

Revisiting Migration

Migration is an issue that seems to have been very much explored and problematized in the Philippines and in other parts of the world. But as the phenomenon continues to engage a growing number of the population, new dimensions of comprehending migration and the problems it brings perpetually emerges.

Migration through intermarriages for example, is nothing new but intermarriage through introduction-for-marriage websites is a recent development with the advent of the Internet. Leonora Angeles and Sirijit Sunanta's "Exotic Love at Your Fingertips': Intermarriage Websites, Gendered Representation, and the Transnational Migration of Filipino and Thai Women" explores this topic through the content and discourse analysis of selected websites. Concerns of power and violence are issues that have pervaded the study of intermarriages. They, however, make use of novel perspectives drawn from postcolonial cultural studies and feminist media theories in explaining how new digital technologies have further commodified women in the Third World.

The theme of migration and violence also permeates in the article of Cleonicki Saroca on "Representing Rosalina and Annabel: Filipino Women, Violence, Media Representation, and Contested Realities". In dissecting this perennial problem of abuse of Filipina migrants, Saroca makes use of the media, i.e., Australian newspapers. Through the newspapers, domestic violence that mail-order brides experience is understood within the context of the discourse on sexism, racism, and class.

Aside from mail-order brides, Filipinos have also carved out a name for themselves as musicians and, later on, "entertainers". Lydia N. Yu

Jose's "Why are Most Filipino Workers in Japan Entertainers?: Perspectives from History and Law" traces the historical origins of the Filipino-musician diaspora in Japan. Factors such as the demand for entertainers, jazz music, and Japanese immigration laws are responsible for this. This article, therefore, helps in understanding why Filipinos in Japan have generally been "typecast" as entertainers.

Sandra Ezquerro tackles Filipino migrant labor more broadly in "Gender, Migration, and the State: Filipino Women and Reproductive Labor in the United States." The article examines the experiences of Filipino women caregivers and domestic workers in the United States (US) to illustrate the restrictiveness of US immigration laws and policies. The fraught relationship between actual labor practices and policy structures spurs ambiguities that lead to what the author terms as *legalized trafficking* and *normalization of irregularity*.

Another major concern in this issue is the evolution of the migrant's identity. Kenneth E. Bauzon's "Varieties of Identity in the Cuban American Community: Reflections and Considerations" explores the migrant experiences of Cuban Americans and the various mechanisms of how identity is expressed. More importantly, the article highlights the transformation of the identity of the Cuban American community. The article aims to contribute to the existing theoretical frameworks and literature on immigration policies, socioeconomic adaptation, and political participation.

Issues on the transformation of identity, typecasting of migrant workers and violence are certainly not new concerns for migrants. Their significance, however, never seems to diminish. This can be attributed to new ways of analyzing and interpreting data, which contribute to the development of fresh perspectives on migration. ❀

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For this issue, we welcome Dr. Maria Ela L. Atienza as part of the *Kasarinlan* editorial staff.