

## Editor's Notes

The articles in this issue of *Social Science Diliman* share the theme of loss and renewal. Noreen Sapalo's contribution discusses how Filipinos during the pandemic appropriated the digital space to express grief amid the restrictions to physical mobility. It shows how grieving family members adjusted to new technology while seeking to maintain the personal meaning of rituals related to death. It asserts that the digital and the physical realms may not be mutually exclusive but rather a nexus of experience glued together by emotions.

Jonelle Marin and Mariyel Hiyas Liwanag's article deals with the loss of a centralized—and arguably more effective—*Sentro ng Wikang Filipino* at the University of the Philippines Los Baños. It is as much an institutional history as a policy-oriented piece. It documents the changing and decreasing influence of the SWF UPLB in shaping and guiding the linguistic direction of the university in the domains of teaching, research and extension works. It also argues for the reinvigoration of the SWF UPLB amid the neoliberal policies that influence Philippine higher education at large.

Finally, the essay of Leslie Anne Liwanag, David Michael San Juan and Reality Mae Taberero analyzes the oft-forgotten short novel of the nationalist, politician, and writer Isabelo de los Reyes (1864–1938) entitled *Ang Singsing ng Dalagang Marmol* (1905) (*Ring of the Marble Maiden*), a piece originally dedicated to Maria Josefa “Pepita” Tiongson, one of de los Reyes' early romantic interests. The short novel's plot and characters ingeniously represent de los Reyes' critique of imperialism and religious conservatism during the early American period. For instance, one of the literary devices used, the ring, symbolizes the lost yet persistently hoped-for independence from colonial rule.

This issue also contains two book reviews and the text of Caroline Hau's speech during the 2022 UP Diliman commencement exercises. Francisco Jayme Guiang reviews Vicente Rafael's *The Sovereign Trickster* (2022), which locates former President Rodrigo Duterte's controversial rhetoric in the intersections of global and local political economic discourses. Meanwhile, Efenita May Taqueban reviews *The Water Defenders* (2021), which chronicles transnational anti-mining activism from the Philippines to El Salvador that led to the sweeping ban of gold and other metal mining in the latter country in 2017. Finally, this issue publishes the speech delivered by Caroline Hau, Professor at Kyoto University and one of the

Associate Editors of this journal, during the 2022 commencement exercises of UP Diliman. *Hau* reflects on the commencement's theme of *dásig* (often translated as “liveliness” or “determination”) and on the continuing relevance of two national events whose anniversaries coincided in 2022—the 150<sup>th</sup> year of the martyrdom of GOMBURZA and the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the declaration of Martial Law.

This issue is the first under the new editorial board. We thank the previous board, led by Prof. Grace Barretto-Tesoro as editor-in-chief, for its hard work in the last three years.

We hope that the articles in this issue offer new and inspiring insights on the theme of loss and renewal especially as we emerge from the life-changing pandemic of the last few years.

**Ariel C. Lopez**  
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