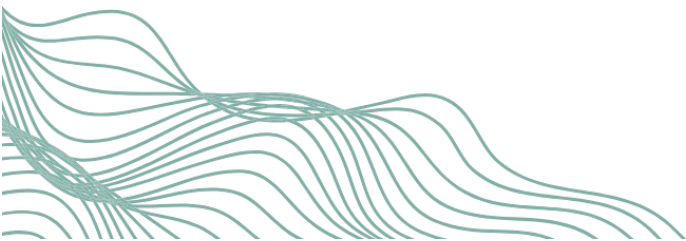




PHILIPPINE SOCIAL  
SCIENCE COUNCIL  
established 1968

# 55 Reflections and Recollections:

Celebrating PSSC's Legacy and  
Commitment through the Years





PHILIPPINE SOCIAL  
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# 55 Reflections and Recollections

Celebrating PSSC's Legacy and  
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## 55 years of celebrating excellence in social sciences: A remarkable journey

As we gather to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the Philippine Social Science Council, I extend my warm greetings to all. It has been an incredible journey.

Over the past five and half decades, PSSC has been at the forefront of advancing knowledge, fostering collaboration, and driving positive change in the social sciences. We have witnessed remarkable strides in research, policy development and applying social science principles to address the challenges facing our world.

As we celebrate this important milestone, let us take a moment to recognize the dedication, passion, and hard work of the many individuals who have contributed to the success of PSSC. From the visionary founders to the current members, each of you has played a crucial role in shaping our collective impact.

Our commitment to excellence, innovation, and inclusivity has never wavered. We have achieved enduring success! Thanks to the collaborative spirit of social science scholars, allies, and partner communities. Together, we have created an environment where ideas flourish, knowledge thrives. The impact of the social sciences reaches far beyond the confines of academia.

As we look to the future, we are full of enthusiasm for the opportunities and challenges that await us. As we navigate through this constantly evolving landscape, let us draw inspiration from our rich history and learn valuable lessons from the past to guide us in our journey forward.

In celebration of PSSC's 55th anniversary, we have requested special messages from current and former PSSC Board of Trustees, member organizations, friends, and well-wishers. These messages aim to recognize our shared accomplishments and look forward to a future filled with even greater achievements. Our dedication to advancing our shared goals of promoting gender transformative, inclusive, rights-based, multicultural, empowering, non-discriminatory, and participatory mechanisms and approaches will be our compass as we strive toward equality, sustainability, and social justice.

Thank you for being an integral part of our story.



**Dr. Excelsa C. Tongson** is the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Social Science Council. She is a faculty member of the Department of Family Life and Child Development at the UP College of Home Economics, and President of Women's and Gender Studies Association of the Philippines, an Associate Member of the PSSC.



## PSSC: A Haven for Social Scientists for 55 Years

Fifty-five years of hard work and dedication to advance the social sciences;

Fifty-five individuals who touched and were touched by PSSC;

Fifty-five messages of praises, gratitude, reflections, advices, and positive wishes!

What you will find in this Souvenir publication speaks of the journey of PSSC. It reveals the tapestry of PSSC's triumphs—big and small, its ordeals, challenges and joyful hope. It presents the men and women who gave prestige and honor to PSSC—those who took time to ensure its strategic direction, sound policies and relevant programs and projects. The messages provide glimpses of involvement that started as an obligation, until it dived deep into an active and meaningful engagement, no longer as a mandate, but a keen willingness, innate to a social scientist, to be part of society's development.

This publication also features the men and women behind the scenes who tirelessly executed the spadework, implementation and monitoring of PSSC's hallmark programs and activities. To them, we owe a lot for their cooperation and support.

The messages offer snippets of PSSC's history, how it metamorphosed from a fledgling committee into a Council that expanded its reach nationwide and became visible worldwide.

In this spread, we are amazed at the many names attributed to PSSC—a home for social scientists, a hub, a platform, a service provider, a sense of family, parents of social scientists, a partner, a safe haven for scholars, a community of social science scholars, and many more. These credits warm our souls and make our hearts full, that no spoken word can tell.

Celebrating a 55th anniversary is a huge milestone. PSSC is immensely thankful to have reached this far and have stepped up to this stage where loyalty, peace, security, energy, and foresight abound among us in the office. These qualities are what the gemstone emerald symbolizes. Emerald being the color or gemstone associated with the 55th anniversary represents PSSC's finding balance and harmony amid societal issues.

Going this distance calls for thanksgiving. We are very grateful to the Lord for keeping PSSC afloat in the midst of various tests in its existence. We are grateful to our Officers, BOT, Members, Partners, Funders and friends for the trust, confidence and assistance; for "living together" harmoniously. As the color emerald and the color green generally signifies, PSSC experienced new beginnings (new programs and projects), abundance, prosperity and growth within many aspects of its operation.



As we revel on the achievements of PSSC, as we become a vessel to boost the social science disciplines, our eyes are open and fully aware of the bumps and snags that will confront us as we move forward. We are however consoled by the fact that our 55 years of experience has given us confidence and has armed us with qualities to handle situations. We have 55 men and women whose support can be harnessed and we have 55 messages to inspire us and goad us more into action.

Long live and Happy 55th anniversary PSSC!



**Dr. Lourdes M. Portus** is the Executive Director of the PSSC. She is a former Professor of the College of Mass Communication of the University of the Philippines Diliman, and a current Member of the Board of Trustees of the Philippines Communication Society, a Regular Member of the PSSC.



## PSSC in retrospect

When I joined PSSC in 2002, little did I know that I would last 17 years with the organization. I look back on those years with a profound sense of accomplishment, gratitude, and happy memories.

I have had the privilege of working alongside Dr. Jean Miralao, whose leadership has been instrumental in the transformation of PSSC into a compact, efficient, and financially robust organization. Under her guidance, PSSC's portfolio expanded significantly, covering a wide range of impactful initiatives, including research and publications (e.g., on migration, youth), prestigious fellowships (e.g., Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program, ASIA Fellows Awards), and international conferences (e.g., International Conference on Philippine Studies, International Association of Historians of Asia Conference).

Dr. Miralao also played a crucial role in strengthening PSSC's international connections. She served as Secretary General to the Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils for many years, facilitated PSSC's entry into the International Social Science Council (now the International Science Council), and participated in UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations Programme.

Reflecting on my time working with her, I vividly recall both the excitement and the hard work that went into organizing and traveling for various conferences and forums, producing major publications, and selecting deserving scholars. These experiences have contributed extensively to my growth as a social science professional.

I also gained valuable insights during the tenures of Dr. Grace Jamon and Dr. Amar Torres as executive directors. During Dr. Jamon's stint, we began the digitization of the works of social science pioneers, PSSC's publications, and the journals of PSSC's member organizations.

Under Dr. Torres's guidance, PSSC achieved significant milestones, including the establishment of a social science ethics review board, the revival of PSSC's training program, and the publication of an excellent book on social science research methods. It was also during her term that PSSC began providing secretariat support to member-organizations such as the Philippine Economic Society.

These initiatives would not have been possible without the unwavering support of PSSC's board of trustees and its working committees. I am particularly grateful for the opportunity to work alongside Drs. Cynch Bautista, Ronnie Holmes, Emma Porio, Manny Diaz, Nita Churchill, Gloria Santos, Jun Aguilar, Belle Martin, Odette Portus, Alvin Ang, Mario Aguja, and many other respected social scientists who had served on the board of trustees. I would also like to mention Prof. Pepe Miranda



and Dr. Dondon Paderanga who lent continuing support even after their terms had ended. The commitment of all past board members to PSSC's success left a lasting impression and set an inspiring example for younger social scientists.

I wish also to mention the crucial role that project implementers have played in ensuring the success of Council activities. Notably, Prof. Stella Go and Prof. Peter Sy were always ready to share their expertise, ensuring the success of many of our training initiatives. Additionally, Dr. Jojie Tigno played a key role in the publication of several migration volumes, contributing significantly to PSSC's scholarly output.

My deepest appreciation is reserved for the small yet incredibly dedicated PSSC staff, with whom I had the privilege of working over the years to ensure the smooth implementation of all PSSC programs, projects, and activities. I would like to give a special mention to Ma'am Lorna Makil, whose shoes I strove to fill, as well as the colleagues with whom I've had the longest and closest working relationships: Karen, Monette, Gani, Mila, Charm, Dolly, Emily, Noemi, Ernie, Reggie, Randolph, Jenny, and Miguel. Their professionalism, collaborative spirit, integrity, and friendship have lightened the workload and made my PSSC journey more enjoyable. I would also like to acknowledge the valuable contributions of those who served as PSSC project staff, namely, Lauren, Tibo, Bambot, and Dada.

As PSSC marks its 55th year, I wish the organization, under the leadership of Dr. Portus, continuing success in its future initiatives. May PSSC continue to serve its mission of advancing the Philippine social sciences and build on the legacy of excellence established by PSSC pioneers.



**Ms. Joanne B. Agbisit** is the Associate Editor of *The ASEAN*, a magazine publication of the ASEAN Secretariat. She was with PSSC for 17 years, first as a technical officer then as head of its Program Development and Management Section. She has a bachelor's degree in anthropology and master's degree in journalism, both from the University of the Philippines.







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**ALLAN BENEDICT I. BERNARDO, PhD**  
*Academician*  
 National Academy of Science and Technology  
**Chairperson, PSSC Board of Trustees (2008-2010)**

My most heartfelt congratulations to the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) on its 55th Anniversary!

My first memories of PSSC were of the building, where the Psychological Association of the Philippines held several of its meetings and conferences. Eventually, I became actively involved in the governance of PSSC, sitting as member of the Board of Trustees from 2004 to 2008 and then as Chair of the Board from 2008 to 2012. During that time, it was apparent that the different social science disciplines and professional organizations were at different stages of growth and development, and I was impressed at the collective commitment to further nurturing and professionalizing across all the member organizations. There was diversity in epistemologies and even ideologies, but a common understanding and appreciation of the role of social science in nation building.

Towards the end of my term as Chair, we had to deal with numerous organizational concerns to ensure the viability and sustainability of the PSSC, and I had the privilege to work with other former Chairs of PSSC's board in this important mission. That former PSSC Chairs would continue to devote their time and wisdom to ensure that the PSSC remains a strong council for social science indicates the degree of commitment that there was to the important missions of the PSSC.

As I was posted in a foreign country for many years, I became less involved in the affairs of PSSC. But to this day, I continue to see the commitment to the important projects and ideals of the PSSC. I still have very high aspirations for Philippine social sciences, even more profound expectations of the different ways by which Filipino social scientists should contribute to nation building and also speak to the global social science community. And in this regard, I see the PSSC as playing a most important role.

I now realize that I am just one year older than the PSSC, but I must concede that the PSSC has contributed so much more to nurturing Philippine social sciences than I can aspire to do in my lifetime.

Congratulations to the PSSC and may you continue to be an intellectual space where the diverse social scientists in the Philippines push and challenge each other to greater heights!





## **RONALD B. HOLMES, PhD**

*President*

Pulse Asia Research

**Chairperson, PSSC Board of Trustees (2002-2004)**

Halos magkasingtanda lang pala kami ng Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC). Sa loob ng higit sa limang dekada, sa aking pananaw, naipamalas ng PSSC ang kakayanan na tuparin ang mga pangunahin nitong layunin ng siya ay nabuo noong 1968. Dagdag dito, patuloy na pinapatunayan ng PSSC na kaya nilang malagpasan ang mga pagsubok bilang organisasyon na binubuo ng iba't-ibang disiplina at larangan ng pag-aaral.

