

A Note from the Editor

Heterogeneous Cultural and Political Landscape of our Land

The recent collection of scholarly research in **PUP SSDR 2021** Issue offers a wide array of topics with rich cultural and political insights from the authors who devoted so much attention to a detailed analysis of the issues they discussed in their specific field of study.

It is indeed an honor on my part to present to you, our dear readers, the content of the SSDR Journal in this issue. As we try to invite more scholars from different regions, this is also our way of finding diversified research materials that will not only benefit our readers, but will represent the different cultural and political landscapes of rural settings as well.

In the manuscript authored by Dr. Leslie Anne L. Liwanag, Mr. Romeo J. Toring, Mrs. Mary Grace P. Enaya, Ms. Hilda A. Pedrera, and Ms. Precious Elaine D. Tubigan titled, *Comparative Study of the Filipino Stereotypes as Perceived by the Cebuano and Waray Students of an Agricultural State University in Baybay City, Leyte, Philippines*, they made a comparative study of the perception of these two ethnolinguistic groups about Filipino stereotypes using the modified trait checklist authored by Katz and Braly (1933). The purpose of their study is to provide a baseline data for ethnolinguistic stereotypes in their own institution, the Visayas State University (VSU-Leyte), with an understanding that it will eventually benefit scholars doing the same area of cultural study. This paper benchmarks the exposition of the essential role of students in the peripheral region of the archipelago in crafting the so-called Filipino identity.

Our authors, Guillermo C. Bungato Jr, Mecmack A. Nartea and Giscelle Iveth Samonte, shared their research titled, *Customer Aggression and Organizational Turnover Among Service Employees in Metro Manila, Philippines*, with a focus on the possible effect of customer aggression in an area of job turnover of service employees. The study specifically pay attention to the emotional exhaustion, job satisfaction, and turnover intentions of employees in relation to customer aggression. The authors show in this research that the cliché, 'the customer is always right,' poses a serious threat among employees' retention and challenges the employers to be creative in balancing their intent of preserving the profitability of the business on one hand and boosting employees' morale and loyalty on the other.

Artchil B. Fernandez, in his study on *The Land Question and Development*, featured the growing concerns of agrarian reforms and the demand for economic developments in our country focusing on industrial growth alone that may affect the agricultural sector in large scale. This paper is an aspirational work showing potential avenues to preserve the agricultural sector, claiming that a serious

attention to the extension of land reform program is needed as a key pathway in the economic development that our government has in mind.

The manuscript of Mark Joseph P. Santos, *Rosas: Kulay at Kilusan*, is an exposition of the historical significance of *pink* as a color and the complexities that go with it. The author enumerated instances where pink, as a color, represents many areas of concerns in different societies of the world --- at one hand it is used as a symbol for breast cancer patients and their courage to fight hard for their survival, meanwhile, it also represents LGBTQ+, and it was also linked to the socialist movement, before it eventually entered the Philippine political arena. The paper suggests that there is an ethical representation in pink as it went as far as symbolizing a political fight characterized by volunteerism, moral aesthetic, and a movement that believes in a radical manifestation of love.

The manuscript presented by Alvin Jacob III with the title, *Minimithing Kapayapaan: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis of Posttraumatic Growth Among Military Personnel Who Fought in the Marawi Siege*, is an exposition of the predicament faced by the soldiers who were involved in this particular event with a psychological assessment of a potential change in their behavior. The author brought to light the possibility of a positive change in behavior as an aftermath of a traumatic incident in their lives, leading to a good personality transformation indicative of a personality growth. Also, the study explored how the soldiers' transformative growth resulted in their strengthened belief in the Divine, appreciate more of what life can offer and a renewed sense of good encounter with people around them, especially the ones that truly matter.

The featured manuscript of Axle Christien J. Tugano, *Pagsasaespasyo at Pagpopook sa mga Pagkaing Pilipino sa New South Wales, Australia*, is a refreshing narrative exposing the link between Philippines and Australia that goes beyond the usual content of political diplomacy and other governmental or state concerns between nations. This study focuses on exploring the space occupied by our very own Filipino food in Australia. The author employed a very personal approach in his data-gathering technique, talking first hand to people he encountered to get relevant information needed to substantiate the paper, asking questions appropriate to the content of the study, and even to the extent of food tasting. This technique is vital at present in enriching our studies in areas focusing on Filipinization.

The paper of J.R. Valila featured in this particular issue, *Rereading Mao's Military Works and Locating the Philippine Left's Position within Mao's Protracted War Theory: A Critique*, presents a thorough exposition of the mainstream Left and the reasons behind its current state of political stasis. The author validated it further by stating that the Left at present is immobilized and cannot even carry forward its revolution, albeit its preconceived capacity to elevate to a higher stage of its adopted strategy and tactics dubbed as People's Protracted War (PPW). This study intends to review the applicability and validity of PPW to the Philippines' concrete situations and inform the readers on how the Left has applied this concept to its revolutionary struggles.

Our author, Minami O. Iwayama presented a study with the title, *Personal Religious Practices of Christian Overseas Filipino Workers in an Islamic Host Country*, where she describes the personal religious struggles of Christian Overseas Filipino Workers who are situated in an Islamic host country that prohibits non-Moslem religious practices. This study also traces the development and evolution of Christian religious practices that eventually led to circumvent persecution. The author also presents the essential function of religiosity in the lives of our fellowmen who work away from their family, as an additional and necessary tactic of their survival.

Mary Joy Sawa-an in her manuscript entry, *Pagbasa sa Learning from the Filipino Diaspora: Lessons of Resistance and Critical Intervention ni E. San Juan Jr.*, presents a promising exposition of the critical essays of a renowned author in relation to the sufferings and dynamics experienced by Filipino workers abroad. The author cited relevant observations from the works of E. San Juan Jr. discussing important issues of work-related exploitation of Filipinos working abroad, and this exploitation was even reiterated by the way they are being described as the “milking cows” of our own government as the latter takes economic benefits from the remittances received from these overseas workers. Despite being labelled as the modern-day heroes, our Filipino workers abroad face a lot of potential threats in their sense of survival ranging from sexual abuses, death, and other exploitative tendencies from their employers. This study may serve as an eye-opener to our readers and may help us better understand and appreciate the sacrifices of our fellow Filipinos who are presently deployed to work away from the comforts of the physical presence of their loved ones.

The study by Ms. Ailene C. Rosialda, Ms. Rosabella O. Nealega, Ms. Gerlie C. Ogatis and Ms. Ana Marie Bautista, *Revisiting a Flag Salute Case: The Law of the State as Opposed to the Right of Minority*, is a celebrated case concerning the restriction of religious freedom of pupils who insisted not to take any participation in flag ceremonies. This non-participation of the pupils in flag salute went against the mandate of their school which led to a decision of their eventual expulsion. This study presented a careful analysis and a sound justification using legal and philosophical bases why the school’s decision is detrimental to our fundamental right to exercise our freedom in matters of religious practices. The exposition made in this study can be used as a guide for future research of the same nature of interest.

We encourage our readers to enjoy and take advantage of the fine scholarship that the most recent issue of this journal may offer.

We are happy indeed to present to you, PUP Social Sciences and Development Review 2021 Issue!

Gerlie Caspe-Ogatis