

Preface

Discourses in differences

How do differences shape our view of things? How do they influence the choices we make?

This issue of the Philippine Social Sciences Review tackles this question from the perspective of anthropology, business, migration and philosophy.

Nelson Turgo's autoethnography on the Maubanog Festival of Mauban, Quezon, gives a glimpse of the backdoor negotiations and interventions that characterize the tedious process of defining and redefining local celebrations. Festivals are typically held to commemorate a town's historical foundation or to pay homage to its founder or patron saint. But local festivals can also be commercial arrangements created in response to economic demands. The Maubanog Festival, according to Turgo, falls under this category, based on how images and symbols pertaining to its celebration have been recast and renegotiated to give it a more socially acceptable identity.

Fara Magada's study of local women entrepreneurs in Bacolod, on the other hand, looks at how skills and personal qualities determine the success of small and medium scale enterprises engaged in selling local delicacies in the capital city of Negros Occidental. Magada's paper, adjudged best during the 3rd AsiaEngage Conference in 2016, takes a snapshot of the challenges facing small business owners and the dynamics of their day-to-day operation. Magada's findings suggests that even though most entrepreneurs owe their success to experience, the ability to hone competencies crucial to a business depends on the presence of opportunities and the openness of enterprise owners to learn new things. Women enterprise owners, according to Magada, should constantly update themselves of the current trends and practices in the industry by networking and affiliating with important sectoral associations and institutions that provide increased visibility, interaction and professional development.

How information and communication technologies (ICTs) create new modes of parenting, meanwhile, is the focus of Erwin Alampay and his colleagues' inquiry. Combining empirical and qualitative

research designs, the study looks at how communication between children and their parents via new information and communication technologies (ICTs) impels long distance parenting and reinforces overseas labor as an economic endeavor. Alampay and his colleagues found that communication varies across children and parents. Daughters, for instance, exhibit stronger connectedness with their parents. Mothers, on the other hand, are more adept than fathers in using online communication devices to stay in touch with their kids. The findings also suggest that, in general, children who are more connected with their OFW parents are also more likely to express future plans of working overseas.

Capping the issue is Bernardo Caslib's reply to Marcia Muelder Eaton's attribution to Immanuel Kant as the "source" of a lot of confusion and problems in theorizing beauty. For Caslib, the issues raised against Kant are all brought about by Eaton's witting or unwitting neglect of the primary element that Kant used to distinguish subjective perception and judgment: disinterestedness. According to Caslib, Kant unambiguously excluded judgment in his theory of beauty and was only concerned with the judgment of beauty that does not involve moral values and beliefs. Judgement ceases to be aesthetic once morality and interest has taken hold of the judging subject. Kant, Caslib argues, was clear about the distinction.

The *Philippine Social Sciences Review* publishes original papers from various fields in the social sciences and encourages contributions from young academics and budding social scientists from different institutions. In addition to original research papers, the journal also publishes book reviews, and articles on thematic issues.

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