental and cultural milieu. Taking on a social constructionist perspective with a discursive approach, moral reasoning was examined using Tappan's (2006) moral functioning as mediated action, where young adults are considered active moral agents using cultural resources in the form of language and discourse in their moral reasoning. The study focused on Shweder and colleagues' (1987, 1997) three ethics of Autonomy, Community, and Divinity as cultural resources, and situated this within young adults' cultural-developmental milieu (Jensen, 2011).

Thematic analysis of interviews with 12 urban young adults aged 21 to 29 years revealed three major discursive themes used in moral reasoning: harm and welfare, liberal principles, and rules, norms, and traditions. Among the three, avoiding harm and caring for another's welfare stood out as most dominant and basic among all participants' talk; however, individuals varied in how harm is defined and whose harm is prioritized. In some instances, the language of harm was defined in terms of Autonomy, when one prioritizes harm to individuals directly involved in the situation (Shweder, et al., 1987, 1997; Jensen, 1998, 2015). In other cases, it was expressed in terms of Community in reasoning about harm to groups and society (Shweder,

et al., 1987, 1997; Jensen, 1998, 2015). Individuals may orient towards some victims over others within moral situations, and produce different constructions of victims and perpetrators in evaluating harm and moral wrongness (Schein & Gray, 2016, 2017). This, in turn, has implications for maintaining or contesting power.

Aside from, and often along with harm, participants widely appropriated liberal principles of freedom, justice, fairness, equality, human rights, and rationality in defending their moral positions, clearly expressing the ethic of Autonomy (Jensen, 1998, 2011; Shweder, et al., 1997). These principles were negotiated or even undermined by communicating their conditions and limits, in some cases on the basis of harm and welfare. Appropriation of liberal language can work to contest power by opposing inequality, but can also contribute to maintaining power when talk of individual freedom and tolerance are translated into moral relativism and silence about injustice.

Rules, norms, and traditions from Christianity and Filipino culture, as well as explicit laws made up the third set of discourses used in young adults' moral reasoning. These served as expressions of the ethics of Community and Divinity, sometimes separately, sometimes in conjunction, but rarely in conflict. These discourses provide clear cut rules about good and bad, derive power from socially powerful institutions, and are constructed as ubiquitous; however, they can be negotiated on the basis of harm and liberal principles. Such negotiations would, in turn, contribute to undermining these institutions' power.

These discourses and the ways by which they are used suggest the dominance of the ethic of Autonomy among most of the participants, where individuals are constructed as autonomous moral agents who are free to make decisions, granted there is no harm and violation of others' rights. Still, some situations were more likely to be constructed and evaluated in terms of Community and Divinity when relevant discourses were made widely available in relation to the issue at hand. This highlights how the availability of cultural tools within the broader sociocultural context facilitates the use of certain discourses in reasoning. However, the

extent and manner of appropriation of these discourses still varied according to individuals' identification with certain institutions, age, social class, education, and other experiences.

This research makes several theoretical and methodological contributions to the study of moral development in general and the Filipino context in particular. In using a culturaldevelopmental approach with the three ethics, the research bridges multiple theoretical perspectives, and includes those that are less commonly used in but still potentially valuable to developmental psychology. It also combines etic and emic approaches by building on the three ethics through identification of their specific expressions in the discourses accessible and relevant to urban Filipino young adults. The use of a discursive approach also recognizes young adults as active agents who make sense of these discursive resources and identifies ways by which moral talk can justify or contest the status quo. Thus, the research overcomes the moral relativism for which cultural perspectives are criticized (Haste & Abrahams, 2008; Miller, 2007). Finally, in identifying relevant moral discourses and ways by which these are appropriated by these young adults, the research offers "just and compassionate moral mediational means" (Tappan, 2006, p. 16) that can be made more widely available and accessible.

SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLDS, GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS ON HUMAN CAPITAL, AND NATURAL SHOCKS AS DETERMINANTS OF PHILIPPINE HOUSEHOLDINCOME MOBILITY

MELCAH PASCUA MONSURA

Ph.D. in Economics

This study introduced income mobility analysis to examine household's welfare through time. Pseudolongitudinal panel data generated from the Family Income and Expenditures Survey (FIES), through the household matching method, were used to identify the households included in the study. The Becker, Kominers, Murphy, and Spenkuch (BKMS) framework was utilized to determine the factors that affect income mobility. Ordinary least squares (OLS), multinomial logit, and multinomial probit regressions were used to explain absolute and relative income mobility, respectively.

The findings showed that households' income mobility was influenced by geographical location of the household, and household heads' marital status, educational attainment, and occupation. In addition, government programs on health, education, and social welfare as investment in human capital development were significant factors of income mobility. On the other hand, because of the country's preparedness and planning before the onset of a natural disaster and immediate solutions in the aftermath of a disaster, natural shocks were found to be an insignificant factor of income mobility. Furthermore, the unconditional and conditional income mobility estimates showed the evidence of income convergence between the poor and the rich. However, this convergence is faster when the previous income is conditioned by the different determinants of income mobility.

BILATERAL TRADE FLOWS AND CULTURAL FACTORS: THE CASE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN AND THEIR PARTNER COUNTRIES USING THE GRAVITY MODEL OF TRADE

LEILA C. RAHNEMA

Ph.D. in Business Administration

This study attempts to explain the volume and pattern of international trade activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) and the Philippines with their trading partners by looking at economic factors and noneconomic, cultural factors. This hopes to explain the differences in trading volume due to cultural patterns. The standard gravity model of trade (GMT) is a powerful tool used in the empirical study of bilateral trade flows. Its application extends to various areas of academic and policygenerating research. This paper uses an extended version of the GMT that incorporates both economic and noneconomic variables. This study provides empirical evidence on the validity of the basic and extended GMTs to evaluate cultural factors and free trade agreements among trading countries.

This study's objective is to analyze trade flows of the Philippines and the Islamic Republic of Iran with their country partners using the GMT by relating trade between any two countries to the sizes of their economies as well as their proximity to each other. The GMT reveals the strong effects of GDP and distance. This study goes beyond the basic GMT framework

and incorporates cultural variables such as common language, religion, colonial ties (Spanish colony for the Philippines), free trade agreement, shared border (for IRI), and former empire (Persia for IRI).

The results of this study support the basic GMT framework in both countries as all traditional variables (GDP and distance) are significant. This study, among many others, supports the significance of both countries' GDP and their distance with regard to bilateral trade. This, therefore, serves as an empirical proof of the validity and elegance of the GMT. Going beyond the basic GMT, this study incorporates cultural variables.

The results for IRI's GMT regressions show that (1) the Persia variable that serves as Iran's cultural parameter is consistently significant for both ordinary least squares (OLS) and Poisson regressions, giving satisfactory results with regard to trade relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and countries previously part of the Persian Empire, and (2) religion is consistently not significant or wrongly signed.

The results for the Philippines' GMT regressions show that (1) the Spanish colony dummy (specific for the Philippine GMT) is statistically significant across most regressions, implying that partner countries with the same colonizer as that of the Philippines influence bilateral trade relations; (2) the free trade agreement (FTA) (ASEAN Free trade agreement[AFTA]) variable is consistently insignificant for both OLS and Poisson regressions, which is observed in the Philippines but cannot be generalized for other ASEAN member countries; (3) religion is not significant in most regressions; and (4) the Poisson regressions give the incorrect sign for the distance variable across all tables, while the OLS regressions give the correct sign to the distance variable, which is also significant in the OLS regressions.

