

FOREWORD

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Computer engineers are scrambling all over the world to beat the millennium bug. They consider it a virus that can wreck havoc on the entire information technology. It seems to be a simple problem of adjusting the calendar year from 1900 to 2000. Without this adjustment, all the public and private managerial and bureaucratic systems in our highly interdependent electronic world will indicate the year 1900. Imagine what chaos that can produce.

Other dangers await us as we close the 20th century. There are even prophets of doom announcing the end of the world in the year 2000. While such prophecies are not new and have in fact characterized Western history, a different set of problems confront humankind in the coming millennium.

These anxieties are associated often with our modern concern with time and its measurements. Time becomes the measure of all things and its accurate computation is becoming the most essential aspect of our life. Hence, the concern with adjusting computers for 2000. Relatively technical questions such as when the millennium begins, in the year 2000 or 2001 and where to measure its arrival – Greenwich or the

International Dateline – become worrisome concerns for many people.

This interest in time also affects academics. Some have attempted to give a panorama of twentieth century history and thought. Scholars are also forecasting the future of their disciplines into the third millennium. Sociology as an academic and applied discipline shares this concern. The foundations of sociology grew out of social changes and revolutions from the nineteenth into the twentieth centuries. It makes sense that at the turn of this century sociologists once more take stock of their work and project its future.

Social problems can be expected to persist. Social structures and functions are becoming more complex such that multi-dimensional phenomena have to be addressed by inter-disciplinary approaches and applications. A pertinent concern is to understand the phenomenon of globalization. How will the social sciences supply the demands of a rapidly internationalized and cross-cultural global society? If this situation is not challenging enough, social scientists have less than 400 days to re-think social theories for the year 2000 and beyond. Since societies are changing so fast, can we keep up

with the implications of the twenty-first century, even only to situate the role of our disciplines?

The Sociology Department of the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy conducted a lecture-symposium with the theme *(Re) Imagining Sociology in the 1990s and Beyond: Trends and Prospects for the Discipline in the Coming Millennium*. It is our attempt at imagining the world, the social sciences and the future by asking what it would be like. Generally, these papers assess where we are and speculate about the discipline's future.

Raul Pertierra is well known to Filipino sociologists. He teaches part of the year at the University of New South Wales in Australia and for the rest of the year also teaches at the University of the Philippines and the Ateneo de Manila University. He has published widely and has conducted extensive field research with the Ilocanos in Northern Philippines. In his paper, Professor Pertierra highlights the stress and strain of the parallel growth between the Western nation-states and capitalism. So much has happened since the radical change in our understanding of space and time during the 19th and 20th centuries. Consequently, present cultures are often unaware of the conditions in the past which have generated them. Hence, the contemporary necessity to theorize our new understanding of society.

Donald J. Shoemaker is a Visiting Professor from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He has taught at Xavier University as well as UP. Hence, he is familiar with many aspects of Philippine society. His main argument focuses on crime and deviance as universal social phenomena. Though they may be universal his contention is that the patterns and explanations of these activities are not. This is precisely where cross-cultural exchanges on the international level contribute to the development of social theory. Moreover, it is in developing countries such as the Philippines where significant contributions to comparative research can be made.

Robert Af. Klinteberg poses a four-point challenge to practitioners, theorists, academicians and administrators of the discipline of sociology. One, get out of the comfortable armchair and talk to people again. Two, focus on priority issues in order to give us a sense of direction. Three, write-up our findings in such a way that they can be appreciated by non-specialists. Four, cooperate with each other, with colleagues in related disciplines, with all who can make use of our skills. With his intellectual, experiential and professional background in disaster mitigation and rural development from Stockholm to Sudan and Liberia over the past 30 years, Dr. Klinteberg has validated his challenge.

Hazel M. McFerson comes from the Department of Public and International Affairs at George Mason University and is an associate of a US-based think tank called "The Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution." She has worked extensively with the United Nations, the United States of America State Department and the Life and Peace Institute of Sweden. She is presently a Fulbright fellow at the University of Asia and the Pacific. Professor McFerson gives us many good reasons for re-thinking the roles of civil society, government and ethnic communities – the world needs peace! Society needs to be reconstructed on a foundation of peace as well as on all the other values that peace implies such as justice and human rights. Education and culture are two key dimensions that will have to be evaluated and reorganized to build a new world order based on peace.

Ma. Cynthia Rose B. Bautista is a member of the Department of Sociology of the University of the Philippines. She is the current Director of UP's Center for Integrative and Development Studies. Her expertise ranges from rural sociology to policy studies and research methodology. Her paper gives us an overview of the institutionalization of the social sciences in the country. Based on the historical context, the different academic disciplines known as social sciences e.g. economics, sociology, political science, anthropology and psychology started out as a result of impositions by a foreign government

controlling the education system. Eventually, these disciplines expanded autonomously because of internal national demands and exigencies. Two elements common to all remain in question even as we move into the twenty-first century. Are these disciplines competent in doing scientific social inquiry; and have they established a concrete research tradition that can rival the world's best and engage the phenomenon of globalization?

Finally, **Randolf S. David** is a well-known scholar and media personality. He has a recognized body of work concerning topics like Marxism, political economy, development theory, history, policy studies and sociology of identity. His presentation questions the future of sociology in the context of the challenge of postmodernism. The postmodern world is a world of speed. Speed is power. Speed is the future. And yet, as we travel faster and the world becomes smaller we also need to better understand the particularities of peoples, the diversity of cultures and the condition of postmodernity. Randy David refers to social philosophers such as Rorty to retheorize the future of sociology.

Teachers and students of sociology will benefit greatly by reading these essays. They will be more informed and better placed to deal with the new challenges facing the discipline. The essays will also reassure sociologists that their discipline retains its emancipatory interests despite the

often gloomy predictions of post-modernists.

In addition to the articles on the future of sociology, this issue of the *Philippine Sociological Review* includes five book reviews contributed by faculty members of the UP Department of Sociology. Professor Pertierra reviews the first book of Filomeno V. Aguilar, Jr., *Clash of Spirits: The History of Power and Sugar Planter Hegemony*, while I review the book of Brendan Lovett on human development, entitled *A Dragon Not For the Killing*.

Junior faculty members of the Department of Sociology review

books by their senior professors. Arnold P. Alamon who teaches social psychology and general education courses, reviews the book of his former professor in sociological theory, Randolph S. David, entitled *Public Lives*. Mr. Alamon is an Instructor at the Department of Sociology. Assistant Professor Filomin C. Gutierrez who teaches Gender and Society reviews a book on *Theories of Delinquency: An Examination of Explanations of Delinquent Behavior* by her mentor, Donald J. Shoemaker. Gerardo M. Lanuza, Instructor, review the book of Raul Pertierra on *Explorations in Social Theory and Philippine Ethnography*.