

The 2014 Third World Studies Center Writeshop

This issue of *Kasarinlan* is unique since for the first time it includes papers from the Third World Studies Center (TWSC) Writeshop, the one held last 28-30 May 2014 at the Center.

The TWSC envisions itself as the premiere social science research center of the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy (CSSP), University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman. It develops critical, alternative paradigms to promote progressive scholarship by undertaking pioneering research and publishing original, empirically-grounded, and innovative studies. It is also committed to building the capacity of early career researchers and faculty members in the social sciences. The TWSC believes that if one is to commit to the changing zeitgeist/sociocultural agenda of research, one has to effectively contribute to the body of knowledge in her/his interest, to establish networks with scholars with similar research interests, and submit one's work to academic peer evaluation and review. This was the main objective of the first TWSC social science research workshop—writeshop for short—in 2012. The subsequent writeshops have adhered to this prime objective.

The 2014 TWSC Writeshop, however, took a more innovative step. It was extended to cover the publication phase of academic research while retaining capacity building.

For the 2014 TWSC Writeshop, a nationwide call was circulated from November 2013 to March 2014, mainly through state colleges and universities outside of Metro Manila. Financial subsidies were also offered to those who were selected to join the writeshop. In pursuing this revitalized program, TWSC partnered with the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs of UP; the Office of the Chancellor and the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, both of UP Diliman; the Commission on Higher Education, and the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges.

Interested participants to the writeshop were required to submit an unpublished manuscript of their research work. While more than three dozen applications for the writeshop were received, after a very thorough screening, only seven were accepted. The chosen participants attended five lectures on social science research and publication: Dr. Raul Pertierra discussed researcher reflexivity and the crafting of the problematique in social science research, Dr. Olivia Caoili talked on the contribution of research to knowledge production in the social sciences, Dr. Maria Lourdes Rebullida alerted the participants to issues in research ethics in the social sciences, Prof. Laura Samson explained the academic publication process, and Dr. Felix Librero's lecture emphasized the ethical considerations in academic publishing.

After the lectures, the participants broke into smaller groups where their specific papers as well as comments from initial reviewers and the *Kasarinlan* editorial staff were discussed. These discussions were facilitated by veteran journal and academic press editors. Papers were then revised and submitted to anonymous referees who are experts in their fields. Three papers in this issue are the final revisions of papers that were able to pass the rigorous screening process. Additional papers of the writeshop will be published in subsequent issues of *Kasarinlan* as they are revised to address referees' comments.

The issue opens with the very perceptive opening remarks of Dr. J. Neil C. Garcia, director of the UP Press, who, himself backed by years of experience in writing and publishing, synthesized major issues in academic publications. He pointed out the need to strengthen publications in the field of social sciences, vis-a-vis the humanities and natural sciences. These remarks set the tone of the whole writeshop.

The first three of the writeshop papers to see print in this issue is Karl Friedrik K. Poblador's "The Transformation of Property Rights in the Philippine Timber and Gold Mining Industries during the American Colonial Period." Poblador is a faculty member of the Department of History, CSSP, UP Diliman and thus presents a historical analysis of how property rights in two key colonial industries evolved. Based on official and unofficial primary and secondary sources, Poblador points out similarities in American policies in the timber and mining sectors, wherein American interests were privileged. He also notes, however, how divergent patterns of ownership within these industries evolved throughout the period of American rule despite the fact that they operated within the same colonial framework. This paper makes an interesting contribution to Philippine economic history and lends deeper understanding of these two industries.

The second paper is that of Oscar Tantoco Serquiña Jr., “Troubled Intimacies: Mediation and Migration in *Welcome to IntelStar* and *The Silent Soprano*.” Serquiña, a faculty member of the Department of Speech Communication and Theatre Arts, College of Arts and Letters, UP Diliman, examines deeper meanings and implications of globalization on the nation, particularly in the processes of mediation and migration, as seen through the lens of two contemporary Philippine plays. The plays serve as criticism and commentary on the current threat of globalization and international capitalism in call centers and for overseas Filipino workers. In conclusion, Serquiña presents a discourse on intimacy that highlights affects, transformations, and power relations given the interconnection and coexistence of the native and the foreign.

Adonis L. Elumbre’s “Interpreting ASEAN Developmental Regionalism through Discursive Institutionalism” analyzes the organization’s moves to integrate more closely its member countries through the framework of discursive institutionalism. Through discursive institutionalism, Elumbre, a faculty member of the Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, UP Baguio, tries to provide a theoretical frame to examine more deeply the concept of developmental regionalism in the ASEAN. By applying this framework, deeper insights into ASEAN can be derived and thus provide an alternative way of examining the dynamics of institutional change and continuity in the organization.

The fourth article, though not part of the submissions to the 2014 TWSC Writeshop, is an output from a pioneering research project developed by the Center and funded by the Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program in 2008. Maria F. Mangahas’s “DVD Piracy as Alternative Media: The Scandal of Piracy, and the Piracy of ‘Scandal’ in the Philippines, 2005-2009,” presents how videos of scandals sell and why. Based on field research, the paper shows how “stolen images” of x-rated scenes are in demand so much so that a whole industry of scandal videos (sexual scenes, footage of massacre victims, and other such banned images) exists. Mangahas gives a deeper analysis on the continued practice of pirating and selling “scandal” videos. Mangahas is a faculty member of the Department of Anthropology, CSSP, UP Diliman.

A research note concludes the substantive part of this issue. Joshua Hans Baquiran, an MA student at the Department of History, CSSP, UP Diliman presents a fascinating comparison of the development of

professional football in the United States and the Philippines. The note is a significant addition to the in-depth history and analysis of Philippine sports.

As with other *Kasarinlan* issues, we close this one with five book reviews.

We hope the articles in this issue will add to knowledge, provide alternative viewpoints, and stimulate discussion. Readers are invited to contact the respective authors if they have comments, clarifications or questions. ❁

For this issue, we would like to welcome two new associate editors of *Kasarinlan*, Jely A. Galang, TWSC deputy director, and Gumamela Celes Bejarin, TWSC research associate.