The empirical results show that noneconomic and cultural factors are important in explaining the trade patterns of countries. It is natural to expect that different trading arrangements and the selection of trading partners depend not only on the distance and economic mass, which are the basis of the standard GMT, but also on other noneconomic factors like religion and colonial history. In general, this study suggests that overall trade policy and industrial program should be designed to consider not only the economic aspects but also the noneconomic and cultural factors that can increase international trade activity and encourage a more

prominent role of IRI or the Philippines in the world economy.

DESIGN THINKING AND COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE INNOVATION: AN APPLICATION IN CIVIC TECHNOLOGY

SHARON B. MILLAN
Ph.D. in Public Administration

One avenue for innovation creation in public services is collaboration. This study set out to determine whether deliberate collaboration between government, citizen and IT practitioners using a design thinking protocol can be an intervention for creating public service innovation in the form of civic technologies. This study looked into the interaction dynamics that depict communication pattern of idea generation, knowledge sharing, sustained idea expression, sustained disagreement and even blocking between government, citizen and IT practitioner participants and these interactions let to public service innovation design prototypes. These prototypes were then tested in terms of their usability. The collaborators were observed to have engaged in problem articulation, abductive reasoning, divergent thinking, prototyping and validating. This resulted in working clickable city mobile app prototypes that received almost wide acceptance during the usability tests.

The outcome of this study directly relates to the strategic themes of the UNDP's Global Centre for Public Service Excellence evidence-building work on design thinking at the Public Service Innovation (PSI) Lab (Singapore). It illustrated how design thinking approaches will contribute to solving public service challenges. It outlined the format and process of implementing design thinking within public service innovations. This study provides actionable recommendations for government and civic groups to support rapid public service innovation.

The rapid and deliberate collaborative governance coupled with design thinking protocol was experience-based and action-oriented. The various stages of understand, define, diverge and decision facilitated problem articulation and knowledge sharing drawn systematically from the life experience of the participants.

Problem articulation and knowledge sharing resulted in divergent thinking which became the basis for ideas that were intended to create innovative public service features for a civic application that may be adopted in practice.

ACCREDITATION FOR QUALITY PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION EDUCATION: CASE STUDY INQUIRY AT FIVE STATE UNIVERSITIES IN LUZON

MADLYN D. TINGCO

Ph.D. in Public Administration

Accreditation plays an important role in the delivery of effective and high quality Public Administration (PA) education, which is, in turn, essential in the development of highly competent public servants. These public servants are expected to possess the required knowledge, skills and values necessary for them to face the demands of public service in the context of an increasingly globalized society. The quest of state universities in achieving quality and excellence in PA education echoes the principles of Quality of Government (QoG) and New Public Management (NPM) which are both concerned with the improvement in the quality of public services.

This study examines the quality of PA education offered by the five state universities in Luzon and how they are evaluated. Specifically, the study conducted multiple levels of analysis including an examination of the accreditation system in the Philippines, its institutional and policy framework for accreditation, evaluation standards and accreditation processes. Additionally, a case study method was used to determine how well the PA master's programs of the state universities perform vis-à-vis the UN/IASIA Standards of Excellence. This study also includes an analysis of the prospects for integrating the UN/IASIA standards and processes to the current standards and processes used by the AACCUP.

The study concludes that while accreditation in the Philippine context is private and voluntary in nature, the CHED being the principal governing body in charge of the Philippine higher education system, exercises significant influence over the country's accreditation system. For its part, AACCUP evaluates the quality of PA master's programs not only based on highly detailed inputs and process standards but also on standards that focus on outcomes thereby contributing to the responsiveness

of the program to the needs of the society. Meanwhile, state universities offering PA education exhibit the UN/IASIA standards of Excellence in various ways thereby reflecting commitment to the principles of QoG and NPM.

The study recommends that the CHED should prescribe standards on the offering of graduate Public Administration program, which will in turn, serve as basis of the AACCUP in developing a program-specific instrument for evaluating PA master's program. There is likewise a need to strengthen the accreditation system that incorporates international standards of quality and includes a feedback mechanism in the accreditation process.