Napakalaking pribilehiyo ang mapabilang sa mga akademikong nagsilbi sa PSSC: bilang kinatawan ng disiplina ng Agham-Pampulitika; miyembro/ Pangalawang Tagapamuno at Tagapamuno ng Namumunong Konseho (Governing Council); at, pansamantalang Punong Tagapagganap (Executive Director) ng organisasyon. Natatandaan ko pa ang unang pagpupulong na aking dinaluhan kung saan ay nagkaroon ng diskusyon kung dapat ituring ang Women's Studies bilang isang disiplina. Nagulat ako sa reaksiyon ng isang nakakatandang miyembro ng Konseho sa aking pahayag na tungkol sa mga pamantayan ng mga disiplina sa agham-panlipunan—bata ka pa.

Pitong taon pagkatapos ng pagpupulong na yun, noong medyo nasa tamang edad na ako, nahalal ako bilang Tagapamuno ng Namumunong Konseho. Aktibo ang mga miyembro ng konseho na aking pinasilbihan. Nabago ang konstitusyon ng PSSC, partikular na ang pagtatakda na isa lang ang magiging kinatawan ng bawat disiplina sa Lupon ng mga Katiwala (Board of Trustees), nadagdagan ang mga benepisyo ng mga miyembrong organisasyon, napagtibay ang pakikipag-ugnayan ng organisasyon sa mga rehiyonal at pandaigdigang lupon sa Agham-Panlipunan. Lahat ng mga nagawa ng PSSC ay produkto ng kasipagan ng pangmatagalang Lupon Tagapagganap ng organisasyon noong panahon na iyon, si Dr. Virginia A. Mlralao.

Batid ko na nahaharap ang organisasyon ngayon sa iba't ibang pagsubok, pangunahin na ang pagmomobilisa ng pondo upang maipagpapatuloy ng organisasyon ang kanyang mga programa. Positibo ako, dala ng aking mismong nasaksihan, at batay na rin sa maraming aktibidad na nailunsad ng kasalukuyan Konseho at pamunuan, na malalagpasan ng PSSC ang mga pagsubok na ito.

Maligayang ika-55 taon sa pangunahing propesyonal na organisasyon sa Agham-Panlipunan!



**ISABEL P. MARTIN, PhD**

Department of Educational Leadership and Management  
Ateneo de Manila University

**Chairperson, PSSC Board of Trustees (2012-2014)**

As a representative of the Linguistic Society of the Philippines, my engagement with the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) and its activities was primarily through the organization I represented. At that time, PSSC Board meetings were held monthly and I recall those meetings being productive, pleasant, and congenial. I greatly enjoyed the company of like-minded social scientists and through this experience forged meaningful lifelong friendships with some PSSC members.

During my time with the PSSC, I had the honor of serving as Treasurer in 2008, Acting Executive Director in 2011, and Chairperson in 2012. I was fortunate to work under the leadership of the esteemed Jean Miralao as PSSC Executive Director and also collaborated closely with other distinguished PSSC Executive Directors Grace Jamon and Amar Torres. My time on the Board provided a valuable education under the guidance of eminent PSSC Chairs Ronnie Holmes, Allan Bernardo, Jun Aguilar, and Emma Porio. I have fond recollections of enriching events hosted by the Ford Foundation's International Fellowships Program, the Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils (AASSREC), the Philippine Migration Research Network (PMRN), the Asia Fellows Program, and the PSSC's regular National Social Science Congress.

At the PSSC, I was privileged to participate in reviewing and revising the By-laws, restructuring some committees, and formulating policies - some of which continue to provide stability for the Council today. The PSSC remains a vibrant hub for social scientists committed to addressing persistent social issues. While many challenges remain, I am confident that through the PSSC's leadership in social science research and advocacy, with Executive Director Odette Portus at the helm, significant progress can be made in the coming years. To PSSC, congratulations on its 55th anniversary this year.







## **MARIA CARIDAD H. TARROJA, PhD**

*Professor*

Department of Psychology

De La Salle University

**Chairperson, PSSC Board of Trustees (2014-2016)**

On the occasion of its 55th anniversary, I would like to congratulate PSSC for the long years of service to the Social Science Discipline. The theme “Pamana at Panata: Limampu’t Limang Taon ng Kahusayan sa Agham Panlipunan” rightfully describes what PSSC has been doing all these years. As a past Psychological Association of the Philippines (PAP) President and PSSC Board Member and Chair, I am grateful to PSSC for many reasons. First, PSSC is home not only for PAP but for the other social science professional organizations as well. As our home, the place has been a safe space for learning and intelligent discourses. PSSC is home and family. PSSC is like our parent that connects, nurtures, and supports all the social science disciplines. Second, PSSC is instrumental in advocating the significant role of social science in nation building. PSSC is our partner in making sure that all social science disciplines and initiatives are recognized and valued. Third, PSSC inspires everyone to a culture of excellent and ethical practice among all the social science disciplines.

For the past 55 years, PSSC has indeed left a long-lasting legacy to its member organizations and the social scientists in the Philippines. As PSSC honors and remembers the work of our esteemed social scientists, PSSC never fails to recognize, support, and encourage the young social scientists with its awards and other development programs. As a Psychologist, I am very grateful to PSSC for our safe home and continuous partnership. As a past PSSC Chair and Board Member, I am equally grateful for the opportunity to serve, and for the learning opportunities.

Congratulations, PSSC and cheers to everyone who has been part of the PSSC team all these years, past and present Board Members and Chairs, and the efficient and hardworking staff!





## **AMARYLLIS T. TORRES, PhD**

*Professor Emeritus*

College of Social Work and Community Development

University of the Philippines Diliman

**Chairperson, PSSC Board of Trustees (1992-1993)**

Isang mainit na pagbati sa Philippine Social Science Council sa pagdiriwang ng kanyang ika- limampu't limang anibersaryo bilang isang kapulungan ng mga organisasyon ng agham panlipunan sa Pilipinas.

Mapalad ako na naging bahagi ng PSSC, na nag-umpisa bilang kinatawan ng Psychological Association of the Philippines sa Board of Trustees. Kinalaunan, ako ay nahalal na Presidente ng Board, at nakipagtulungan sa Secretariat na maidaos ang unang National Social Science Congress noong 1993. Pagkalipas ng dalawang pung (20) taon, inimbata ako ng mga kinatawan ng Board na manilbihan bilang Executive Director (ED).

Mahirap ngunit makasaysayan ang karanasan ko bilang ED sa PSSC. Mahirap dahil maliit ang kabuuan ng Secretariat, at nahirapan akong makapag-isip ng mga proyekto na may 3-5 tao lamang ang makakatulong ko. Ngunit makasaysayan din ang naging karanasan ko, dahil marami kaming nagawang mga proyekto bilang Kalihiman (Secretariat) ng mga organisasyon ng agham panlipunan. Sinikap naming buhayin ang mga organisasyon sa pamamagitan ng pakikipag-ugnayan sa kanilang mga gawain, at pagdaraos ng mga seminar o kapulungan na tumutugon sa mga pangangailangan ng panahon. Kasama rito ang Conference na pinamagatang "Energizing the Social Sciences for the ASEAN Community: Vision and Prospects" (Hunyo 2014) at ang eksibit na kartografiko at mga lektura tungkol sa West Philippine Sea na pinamagatang "Historical Truths and Lies: Scarborough Shoal in Ancient Maps" (Pebrero 2016). Marami ring mga pananaliksik na natapos mula 2013-2018, at inumpisahan ko ang serye ng mga pagsasanay tungkol sa iba't ibang aspeto ng pananaliksik bilang "public offerings" ng PSSC. Ilang libro rin ang nailimbag, kasama rito ang "Doing Social Science Research," "Aging in Asia-Pacific," at "Filipino Generations in a Changing Landscape."

Subalit ang pinakamahalagang katuparan siguro ng PSSC noong ako ay ED ay ang pagbuo ng Code of Ethics for Social Science Research at ang pagtatag ng Social Science Ethics Review Board. Ito ay naging tugon ng PSSC sa pangangailangan ng mga mag-aaral at mananaliksik sa iba't ibang sangay ng agham panlipunan na magkaroon ng 'ethical clearance' para sa kanilang mga gawain. Sa kasalukuyang mga panahon, marami pa ring hamon ang hinaharap ng PSSC. Tiwala ako na sa pagtutulungan ng mga mag-aaral, guro at mananaliksik, kakayanin nito na makapag-ambag ng mga sagot at solusyon sa mga kalakaran sa kultura, ekonomiya at lipunan, sa loob at labas ng ating bansa.

Mabuhay ang Philippine Social Science Council!



## **CYNTHIA N. ZAYAS, PhD**

*Former Director*

Center of International Studies

University of the Philippines Diliman

**Chairperson, PSSC Board of Trustees (2018-2020)**

Fifty-five ka na pala. Wala akong masabi kundi, salamat, salamat, at salamat. Sa loob ng lima at kalahating dekada sinilong, ginabayan, sinuportahan, itinayo ang nadadapang mga miyembro mo. Salamat, salamat, salamat sa mga nagtatag, namuno at mga nagpatakbo sa iyo, matikas at sigasig ang pagsulong mo ng sosyal sayans sa ating bayan. Philippine Social Science Council, may kasabihan ang mga Pinoy, kung sa pamilya, ama ang haligi at ina ang ilaw, sa pamilya ng sosyal sayans ikaw ang bubong, nagsilong sa daming ng nangailangan sa iyo. PSSC wish ko lang na magpatuloy ang iyong dinamikong pagtataguyod sa pag-aaral natin ng kultura at lipunan ng Pilipinas. Dagdag ko na rin dito palawakin natin ang sakop ng ating malasakit at kritikal na pag tingin sa mga problemang sosyal na kinakaharap ng masalimuot na mundo. Kaya nga iambag natin ang ating solidarity sa mga Palestinong walang awang pinagpapatay ng mga Israel na colonial settlers sa Palestine. Itigil ang genocide, itigil ang apartheid, Free Palestine!

Mabuhay ka pa muli ng 55 taon, PSSC!



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## **MARIO J. AGUJA, PhD**

*Regent*

Mindanao State University

**Member, PSSC Board of Trustees (2020-2022)**

Kalinaw!

I am deeply honored to have had the privilege of collaborating with the dedicated individuals from the PSSC, as well as the representatives of various social science disciplines in our country during my tenure as a member of the PSSC Board. Representing the Philippine Sociological Society (PSS) at that time, I was profoundly grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the development of the PSSC and to navigate the various challenges that the organization faced. I had the privilege of working alongside Dr. Amar Torres and Dr. Odette Portus, both of whom served as Executive Directors of the PSSC.

One of the most memorable challenges we encountered during my time on the Board was the task of developing pertinent programs and ensuring the financial sustainability of the PSSC. I distinctly remember the tireless efforts we put into these endeavors. Moreover, nothing could have prepared us for the unprecedented challenges that the pandemic brought. Nearly everything came to a standstill, including our sources of financial support. At a time when Zoom technology was still in its infancy, we had no choice but to master it in order to address urgent organizational tasks during the height of the pandemic.

Throughout it all, the PSSC never wavered in its commitment to serving the community of Filipino social scientists. Its exceptional capacity-building programs over the years have brought together numerous social scientists in our nation. Furthermore, its research grants and awards have not only supported and recognized emerging social scientists but have also played a pivotal role in shaping the social science discipline in our country. When it comes to social science, the PSSC stands as a beacon of excellence!

Congratulations to the PSSC as we celebrate your 55th Year anniversary. This milestone is a testament to your unwavering dedication and the significant impact you have had on the field of social sciences in the Philippines. Here's to many more years of success and contributions to our community. Cheers to the PSSC!





