

Preface

This is *Review of Women's Studies* (RWS), Vol. 24, Nos.1 and 2. Originally intended to focus solely on feminist research methodology, the actual paper contributions were diverse.

This issue consists of four sections.

The first section is on feminist research methodology with three papers from a women and development studies faculty member who recently completed her doctoral degree; and from two new Master of Arts in Women and Development Studies' graduates. The University Center for Women's Studies (UCWS) has supported and encouraged the adoption of feminist methodology in the researches of our faculty and graduate students and the publication of their experiences as a means of enriching the local literature on research methodology and methods of women's studies.

All three papers on feminist research methodology subscribe to a clear standpoint for women and renders visible women in the margins: elderly women in a fishing community; women in the informal economy and queer women call center workers. The papers once again prove that feminist research can adopt mainstream data-gathering methods such as key informant interviews, participant observation or even the relatively new photo-elicitation method, infuse these with feminist principles and processes to create knowledge that not only make women visible in knowledge production but contribute to efforts at challenging and changing women's subordination.

In "Applying the Feminist Research Methodology in the Study of Women's Livelihood Practices," Nathalie Africa-Verceles documents her adoption of feminist research methodology in her dissertation on women in the informal economy and their cooperatives in three research sites in Pasig City, in Sta. Barbara, Iloilo and in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato. She traces "how feminist research values and principles were adhered to in choosing the research topic, the formulation of the research problem and objectives, the selection of the theoretical and conceptual frameworks, the choice

of the data-gathering methods, the crafting of the research instruments, and the processes of data-gathering and validation. " (Africa-Verceles, Abstract).

Ellaine Beronio's "Exploring the Relation Between Queerness and Globalization: Insights from a Photo-Elicitation Research Project" elaborates on how feminist research methodology using auto photo-elicitation as a means of data gathering to surface the views of queer women call center workers and examining these views through the use of discourse analysis explores and exposes the relationship between "queer subjectivity and neoliberal development".

Ira Pahila's paper "Voices of Older Women by the Sea: Reflections on My Research Experience" surfaces the voices of older women in a coastal village in Guimaras. With standpoint feminism, the empowerment and the care and capability approaches as the overarching frameworks of her research, Pahila uses feminist group work and in-depth interviews to situate in the center women who are marginalized due to their gender, their age and their social location in the fishing sector.

The second section contains research outputs on women concerns.

Johanna Marie Astrid E. Acierto's "Situating Breastfeeding within Development in the Philippines" through a review of national policies on breastfeeding argues that "these policies are a manifestation of political-economic relations and interests, depoliticizing socio-economic issues such as class and gender ..."

Women in agriculture in Mindanao is the focus of the paper "The Role of Women in Cacao Farming in Calinan, Davao City, Philippines: An Empirical Investigation." With the use of simple random sampling method involving 20 male respondents and 12 female respondents, the study identified the contribution of women in cacao farming and the gender differentiation in technical efficiency, productivity and profitability performance of farmers.

Reviews by four professors coming from different disciplines of the book *Recca, From Diliman to the Cordilleras* comprise the third section.

The fourth section is a compilation of the Board of Regents decisions on the creation of women and gender centers at the UP system and four constituent universities. This is to facilitate reference to the institutionalization of women/gender mechanisms in the university.

This 2014 issue of *Review of Women's Studies* (RWS) places on track the regular publication of the journal and eliminates the backlog that had to be addressed this past year. We hope that the journal's contribution to knowledge generation on women and gender studies and its value to teaching, research and extension work in the University of the Philippines will be continually nurtured as the university affirms and strengthens its adherence to women's empowerment and gender equality.

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