

Editor's Notes

2017 has been a good year for *Social Science Diliman: A Philippine Journal of Society and Change (SSD)*.

In July, *SSD* was one of the few Philippine-based academic journals awarded the *Journal Incentive Grant (JI)* of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). JI is a developmental grant and part of CHED's initiatives to promote and enhance the productivity of Higher Education Institutions in the Philippines. This award secured not only financial and technical support from CHED, but also *SSD*'s status as an internationally recognized and refereed journal.

In August, *SSD* lodged an application to the Asean Citation Index (ACI). A regional project initiated by the Thai Commission for Higher Education, ACI is a central regional database designed and established to index all bibliographic records and citations of all quality Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) research outputs in ASEAN scholarly journals. Member countries of the ACI include the Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Last November, *SSD* made it to ACI!

Along with these accomplishments are our continued efforts to strengthen our infrastructure. We wish to welcome our new associate editors, Caroline S. Hau of Kyoto University and Reynaldo C. Iletto, adjunct professor of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and the Australian National University.

We have also completed the *SSD Citation Guide* to complement our *Style Sheet*, which we first published in June 2017. Based on the *Chicago Manual of*

Style, the *SSD* Citation Guide aims to help authors prepare their manuscript in terms of research methodology standardization and citation, taking into consideration the latest publishing practices and electronic workflows.

In this December 2017 issue, we are pleased to feature three articles that are diverse in subject matter but share a similar focus of examining particular interest groups in particular historical moments: when the Philippines was still an “emerging nation” and when it has become a nation under rapid change. The articles are framed as such to show that: socio-economic changes may require a shift in social organizations so that an individual can hope to find security outside of kinship; the study of particular interest groups can help us grasp in a larger context problems or social realities that may arise under conditions of rapid change; and most important, the locus of power can best be identified through an examination of how the ways of life of an interest group is crucial in advancing or preserving its interest. These articles are: Wataru Kusaka’s “Discipline and desire: Hansen’s Disease patients reclaim life in Culion, 1900–1930s”; Charla Rochelle Saamong’s “Pagtanggap, pagharap, pagpapatuloy: Prosesong pinagdaanan ng mga dalaga at binata na nawalan ng magulang” [Pagtanggap, pagharap, pagpapatuloy: Experiences of emerging adults who lost their parents]; and Ma. Kristina Gallego’s “Savaxay and the language of kinship in the Batanic communities”.

Kusaka’s “Discipline and desire: Hansen’s Disease patients reclaim life in Culion, 1900–1930s”, brings us to a particular historical period in Philippine history by examining the “everyday politics” of Hansen’s Disease patients in the Culion Leper colony within the context of the American civilizing mission and the Filipino campaign for independence. In doing so, Kusaka shows not only the fractures in the seeming totality of colonial power’s coercive, structural, and ideological mechanisms but also colonial rule’s vulnerability in the face of a people’s collective vision of themselves. Provocative, funny, and yet deeply sentimental, Kusaka’s article celebrates the tenacity of the human [Filipino] spirit.

Charla Rochelle Saamong’s “Pagtanggap, pagharap, pagpapatuloy: Prosesong pinagdaanan ng mga dalaga at binata na nawalan ng magulang”, explores the understudied subject of loss and grief in the Philippines, particularly in Philippine contemporary society. Saamong shows its different facets, as well as how grief lasted the longest for losses close in time and completed soonest when losses were more spaced apart. Insightful and empathic, the article shows how experiences of loss and grief are processed and understood and how a range of coping strategies are developed from purely intuitive emotional responses to choosing the best ways to respond to such emotions. The article particularly talks to readers who have experienced such emotions and offers to provide opportunities for them to

examine their feelings of loss and grief so that they may be open to the grieving of others. Scholars and practitioners who deal with the psychology of grief will find this article useful in terms of providing professional and institutional help for those undergoing and coping with loss and grief.

Ma. Kristina Gallego's "Savaxay and the language of kinship in the Batanic communities", reconstructs the Proto-Batanic kinship system and traces its transformations in present-day daughter communities based on kinship terminologies collected for the Batanic languages. While drawing mainly from the works of linguists Edward Sapir and Benjamin Lee Whorf through their Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, Gallego's focus is on kinship and kin terminology as an aspect of language that demonstrates how language shaped social categories and hence, actual practices. Thus, her foregrounding of residence and the household as kinship's crucial dimensions not only shows the development and evolution of linguistics as a field of study and its relationship with anthropology, sociology, and cultural studies, among other fields of academic inquiry, but also the persistence of Batanic cultural features and the value structure of Filipino communities despite significant transformations in their kinship system since their descent from Proto-Philippines. In other words, Gallego's work becomes part of the wider literature of linguists who seek to examine the underlying features of culture in search for the origins of humanity.

We conclude our December 2017 issue with five articles by Paul Kramer that we are republishing with permission from the publishers. Kramer is Associate Professor at Vanderbilt University and author of *The blood of Government: Race, empire, the United States, and the Philippines* (2006). These articles are "The water cure" (2008); "An enemy you can depend on: Trump, Pershing's bullets, and the folklore of the war on terror" (2017); "Colonial crossings: Prostitution, disease and the boundaries of empire during the Philippine-American War" (2014); Decolonizing the history of the Philippine-American War (2006); and "History in a time of crisis" (2017).

These articles are features, commentaries, and academic and scholarly assessments on Philippine-American relations that begin with the Philippine-American War in the nineteenth century and continue through the twenty-first century. Significant and timely interrogations not only of Philippine-American relations but also of the particular and yet entwined histories of the Philippines and the United States, these pieces continue to speak to contemporary Filipinos and therefore should be brought to our attention as points of reflection to remind us that this particular aspect of our past not only remains but also continues.

Ma. Mercedes G. Planta

December 2017

iii

EDITOR'S NOTES