

EDITOR'S PREFACE

This issue brings together two equally respectable social-science traditions—the qualitative and the quantitative—each represented by a pair of articles. The quantitative approach is used by Marsella and Escudero for their investigation of stress in interpersonal relations and by Magdalena and Zarco for an experiment in the technique of social-status placement. Wilfredo Arce and Barbara Sibley, by contrast, do not play the numbers game. Arce's essay on the family and Sibley's case history of an Ilonga come off very well, thank you, without the use of even the most plebeian measure of central tendency.

I personally have a special interest in the multiple-author contributions, each for different reasons. Marsella and Escudero did the research they report on precisely to test out one aspect of a generalization with which my name has been associated, namely, that lowland Filipinos place high value on interpersonal harmony (sometimes referred to, incorrectly I fear, as the "SIR thesis"). What these authors—one a psychologist, the other a psychiatrist—here attempt is to get a reading on just how stressful interpersonal relations are among a sample of Manila males interacting (a) with different categories of people, (b) in different situations.

This they do because their interest lies less in the *value* their respondents place on interpersonal harmony than in the interpersonal *behavior*, stressful or not, that these men report. In this they share the behavioral emphasis found in F. Landa Jocano's important critique (1966) of my 1969 statement on social acceptance. For one interested in the probable functions and practical limits of social acceptance and smooth interpersonal relations in the Philippines, the Marsella-Escudero and Jocano articles have much to say. My own review (1970) of these and 29 other similar studies made since 1961 is another possibility for the interested reader.

When one reads the Magdalena-Zarco article, he may be reminded of *Social class in America*, the classic methodological treatise of Warner, Meeker, and Eells (1949). But as a matter of fact, one study is the reverse of the other: Warner and his associates wished to predict panel ratings (E.P., or "Evaluated Participation") from objective level-of-living data (I.S.C., or "Index of Status Characteristics"); Magdalena and Zarco are interested rather in predicting level-of-living scores from the ratings given by a panel of raters. For the level-of-living scale, our authors used that of Gelia Castillo and her friends (1967).

Arce's article has a special place in a journal read and used by so many teachers and students in the Philippines. For what he offers us is a simple, characteristically clear summary of some of the basic concepts and generalizations about the family which can be found in the anthropological and sociological literature. His immediate audience was social workers, but we all stand to gain by a reading of this concise yet stimulating statement.

Sibley's essay, a case history, can be read for sheer enjoyment or puzzlement — the details of the informant's account to be stored away in your memory to be pulled out and retold some windy night when the conversation turns to *asuwáng* and *multó*. For her essay describes and discusses the plight

of an Ilonga friend who was charmed by an *ingkanto*. Sibley's analysis reminds us all that encounters with *ingkanto* are no laughing matter.

To all our authors, many thanks. And may we encourage all our colleagues, Filipinos and others, sociologists, anthropologists, and social psychologists, to send us the manuscripts they would like to see printed here. With a circulation of almost 600, PSR can give your ideas the circulation they deserve.

FRANK LYNCH, S.J.

July 31, 1971

References

- Castillo, Gelia T.
1967 A scale to measure family level of living in four barrios of Los Baños, Laguna. *Philippine Sociological Review* 15 (3-4):67-87.
- Jocano, F. Landa
1966 Rethinking "smooth interpersonal relations." *Philippine Sociological Review* 14 (4):282-91.
- Lynch, Frank
1970 Social acceptance reconsidered. *Iri* Four readings on Philippine values ("IPC Papers," no. 2). 3rd ed., rev., and enl. Frank Lynch and Alfonso de Guzman II, editors. Quezon City, Ateneo de Manila University Press. Pp. 1-63.
- Warner, W. Lloyd, Marchia Meeker, and Kenneth Eells
1949 Social class in America: a manual of procedure for the measurement of social status. Chicago, Science Research Associates, Inc.