MODELING THE ORGANIZATIONAL WILLINGNESS FOR CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION IN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT PLANNING

REYMUND B. FLORES

Ph.D. in Public Administration

Collaboration is commonly found in the area of human services. It can be a process operating in multijurisdictional and multiorganizational arrangements to address problems which cannot to be handled by a single organization. To achieve meaningful collaboration, however, organizations from separate sectors must overcome barriers related to organizational boundary maintenance. This paper describes the extent of willingness to collaborate of organizations across sectors of governance to plan for disaster preparedness. It explored the significant indicators of this willingness (unwillingness) to collaborate, taking inspiration from Ajzen's Theory of Planned behavior and having decisionmakers from select local government units and nongovernment organizations as participants to the study. It employed structural equation modeling to assess and identify simultaneously the relationships among exogenous and endogenous variables and measure the fitness of the structural model of willingness to collaborate. Among others, the study confirmed that having the intention to collaborate would more likely result to organizational willingness. It also revealed that other than the organizations' intention, there were other factors affecting the willingness to collaborate for disaster risk management (DRM) planning. It was found out that if the organization believes that other would-be co-collaborators can be trusted to deliver what are expected of them for DRM planning, they would be willing to join in this collaborative action. Previous collaboration experiences also mattered in the building of confidence. The higher positive belief based on previous collaboration experiences, the higher the possibility that they would be willing to collaborate for DRM planning with the other organizations, across sectors. However, there should be an enabling environment that would motivate the organizations to join the collaboration. Issues related to political, social, legal, and organizational that compromise their willingness need to be addressed.

LANGUAGE AND IMAGE IN A HIGH SCHOOL PLAY: A MULTIMODAL ANALYSIS OF A COMMUNITY THEATRE PERFORMANCE

ANNE RICHIE BALGOS Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics

The study of signs within a society has brought about the disinterest on language seen monomodally. Thus said, language has long been considered as more significant with the aid of semiotic modes surrounding it (Saussure, 1974). However, it was only recently that the distinct area of multimodal studies has begun to be recognized. In the field of linguistics, semiotic resources like gesture, gaze, space visual art and many others have emerged as relevant tools in the meaning-making process. This paper explores a multimodal investigation of a Bugkalot community theater performance by high school students of Casecnan National High School (CNHS). This qualitative study of community theater primarily analyzes the transitivity of verbs (Halliday, 1985) in the dramatic text and then examines the visual processes of other modes of performance such as gesture and gaze. Findings show that the text is heavy on material verb processes in expressing perseverance of the main character to make changes in his life while mental processes that involve all characters' emotions stimulate words in their minds which translate to mental, relational and existential processes. The study also affirms that the body gives rise to imagetic language. Gesture and gaze as evidences by the Action process, Reactional process and Horizontal angle (Kress and van

Leeuwen, 1996) pay in construing processes of creating meaning on stage. Lastly, this multimodal investigation of a community theater performance confirms that a dynamic image can be cultivated in systemic-functional terms. With that, and combining Halliday (1985) and Kree and van Leeuwen (1996), the study offers an alternative way of investigating how different semiotic resources share the workload of meaning-making in specific texts by considering them as different from one another and the inclusion of possible modes in viewing a theater performance.

