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Table of Contents

FROM THE EDITOR

Nativity in the Time of Covid-19 Pandemic

Melanie P. Tolentino

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Animismong Pilipino: Revisiting the Ancient Philippine Animistic Religion 1
Palmo R. Iya

Sociolinguistic Inquiry on the Humor Production of Tagalog Tertiary Student 29
Joel M. Torres and Jose Cristina M. Pariña

The Gendered Apology in the Letters of Sophomores 49
Emily T. Astrero and Eden R. Flores

RESEARCH BRIEFS

The Challenges of Population Ageing in the Philippines and Brazil 69
Melanie P. Tolentino and Marcelo Savassi Kakihara

Thinking Differently: Letting things be Towards Caring for the Fourfold and Shepherd of Being 83
Resty Ruel V. Borjal

Editorial

Nativity in the Time of Covid-19 Pandemic

In the past 18 months, the concepts of lockdown, social distancing, travel bans, quarantine, health protocols, face masks, and face shields dominated our vocabulary. Problems in the economy, health care system, education, and disrupted social and cultural functions surfaced since the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2020, the World Bank reported the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. It will create 115 million poor people across the globe and South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa assuming the largest share. These new poor are the millions who are affected by business lockdowns and travel restrictions. Health and medical needs have also become more costly and inaccessible due to additional hospital protocols. Business operations have transformed to digital and online platforms leading to massive unemployment. Even remittances from migrants have seriously declined since 2020. Schools also were closed for face-to-face learning, and at least 1.5 billion children and youth were out of school during the height of this pandemic. Although many school institutions transformed teaching and learning into virtual and online modes, this generation will likely experience career and economic lags in the future due to diminished learning and skills training. This Covid-19 pandemic is a global phenomenon that penetrated our daily collective and individual lives. Navigating into this new normal phenomenon implicate people in mental, emotional, and physical exhaustion, confusion, and to the point anarchic search for principled leadership in various institutions.

Everyday life intersecting to characteristics and issues of gender, class, age, and race and ethnicity entails negotiations to fight and seek better meanings and experiences out of this chaos. Hence, individuals and social groups, whether formal or not, began to birth stories to share. In the Philippines, people showed signs of hope and despair through community pantries. These acts of giving have revived a sense of community across the country. These may also manifest the ability of ordinary people to fill in the gaps of formal governing institutions. The greening of homes re-emerged as a new way of life in both urban and rural areas. Backyard gardening of vegetables provides food on many tables; ornamental gardening becomes a destressing hobby. Online entrepreneurs are gaining popularity to supplement the income needs of many households. These are a few good stories where people can draw hope, faith, and even laughter.

The Department of Social Sciences under the new College of Arts and Social Sciences in Central Luzon State University also has a story to share – the birth of the Journal of Asian Societies. Religion, humor, apology, population ageing, and environmental stewardship are the themes tackled in this maiden issue. Religion is among the persevering factors of human existence because of its ability to create and re-create meanings of our needs and values. Filipinos love humor. We cope with stress and crisis in life through humor. In this period of lockdowns and social isolation, all the more that humor becomes relevant because it is a way to manifest connection and light moments between self and others. An apology is a concept and action with doubleness. It is subject to different contexts such as who, when, where, and how we utter an apology. In a nation shrouded with economic and social crises, the admission of guilt to corruption and incompetence is a good start for society to knit together social rules that will favor the welfare of a nation. Another rising concern is the demographic transition of the Philippine population in the next ten years. Learning the challenges of population ageing is key to formulating better measures to ensure healthy ageing among Filipinos and other ageing nations. Hence, reviewing the experiences of ageing societies like Brazil can help us rethink our attitudes and actions towards ageing. And lastly, thinking differently in the age of a technology-dominated environment can redeem us and enable us to become "shepherds of Being". All of these studies are expressions of the nativity that shall further our reflections of living. I thank the contributors and the reviewers who have shared their works and expertise. The stories we have gathered here tell us that no matter how mundane we look at day-to-day life, we are all socially interacting and birthing meanings in a broad spectrum of perspectives. I invite more aspiring and dedicated scholars to share their works with us in the Journal of Asian Societies. Visit our Website at <https://journalofasiansocieties.com>

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Information for Authors

Submission of Manuscripts

1. All contributions, whether research articles or short narratives, are welcome and should be sent by email as attachment to the Editor-in-Chief at meltolentino_21@yahoo.com. Manuscripts that are original and unpublished and discussing topics in Social Sciences are considered.
2. Submitted original manuscripts are categorized into Research Article (RA) and Short Narratives (SN). Research articles must have at least 5000 words and should not exceed 8000 words, inclusive of notes and references. RAs present rigorous data and plausible discussions and analysis. Short narratives have a minimum of 3000 words and should not exceed 5000 words. It should present initial data and analysis or critical reflections on previously published works either in the form of review or scholarly lecture.
3. All manuscripts are submitted in a single MS Word file. The file should contain the following: author's full information – full name, institutional affiliation, e-mail address, and indicate corresponding author in case of multiple authors, abstract (not more than 300 words) and key words (not necessary for short narratives), motivation of the study, objectives, methods, results and discussion, and conclusion. Tables and figures should be placed in their exact location as they are discussed within the manuscript. The authors should follow the rules of American Psychological Association (APA) in tables and figures, in-text citation, and references. Only manuscripts that follow the prescribed guidelines shall be accommodated.

Peer Review Process

1. All manuscripts received shall undergo initial checking and evaluation by the concerned Section Editor. The manuscripts will be evaluated based on the quality of its data, analysis, writing, and organization. After the initial evaluation, the Section Editor will recommend the manuscript to the Editor-in-Chief whether or not it is considered for publication.
2. Considered manuscript is queued for the second round of review and sent to a specific advisory board member. The review and recommendation of the advisory board member is sent to the Editor-in-Chief. Acceptance or rejection and comments shall be communicated to the corresponding author by the Editor-in-Chief. Acceptance of manuscript is categorized into two: acceptance with minor revisions and acceptance with major revisions.
3. Accepted manuscript with minor revisions is resubmitted by the corresponding author to the Editor-in-Chief within one week. Accepted manuscript with major revisions is resubmitted within two weeks. Failure to comply with the comments and deadline may result to outright rejection.

Preparations for Publication/Ethical Policy

1. Revised manuscripts are copy-edited. The copy-edited version is sent to the corresponding author for appropriate actions. The copy-edited and author-checked version is formatted. Consequently, this formatted version of the issue before it is published online is consulted to the advisory board.
2. Copyright Agreement is sent to the corresponding author for appropriate action. This serves as proof that his/her manuscript is original and unpublished and has no plagiarized contents or other unethical practices. The Journal of Asian Societies reserves the right to reject accepted manuscript if the corresponding author fails to comply with the comments and copyright agreement form.
3. All manuscripts are processed by the CLSU Social Science Journal within six months upon receipt by the Editor-in-Chief. Submissions are accepted from November to April (for July issue) and May to October (for December issue).
4. The Journal of Asian Societies has no publication fee.