

Editor's Preface

This issue of the *Philippine Sociological Review* (PSR) includes articles and reports on completed and ongoing research projects covering a wide range of topics. They were written by both scholars and graduate students, both Filipino and other Filipinists based abroad.

The first, brief article written by **Lou A. Antolihao** focuses on the assertion that sociological theory has remained underdeveloped in the Philippines. His attempt to explain why this is so leads him to trace the birth and growth of sociology in Western society in the late nineteenth century. He argues, somewhat tautologically, that the discipline of sociology developed owing to the failure of then existing frameworks to explain the crisis—the crisis of modernity—then facing Western society. He subsequently posits that sociology was the result of the interplay between individuals' awareness of their own society and the social realities obtaining during the period; it was the natural product of social consciousness. He concludes that the modern condition produced and sustained the discipline in the West. In the Philippines, however, Antolihao proceeds to argue, modernity is imposed and introduced forcibly. The underdevelopment of sociological theory in the country, he suggests, owes primarily to the absence of this setting that would have served as a solid basis for sociological theorizing. It must be noted, however, the period that gave rise to sociology in the West was one of rapid change as the Philippines has been since the 1900s. Needing to be explained then is why the crisis experienced by the West produced and sustained sociology while the crises experienced by the Philippines did not.

JooEan Tan, in another brief article, presents a preliminary analysis of her case study of Ballet Philippines which aims to illustrate the interrelationships between the political and economic settings and the ways art forms, in this case ballet, can take shape in a developing society. By delineating the historical development of Ballet Philippines into three phases, JooEan Tan shows in the broadest of strokes how changes in the political and economic configurations of Philippine society impacted on this particular dance company. The first phase coincides with the regime of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos. Here the author makes the bold assertion that will come as a surprise to many—that Imelda Marcos did not directly control the company and that her patronage was fairly benign. Ballet Philippines at this time, she argues, was fairly autonomous of the country's dominant political figures to formulate its own artistic vision. During the Aquino administration, the ballet company was tasked with promoting nationalism engendered by the People Power Revolution. The third phase, encompassing the Ramos and Estrada administrations, is a period of financial difficulties for the dance company and one of relative decline as an artistic force.

In the next article, **Corazon B. Lamug**, **Kathleen Crittenden**, and **Gloria Luz M. Nelson** present their analysis of the narratives of six women in order to show the usefulness of the concept of place identity in explaining the women's varying degrees of

attachment to their hometown, the municipality of Bacolor in the province of Pampanga. The homes of the six women have been ruined by lahar flows resulting from the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo. At the time that the narratives were collected, two of the women were residing in evacuation centers and two in resettlement sites. The other two women remained in their respective barangays in Bacolor and were interviewed there. The authors suggest that the various functions of place identity—recognition, meaning, expressive-requirement, mediating change, and anxiety and defense—are useful in understanding the varying levels of attachment to Bacolor that the six women expressed. Thus, two women's strong sense of attachment to the town is attributed to their positively balanced cognitions and feelings associated with Bacolor, their homes and the people significant to them. Two very poor women, on the other hand, are not as attached as their more immediate and pressing concern is their and their families' day-to-day survival.

Already heavily criticized as outdated, overly concerned with categorization, and largely irrelevant given ongoing changes then in the local and international landscape, **Kathy Nadeau** in a 1992 PSR article argued that the modes of production approach remained relevant and was able to address local specificities and differences among peasant communities. In the present article she reasserts the utility of this approach, now renamed a 'postmodern Marxist perspective' which is argued to be different from orthodox, economic, and positivistic readings of Marx. It is, moreover, a class-focused way of analyzing the role of rural mobilizations and movements for change in a postmodern era and one that recognizes that knowledge is produced and the economy decentered.

In the first of three research reports included in this volume, **Gloria Luz M. Nelson** focuses on the question of whether or not immigrants and native populations are competitors in the production process. Based on a sample consisting of adults in California obtained from the file A of the Public-Use Microdata Sample of California, Bureau of Census, 1980, the study examines the complementarity and substitutability of immigrant groups with those of the native population. The relationship between the size of different groups and their earnings relative to the native population is determined using an econometric model. The findings either confirm or support many of the conclusions of other studies. One finding that is found to be more evident here than in the other studies, however, is the impact of the black immigrants on the native whites and Afro-Americans in California which seems to justify the apprehension of the latter over the increasing number of immigrants into the State. It is found, however, that the target of their grievances is misdirected since it is shown that immigrants of the same racial group threaten each other's earnings more than other immigrant groups. Another significant finding is the decline of the earnings of immigrants compared with those of the native born resulting from both the increase in the number of immigrants and a decline in their skills, suggesting that it is unlikely that immigrants will take-over the jobs of the native born population.

In another study, **Catalina P. Diaz, Mahabub Hossain, and Thelma R. Paris** report on their research project that tested and evaluated a micro rice mill, described as an intermediate technology assumed to be suitable for women in terms of technical performance, economic viability and social acceptability. The mill was made available

to the women of the agricultural community of Guimba, Nueva Ecija. The authors' report on their observations of the women's use of the machine and the machine's performance in 1992-93 suggest that the successful introduction and acceptance of technologies such as the micro rice mill depend on a complex set of factors, including, among many others, the technical specifications of the machine itself, the availability of competitive sources of livelihood, and even such cultural factors as the values and attitudes of the targeted end-users and the social dynamics obtaining in the community.

James Gerard M. Baello and **Ricardo M. Zarco** report on their study of the opinions of Metro Manila's urban working class population on the appropriate penalty for heinous crimes. Using non-probability sampling, 200 individuals consisting of 100 males and 100 females were selected and interviewed after a highly publicized execution of a convicted rapist. The interview focused on the respondents' views on the appropriate penalty for individuals found guilty of committing heinous crimes. The researchers also attempted to investigate the psychological, sociological and demographic factors that were associated with particular opinions. The results reveal that a plurality of the respondents opted for simple execution as the most appropriate penalty, followed by life imprisonment without release or parole, rehabilitation, and torture in combination with execution. Of the variables examined for possible association with the particular opinions, only sex and personal interest in crime news reported in the mass media are found to be statistically related to the opinions. That is, more males are in favor of the death penalty while more females favor non-death sanctions. Finally, more individuals who claim to be interested in crime news reported in newspapers are in favor of the death penalty than those who professed disinterest in such reports.

In the last paper included in this issue, **Robyn M. Rodriguez** discusses the theoretical points of departure for her ongoing research project on the Philippine state's role in managing Filipino labor migration. She discusses her engagement with Saskia Sassen's ideas, raising questions about her arguments based on her own field research which shows vividly the dynamics and processes involved in the production of social scientific knowledge. Her paper suggests that while Philippine sociological theory may be underdeveloped, as Lou Antolihao claims, it is developing.

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