## **ALVIN P. ANG, PhD**

*Professor and Chair*

Department of Economics

Ateneo de Manila University

**Treasurer, PSSC Board of Trustees (2012-2014)**

I first encountered the PSSC after I completed my PhD in 2006. I returned to UST and joined their Social Research Center that year. Our Center Director had asked me to represent UST during the annual PSSC gathering. I was pleasantly surprised to get to know many luminaries of the social sciences and including the arts who were there. To be the best that I can, I participated in its annual meetings and different activities.

My involvement in PSSC changed in 2008 when I was elected to the Board of the Philippine Economic Society (PES). At that time, the ad-hoc secretariat of the PES was renting a room at the PSSC Building. As their contract with PES ended and they moved out of PSSC, the PES was left without a secretariat. As an officer of the PES, I was tasked to look for a group that can serve as our secretariat. Then PES President Peter U and I negotiated with the then PSSC Executive Director Dr Amar Torres if the PSSC staff can take on the secretariat role and PES will compensate PSSC for the service. The PSSC BOT approved our proposal so from 2011 until today, the PSSC has served as the PES Secretariat helping us through challenging times especially when we needed to get our SEC recognition renewed for our 50th year anniversary.

The PSSC has hosted the PES board meetings and even some of our training. After my presidency of the PES in 2013, the PES Board appointed me to represent PES at the PSSC Board. It was then I became very active in the management as I was elected the PSSC Treasurer. It was an exciting time to look for additional funding sources especially as the building required repainting and various repairs. The PSSC got a number of new tenants, particularly the UN agencies which were temporarily relocating. The library had to be downsized to accommodate more rental offices. I was also able to market the PSSC auditorium for other activities beyond the use of member organizations. I also remember the PSSC working hard to develop a training manual for social science ethical review and creating a service for fee review. Beyond these, I had fond memories working with the Center staff - some of whom have continued connections with me. I am confident that the PSSC as an institution will certainly go beyond all of us and that it will provide the venue for many challenges for individuals and society to solve in the year ahead. More blessed years ahead PSSC!



**ALEJANDRO S. BERNARDO, PhD***Professor*Department of English, Faculty of Arts and Letters  
University of Santo Tomas**Vice Chairperson, PSSC Board of Trustees (2022-2024)**

I am delighted to extend my warmest congratulations as we celebrate the 55th founding anniversary of the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC). This significant milestone not only marks the rich history of the PSSC but also underscores its enduring commitment to advancing social science research, scholarship, and advocacy in the Philippines.

For over five decades, the PSSC has been at the forefront of fostering intellectual rigor and promoting social inquiry. PSSC's unwavering dedication to the quest for knowledge and the betterment of society has had a profound impact on the social sciences landscape in the Philippines. Through rigorous research, insightful publications, and meaningful collaborations, the PSSC has played a pivotal role in addressing the pressing social issues facing our nation.

As we celebrate this momentous occasion, I enjoin every member of PSSC, old and new, to ponder on the achievements of the past and look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead. PSSC's dedication to the principles of social science, academic excellence, and societal progress continues to inspire, stir, and propel us all. I am confident that the PSSC will continue to be a driving force for positive change, fostering a society where knowledge is a catalyst for transformation.

On a more personal note, I was once a recipient of the dissertation writing grant awarded by PSSC and that grant helped me in multifarious ways. And now, I am honored to have served PSSC as its Vice-Chairperson. That way, I am able to give back to and to share a bit of myself with the organization I hold dear.

Once again, my sincerest congratulations to PSSC! May the coming years be filled with even more accomplishments, innovative research, and collaborative endeavors!



**LISA GRACE S. BERSALES, PhD**

*Undersecretary for Population and Development, and  
Executive Director*

Commission on Population and Development

**Member, PSSC Board of Trustees (2018-2020)**

Your celebration's theme "Pamana at Panata: Limampu't Limang Taon ng Kahusayan sa Agham Panlipunan" indeed captures the social sciences' impressive contribution to Philippine society. PSSC has provided a very important platform for interdisciplinary dialogue in which the institutions I belong to, the U.P. School of Statistics and the Philippine Statistical Association, Inc., are given the opportunity of engaging social scientists on our advocacies involving data. Such dialogue encouraged collaborations on research, training, and publication of scientific journals and books that enriched each discipline. My recent experience of support of Dr. Lourdes Portus and her team for my current office, the Commission on Population and Development, in the development of the Philippine Population and Development Plan of Action for 2023-2028. I look forward to more decades of PSSC legacy.



**JOSE V. CAMACHO, JR., PhD***Chancellor*

University of the Philippines Los Baños

**Member, PSSC Board of Trustees (2018-2020)**

As the Chancellor of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) and having previously served as a member of the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) Board of Trustees and as President of the Philippine Economic Society, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the PSSC on the auspicious occasion of its 55th anniversary. The theme “Pamana at Panata: Limampu’t Limang Taon ng Kahusayan sa Agham Panlipunan” poignantly encapsulates the legacy and dedication that has been the hallmark of the PSSC’s journey over these years.

In my time with the PSSC, I witnessed firsthand the Council’s unwavering commitment to championing social sciences. You have not only enhanced our nation’s academic pursuits but have touched lives, framed discourses, and helped shape policies that bear the stamp of a deeper understanding of our societal fabric.

Your legacy – pamana – is etched in the halls of research, in the minds of young scholars, and in the heartbeats of communities that have found their voice through your efforts. Your commitment – panata – is evident in the continued pursuit of excellence, even in the face of ever-evolving challenges.

This double-edged dedication is what makes PSSC stand tall, and it fills me with pride to have been a part of this illustrious journey. As you celebrate, remember that your work has not just built an institution but has woven a narrative of hope, understanding, and progress for our country.

May the next chapters for PSSC be filled with even greater achievements, continued collaboration, and an unwavering spirit to push boundaries in social science. The foundation has been robustly laid, and the future beckons with promise.

Congratulations once again on this significant milestone!







**MA. LUISA T. CAMAGAY, PhD**

*Professor Emeritus*

Department of History

University of the Philippines Diliman

**Member, PSSC Board of Trustees (2022-2024)**

The Philippine Historical Association greets the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) in celebrating its 55 Anniversary of its founding.

Established in 1968 by its founding members made up of Dr. Mercedes Concepcion, Dr. Frank Lynch, Dr. Cristina Parel, Dr. Eufonio Alip and Dr. Armand Fabella, the Philippine Social Council has remained true to its mission of “[advancing] thought leadership, social forecasting and advocacy in Philippine Social Sciences.” It has likewise vowed to make the different social science disciplines be of service to the Filipino and the global community.

The Philippine Historical Association (PHA) is honored to represent the discipline of history in the Philippine Social Science Council.

PHA has benefited greatly from being a member organization of the Philippine Social Science Council. It has enabled the organization to dialogue with other social science disciplines exposing it to multidisciplinary perspectives. Invaluable assistance has been extended by the PSSC to the PHA by providing financial assistance in holding its annual conference. Graduate students in the discipline of history have availed of the dissertation grant given by the PSSC. PSSC has taken care of marketing the Historical Bulletin, the journal of the PHA. PSSC has extended inestimable support to the PHA. Moreover, membership of the PHA to the PSSC has given recognition and legitimacy to its being a discipline and professional organization.

May the PSSC continue its journey as it fulfills its mission and vision.

Mabuhay ang PSSC!



**BERNARDITA R. CHURCHILL, PhD***President*

Philippine National Historical Society, Inc.

**Member, PSSC Board of Trustees**

Lubos na maligaya at makasaysayang pagbati sa Philippine Social Science Council mula sa Philippine National Historical Society, Inc. (PNHS) sa Ika-Limampu't Limang Taon ng Kahusayan sa Agham Panlipunan. Hindi matatawaran ang Pamana at Panata ng PSSC sa Kahusayan sa Agham Panlipunan sa Philippine National Historical Society (PNHS) na isa sa mga Charter Members noong itinatag ang PSSC. Malugod na pagbati sa PSSC sa makasaysayang ika-50 kaarawan.

The PSSC has honored the PNHS, the oldest historical society in the Philippines and a PSSC Charter Member, with special recognition for its contributions to studies in Philippine History. It has ever been a pillar of support to the sacred mission of the PNHS to promote the study of the history of our beloved Filipinas and the Filipinos. PNHS is deeply privileged to be a PSSC Member and extends its warmest congratulations on this momentous occasion of its 50th founding anniversary. May you live forever!





## **DENNIS C. CORONACION, PhD**

*Assistant Professor of Political Science*

University of Santo Tomas

**Member, PSSC Board of Trustees (2020-2022)**

Congratulations to Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) for achieving another milestone!

This year it celebrates its 55 th anniversary with the theme “Pamana at Panata: Limampu’t Limang Taon ng Kahusayan sa Agham Panlipunan.” Having thrived for 55 years is already a feat given the countless issues and challenges that the PSSC must confront and resolve along the way.

My terms as Philippine Political Science Association (PPSA) Vice-President (2019-2021) and as its President (2021 to 2023) fell during the pre-pandemic until the post-pandemic periods. The entire period of the COVID-19 pandemic was a harrowing ordeal for PPSA since we did not only feel the pain and sorrow of losing some of our loved ones and our colleagues, but we also had to address the threat of organizational inertia.

PSSC provided a light when the pandemic engulfed the country’s academic communities and associations in darkness. Its member organizations were inspired by PSSC’s ability to adapt and cope during a crisis. It made serious efforts to make everyone feel that it was business as usual. By constantly communicating with us and by inviting us to their upcoming activities, PSSC did not make us feel isolated.

Among the several amazing things that PSSC did for us, what truly made an impact was the generosity and support extended to us by the Council led by Dr. Lourdes Portus, who had always approved our requests for a conference grant. These grants were of great help to us since we were beginning to feel the pandemic’s impact on our organization’s finances.

In those trying times, PPSA was very fortunate to have PSSC for a companion as it traversed the uncertainties generated by the public health crisis. It was then that we truly appreciated PSSC as an umbrella organization.

Pondering on my experiences with PSSC, I think that its heritage and pledge are not confined to the achievement of excellence in the social sciences but also include the establishment of a caring community in the time of crisis.

Thank you and more power to PSSC!



**JOVI C. DACANAY, PhD***Assistant Professor*

School of Economics, University of Asia and the Pacific

**Treasurer, PSSC Board of Trustees (2022-2024)**

In its 55th year, the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC), through its directors, trustees, allied social scientists, experts and staff, continues to spearhead interdisciplinary dialogues and activities, focusing on vital issues which challenge peace and harmony in our society. In my four years of being a member of the Board of Trustees of the PSSC, I witnessed the innovative activities it has introduced. What started as a bud in 1968 is now a flower in full bloom. The council has served as a platform for discussion and rigorous research on international migration, population, education, gender studies, and health and well-being. The recent project, an annotated bibliography for Philippine history will preserve our historical and cultural roots, thereby making us discover our true Filipino identity.

The PSSC has deeply ventured into online and in person training in social science research ethics, quantitative and qualitative methods and the use of artificial intelligence in social science research. Its online data portal and knowledge archives serve as a one-stop platform for social scientists. The PSSC being a venue for accredited training activities has cascaded to members of the academe and of various private and public institutions, enabling the council to have regular participants. The onslaught of the pandemic challenged the PSSC to venture on a wide range of multimedia services thereby unlocking the creativity of social scientists and the PSSC staff making them dwell on the vast range of social science spheres affecting Filipinos and our society.