VIOLENT INCIDENTS AND SCHOOL SAFETY: A CONVERGENT PARALLEL APPROACH

JOHN REY R. CODILLA

MA Education major in Sociology

Exposure to violent incidents and safety issues at school remains a significant problem for both teachers and their learners. This study used convergent parallel mixed methods design to address issues on violent incidents and school safety as experienced by teachers and students. It examined the status of violent incidents and safety in schools, the extent on violent incidents' influence to the level of school safety, the lived experiences of teachers and students about school safety, and the role of experiences in shaping the beliefs, attitudes, and values of teachers and students. Quantitative results revealed that violent incidents happen regularly and that school safety is evident on most occasions. There is a significant inverse relationship between violent incidents and school safety. As to the lived experiences, episodes of disturbances, and physical and verbal intimidations were revealed by the participants. As a result, teachers and students experienced countless progressions of dread. Violent incidents create a negative school atmosphere. As a result, the school environment has become less conducive to learning and growth. The high status of school safety diverged with the qualitative findings with the theme unsafe school environment participants' impressions that they feel safe inside the classroom. The result that violent incidents are commonly observed conform to the qualitative finding of the respondents' impressions that similar violent incidents occur regularly.

EXPLORING THE LIFE CHANCES OF THE VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION FOR REFORMATION PERSONS (VSRPs) OF THE SAGOP KINABUHI PROGRAM 2 (SKP2) IN DAVAO CITY

LUCILLE DAGPIN-GALICHA

MA Development Administration

This study explores the disadvantaged status of drug users and their families in the community drug rehabilitation efforts in the Philippines. The Duterte administration's war on drugs highlight the positivist and hegemonic nature by being linear in their approaches towards addressing drug dependency issue. I argue that there is no one truth in illegal drug dependency as well as in coming up with strategies to address it. We need to be a community of active participants who will be co-identifying the problems and co-designing the strategies to enrich our lives. This paper is based on the University of Southeastern Philippines' community extension program called Sagop Kinabuhi Program 2 (USeP-SKP2). USeP-SKP2 endeavors to enhance the wellbeing and life chances of the Voluntary Submission for Reformation Persons (VSRPs) or the former drug dependents who turned themselves into tokhang. Using critical ethnography and Participatory Action Research, I was able to engage with at least 32 VSRPs as study participants and some family members through theoretical sampling. Data gathered through key informant interviews and focus group discussion suggest that among former drug dependent participants in the study, drivers of drug dependency are the following: a) peer pressure, b) family problems, c) sustain work, d) increase energy level, e) augment their income; f) and meet some of their financial needs.

This study found that drug use is intimately linked with the need to sustain work and earn money. Women who used drugs are driven to dependency usually through their husbands and partners and their reason is more complex than men's need to sustain work; it is beyond this need to sustain work as this includes her triple burdens mainly revolving around reproductive and productive.

Using critical systemic analysis, this study found that former drug dependents' experience of deprivation is multifaceted. They do not just experience poverty and poor livelihood chances; they are vulnerable, isolated,

powerless and physically weak. These deprivations happen because of their poor life chances and poor capabilities to negotiate for their wellbeing. They have not been listened to genuinely as they are stigmatized as former drug addicts and if they needed to be helped, they only have to be recipients of the plans and/or ideas of experts. In the light of these findings, therefore, it is critical to enhance our current community drug rehabilitation initiatives and policies, to emphasize capabilities development to be humanist and address deprivation in direct partnership with those who are affected and their families.

THE PSSC RESEARCH AWARD PROGRAM (PSSC-RAP)

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

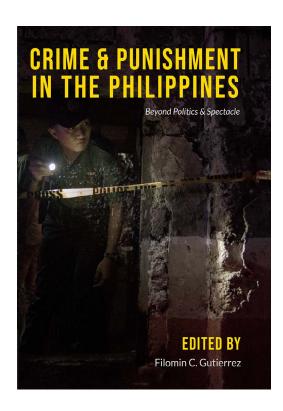
The PSSC-RAP provides modest financial assistance to Filipino graduate student of a Philippine university/college who will be finishing a degree in the social sciences (e.g., anthropology, communication, economics, demography, geography, history, linguistics, political science, psychology, social work, public administration, sociology and statistics. Graduate students in other fields (e.g., education, philosophy, Philippine studies) whose thesis/dissertation topic relates to the social sciences will be accorded lower priority in PSSC-RAP grants.

