

Editor's Notes

I am writing this editor's notes inside my carrel at the Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library (Hatcher) of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where I am currently spending part of my sabbatical, after working on the Victor Heiser Papers at the American Philosophical Society (APS) in Philadelphia.

I had looked up the meaning of "sabbatical" and found out that it originally meant one year taken off from work. In contemporary academe, however, a sabbatical may either be used to take a break from work, write a book, or travel for research purposes. Prior to my sabbatical, I already knew one year was not enough for my project, but being here in Ann Arbor and already two months into my sabbatical, I have come to the conclusion that time is absolutely not on my side.

Such realization, however, was not only brought about by the two months that had already passed, nor was it brought about by modern ideas of time as measure of one's accomplishments. Rather, this realization came about because of the wealth of research materials that I have come across since I arrived in this country. The research institutions I am affiliated with also have research materials that are relevant to the articles that are currently featured in this June 2018 issue of *Social Science Diliman: A Philippine Journal of Society and Change (SSD)*. These articles are: José Edgardo Abaya Gomez Jr.'s "Imagining alternative, unplanned geographies for disputed maritime space"; Jem Roque Javier's "Pagsusuri sa ortograpiya ng kambal-katinig sa Filipino batay sa korpus: Tuon sa reduplikasyon ng mga hiram na salita at sa mga anyong may <s(i)yon> / <s(i)ya>" (A corpus-based analysis of consonant clusters in Filipino orthography: On reduplication in borrowed terms and on forms with <s(i)yon> / <s(i)ya>); and, Febe Pamonag's "Food, rations, resistance, and agency at the Culion Leper Colony, 1900s-1930s".

The APS, where I was an Andrew Mellon Foundation Fellow, is the first learned society in the United States (US). Founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1743, the APS has played an important role in American cultural and intellectual life

for over 270 years. The APS is home to the papers of Franz Boas, noted scholar and founder of modern American anthropology, who institutionalized the “four fields” approach in anthropology, namely: physical anthropology, archaeology, linguistics, and cultural anthropology. These “four fields” formed the anthropology departments in the US for the most part of the twentieth century. Boas also introduced the concept of cultural relativism and was responsible for systematizing the methods of ethnographic and linguistic data collection and recording, which became the bases for field research in anthropology and field linguistics for generations.

The Boas Collection forms one of the core collections of the APS and has been further enriched by the papers of the students of Boas, foremost of whom is Edward Sapir who is widely considered one of the most important figures in the development of the discipline of linguistics. Together with his own student, Benjamin Lee Whorf, Sapir developed the theory of linguistic relativity, which is more popularly known as the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis. Last year, we published Ma. Kristina Gallego’s “Savaxay and the language of kinship in the Batanic communities” (2017). Gallego’s paper traces parts of its academic moorings back to Sapir and Whorf.

In this issue, Jem Roque Javier’s “Pagsusuri sa ortograpiya ng kambal-katinig sa Filipino batay sa korpus: Tuon sa reduplikasyon ng mga hiram na salita at sa mga anyong may <s(i)yon> / <s(i)ya>” (A corpus-based analysis of consonant clusters in Filipino orthography: On reduplication in borrowed terms and on forms with <s(i)yon> / <s(i)ya>), discusses the project of the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino [Commission on the Filipino Language] (KWF), the main Philippine language agency, of compiling a Filipino language corpus in written and spoken forms. Such corpus will form the basis of lexicographic work and description of the grammatical structure of the contemporary use of Filipino as the national language.

Javier’s work, in many ways, gives homage to that of Boas in terms of the basic methodology of ethnographic and linguistic field work that was employed and in terms of the latter’s orthography, which also formed the foundation of his study of cultural development and change in a particular setting. As Filipino and Filipinist linguists remain unrelentless in their drive to standardize Filipino and elevate it into an intellectualized language, it is fitting to remember the contributions of Boas in the realm of cultural distinctness and differences, especially in the context of Philippine historical and contemporary realities.

Apart from the Boas Collection, the APS also holds the papers and diaries of Victor G. Heiser, the first American Director of Health in the Philippines (1905-1915). The Heiser Collection, which I used at the APS, has 129 boxes or a total of 64.5 linear feet. The collection spans Heiser’s entire adult life (1890-1972) and consists of correspondences, financial records, travel diaries and

notebooks, particularly of his trips to Asia, Australia, Central America, Europe, and the Philippines; as well as related published and unpublished materials which, according to the APS, are a “reflection on medical achievements across an over eighty year time span”.

The Heiser papers form one of the major historical sources for Febe Pamonag’s “Food, rations, resistance, and agency at the Culion Leper Colony, 1900s-1930s”. In 1902, Heiser, then Chief Quarantine Officer, with a committee of inquiry, and Dean Worcester, Secretary of the Interior, helped identify Culion Island as the site of what would become one of the biggest leper colony in the world in the early twentieth century. Heiser was also responsible for institutionalizing isolation and experimental treatment as the sole means to eradicate leprosy at that time.

Since Ma. Serena I. Diokno’s 2016 edited volume, *Hidden Lives, Concealed Narratives: A History of Leprosy in the Philippines*, there has been renewed interest in the study of leprosy in the Philippines and Southeast Asia. In fact, there is now an ongoing multidisciplinary work on leprosy in the region. Pamonag’s work is a welcome addition to this undertaking since she provides refreshing insights into an aspect of the American leprosy control project and Filipino responses to it that have yet to be examined. In this regard, her work substantiates the existing body of works for the study of leprosy not only in the Philippines but also in Southeast Asia.

José Edgardo Abaya Gomez Jr.’s “Imagining alternative, unplanned geographies for disputed maritime space”, discusses a timely subject that has brought the Philippines to international attention over territorial disputes. This subject has also gripped the attention of Filipinos and Southeast Asians, as well as other concerned international groups such as those in the United States and Japan, who have shared interest in the outcome of this dispute. The heart of Gomez’s paper goes back to the South China Sea issue that has remained unresolved for several decades now.

The Clark Library at the Hatcher is home to a cartographic collection that spans centuries-old maps. When I was still a graduate student doing research here, I only remember passing through this section on the second floor of the Hatcher. Coming back now, years after I had finished graduate school, I just had to stop by and spend time going over the maps, especially those that show the Philippine Islands and its expanse prior to the Spanish colonial period. As much as Gomez’s paper presents a new way of problematizing the issue and offers a novel solution to it, his paper also serves as a direct call for scholars who work on this subject to continue to find ways to cut this gordian knot.

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