Congratulations to the Philippine Social Science Council and may you continue being true to your mission as a vanguard in Philippine social science knowledge creation and sharing in public policy fora.



**SHIRLEY N. DITA, PhD***Associate Professor & Chair*

Department of English and Applied Linguistics

Br. Andrew Gonzalez FSC College of Education

De La Salle University

**Vice Chairperson, PSSC Board of Trustees (2020-2022)**

PSSC has always led in the pursuit of excellence in social sciences in the country. With the impeccable leadership of the executive director, Dr. Lourdes Portus, and the commendable work ethic of the staff, PSSC continues to soar to greater heights.

On a lighter note, PSSC will always be a family to me. During my short stint as vice chair of the PSSC Board of Trustees, I felt the sense of belongingness to this organization. The welcoming ambience and pleasant mood always set positive vibes during meetings and gatherings. And because of this warmth that I have always felt in this organization, I have truly enjoyed working with everyone else at the National Social Science Congress (NSSC). I wouldn't mind volunteering again for NSSC as I have fond memories with the steering committee and the staff during conferences. Through PSSC, my circle of friends is extended outside Linguistics.

Happy 55, PSSC family!



**STELLA P. GO***Convenor*

Philippine Migration Network

**Member, PSSC Board of Trustees**

Warmest congratulations to the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) on reaching a remarkable milestone-- 55 years of steadfast and unwavering commitment to social science scholarship, fostering intellectual inquiry, and contributing to developing a robust social science community. This anniversary is a testament to the impact and pivotal role of PSSC in shaping the discourse around critical issues, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, and nurturing a community of social science scholars dedicated to understanding and addressing the challenges that the country continues to face.

It has been an honor to be an active part of PSSC in various capacities over the last 25 years. May this anniversary serve as a catalyst for even greater achievements in the years ahead.

May PSSC continue to thrive, inspire, and lead the way in advancing the social sciences in the Philippines.

Congratulations again to PSSC and all the brilliant minds that have contributed to its success!





## **FILOMIN C. GUTIERREZ, PhD**

*Professor*

Department of Sociology

University of the Philippines Diliman

**Vice Chairperson, PSSC Board of Trustees (2016-2018)**

It is with pleasure that I greet the Philippine Social Science Council happy and triumphant wishes on its 55th anniversary!

The PSSC is a “mothership” to the country’s professional social science associations where colleagues, mentors, and students in the social sciences and allied fields meet, engage and collaborate to uplift their research, academic and advocacy endeavors. The anniversary’s theme of “Pamana at Panata: Limampu’t Limang Taon ng Kahusayan sa Agham Panlipunan” celebrates the collective and shared commitment to excellence in Philippine social science through research, teaching and training, publications, community work and national service.

PSSC’s efforts and programs, in particular, that recognize early career social scientists efforts through research awards (Research Grant Award, Virginia A. Miralao Excellence in Research Award, and Loretta Makasiar Sicat Prize for the Social Sciences), ensure that future generations of brilliant social scientists receive support.

PSSC’s Social Science Ethics Review Board (SSERB), where I had the privilege of being one of its founders, not only provides a service that ensures that social scientists conduct their research work ethically through its training and reviewing processes. It has opened an arena where various disciplines come to a dialogue and reflect on the pivotal challenges that confront social science research today.

Surely, PSSC has much to offer in terms of knowledge production and role of social science knowledge in the life of the Philippine nation and the Filipino people.

Beyond its grand mission of developing excellent Filipino social scientists and raising the quality of engagement of Filipino social scientists in the national and international spheres, PSSC creates a nurturing community marked by interdisciplinary dialogue and dynamic collaboration among social scientists and their associations.

Mabuhay ang PSSC! Ipagpatuloy ang kahusayan sa Agham Panlipunan!





**ELMA P. LAGUNA, PhD***Associate Professor*

Population Institute

University of the Philippines

**Member, PSSC Board of Trustees (2022-2024)**

I congratulate the PSSC on its 55th Anniversary! PSSC has been an important part of my journey as a social scientist. As a student of Demography, I have fond memories of meeting known experts in the field during the annual Philippine Population Association (PPA) meetings at the PSSC. I have also enjoyed the travel grant that PSSC provides to its members in order for us to attend conferences abroad. When I served as a Board of Trustee of the PPA, we always had PSSC to support us in our activities.

I served as President of the PPA during the pandemic years, and together with PSSC, we continued to use the lens of the social sciences in order to understand the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

I wish PSSC more years of excellent legacy.



**MARIA ELISSA J. LAO, PhD***Director*

University Gender and Development Office

Ateneo de Manila University

**Treasurer, PSSC Board of Trustees (2018-2020)**

I've always been grateful for the spaces that the PSSC has provided to support and promote the work of young Filipino social scientists: the conference travel grants (salamat, PSSC!), the Loretta Makasiar Sicat Prize for the Social Sciences (LMS Prize for Filipino Graduate Students), the Virginia A. Miralao Excellence in Research Award for the best article in a social science journal, book chapter, or book written by a promising young scholar in the profession, the internships provided by the different member organizations and networks, and the forums (and more recently, webinars), that give a space for young social scientists to showcase their work and attend such fora.

These have made me realize that our work in PSSC ensures that the next generation of Filipino social scientists has adequate platforms, resources and other means of support (such as networks and meeting spaces) to assure them that the work they do is valuable and contributes to a better understanding of Philippine society and culture and rapidly changing global landscape. In many instances, work in the allied social sciences directly contributes to political, economic, and social change.

May the work of PSSC continue in the future decades, in the service of Filipino Social Science.



**ENRIQUE G. ORACION, PhD***Director*

Silliman University Research and Development Center

**Member, PSSC Board of Trustees (2016-2018)**

I was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) for two terms. Voted as a representative of the Associate Members comprising the country's research institutions and organizations, I expanded the horizon and reach of social science at Silliman University. During those occasions, I attended BOT meetings and events and had opportunities to interact and learn with some bright minds in investigating and understanding social behaviors and institutions. Widening my scholarly engagement likewise benefited my institution, as I introduced her to the national arena when I presented papers during the National Social Science Congress (NSSC). Several Silliman graduate students and faculty members also availed of training and thesis grants from PSSC, which show how it promotes and increases social science scholarships. I also encouraged and succeeded in having some of our faculty members attend and present papers during NSSC in different host institutions in the country.

There is much more to be grateful for being an institutional member of PSSC, and it was our turn to reciprocate and expand Silliman's engagement among social science scholars. So, when there was a request during the 9th NSSC for us to co-host the 10th NSSC, we did not hesitate to affirm our commitment to it. Being a first-time host of NSSC, other than as a conference host of other social science organizations for several years, it was a challenge to meet the expectations of PSSC in providing a conducive venue for scholarly discussion. The modest remarks of the results of our hosting of the 10th NSSC further reinforced our desire to open Silliman University to intellectual engagement, particularly in the social sciences.

Our warm greetings to the 55th PSSC anniversary. Padayon!





## **ELENA E. PERNIA, PhD**

*Former Vice President for Public Affairs*

*University of the Philippines Diliman*

**Member, PSSC Board of Trustees (2022-2024)**

Warmest congratulations to the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) on its 55th anniversary.

The Philippines Communication Society (PCS) values its relationship with the PSSC. As the PCS has grown in membership, programs, activities, and advocacies over the years, the PSSC has been a supportive partner. Since 1987 when PCS was formed and subsequently became a member of the PSSC, our institutions have worked together to promote communication and media practice and scholarship as resources for national development and solidarity.

As the PSSC celebrates its quinquinquagennial, let me express PCS's gratitude to the Council's administrations over the years — for the linkages established and strengthened, for the fellowships forged among participating institutions, and for its enthusiastic pursuit of nurturing an environment for disciplinary advancement. PCS expresses its continuing solidarity with Council's leadership to accomplish its mission to advance thought leadership, social forecasting, and advocacy in Philippine Social Sciences.

Lubos na naniniwala ang mga regular at kawaksing mga miyembro ng organisasyon na ang matatag at maaasahang samahan sa pagitan ng PCS at ng PSSC ay mas lalo pang pag-iibayuhin at papalakasin sa mga susunod na taon upang maipagpatuloy ang ating pamana at panata na itaas ang kahusayan sa agham panlipunan sa Pilipinas.





**EVA P. PONCE-DE LEON, RSW**

*Executive Director*

Philippine Association of Social Workers, Inc.

**Member, PSSC Board of Trustees (2022-2024)**

In its 55th year of existence, the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) has stood the test of time, and has indeed become a landmark of an institution in the country. In the course of this milestone of an event, the PSSC now with its long line of significant achievements is truly a reflection of its commemorative theme of “Pamana at Panata: Limampu’t Limang Taon ng Kahusayan sa Agham Panlipunan”.

As a member-organization of the PSSC, the Philippine Association of Social Workers, Inc. (PASWI) joins the entire PSSC family in commemorating its 55th year anniversary. As with the rest of its member-organizations, PASWI takes pride in its decade-long association with the PSSC and earnestly looks forward to more years of productive endeavors and interaction in the process of promoting the social sciences.

PASWI has had an excellent relationship with the PSSC. We note with kind thoughts how the Council and its management and staff focus on maintaining the good order of its ‘house’ – the PSSC building and its premises are always kept immaculately clean, the staff are good-natured and polite as they deal with a variety of concerns and issues from the public in general. In the course of the difficult pandemic period which lasted for three long years, PASWI was forced to temporarily vacate its PSSC office. This was a problematic decision made lighter by the PSSC’s Executive Director’s empathy.

The all-important board meetings of the Council, taking-up matters relevant to its functions are conducted with professionalism and decorum resulting in a good working relationship among its members.

At this juncture of its existence, the PSSC rightfully deserves our commendation for its sterling achievements in the field of social sciences. With its past being our guide, we are confident that the PSSC will continue to fulfill its mandate and succeed in its mission.

Congratulations and mabuhay po kayo!





## **MARC ERIC S. REYES, PhD, RPh, RPsy**

*Professor*

Department of Psychology

University of Santo Tomas

**Member, PSSC Board of Trustees (2020-2022)**

My warmest congratulations to the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) on its 55th founding anniversary!

For 55 years, PSSC has been a beacon of excellence, uniting the various social sciences under one roof. The theme for this anniversary, “Pamana and Panata: Limampu’t Limang Taon ng Kahusayan sa Agham Panlipunan,” aptly reflects this tradition of achievement.

Throughout its history, PSSC has been instrumental in addressing the challenges faced by different segments of our society. Its contributions include research, collaborative partnerships to expand our understanding of social sciences, thought-provoking conventions, the publication of scientific findings, and the recognition of exceptional individuals in the field. PSSC has consistently emphasized the importance of uniting social scientists to advance our society.

I take pride in the Psychological Association of the Philippines (PAP)’s role in supporting PSSC’s growth. From my early days as a junior affiliate to serving as President, I’ve witnessed PSSC’s remarkable journey.

PAP’s past presidents, such as Dr. Amaryllis Torres, Dr. Allan Bernardo, Dr. Patricia Licuanan, and Dr. Allen Tan, have chaired the PSSC Board, and we’re forever grateful for our participation in this noble endeavor.

Personally, my engagement with PSSC from 2013 to 2022 wouldn’t have been as successful without the invaluable assistance of Membership Services Officer Ms. Karen Barrios and the unwavering support of both former Executive Director Dr. Amar Torres and current Executive Director Dr. Odette Portus.

As a PAP Board Member, I’ve received vital support for my research, including travel funding for international presentations. As a PSSC Board of Trustees member and PAP President during the pandemic, PSSC’s support was crucial in navigating the challenges posed by COVID-19.