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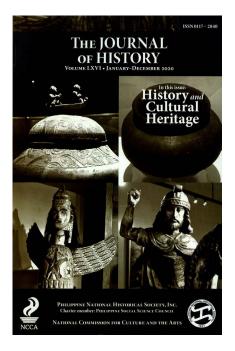
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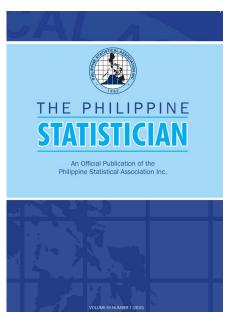
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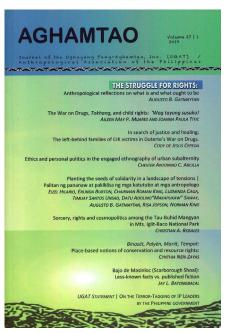
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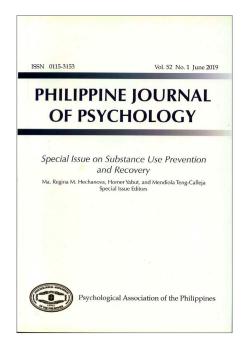
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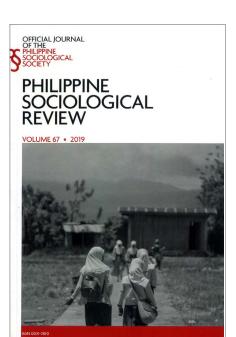
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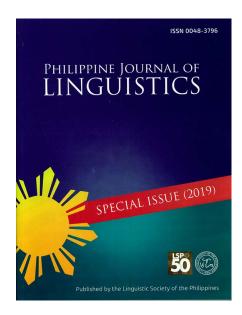
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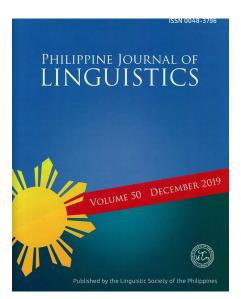
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The "original sin" of the military's undue political involvement in the Philippines was Marcos' authoritarian regime, which featured a unique combination of a personal dictatorship with elements of military rule. There are stark parallels on the reliance of the Marcos dictatorship on the military with the current political milieu as the Philippine democracy continues to erode under Duterte.

Dr. Aries Arugay

in "The Military & Authoritarianism in the Philippines: Enduring Legacies, Pernicious Consequences"

Researchers, journalists, and fact-checkers have documented the online disinformation machinery built by the Marcos family and their supporters in an attempt to rehabilitate the image of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and erase the atrocities committed by his regime. Ultimately, however, social media is just a tool, devoid of moral bearings. While it can be used weaponized and to propagate disinformation to suit one family's political agenda, it can also be used to push back against the lies.

Dianna Limpin

in "Pushing Back Against the Lies: Efforts to Fact-Check the Marcoses on Social Media"

The diversity of culture in a multi-ethnic state such as the Philippines is a product of history. It is a residue of pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial experiences of the Filipino, which is a figment of territory carved out of several barangays located in the islands of Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

Dr. Faina Ulindang

in "Mindanawon Identity Formation and Philippine History"

ABOUT THE COVER

An altered photo of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos declaring martial law on live television in 1972 appears on the cover of this issue. Superimposed in this photo are the eyes of his similarly authoritarian admirer, President Duterte-whose administration has often been likened to the Marcos regime. The distorted photo symbolizes attempts by the Marcoses and their supporters to blur the lines between historical fact and fiction. Photos of the Mindanao Peace Monument, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and two Marcos children are found alongside the Marcos photo to represent the issue's three feature articles on Mindanawon identity formation, the Philippine military, and efforts to fact-check the Marcoses on social media, respectively. Serving as a backdrop to all these is the watermarked front page of the Philippine Daily Express' Sunday edition on September 24, 1972, a chilling reminder of one of the darkest days in Philippine history.