

VOL. 6
NO. 1
MAY 2018

ISSN 2244-517X

SOCIAL TRANSFOR MATIONS

**JOURNAL
OF THE
GLOBAL SOUTH**

SOCIAL TRANSFOR MATIONS

JOURNAL OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH

VOLUME 6, NO. 1
MAY 2018

CONTENTS

1 EDITORIAL

Conditions and Trajectories of the Human Person in the Post-Colony

ARTICLES

5 ALBERT E. ALEJO, S.J.

Loob ng Tao

— FIILIPINO

29 ALBERT E. ALEJO, S.J.

Loob as Relational Interiority: A Contribution to the Philosophy of the Human Person

— ENGLISH, Translated by Julz E. Riddle and Albert E.

Alejo, S.J.

55 JOJO M. FUNG, S.J.; MANOLING FRANCISCO, S.J.; AND ALBERT E. ALEJO, S.J.

War on Drugs: The Church's Resilient Mission of Resistance

77 CHESTER ANTONINO C. ARCILLA

Producing Empty Socialized Housing: Privatizing Gains, Socializing Costs, and Dispossessing the Filipino Poor

107 RAUL PERTIERRA

Are the Youngsters Taking Over? The Second Modernity and the Digital Generation

BOOK REVIEW

- 119

HANSLEY JULIANO

Eduardo Araral, Jr., Paul D. Hutchcroft, Gilberto M. Llanto, Jonathan E. Malaya, Ronald U. Mendoza, and Julio C. Teehankee, *Debate on Federal Philippines: A Citizen's Handbook*
- 124

JOHN MARTIN BERNARD GAPPY

Alinaya Fabros, *Outsourceable Selves: An Ethnography of Call Center Work in a Global Economy of Signs and Selves*

Loob ng Tao¹

Isa itong pagninilay sa pilosopikal na Filipinong konsepto ng 'loob.' Ang 'loob' sa literal na kahulugan ay 'interyor,' ngunit sa abot-tanaw ng wika at kulturang Tagalog na nagpalusog sa aking pakikipag-ugnayan sa sarili, sa lipunan, at sa aking pagbabalik-loob sa kalikasan at sa Maykapal, may ibayo pang kahulugan ang loob. Hindi lamang ito nakakulong na espasyo, o sisidlan ng bagaheng diskursibo, o isang paksang akademiko. Lilitaw sa papel na ito na may likas na balangkasang loob na binubuo ng *abot-malay*, *abot-dama*, at *abot-kaya*. Mula sa literal na larawan ng loob bilang 'sulok ng dibdib' hanggang sa talinghagang lawak bilang 'daigdig ng makahulugang ugnayan,' binubuksan ng loob ang isang buong diskurso ng antropolohikal at moral ukol sa *pagpapakatao*, at may pangako pang payamanin ang lumalagong literatura ng alternatibong paraan ng pamimilosopiya.

EDITORIAL NOTE: Translated in English as "Loob as Relational Interiority: A Contribution to the Philosophy of the Human Person." *Social Transformations* publishes bilingual versions of selected submissions with an aim of engaging with the thinking in, on and from the Global South by way of the languages of its constituencies.

SUSING-SALITA: loob, abot-malay, abot-dama, abot-kaya, kalooban, pangangatawan, kaisang-loob

Loob as Relational Interiority

A Contribution to the Philosophy of the Human Person

This paper is a meditation on the Filipino philosophical concept of 'loob.' Literally, loob means 'inside' or 'interior,' but within the horizon of the Tagalog language and the culture that has nourished my interior conversation, my social relation, and my ecological conversion, loob has meant so much more than a circumscribed space, or a container of discursive baggage, or an object for academic project. As the paper reveals, loob has an inner structure that consists of the *abot-malay* (ambit of consciousness), the *abot-dama* (ambit of feeling), and the *abot-kaya* (ambit of strength). From its literal image to its spatial metaphor of a relational interiority, loob opens up a whole anthropological and moral discourse of *pagpapakatao* (being and becoming human) that promises to enrich our growing literature on alternative philosophical discourse.

KEYWORDS: *loob*, *abot-malay*, *abot-dama*, *abot-kaya*, interiority, embodiedness, solidarity

War on Drugs

The Church's Resilient Mission of Resistance

The war on drugs has become contentious in the public and private spaces in this nation. What is contested is the defensibility of an immoral means that legitimizes killing and collateral damage in the guise of upholding the public safety at the expense of the human security of the poor and the dispensable drug-pushers and addicts from the poorer neighborhoods. In light of the teachings of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines (AMRSP), the Manila Episcopal Area of the United Methodist Church and the evaluative framework of the just war theory, the use of EJK as a legitimate means and use of the term 'war' are debunked as indefensible. The truth-telling of two former death squad members is a strong indictment of EJK and the militaristic connotation of the term 'war on drugs' with the subsequent violation of the dignity and security of the weak. The more sustainable means of safeguarding the public safety of the weak in particular is the recourse to viable strategies related to the Drug Education & Harm Reduction Policies and Programs implemented by the Church and civil society in response to their official pronouncements.

