

Problematizing Social Movements

Kasarinlan (volume 21, number 2), on social movements, brings together four articles that look into the manner in which social movements are problematized at various levels. Anne Harris's "The Theology of Struggle: Recognizing Its Place in Recent Philippine History" focuses on problematizing the transformation of the individual in social movements. She looks in particular at the transformation of people engaged in living and working among the poor. Seen within the context of the "theology of struggle," she argues that such an experience transforms these individuals as they construct new identities, among other factors. Harris looks at this process as the formation of the "theology of struggle" as a social movement rather than as mere theological discourse.

At the level of nongovernment organizations (NGOs), Josephine C. Dionisio's "Analyzing NGO Discourses: Probing the Institutional History of the Philippine Peasant Institute" argues that comprehending NGO discourses is pertinent in light of the role of NGOs in social movements. She uses the example of the Philippine Peasant Institute (PPI) to highlight this. Andrew Yeo's "Local-National Dynamics and Framing in South Korean Anti-Base Movement," on the other hand, introduces the role of framing with regard to the dynamics of anti-base coalition movements in South Korea in two intertwining levels, i.e., local and national tensions that highlight framing contentions.

And lastly, Dominique Caouette's "Thinking and Nurturing Transnational Activism: Global Citizen Advocacy in Southeast Asia" attempts to explain why transnational activism is expanding in Southeast Asia. He points out that the global arena provides the space for international NGOs and transnational networks in the region to

respond to the socioeconomic and political processes associated with globalization. The external environment also provides the space for advocacy as a result of the limited political liberalization that characterizes the countries in the region. He elucidates this by examining four transnational activist organizations.

These four articles thus highlight the various dimensions by which social movements can be problematized—from the levels of the individual, the organization, the interweaving of the local and the national, and the transnational. Moreover, they bring forth variations of approaches through which social movements could be examined—that is, the individual and the construction of new identities and discourses and the role of NGOs, the framing process in local-national dynamics, and transnationalism and political processes. ❁

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For this issue we wish to welcome Trina Joyce M. Sajo as our latest addition to the *Kasarinlan* editorial staff.