

## EDITOR'S PREFACE

*Virginia A. Miralao*

This issue of the *Philippine Sociological Review* (PSR) contains articles by Filipino scholars and other Filipinists abroad whose interests cover a broad range of topics.

The first article written by Filomeno Aguilar, Jr. compares the theoretical adequacy and validity of liberal neo-classical economics and the structuralist school of thought which have been used to inform calls for land distribution in the Philippines. Aguilar argues that despite political and strategic differences, both schools of thought share underlying similarities: both are neo-populist and treat land as a special resource which is unlike other means of production. Drawing on data from Negros and Latin America, Aguilar concludes that the type of land reform promoted by neo-classical economists is fraught with contradictions which make the goal of equity elusive, while their projections of post-reform productivity and efficiency are similarly flawed. The structuralist school, too, is beset by theoretical weaknesses, and evidence from the ground suggest the need for caution in assessing its dramatic and sweeping claims to land distribution. Aguilar believes that admission of these limitations will better serve the interests of those who work for the upliftment of the many who depend on agriculture for subsistence.

Chester L. Hunt, in his brief article, examines the nature of state-church conflict during the Marcos period. He posits that should state-church relations become an important issue in the future, this would have to take into account the growth of Pentecostals over the years. Hunt attributes the rapid growth in Pentecostal membership to changes in the composition of their clergy, a shift in tactics, and similarities in their teachings to the animistic beliefs found in Folk Catholicism and Protestantism.

In the next article, Carl H. Lande looks into how leaders and collaborators of the discredited Marcos regime have reconciled with or been pardoned by the subsequent Aquino and Ramos governments. Lande observes that the political reconciliation patterns in the post-Marcos period bear many resemblances with the earlier behavior of the country's leaders following the Philippine Revolution against Spain, and the defeat of Japanese forces in the Philippines. He attributes reconciliations and the easy re-entry of controversial figures into the political mainstream to several factors including the cohesion and solidarity of the Filipino elite and other elements in the country's political structure and culture. Lande suggests that political leniency and reconciliations have had other adverse consequences on national life, among them the absence of any penalty or disincentive for punishable political offenses (e.g., rebellion, corruption or collaboration), the weakening of the state, and the retardation of national economic growth.

Using local household studies, this writer's paper examines the concept and usage of the term "household head" in the Philippines. Although the headship of families culturally rests on Filipino males, it is noted that male heads (usually husbands) are often assisted in their bread winning functions by wives and children who have increasingly assumed many other responsibilities for the maintenance of households. Household decision-making processes in the Philippines also tend to be jointly participated in by wives and husbands, rather than dominated by men. Using other data from the censuses and national surveys, a considerable increase in the incidence of female-headed households in the Philippines is further noted. Contrary to popular expectations, data show that families headed by women are not necessarily poorer than those headed by males. Regardless of income levels, female-headed families also display a better utilization of household resources than male-headed families.

The "modes of production" approach which was widely used to analyze development and underdevelopment from the 1970s to the mid-1980s has been recently criticized as outdated, too concerned with categorization, and largely irrelevant given the current changes in the local and international landscape. In her paper however, Kathy Nadeau argues that the modes of production approach continues to be relevant and is able to address local specificities and differences among peasant societies. The approach also allows one to relate local problems and conditions to broader international tendencies. Based on researches conducted on the peasantry in Central and Northern Luzon and in other Southeast Asian societies, Nadeau concludes that modes of production studies address the dynamics obtaining in peasant societies and that the approach continues to progress and build upon previous knowledge.

In another article, E. San Juan, Jr. reviews the usage of the terms "institutional racism" (from its introduction in 1967) and "everyday racism" recently coined in 1991. Implied in his discussion of the ways in which these terms are used are such questions as why both are regarded as important phenomena at all, what images are conjured when these are used, and what aspects of the social whole do these refer or relate to. In concluding his review, San Juan contends that what is required is not more empirical data but a further sharpening and testing of conceptual tools that will articulate meanings at various levels of complexly-structured social formations for the purpose of determining the importance attached to racial and ethnic differences.

Donald J. Shoemaker's paper is based on a self-administered delinquency report made by selected samples of male and female students in Cagayan de Oro City's public and private schools. The results of Shoemaker's study indicate that the scope and gravity of delinquency in the Philippines is less than those obtaining in other countries as the United States. He also found that parental attachment, commitment to school, and attachment to peers are significantly related to delinquency. He concludes that the relatively low level of delinquency among his Filipino sample owes in part to the strong family system in the Philippines.

We wish to inform our readers that preparations are underway to produce two special issues of the PSR and update the journal's publication by the end of this year. These will include a special issue on the role of non-governmental organizations in Philippine development, for 1993; and another on the Filipino family which will be our contribution to the 1994 International Year of the Family. We enjoin fellow members of the Philippine Sociological Society and our readers and subscribers to continue supporting the PSR.