Under strong leadership and a visionary outlook, PSSC will undoubtedly continue to achieve milestones in the social sciences.

Congratulations once again on this significant milestone. May the Philippine Social Science Council continue to guide our path toward a more informed and enlightened society.





## **RAMON R. TUAZON**

*Secretary General*

Asian Media Information and Communication Centre

**Vice Chairperson, PSSC Board of Trustees (2008-2010)**

Let me begin by paraphrasing the great author, Charles Dickens in his 1859 novel, *A Tale of Two Cities* – It is the best of times, it is the worst of times to be a social scientist.

The different social issues that the global community now faces such as intensifying disinformation, narrowing democratic space, and escalating socio-political conflict provide the best of times to be a social scientist. They are called upon to examine these social issues, help the public understand them, and even offer options on how to address these issues. But these and many other social issues have also made the practice of social science, especially research, the year(s) of living dangerously, to borrow the title of a 1982 movie.

As a development program specialist working in an authoritarian country somewhere in Asia, I know that research-based information is crucial in making informed decisions and planning needs-based programs. Unfortunately, social scientists in my duty station have realized that doing social science research, as in many other countries, has become not only challenging but also precarious to one's freedom and even one's own life.

The relevance of social science has never been as pronounced as it is today amid multidimensional crises that beset many countries including the Philippines. But we can only adequately address the challenges that the issues bring if social scientists give priority to working across social science disciplines. The Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) provides the platform for sharing and exchange of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary perspectives through research, forums, publications, training, etc. This should be our continuing *pamana* and *panata* as PSSC looks forward to more years of relevant research, publication, training, and education.

Congratulations, PSSC!





**KRIZTINE ROSALES-VIRAY***Associate Professor*

College of Communication

Polytechnic University of the Philippines

**Member, PSSC Board of Trustees (2020-2022)**

PSSC was an institution that I knew even when I was a communication student at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. Its importance to the development of research culture in the field of social science in the country could never be overstated. And when I was given a chance to be involved in some of its affairs back in the year as a representative of the Philippine Communication Society (PCS), I was overwhelmed by joy. It was as if I was getting myself involved in a ministry for academics and researchers. My relationship with PSSC, particularly the people I've worked with, gave me an opportunity to develop and grow as a leader and as an academic. And for this I will be forever grateful.

I will never forget how PSSC helped me swim and survive the pandemic when I was the president of PCS— they made everything bearable because of its assistance and support as it helped PCS in the promotion of all its webinars and the call for papers for the PCS Journal. When I thought the pandemic wouldn't make my term as President productive, PSSC fueled my desire and passion to overcome all the obstacles brought about by the most disruptive event in modern history.

As PSSC celebrates its 55th anniversary, I wish that it would remain steadfast in confronting the challenges of the ever-evolving and uncertain world. I wish that it would continue to provide the necessary assistance to emerging and established social science researchers.





# **FELLOWS, AWARDEES, GRANTEES**





## **SANNY D. AFABLE**

*Doctoral Researcher*

Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research

Rostock, Germany

**Grand winner, First Loretta Makasiar-Sicat Prize for the Social Sciences (2022)**

I was in a research exchange in Belgium when, one spring morning, I received an email from Dr. Lourdes M. Portus, executive director of the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC). Much to my surprise, my graduate thesis on late-life depression was selected as the inaugural winner of the Loretta Makasiar Sicat (LMS) Prize in the Social Sciences, an award organized by the PSSC in memory of its late executive director.

Days before this, I kept thinking about the sharp contrast between the Philippines and Belgium, wary at the futility of any comparison between a developing (neo) colonized nation and a country that stole development from others. A young academic like me, however, could not help but marvel at how social science is valued, funded, and actually listened to by policymakers and the greater public on this side of the world. In contrast, social science research in the Philippines suffers from chronic underfunding, a surge of anti-intellectualism in recent years, and a host of other factors that make it difficult to make a living out of studying people and society.

This is why the PSSC remains as relevant as ever. As a non-profit built by some of the country's pioneering social scientists, the PSSC has been leading the formidable task of nurturing and championing social science research in the Philippines. It has achieved much in its mission, and I am confident that it will continue to bridge the gap between academia and public policy, foster solidarity among Filipino social scientists and their counterparts in various disciplines, and inspire younger generations of those who dream of a career in the social sciences.

On a personal note, receiving the LMS Prize has not only boosted my career but also reaffirmed my faith in my work as a demographer. My decision to pursue a PhD abroad—and hopefully come home in due time—is something that I owe, in part, to the PSSC.

I extend my warmest congratulations to the Council as it celebrates its 55th anniversary, and I wish it continued growth and success in the years to come!





## TIMOTHY JAMES L. CIPRIANO

*Senior Lecturer*

Department of Geography

University of the Philippines Diliman

**Grand winner, Second Loretta Makasiar-Sicat Prize for the Social Sciences (2023)**

Warmest felicitations to the Philippine Social Science Council as it celebrates its 55th founding anniversary! As the world faces a set of risks that are new and familiar, such convergence would define and shape the next decade that is unique, uncertain, and more volatile. The role of the Philippine Social Science Council at the forefront of advancing knowledge in the social sciences amid these challenges has become increasingly important, especially in charting the course of action towards a more resilient world.

In the fulfillment of its vision and mission, the Philippine Social Science Council continues to institute several projects and programs that support the promotion of the social sciences. One such initiative is the Loretta Makasiar-Sicat Prize for the Social Sciences for which I won recently for my master's thesis that culminated my graduate work from the Master of Science in Geography program in the University of the Philippines Diliman. When asked about what inspired me to submit my work to the LMS Prize this year is the potential contribution of my work in advancing discourses in geography in the Philippines. While geography is an old, yet vibrant discipline, it has a lot of room to grow in the country and the trajectories in the discipline are so vast.

I am thrilled to be part of a roster of scholars and scientists who will collectively chart the direction of Philippine geography, as well as the social sciences in many years to come. For me, winning the LMS Prize serves two purposes: First, it is an important recognition for Geography as we hope to bring it front and center in our decision-making in the country. I hope to contribute to that endeavor in many years to come. Second, it is a reminder that our geographic work must be geared towards achieving spatial justice and a steadfast dedication to serve the people and communities around us.

I sincerely congratulate the Philippine Social Science Council for reaching this great milestone, and we hope to continue to work together in solidarity to uplift the lives of Filipinos. Padayon!





## **GRACE T. CRUZ, PhD**

*Director*

University of the Philippines Population Institute (UPPI)

**Grantee, PSSC Research Award Program**

**Country Representative, 20th AASSREC Biennial General Conference**

Demography is one of the original fields of social sciences that formed part of the PSSC. Over the years, PSSC has made significant contributions towards the advancement of demography and the broader field of social sciences in the Philippines by fostering collaboration, dissemination of knowledge, and facilitating the exchange of research findings through their sponsorship of conferences, publications, graduate fellowships, and research grant programs among others.

At the institutional level, the University of the Philippines Population Institute (UPPI), an associate member of the PSSC, has greatly benefited from PSSC's commitment to promoting the discipline of demography. The provision of graduate fellowship programs for UPPI's students, such as the PCPD Graduate Fellowship and the Philippine Social Science Research Council, Inc. Research Award Program have been instrumental in nurturing the next generation of our academic community. PSSC's awards programs, including the Loreta Makasiar Sicat Prize for the Social Sciences and the Virginia A. Miralao Excellence in Research Award, have honored outstanding achievements by UPPI graduates and a faculty member, respectively. PSSC also provided support to the Philippine Population Association, the professional organization of Filipino demographers and population specialists that help promote population issues at the forefront of public consciousness.

At the personal level, PSSC has played a role in my growth as a scholar and professional. In 2013, I was invited by PSSC to present the Philippine country paper on Family and State Roles in Promoting the Well-being of Older Filipinos at the Biennial General Conference of the Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils hosted by PSSC. This paper was published in PSSC's 2014 book, *Aging in Asia and the Pacific: Balancing the State and the Family*. I also presented my research findings in a PSSC-sponsored webinar on the Vaccination Plan and Public Response in the Philippines within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we celebrate the 55th founding anniversary of PSSC, I extend my warmest wishes for its continued success in advancing excellence in the promotion of the social sciences. May PSSC continue to grow and achieve even greater milestones in the years to come.





## NICOLE C. CURATO, PhD

*Associate Professor of Sociology*

Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance  
University of Canberra

**Recipient, Virginia A. Miralao Excellence in Research Award  
(2020)**

Now, more than ever, our country needs social scientists whose work confronts oppressive knowledge systems and paradigms of thought that further entrench power in the hands of a few. Many of the challenges we face today, from the climate and ecological emergency to the ethical and economic consequences of using artificial intelligence, are rooted in problematic forms of knowledge production.

Living in challenging times, however, does not mean living in despair. For decades, Filipino social scientists have been generating forms of knowledge that give voice to minoritized communities and inform public deliberation about matters that shape our nation's destiny.

The Philippine Social Science Council has played a critical role in creating a hospitable environment for critical social science research to thrive in the Philippines. For more than five decades, PSSC has conducted workshops, offered grants, and developed open-access resources that inspired social scientists to conduct research of the highest quality, following robust ethical standards.

I have closely engaged with the PSSC when I received the Virginia A. Miralao (VAM) Excellence in Research Prize for my book *Democracy in a Time of Misery: From Spectacular Tragedy to Deliberative Action* (2019, Oxford University Press). The book was based on my field research in communities affected by Typhoon Yolanda in Tacloban City. It traced the creative ways in which disaster-affected communities mobilized their grief and anger to political action that asserted their voice and visibility in the public sphere.

Receiving the prize is the most meaningful professional achievement for me. As a Filipino academic based in Australia, the VAM prize is a reminder to diasporic scholars about the importance of maintaining critical dialogue with scholarship developed at home. It also affirms the importance of conducting solidaristic research grounded on civic relationships with communities who took part in the research. Above all, I see VAM as an invitation for social scientists to pursue research that sparks our imagination to pursue plausible political projects that can transform how our society sees the world and how we relate to each other.

Congratulations to the PSSC!





## **RICARDO T. JOSE, PhD**

*Professor Emeritus*

Department of History

University of the Philippines Diliman

**Fellow, PSSC-Rex Education Saliksik Kasaysayan Fellowship Program**

Special greetings to the Philippine Social Science Council on its 55th anniversary! Since its founding, PSSC has always been at the forefront of research and dissemination of research findings. It has been the center of intellectual discussions in the social sciences. I have participated in numerous conferences in its premises, and have shared ideas and research notes with many notable colleagues, both from here and abroad. I have many fond memories of walking through the corridors of PSSC, browsing through the many interesting publications for sale or in the library or simply conversing with friends.

At present I am involved in a momentous project that will impact the future: through the PSSC-Rex partnership project Saliksik Kasaysayan: A Fellowship Program to Develop a Compendium of Philippine History. In this project, key scholars - all respected historians in their respective fields - are compiling a thorough and reliable annotated bibliography to guide textbook writers in preparing their works. It is a proactive project, and one that seeks to address the weakness of many history textbooks in the Philippines today.

PSSC, in partnering with Rex Education and two of its regular members on History-- the Philippine National Historical Society and the Philippine Historical Association-- is truly at the forefront of building towards the future. Textbook writers not just from Rex Education but from other publishers-- in fact any serious scholar and researcher into Philippine history-- will benefit from the compendium, which will be a landmark contribution in the field of history. Together with the compendium of annotated bibliographies, important source materials will be made available through PSSC to the writers of Rex Education. The PSSC library can be enriched through this sharing of historical sources, and thus can benefit other scholars. Through Saliksik Kasaysayan, PSSC lives up to its goals in the responsible development and dissemination of the disciplines of the social sciences.

