



## FROM THE EDITOR

This issue features five articles from the different fields of the social sciences, showcasing the varied methodologies employed by social scientists and the different ways they make their case.

“Celebrity Politics: Correlates of Voting for Celebrities in Philippine Presidential Elections” by Clarissa David and Jenna Mae Atun applies econometric analysis on nationally-representative survey data to examine the correlates of voter preference for celebrity Presidential candidates. They find that education, television exposure, and living in the capital city are significantly associated with preference for celebrity candidates. With the coming presidential elections, this study takes on a special relevance.

Teresa Melgar’s “The Perilous Paths of Deeper Democracy: Understanding the Rise and Decline of Participatory Budgeting in Porto Alegre, Brazil” chronicles and assays using configurational analysis the shifting fortunes of participatory budgeting—a widely heralded innovation in democratic governance—in the place where it originated. The study offers valuable lessons as we continue to aspire for greater participative democracy in our own country.

In her article “The Filipino, Diaspora and a Continuing Quest for Identity”, Almond Aguila applies postmodern lenses and what one reviewer called ‘kuwento-discourse’ to try and define Filipinoness, a concept which she says may be evolving, varied, and fluid rather than singular and unchanging.

Soledad Dalisay’s “Sensing the World: Social Sensorium in the Chemical Use of Selected Youth in the Philippines” uses the interpretative approach on data gathered from young men and women in a port city in the Philippines to examine the importance of chemicals in the lives of youth. Among its many findings is the strong preference for light skin among the youth because it is seen to expand the social, symbolic, and economic capital of those who possess it.

The last article, “Pagkanta ng Tunay na Totoo sa mga Lipunang Sinilensyo: Ang Kaso ng Chile, Argentina at Pilipinas”, by Teresita Gimenez Maceda uses discourse analysis to recount the crucial role songwriters and their songs have played in countering authoritarian governments and in preserving a nation’s collective memory.

The five articles focus on different issues, but politics and identity appear to be the two overarching themes.

The photo in this issue’s cover, “Sa Ilog ng mga Iraya” by Princess S. Suyat shows a woman, who appears destitute, fishing for food while at the same time looking after her young child. The photo is illustrative of what is happening at the societal level – lack of quality employment for those at the margins and the latter trying to make do.



**Geoffrey M. Ducanes, Ph.D.**

Editor-in-Chief