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INTRODUCTION TO VOLUME 66

Each year, the *Philippine Sociological Review* (PSR) showcases research articles, reports, and other pieces of academic writing that interrogate various aspects of Filipino culture and society. Indeed, the increasing volume of article submissions and variety of research topics in recent years attest to the journal's continuing commitment to foster relevant and cutting-edge research for academics and the broader public. The PSR continues to deploy its resources to serve as a platform for trailblazing new initiatives and continuing old conversations in Philippine sociology.

The contributions in this present volume are, in varying degrees, forging new trajectories of inquiry just as they are engaging with received wisdom from existing scholarship. The three articles reflect on different faces of precarity that expose various sectors, namely the urban poor, labor force, and migrants, to instabilities and fragile assurances. The article by Pamela Combinido on intersections of poverty and social capital refers to ways by which actors deploy economic opportunities and social networks in addressing poverty and social inequality. Through extensive interactions with urban poor residents in Quezon City in the Philippines, Combinido reconfigures the relationship between poverty alleviation and social capital by appealing to notions of *kapwa* (shared sense of self) as the basis of mutuality and trust. This important dimension of social capital bolsters non-material bases of networks of provision and care and lends to the view that Filipino notions of togetherness resist the

We trust that this exciting lineup of articles, research report, and book reviews will resonate with academics and researchers who are themselves in the middle of academic pursuits or are seeking new vistas for sociological engagement. There is reason to believe that the craft of research is alive and well in our institutions of learning, and that the next generation of sociologists are standing on sturdy ground as they involve themselves with complex realities of our generation. On behalf of this year's editorial team, I invite everyone to continue making sense of and engaging with the unfolding story of our people.

Manuel Victor J. Sapitula

Editor

PAMELA G. COMBINIDO

Social Capital Beyond the “Capital”: Understanding Poverty and Social Capital in Barangay Tatalon, Quezon City

Through in-depth interviews with eight mothers living in a community of informal settlers in Barangay Tatalon, Quezon City, this article contributes two key findings about social capital and poverty alleviation. First, while mainstream debates on poverty alleviation problematize the role of social capital in ordering economic functions, this article sheds light on non-economic privileges that emerge in everyday interactions and social relations through networks of provision and networks of trust. Second, this article argues that community expectations of empathy (an appeal to dignity and *kapwa*) and shame (*hiya*) are crucial features in mobilizing social networks and dealing with the tension between sociocultural expectations of individualistic and collective approaches to their everyday experience of poverty.

Keywords: social capital; poverty; trust; *kapwa*; *hiya*

ENRIQUE G. ORACION, PABLITO A. DE LA RAMA,
AND J. HENRI M. ORACION

Waste Exposure and Self-Reported Health Quality of Waste Workers

Waste management is not only an environmental issue that requires a technical solution—it is also a social concern because the production and disposal of waste involves a hierarchy of actors. There are those who stand to benefit in the growth of the local economy; while others are exposed to the danger of hazardous waste and work environment. This article compares the work and health conditions among workers who are “directly” and “indirectly” exposed to hazardous waste and the waste management facilities of Bayawan City in Negros Oriental. Seventy-three percent of the randomly selected 120 waste workers are aware of the associated health risk of their work but this is relative to the extent of their exposure to hazardous waste and work environment, which subsequently is likewise linked to the perceived quality of their health. Therefore, ensuring a healthy workforce is recommended through the provision of health security measures and the appropriation of an annual budget for the said purpose that has to be properly allocated to meet both the technical and social priorities of an integrated waste management program.

Keywords: integrated waste management program; waste exposure; waste workers; health quality; Bayawan City