KEYWORDS: EJK, Public safety, Tokhang, "Kill List," pushers, users, self-defense, culture of impunity, surrenderers, desecration, inviolable dignity, "War on Drugs," *jus ad bellum*, *jus in bello*, collateral damage, supply reduction, demand reduction, corruption, patronage, political authority, truth-telling, Davao death squads, vocal minority, Rule of law, "ignorable minority voice," "vocal minority," "experienceable facts," 'dark truths,' *Drug Education, Harm Reduction Policies and Programs*, re(in)surrectional power, social revolution

Producing Empty Socialized Housing

Privatizing Gains, Socializing Costs, and Dispossessing the Filipino Poor¹

This paper explicates the moral hazard in the current private-public partnerships (PPPs) that produced empty socialized housing in the Philippines. It argues that not only do housing PPPs privatize profits and socialize risks and costs, these also strengthen the state housing agency's efficacy as an instrument of neoliberal governance. It further argues that this moral hazard is built on and resolved by curtailing the urban poor's right to democratic participation and adequate housing. Through the socialized housing program, a systematic spatial, political, and economic displacement of the poor is institutionalized to facilitate private gain and commodify housing for the poor. By focusing on the Philippine case, this research contributes to a better understanding of housing governance within actually existing neoliberalisms in the South.

KEYWORDS: empty housing, moral hazard, urban poor dispossession, socialized housing, housing governance

Are the Youngsters Taking Over? The Second Modernity and the Digital Generation

We are currently entering a new cultural phase. While it is difficult to predict exactly its important features, a major component is the increasing youthification of culture. In an age of digital and limitless reproduction, the youth provide the most appropriate images for this cultural phase. What has brought this cultural shift about and what are its implications for society and culture? Why are the new technologies of communication so attractive to the young? Is an increase in agency for its users the main attraction? Is this agentic increase “real” and authentic or does it lead its users into a world of simulacra? This increase in human agency leads to a growing unpredictability of the future, including relationships with non-human subjects.

KEYWORDS: youth, millennials, agency, new media, identity, digital world, zeitgeist

BOOK REVIEWS

EDUARDO ARARAL, JR., PAUL D. HUTCHCROFT, GILBERTO M. LLANTO, JONATHAN E. MALAYA, RONALD U. MENDOZA, AND JULIO C. TEEHANKEE

Debate on Federal Philippines A Citizen's Handbook

Quezon City: Bughaw, 2017. 108 pp.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the debate on whether the Philippines should transition to a federal *and* parliamentary structure of government is about as old as our current Constitution. Just four months after the historic 1986 People Power Revolution, the contours of what would eventually become the 1987 Constitution had been subject to proposals on decentralization—tussling between the demands of local government officials for greater autonomy, the prerogative of the national government to rein in the excesses of these same local politicians, and the real demand towards changing the composition of the people elected in the Legislature (Jones 1986).

The election of Rodrigo R. Duterte to the Presidency, however, has introduced a newfound sense of urgency to the project. At the height of his campaign in 2016, Duterte, known to the rest of the country as the long-reigning mayor of Davao City in Mindanao, argued for the proposal and promised that such a system can allow local governments to keep most of their income (either through local economic activity and/or taxation), in contrast to elevating it to Metro Manila and letting the national government budget the distribution via Internal Revenue Allotment (Ranada 2016). Since his elevation to Malacañang, Duterte, his allies in Congress, and his campaign machinery have persistently campaigned on the benefits of such a

Pulse Asia Research, Inc. 2018. "March 2018 Nationwide Survey on Charter Change." *Pulse Asia*. May 2. Accessed May 3, 2018. <http://www.pulseasia.ph/march-2018-nationwide-survey-on-charter-change/>.

Ranada, Pia. 2016. "Duterte Federalism allows regions to keep most of their income." *Rappler*. March 7. Accessed April 30, 2018. <https://www.rappler.com/nation/politics/elections/2016/124985-duterte-federalism-regions-income>.

Sicat, Gerardo P. 2005. "A Federal Structure is Costly and Does Not Guarantee Progress." University of the Philippines-Diliman, School of Economics, December.

Tanggol, Sukarno D. 2012. *Regional Autonomy and Federalism: Concepts and Issues for the Bangsamoro Government*. Iligan City: MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology.

HANSLEY JULIANO
Ateneo de Manila University
<hjuliano@ateneo.edu>

ALINAYA FABROS

Outsourceable Selves

An Ethnography of Call Center Work in a Global Economy of Signs and Selves

Quezon City: Ateneo de Manila University Press, 2016, 292 pp.

The Philippines is well known for exporting skilled labor worldwide through its 'Overseas Filipino Workers' program but in 1997 a new form of Filipino workers emerged within the country: call center agents. Call centers offer full time jobs as well as above-average compensation to highly educated Filipinos with the advantage of staying in the country. Without migrating, the well educated youth could now afford a middle-class, 'cosmopolitan' lifestyle in the emerging new cities with their luxurious condominiums. Where businesses are concerned, cheaper labor costs in South East Asia allow worldwide corporations to cut on costs and offer greater profits to their shareholders. In *Outsourceable Selves: An Ethnography of Call Center Work in a Global Economy of Signs and Selves*, the author discusses the work relationships between conglomerates and call center agents, channeled through the local call center agencies. She exposes several work practices within the workplace that affect call center employees physically, psychologically, socially and culturally.

The author, Alinaya Fabros, studies transnational work regimes and the changing political economy of labor-capital mobility. She has degrees in BS Economics and MA Sociology from the University of the Philippines and is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in Sociology at the University of California, Berkley. In this particular