Congratulations to PSSC on this important anniversary! I am confident that PSSC will continue in its missions in the decades to come.







## **GIDEON PAUL D. LASCO, MD, PhD**

*Senior Lecturer*

Department of Anthropology

University of the Philippines Diliman

**Recipient, Virginia A. Miralao Excellence in Research Award (2021)**

In my academic journey, I have seen how PSSC has sought to fulfill its stated missions of leading in social science knowledge creation and sharing and nurturing an environment for disciplinary advancement.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, for instance, PSSC organized various events-- mostly online in keeping with the circumstances-- to facilitate knowledge sharing, from webinars like its collaborative series with the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) to publications like its special issue in 2020 themed "Life in Lockdown: Learnings and Stories from Filipino Social Scientists", which will surely be of interest not just to policymakers but to future historians of medicine.

The recently-concluded National Social Science Congress in Dumaguete was another testament to how PSSC is living up to its mandate. As one of the presenters in that congress, I saw transdisciplinarity in action, with panels by historians side by side with those of geographers, economists, sociologists, anthropologists, political scientists, and many others, representing not just different institutions and disciplines, but different parts of our diverse archipelago.

As for nurturing an environment for disciplinary advancement, I can attest to this in the way that PSSC supported me as an early career researcher. Being recognized with the Virginia A. Miralao Award for Research Excellence (VAMERA) gave me much encouragement, not just because of the award itself but because of the warmth that I received from PSSC's officers and the elders in our various disciplines. UGAT-- one of PSSC's constituent members-- was also a very supportive institution in my career, making me feel at home in the community of anthropologists in the country. At a time when young people are considering-- or reconsidering-- a career in social sciences, this ethos of nurturing is more valuable than ever.

The challenges ahead of us-- from enduring social and economic inequities to emerging ecological, political, and health crises-- means that the social sciences are more vital than ever, and with PSSC's support, we social scientists can feel empowered to take leadership in national and global conversations about what kind of future we ought to imagine and fight for.

With gratitude and deep solidarity, I greet and applaud PSSC on its 55th anniversary, confident that it will continue to pursue its mission for many years to come.





## **MA. MERCEDES G. PLANTA, PhD**

*Professor of History*

University of the Philippines Diliman

**Grantee, PSSC Research Award Program**

Over two decades ago, the invaluable Thesis Grant and Travel Grant I obtained from the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) marked the initiation of my academic journey as a student of history. These grants not only afforded me financial assistance but also opened the doors to numerous opportunities that significantly shaped my career.

The research I conducted as part of my thesis, which later evolved into my book titled *Traditional Medicine in the Colonial Philippines, 16th to the 19th Century* (UP Press 2017), received the prestigious Best Book in Science Award from the National Book Awards of the Philippines in 2018. Furthermore, it was recognized as a finalist for the Best Book in History by the Filipino Readers' Choice Award presented by the Book Development Association of the Philippines in 2022.

The Travel Grant extended by PSSC enabled me to embark on a transformative academic journey to the Asia-Europe Institute at the University of Malaya. During my time there, I had the privilege of being mentored by the eminent scholar of Malay and Southeast Asian history, Professor Shaharil Talib. Professor Shaharil's renowned work, *After Its Own Image: The Terengganu Experience, 1881-1941* (Oxford University Press 1984), remains an unmatched study in Malay history and society. My time in Malaysia not only deepened my knowledge of Southeast Asia but also allowed me to establish lifelong friendships with scholars and academics, both Indonesian and Malaysian.

In 2012–2013, I received a postdoctoral grant from the Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program (SEASREP), an organization that has a rich history of promoting scholarly exchanges within the region. The friends I had made during my time in Malaysia, who had since become distinguished academics in their respective fields, played an instrumental role in facilitating my research and stay in Indonesia and Malaysia during this period.

I am deeply grateful to the Philippine Social Science Council for its pivotal role in establishing the early foundations of my academic work. The support I received from PSSC, although directed towards specific goals, has had an immeasurable impact on my academic and professional journey.

As we celebrate the 55th anniversary of PSSC, I extend my warmest wishes for the Council's continued success. May it persist in providing essential support and guidance to early-career scholars, while steadfastly fulfilling its mandate to advance the social sciences in the Philippines. Congratulations to PSSC on this significant milestone, and may its legacy endure for many more years to come.



## **MICHAEL L. TAN, PhD**

*Professor Emeritus*

Department of Anthropology

University of the Philippines Diliman

**Fellow, PSSC-Rex Education Saliksik Kasaysayan Fellowship Program**

How appropriate it is that PSSC has chosen Pamana at Panata as its theme to celebrate 55 years, its establishment overlapping with the turbulent 70s, from the First Quarter Storm into martial law.

I was in college at that time, first in biology and then veterinary medicine. Fortunately, I spent a lot of time in “AS” or Palma Hall and was adopted by anthropology students. After vet school and volunteer work in the Cordillera, I was convinced there was another life to pursue, pursuing graduate work in anthropology.

I discovered PSSC only after I began to teach in UP in the 1980s and became active in UGAT, the Anthropology Association of the Philippines, which would send me to attend meetings in PSSC, an opportunity to meet people from the different social sciences. It was Star Trek in a way; each social science could as well have been a solar system, each with its own creatures, each with its own language, sometimes mutually unintelligible, but we somehow managed, PSSC a galaxy so to speak.

I struck up a friendship with former PDMS Head Lorna Makil, who was a sociologist but whose interests spanned all the social sciences. She was a nurturing Tita to all. It was she who encouraged me to convert my masters thesis into a book: *Usog, Pasma, Kulam*, later to be revised for the UP Press.

Now as a senior citizen, I’ve rekindled ties with PSSC in a project, *Saliksik Kasaysayan*, another “revisiting” of historical periods. The current Executive Director, Odette Portus, encouraged me to apply for the prehistoric period, which I got maybe because it matched my age. My long-term memory is still fairly intact, I can recall studies in the postwar period not just in the social sciences but, returning to my roots, the life sciences, so important now for interpreting our prehistory.

PSSC must continue to provide a home and a hub for scholars to bring together memories and lessons of the past, pamana turning into bold vows, panata, for the future.





# PARTNERS





**MARIA CARINNES P. ALEJANDRIA, PhD**

*Assistant Professor*

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Universiti Brunei Darussalam

**Former Chair, PSSC SSERB Ethics Review Committee**

In the 55th year of the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC), I pay tribute to its unwavering dedication to social science by providing a home in which young scholars could chart their career trajectories through engagements with seasoned scholars. As an emerging anthropologist in the Global South, PSSC served as a bridge in my journey from being a student to becoming a trainer in the fields of ethics and data privacy protection for qualitative research. Each session and training I attended and shared is not just about knowledge but also about responsibility. Social science, at its core, is about understanding and respecting the rights and dignity of every individual. The theme “Pamana at Panata” stands witness to PSSC’s long and vibrant journey in shaping the minds and hearts of Filipinos who aspire to serve the nation. As PSSC continues its mission, may it inspire the next generations of Philippine scholars and researchers both in the homeland and in diaspora. May it continue to be a refuge for social scientists working in precarious environments and timelines.



**VIDA S. ARCIAGA***President and CEO,**Center for Research, Education, Solutions and Training***Committee Chair, PSSC Christmas Party**

To be part of the PSSC family is an aspiration for me and my company. As a Human Resources and Organization Development leader and practitioner and a life-long learner, I consider social sciences as a field, discipline and an unlimited arena where I am so passionate to become a unique contributor, leader, collaborator and solutions provider.

I am greatly honored and privileged to belong to the PSSC family even simply by being a tenant in the building and as a volunteer in some of its projects and undertakings. Hopefully, I will make it to the next level– to become a member soon and further contribute to the real progress, growth and development of our nation and people through my expertise and areas of interest.

Congratulations to PSSC, its management team and the secretariat for attaining this milestone. Fifty five years is tantamount to a life journey and must be continued by future generations!





## MARTIN AUGUSTINE B. BORLONGAN

*Assistant Professor*

School of Statistics

University of the Philippines Diliman

**Resource Person, PSSC Training Workshops on Designing Social Science Research**

I am delighted to extend my warmest congratulations to the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) as it celebrates its 55th anniversary this year. This milestone highlights PSSC's unwavering commitment to advancing the Social Sciences in the Philippines. As a partner and a participant in its initiatives, I have had the distinct honor and privilege of witnessing PSSC's dedication to offering high-quality training programs, even in the face of the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The past two years have been marked by immense uncertainty and disruptions, but PSSC's response has been nothing short of remarkable. In the midst of a lockdown, it boldly ventured into uncharted territory by transitioning its training programs to the online domain. As far as my knowledge goes, PSSC was among the pioneers in this endeavor, showcasing its innovative spirit and adaptability. This daring move allowed them to continue their mission of equipping organizations and independent social science researchers with essential skills and knowledge, thus contributing to the growth of the Philippine Social Sciences.

In these trying times, PSSC's resilience and steadfast commitment to its core values have shone brightly. Its "panata" (pledge) to excellence in the Social Sciences has not wavered. It has not only weathered the storm but has emerged stronger, embracing the digital realm without compromising the quality and integrity of their training programs. Moreover, PSSC ensured that social science practitioners were not left behind in this digital revolution and in this shift in research paradigm, offering relevant training programs that allowed participants to transition to doing research in the new normal, relying on and utilizing internet-powered data collection procedures and research techniques.

As we celebrate PSSC's 55th anniversary, it is evident that its legacy of dedication, innovation, and excellence continues to propel them forward. I look forward to witnessing its continued growth and contributions to the social sciences, and I am honored to be a part of its journey as they navigate the ever-evolving landscape of research and knowledge dissemination. Pamana at Panata: a legacy and a pledge that PSSC upholds with unwavering determination.







## **MICHELLE BRUCE**

*Secretary-General*

Asian Social Science Research Councils (AASSREC)

**PSSC International Partner**

On behalf of the Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils (AASSREC), I extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) on the momentous occasion of its 55th anniversary.

As a founding member of AASSREC, PSSC has held a prominent role in AASSREC activities over the last 50 years and has been a driving force in the development of social sciences in the Asia Pacific region. PSSC has generously hosted three successful AASSREC biennial conferences in the Philippines including:

- The 3rd AASSREC Biennial Conference in 1979 on the indigenization of the social sciences, with PSSC Executive Director Loretta Makasiar Sicat serving as AASSREC President from 1978-79;
- The 9th AASSREC Biennial Conference in 1991 on social science perspectives in human resource development and human resource development perspectives in education planning, with PSSC Chairperson Leslie E. Bauzon serving as AASSREC President from 1990-1991; and
- The 20th AASSREC Biennial Conference in 2013 on Ageing for the ages: Asia-Pacific in the 21st century, with PSSC Chairperson Isabel Pefianco Martin serving as AASSREC President from 2012-2013.

Once more emphasizing its leadership in the region, PSSC took on the responsibility of hosting the AASSREC Secretariat and overseeing its programs and activities from 1994 to 2005, with Virginia A. Miralao serving as AASSREC Secretary-General during this period.

Under its current leadership, PSSC remains an active and highly engaged AASSREC member, and it should be justifiably proud of its valued position and leadership in our association. Working with the brilliant and dedicated team in the PSSC Secretariat has been a real honor. We value each and every interaction and appreciate their support. We look forward to our continued collaboration and cooperation in the future.

