

## Editor's Notes

The articles in this issue showcase the multidisciplinary and multifocal ways to problematize and understand Philippine society. First, Rey Mart Lapiña's article foregrounds the experiences of trans Pinays in Davao City. Through participant observation and in-depth interviews, Lapiña's article highlights the nuances of personal and collective experiences of trans individuals that are grounded in their specific local context. As such, it challenges the often-universalizing narratives of trans individuals based mostly on studies in Western contexts. Second, Romeo Peña's contribution provides an institutional history of government agencies tasked to promote the country's coconut industry and in particular, the small coconut farmers. He traces the Philippine government's initial formal institutional intervention in the industry to the National Coconut Corporation founded in 1940. He then analyzes the impact of its successor and related agencies including the Philippine Coconut Authority (est. 1954) and Coconut Coordinating Council (est. 1971). Peña asks whether these government bodies have, in general, benefitted from the interests of coconut farmers, the majority of whom remain poor and marginalized. Third, Rizalino Noble Malabed's article attempts to explain the seeming widespread acceptance of extrajudicial violence during the Duterte administration as a "normalized emergency." He argues that such condition that was only supposed to occur during war situations was enabled by the flawed "liberal" political and economic order of the country.

This issue features two book reviews: Luis Zuriel Domingo's review of Jan Carlo Punongbayan's *False Nostalgia: The Marcos "Golden Age" Myths and How to Debunk Them* (2023) and Maarten Manse's review of Henk Schulte Nordholt and Harry Poeze's *Merdeka. De Strijd om de Indonesische Onafhankelijkheid en de Ongewisse Opkomst van de Republiek, 1945-1950* [Merdeka: The Struggle for Indonesian Independence and the Uncertain Rise of the Republic, 1945-1950] (2022). Finally, this issue features two new sections: Research note and Interview. Abdulhamid Eldani documents the syncretistic practice of *pag-umboh* (ancestral veneration) among the Sama of Tawi-Tawi. He provides detailed ethnographic descriptions of this enduring practice amid cultural change among the mobile Sama of the region. For the first edition of "Conversations with Social Scientists," JC Punongbayan, associate editor of this journal, sat with Professor Emeritus Emmanuel de Dios of the School of Economics. Professor de Dios relates his inspiration for his academic

work and career path and shares his vision for the economics profession in the country. The succeeding issues of this journal will feature eminent social scientists to give flesh and blood to authors we would like to but rarely get to encounter. By doing so, we hope to offer inspiration to current and aspiring social scientists.

**Ariel C. Lopez**  
Editor-in-Chief

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