

## Editors' Note

This slim volume of *AghamTao* is an UGAT milestone as it marks our very first peer-reviewed issue of the journal. The issue contains five articles of which most were initially selected from papers presented at the 28<sup>th</sup> UGAT Annual Conference that was hosted by, and held at, Silliman University, Dumaguete City from 26-28 October 2006. The theme was “**The Philippines Unbound: Anthropological Critiques of Globalization.**” Reflective of the UGAT conference, this issue also brings together representative articles of different geographic perspectives, and diverse views, and is energized by the active participation of the younger generation.

To start off is an exploration of the supposed innate seafaring ability of Filipinos. Olivia Swift's finely nuanced article presents and interprets ethnographic material from both on land and on board ship, in relation to the historical development of the shipping industry and the labor market for global seafarers. Her article points to geographic continuities and shifts in perception with regard to the sea and land, the foreign and the local, as implicitly political constructions.

The second featured article is a report on virtual fieldwork. Zona Amper was able to span both offline and online interactions in her research to offer a succinct discussion of community in the age of the internet, which genuinely captures some typical experiences of current cyberactive Filipino communities.

Third and no less original is an article taken from the conference panel on ‘Gifts, Gossip and the Global Pinoys’, which featured undergraduate student papers. Marian Reyes discusses celebrity gossip as an economic system, disclosing how it operates within a profit-oriented industry but also as part of the commons which forms the basis for community among increasingly global Pinoys.

The fourth article represents a different tangent of discussion as it came from the free papers session of the conference. Myfel Paluga and Norberto Navarette engage with mathematical formulas in trying to teach anthropology using ‘interactive learning materials’ that they have developed at the University of the Philippines-Mindanao. They advocate an expansion of the methodological and analytical toolkit as a challenge for teaching anthropology.

To round off the issue Rozanno Rufino discourses on the conservation of ‘heritage’ and the role of the anthropologist. This commentary provided a basis for inspiring participants to vote for ‘heritage’ as among the possible themes for a future UGAT conference.

In closing, we must thank our peer reviewers, who must remain unidentified. We note that the process of professionalizing the journal's

standards has taken some time to set into place, however we are 'getting there', and with support from the Philippine Social Science Council, it is expected that the AghamTao will now be published with regularity and to the highest standards.