It is our hope that everyone affiliated with PSSC takes time to reflect and take pride in all the incredible accomplishments of the past 55 years. We wish you great joy in your anniversary celebrations and every success for many more years to come.



**CLEMENT C. CAMPOSANO, PhD***Chancellor*

University of the Philippines Visayas

**Author-Contributor, Doing Social Science Research:  
A Guidebook (V2)**

I have been part of the PSSC for close to two decades now, engaging it in many capacities including serving in the Board of Trustees. I am also very proud to be among PSSC's trainors in ethnography and a contributor to the second edition of its social science research guidebook. As an organization that brings together various academic associations and research interests,

PSSC has a crucial role to play in the continuing growth of the social sciences in the Philippines. This is particularly so in light not only of the widely recognized need for cross-fertilization between and among disciplines, but also of the broad consensus on the necessity of evidence-based policymaking. The complexity of today's problems requires the various social science disciplines to be constantly in dialogue with each other, and to be more publicly engaged and involved in the shaping of public conversations. The plurality and divergence that characterize the social sciences also highlight the need for organizations like the PSSC to actively foster transdisciplinary collaboration among scholars. This will involve creating spaces within which scholars from diverse methodological, theoretical, and even ideological backgrounds can identify and explore points of convergence, in the context of a commitment to address issues and problems that bear upon the common good.



**EDNA ESTIFANIA A. CO, DPA***Former Vice President for Public Affairs*

University of the Philippines System

**PSSC Consultant**

Fifty five years ago, the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) was founded as a society of scholars, whose knowledge and expertise are meant to contribute to a decent society. I join the many friends of PSSC in paying tribute to this highly esteemed society of experts. I salute all PSSC officers and members on this special commemoration and celebration.

In 2022, I was honored to do an organizational review of the PSSC through its esteemed officers and secretariat. Albeit scanning only the milestone and organizational challenges to the Council, the review opened a rich discovery of PSSC's contributions, its role and reason for being. I thank the PSSC for giving me this special opportunity. The review unravels the many contributions of Filipino scholars and leaders in this field. It also identifies the possibilities and other options for PSSC as an organization and a program of social science scholars. There are indications that PSSC could embark as a future-looking, inter-disciplinary chamber of thinkers and movers beyond the social sciences. Realities in the country and in the world challenge PSSC to look forward to diverse ways of playing its role as a community of scholars, as innovators and leaders thereby responding to a tapestry of Philippine milieus in the 21st century beyond the conventional social science. A cross-over, possibly in partnership with other disciplines, is in order given the challenges of sustainable development that weaves together not just People, but also Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnerships. A wider and meaningful interdisciplinarity is in order.

Again, congratulations to the PSSC on its 55th! Mabuhay and more power.





**MA. CECILIA GASTARDO-CONACO, PhD**

*Professor Emeritus (retired)*

Department of Psychology

University of the Philippines Diliman

**Author-Contributor, Doing Social Science Research:  
A Guidebook (V1)**

It would probably be fair to say that I developed as a social scientist alongside the Philippine Social Science Council. Right after graduation in 1974, my first job as a research assistant for sociologist Dr. Randy Bulatao involved assistance in conducting a nationwide survey on the IDRC-funded Values of Children project. The whole enterprise was greatly facilitated by the PSSC research network, then composed of social science research centers anchored in various academic institutions across the country, that quickly connected our Social Research Laboratory staff with researchers and research staff on the ground at the many sample sites and made for speedy data collection. This was an amazing learning experience that gave me my first insight into the power of research collaboration and interconnectivity among various social science researchers and research groups. The lesson has stayed with me through my years as a social psychologist and as I interacted, collaborated, and worked with the Philippine Social Science Council during these years.

My experiences with PSSC have not only helped me grow as a social scientist but have also allowed me to contribute to the growth of other social scientists (when we helped screen the IFP-Ford scholarship applicants) and to Philippine social science, as a whole (when we helped write the guidebook for social science research). Our recently concluded CHED-funded project to provide specialized training on ethics for public and private higher educational institutions was another example of PSSC being at the forefront of Philippine social science through the efforts for more ethical social science research. I am very proud to have been part of that effort. It has truly been a privilege and a pleasure to work with PSSC and its visionary directors and creative staff members through the years.

Congratulations to the Philippine Social Science Center on its 55th year! I look forward to its many more years of significant contributions to Philippine social science research and advocacies. My graduate students and I thank you, too, for the many resources you have made available to budding social science researchers!





## **RUBY ROAN-CRISTOBAL, PhD**

*Former Chief Science Research Specialist*

**DOST-Science Education Institute EI**

**Project Partner and Resource Speaker**

The value of social science in building a just and progressive society cannot be discounted, especially in these times when great changes are happening in the country and the whole world. With rapid developments in technology, the recurring problems in the environment, and the evolving needs of communities, understanding how these changes are making an impact on the lives of people is crucial.

The Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) has always been at the forefront of advancing thought leadership through social science research, scholarship, capacity, and institution building. It has gained an untarnished reputation as a leader and partner in knowledge creation in the social sciences to effectively inform policy making.

As the former Chief Science Research Specialist of the Department of Science and Technology-Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI), we have partnered with PSSC in several projects, particularly in assessing the impacts of the DOST-SEI Science and Technology Scholarship Programs, STEM promotions, and STEM training for teachers. The findings of these studies are now being considered in the implementation of the programs and in designing new ones so that DOST-SEI can best attain its goals and deliver its mandate.

As a researcher, I have likewise availed myself of some of the online training programs provided by PSSC during the pandemic. Despite having completed advanced studies, I learned very practical ways of doing qualitative social research through these trainings which were delivered by highly qualified and esteemed faculty from reputable academic institutions. The training designs were well crafted and relevant to researchers in the academe and public institutions.

In celebration of its 55th Anniversary, I would like to congratulate the PSSC for its legacy and commitment to fulfilling its vision of “One Social Science in solidarity with other disciplines for Filipinos and the global community” and serving the nation as a social science institution that nurtures society and culture.

Pagpupugay at pagbati!





## **LILIAN A. DE LAS LLAGAS, PhD**

*Former Commissioner*

Commission on Higher Education

**Project Partner and Consultant**

Isang masigabong palakpakan at mainit na pagbati sa pamunuan ng PSSC. Ang inyong PAHAYAG NA PANGITAIN (Vision Statement) at PAHAYAG NG MISYON (Mission Statement),

“Isang Agham panlipunan na kaagapay ng Ibat-ibang sangay ng disiplina, na nagtataguyod sa mga Filipinos at Komunidad ng Mundo”

“Mamuno, makibagay at pagyamanin ang disiplinang Agham Panlipunan, na nararapat sa mga polisiyang pambayan”

Ito ang inyong gabay sa inyong matagumpay na tahakin. Isang pamana at panata na humubog sa PSSC noon, ngayon, at bukas. Hindi kaila na ang PSSC ay may katangi-tanging reputasyon at integridad sa mga programa at proyekto ninyong pinagagalaw. Hindi nag-atubili ang CHED na igawad ang Proyektong Etika upang makatulong sa mga Pamantasan (Ang Ethical Research).

Ang mga programa at proyekto ng PSSC ay malalim at masusing pinag-isipan. Marami ang nagtatamasa at at nasisiyahan sa mga ito. Naabot na ng PSSC ang rurok ng paglago o paglaki sa maraming paraan.

Isang panawagan o hamon, na pagtuunan ng pansin ang tulad ng globalisasyon (Globalization). Nararapat na matutunan ng ating mag-aaral ang mga “Skills” ng 21st century.

Ang PSSC ay isang napakasentrong plataporma upang ito ay pag-usapan ng mga “Social Scientists, Professionals at kaguruan”

Dr. Odette Portus the “driver of Performance” certainly is the woman to push for this. Isang pagpupugay sa iyo, sa matagumpay mong pagsusumikap at karunungan.





## **ELIZABETH L. ENRIQUEZ, PhD**

*Professor Emeritus*

College of Mass Communication

University of the Philippines Diliman

**Author, *Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Gender Sensitivity in Philippine Media***

Congratulations to the Philippine Social Science Council on its 55th anniversary! The PSSC has been an institution of considerable significance in the sphere of social science education and knowledge production. Its activities— ranging from training programs, workshops, and conference management, to research, scholarship and fellowship administration, and publication— have shaped and reshaped how we study the Social Sciences, even often extending to the Humanities as the disciplines come together in various multidisciplinary modes, and as these domains of knowledge evolve and respond to the challenges of modernity and postmodernity.

The PSSC's community of academic organizations including the one I belong to— the Philippine Studies Association (PSA)— has been a dynamic *mélange* of bodies and societies that have vigorously produced analyses, critiques, studies, and publications as they engage in advocacies, leadership roles, and debates that distill and enrich our current understandings of our societies and our lives.

An engagement with the PSSC that mattered deeply to me, professionally as well as personally, was the project “Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Gender Sensitivity in Philippine Media.” Funded by UNESCO in 2017-2018 and administered by the PSSC, it afforded me and my project collaborators— colleagues in the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication— the resources not only to investigate gender issues in media, which fed into our curriculum, but also to support the shared advocacy of raising the consciousness of media workers in order to promote gender parity, both in media's content production and in its workplaces.

This and countless other engagements with academics, intellectual leaders, policy makers, and institutions committed to knowledge production and social progress, have defined what the PSSC is and its continuing contribution to society in the many years to come.



**LEVI M. ESPINOSA***Strategic Partnerships Manager*

Rex Education

**Project Partner, PSSC-Rex Education Saliksik Kasaysayan Fellowship Program**

From my first meeting with Dr. Lourdes Portus and Mr. Wilson Villones, sometime in October 2021, I already had a feeling that PSSC is one organization we will enjoy working with. We were organizing our 2022 Annual Educators Congress (AECON) at that time, and we were looking for a credible organization to co-organize the breakout session for Social Sciences and Social Studies. AECON is a flagship program of Rex Education, and we always strive to have the most established and credible organizations as partners. PSSC fits the requirement perfectly. Through the facilitation of Ma'am Odette and Sir Will, the breakout session for Social Sciences and Social Studies of the 2022 AECON was co-organized by the Philippine National Historical Association and National Historical Society.

What followed after AECON were several meetings with Ma'am Odette and Sir Will to explore possible projects PSSC and REX can pursue together. In all those meetings, I realized that a lot of personalities and organizations whose work I admire have been, in one way or another, affiliated with PSSC. It did not take long for us to draft the design for Saliksik Kasaysayan, a project that aims to develop an authoritative compendium of facts and events across the different periods of Philippine history. Listening to Prof. Malu Camagay and Dr. Nita Churchill plan the project execution, I couldn't help but admire them and be awed by their expertise, passion, and dedication. Just as awed, if not more so, was our CEO, who, during the launch of Saliksik Kasaysayan, whispered to me, "I have never been in a room with this many 'professors emeriti'".

We are yet to discover the full extent of PSSC's expertise and its work in advancing thought leadership and knowledge creation in social science, but we at Rex are certain we are made better by our association with PSSC and its member organizations.

And yes, it was a first and lasting impression— PSSC is one organization we truly respect and enjoy working with. Thank you, congratulations, and keep thriving!





**PETER GLUCKMAN, DSc***President*

International Science Council

**PSSC International Partner**

As President of the International Science Council, I personally congratulate the Philippine Social Science Council on its 55th anniversary. Your Council's activities make enormous contributions to the public good by synthesizing scientific evidence and by supporting research in multiple ways.

Every country, big or small, needs a vibrant and successful social science organization because science plays a critical role in every aspect of a nation's progress, be it environmental, social, or economic. We face a world with a lot of conflict and fear, over climate change, the impact of new technologies, and the changing nature of social morals. To solve this variety of problems, policy-makers and societies need robust scientific evidence. Science remains the only universal language, and we must work together to promote trust in science to make rapid progress on the various global and domestic challenges every country faces.

When science organizations work well, both within themselves and together through the scientific community, science can contribute immensely to the global good. Science does not have all the answers. But without science, the probability of finding the best way ahead is remarkably reduced. All scientists, including basic and applied scientists, and scientists that work to apply science into actionable knowledge, are critical and contributing to advancing our society.

On behalf of the International Science Council, I am very proud to congratulate the Philippine Social Science Council on its 55th anniversary. What a marvelous record.





## **RODEL D. LASCO, PhD**

*Executive Director*

Oscar M. Lopez Center

**Project Partner and Resource Speaker**

Climate change is one of the defining challenges of our times. The Philippines is one of the most climatically-vulnerable countries of the world. The scientific community is vital in enhancing the resilience of our people.

For so long, conversations about a warming planet primarily revolve around the physical sciences. As a result, a significant gap exists in our understanding of the equally challenging stress that climate change brings to our social, economic, political, and environmental systems.

OML Center and PSSC's partnership was borne out of the desire to contribute to the widening of an actionable climate knowledge base, particularly in exploring its intricate social dimensions. With PSSC's support, OMLC hopes our partnership continues to be an exceptional and inspiring example in the realm of climate change research.

Over the past three years, our joint efforts in understanding and addressing climate change through the lens of social sciences have borne fruit through various initiatives that brought together experts, practitioners, and researchers from diverse backgrounds, fostering invaluable conversations that have enriched our understanding of the social and behavioral dynamics of climate change.

Through our co-production efforts, we conducted Society and Development (S&D) Conversations with PSSC, an event that provided a platform that solicited ideas and insights that have been instrumental in shaping the direction of the OML Center's work in understanding the social dimensions of climate change to help increase the resilience of Philippine communities.

It is heartening to witness how our collaboration with PSSC has evolved and strengthened over the years, contributing to the advancement of climate science and social sciences alike.

Congratulations to the entire PSSC team!





## **VIRENDRA MALHOTRA, PhD**

*Former Member Secretary*

Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi

**PSSC International Partner**

I came to know more about the PSSC when I took over as Member Secretary of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, and learned that the ICSSR had active collaborations with a number of corresponding social science research councils in Europe, but the intensity of collaboration with the Asian counterparts was still much desired. We, thus, initiated to correspond with PSSC and finally entered into an MoU in May 2020 to engage in collaborative activities. It is well known that COVID-19 has clasped the whole world, the normal activities of day-to-day life had been severely affected, economic activities had been completely disrupted, supply chains had been absolutely upset, and an environment of uncertainty, despair, and pessimism prevailed. Despite these conditions, ICSSR and PSSC took the MoU very considerably forward and decided to organize three webinars on the overarching theme “Narratives of COVID-19 from the Social Science Communities in India and the Philippines” which aimed at encouraging the exchange of perspectives and responses to the pandemic by the governments and societies of the two countries.

The webinars were well received by Asian social scientists and other scholars. An average of 455 participants attended each webinar that underlined the stark global inequalities, vulnerabilities, and unsustainable practices, many of which even predate the pandemic, and also emphasized the serious need to strengthen health systems, bolster social protection, support trickle-down of economic opportunities, shore up multilateral and multidisciplinary cooperation and enhance social cohesion. I can recall how industriously the teams from ICSSR and PSSC were working together for the success of these webinars, focusing on high quality and candidness of deliberations. The quality of resource persons and the openness in the discussion facilitated the platform, which attained its objective of understanding societies and their problems, intricate issues, and the attempts made to resolve those and where the fault lines persist.

It was quite an enriching experience for all of us who were deeply engrossed. Dr. Lourdes M. Portus, Mr. Wilson Villones, the other PSSC staff, and Mahesh Madhukar, particularly from ICSSR, merit a distinct word of appreciation for putting tremendous efforts in taking this relatively new collaboration to a novel height.

I am sure that we can look forward to further strengthening the productive collaborations. My best wishes to the Filipino and Indian social science scholars who will gain from such productive partnerships.





## **JOSEPH E. PALIS, PhD**

*Chair*

Department of Geography

University of the Philippines Diliman

**Author-Contributor, Doing Social Science Research:  
A Guidebook (V2)**

PSSC has always stood as an institution that puts a human face in research, pedagogy and various advocacies for the community. It has pioneered trans-disciplinarity among social science disciplines to engage in advancing academic rigor and reflexive scholarship.

As a member of the Philippine Geographical Society, which is a regular member institution of the PSSC, I have been privileged to be in constant conversation with social science scholars and practitioners that PSSC brought together so we can find common ground in promoting social and spatial justice. The various activities and interventions that PSSC mounted through the years not only reinvigorated how I view my disciplinal focus, but it also instills a legacy of collaboration and collegiality and an enduring through-line to be vigilant against practices that are not inclusive, reflexive, and extractive.

Working for a PSSC-directed handbook on social science methodology with colleagues, reminded me of why people, communities and various collectives should always be front and center in the agenda of social scientists. Not just as tokenism but as an important first step among many to uphold traditions of excellence and meaningful praxis.



**ARIEL C. SEBELLINO***Executive Director*

Philippine Press Institute

**Author, PSSC-DOST SEI Project “Ripples: Transformations Beyond Science”**

On behalf of PPI, I congratulate PSSC on its 55th year, indeed a milestone, as it continues to embark on groundbreaking initiatives that promote social sciences as key to nation-building. My engagement with PSSC as a media practitioner is a clear manifestation of PSSC’s reaching out to sectors like media as it recognizes its pivotal role in the society. In return, I and the PPI salute PSSC for its unwavering support to organizations like PPI that can collaborate with PSSC on public education and discourse. In this age of infodemic, the society needs PSSC in the upholding of truth and protection of social institutions that carry the torch of democracy and free press.





## **GERARDO P. SICAT, PhD**

*Professor Emeritus*

School of Economics

University of the Philippines

**Donor, Loretta Makasiar Sicat Prize for the Social Sciences**

## **MICHELLE M. SICAT-POWELL**

**Donor, Loretta Makasiar Sicat Prize for the Social Sciences**

Anniversaries remind us of important turning points in history. For the Philippine Social Science Council, the most important turning point is its founding by a small group of far-seeing Philippine social scientists to form an inclusive council among nascent social science organizations and institutions in the country.

On its 25th anniversary, Bonifacio Salamanca (historian and board member) wrote the history of those first twenty-five years. On its 40th, Virginia Miralao, then executive director, gave a comprehensive account of PSSC's activities and programs during its 40th year to demonstrate its growth. These two important documents appeared in relevant issues of the PSSC's publication, *Social Science Information*.

Looking back, I am glad that I responded to an invitation to contribute an article (also published in the same publication in the 40th year), entitled "The PSSC Years of Loretta Makasiar Sicat." In it, among others, I recounted three interrelated major events that strengthened the PSSC as an institution: (1) how the Ford Foundation secretariat grant of that period was doubled through government support to strengthen the Council's finances; (2) how the Japanese government gave a development assistance grant to build the PSSC Center and further gave it reason to strengthen its activities and programs; and (3) how the University of the Philippines made available the site for the construction of the Center. These three focal events became possible because the President of the country of that time – Ferdinand Marcos the senior –wrote on his decision memorandum that the PSSC was "a private organization with a public purpose."

May the PSSC continue its good works in promoting the social sciences in the service of nation-building!





## **PETER A. SY**

*Associate Professor*

Department of Philosophy

University of the Philippines Diliman

**Resource Person, PSSC Training Workshop on AI in Social Research**

It is an honor to be asked to contribute a message in celebrating the Philippine Social Science Council's 55th anniversary. As a resource person for PSSC's training workshops on data privacy and AI in social research over the past few years, I have witnessed firsthand how the organization has been instrumental in bringing to the fore complex, cutting-edge issues in the social science community.

Through these workshops on emergent topics, PSSC has played an invaluable role as a hub bringing together social scientists across disciplines to collaborate, share knowledge, and build capacity to conduct research that is relevant and responsive to the needs of contemporary Philippine society.

The workshops I have facilitated offered opportunities for lively discussion and exchange between researchers, government representatives, students, and community leaders on navigating data privacy and leveraging AI ethically and effectively. Participants left these sessions armed with new skills and insights to employ these tools in their work in order to create positive change. Moments like those exemplify PSSC's commitment to equipping social researchers with what they need to make their work impactful.

As PSSC celebrates 55 years, I extend my congratulations on this milestone. Thank you for the enriching professional experiences I have enjoyed through my association with the Council. I wish you great success in the next phase of your journey cultivating social science excellence and positive impact across the Philippines. Your contributions over decades have made the country's academic, government, and civil society landscapes immeasurably richer.

Here's to many more years ahead of PSSC driving understanding, progress, and positive change through social science!



**ANNE THIEME**

*Membership Liaison Officer*  
International Science Council  
**PSSC International Partner**

It is with great pleasure that we extend our warmest congratulations to the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) on the occasion of its 55th Anniversary. This remarkable milestone is a testament to the unwavering dedication, commitment, and excellence that the PSSC has demonstrated in advancing the social sciences in the Philippines.

The collaboration between the International Science Council and the Philippine Social Science Council is a shining example of the power of partnership and cooperation in the global scientific community. Together, we are contributing to fostering interdisciplinary research, supporting innovative projects, and promoting scientific rigor and ethics. Our partnership not only strengthens the field of social sciences but also elevates the Philippines on the global stage as a beacon of scholarly excellence.

In an ever-evolving world, where understanding society and its complex challenges is of paramount importance, the PSSC's work is invaluable. Your dedication to fostering research, promoting critical thinking, and advocating for the importance of social sciences in addressing our world's most pressing issues is commendable.

As you celebrate this significant milestone, we look forward to the continued success and growth of the Philippine Social Science Council, as it continues to make substantial contributions to knowledge and societal progress.

With our warmest congratulations on your 55th Anniversary, and to many more years of collaboration.







## **DANTE M. VELASCO, PhD**

*Chairman*

**DMV Communications**

**Project Partner**

I have always believed that a country will achieve real balance in development if the social sciences are fully harnessed in enriching the vision of a resonant nation, driving the steady advance of human development alongside economic growth, and prompting the return of renaissance in Philippine society, marked by the mutually enriching dynamics of the arts and social sciences.

This is my reflection as we observe the 55th anniversary of the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC), an organization which has drawn to its ranks the best and the finest in the social science disciplines. Through these 55 years, the Council has placed in the nation's agenda the compelling relevance of every social science applied to every facet of human thinking and action -- which invariably leads to a deeper understanding of the existence and advance of every human institution.

But so much remains to be done. There is an urgent need for consistent and sustained training that will change mindsets about many social and human thoughts and activities. For example, we need to re-fashion a more enlightened view about politics which dispels mindless assumptions that it is inherently dirty. We must provide a broader perspective of economics beyond concerns about GNPs and GDPs. We should prompt a more enlightened study of demographic, not confined to Malthusian and other outdated theories. And we should share newfound insights that the science of human communication can truly be harnessed to enrich and deepen human experience, and not be used as a convenient tool for propaganda and collective mind conditioning.

This is where the partnership between PSSC and Truth Watch Philippines comes to fore – as we take the educational route to begin and sustain a wide-ranging swath of training programs on the inestimable value and primacy of the social sciences. This partnership is committed to initiate all these in the ensuing years.



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