

26-27 JANUARY 2021, ZOOM, MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

Day 1: Tuesday, 26 January 2021

Session 1: 12:30PM - 1:30PM AEST (9:30 AM - 10:30 AM PST)

Narratives and Narrative Strains

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Covid-19 and human insecurity narratives

Abstract

This study aimed to assess the state of human security in the Philippines during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. It proceeded using descriptive statistics of economic and social variables found in the UN Human Development Report and similar sources. The paper focused on two types of human security, "freedom from want" and "freedom from fear". It noted that human security crisis narratives of both types are present during the pandemic. The paper then synthesized its findings by looking at common characteristics and variations of the Philippines with ASEAN and developed countries. In terms of "freedom from want", the study finds that the Philippines was one of the worst affected in terms of an economic downturn in the second quarter of the year based on GDP and employment statistics. In addition, vulnerable groups such as Overseas Filipino Workers and locally stranded individuals were severely affected both in terms of employment and health issues. The country has generally performed better beginning in the third quarter but still lags behind a number of its ASEAN neighbors. In terms of "freedom from fear", it can be noted that statistics from the Google Community Mobility Report show that the Philippines continues to lag behind its ASEAN neighbors in terms of mobility in the economy. The study concludes that in order to resolve both crisis narratives, policymakers in the Philippines need to focus on controlling the virus risks while restoring confidence so that more citizens will be willing to go out and spend on the economy.

Keywords

COVID-19, freedom from fear, freedom from want, human security, vulnerability



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The Igorots in Hong Kong: Viral activisms and indigeneity in flux

Abstract

This research is part of my ongoing dissertation project among Igorot domestic helpers in Hong Kong, specifically the domestic helper-activists and organizers of the regional Cordillera organizations Pinatud a Saleng ti Umili (PSU) and the Cordillera Alliance (CORALL). My presentation aims to think through indigenous identity and how technological/social virality emerges as a strategy to maintain Igorot transnational/local political participation and representation while creating new digital affects and affective spaces for indigeneity. I have observed that the "ili" (community) and "kailian" (compatriot), indigenous terms relating to home and place-making, are Igorot affects of affinity that are significantly expressed and recognized during this time of physical/social distancing. I tentatively argue that the increased reliance of these Igorot domestic helper-activists on digital platforms for their organizing work has opened avenues for the (re)formation of the Igorot identity in the global care chains, which has made the indigenous identity and its contingent issues more (re)producible and transmissible than before. Therefore, as digitalization/virality might be an effective/affective strategy to continue activism, express indigeneity, and increase communality/sociality in Hong Kong and the Philippines among the Igorots in pandemics, a renewed attention to the Igorot as a (post)colonial identity taking a virulent/viral shape must earnestly require from researchers, especially indigenous-Igorot scholars such as myself, the task of apprehending our identities/communities in a state of flux lest these become merely transmissible (self)exoticisms imbricated in the neoliberal design.

Keywords

Domestic labor, Igorot, Indigenous Peoples studies, global care chains



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Narratives and Narrative Strains

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Dictatorship's temporal edifice: The Manila International Airport as the gateway to Ferdinand Marcos's Ang Bagong Lipunan Abstract

Gerard Lico's book Edifice Complex: Power, Myth, and Marcos State Architecture (2003) explores historical narratives via criticism of architectural structures built within the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex-the prime location where Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos's shared edifice complex was manifested. Lico deploys his architectural criticism within the context of Marcos's dictatorship, redirecting foreign aid funding, while appropriating architecture geniuses like Leandro Locsin, Francisco Mañosa, and Froilan Hong. These ostentatious edifices are residues of the Conjugal Dictatorship's vision of a new world order - Ang Bagong Lipunan. In this article, I analyze the Manila International Airport (MIA), currently known as the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) and how the Marcos regime utilized the airport to propel Ang Bagong Lipunan's directives, affecting the families of the biggest users of the airport - the Filipino overseas contract workers (OCWs). I argue that the MIA produces a space that is both consistent and inconsistent with the salient features of the bahay-kubo. This connects the Marcosian family rhetoric of Ang Bagong Lipunan and the experiences of the OCWs inside the said public space: an architectonic of contradiction and excess. By extending Preziosi's concept of "houseness" and how it relates the simplicity and complexity of the nipa hut, supplemented by Lefebvre's spatial triad, I posit that this (re)production of airport space augments a kind of nationalism that Ang Bagong Lipunan purports: associating self-sacrifice for the common good of the state that, ultimately, legitimizes a national narrative and cultural memory, both fantasized and constructed.

Keywords

Airport studies, architecture, Marcos dictatorship, Martial Law, urban spaces

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Day 2: Tuesday, 27 January 2021

Session 2: 12:00 NN - 1:00PM AEST (9:00 AM - 10:00 AM PST)

Performances: Virulence, Virality and Vision

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Merging asynchronous sounds into synchronous voices: Reimaging immersion and gathering in the time of forced isolation - the case of the Adow ne Domaget (Dumagat Day) 2020 KKK radio program-festival

Abstract

When COVID-19 was officially declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization, the world as we know it came to a halt. With the worsening situation on the ground, especially in vulnerable communities, it is now more than ever that we are called to resist, gather, and protest, but how do we protest, gather and forge collective action and solidarity when "not to shake hands and [to] isolate... IS (sic) today's form of solidarity" (Zizek, 2020). This presentation explores the processes in which the concept and practice of 'immersion' and 'gathering' can be reimagined in the time of forced isolation. Specifically, it examines the roles of creative thinking, immersive curation, fluid methodology, and the multi-layered valuation of the 'voice' in converging and merging asynchronous time frames and manifold spaces, through the development and presentation of the Adow ne Domaget 2020 KKK – Kuwento, Kultura, at Kalusugan radio program-festival, which is a collaborative project between the AARPS Collective and the Dumagat indigenous community, during Philippine lockdown. Certainly, this crisis will not end with the virus and we will never be the same again after the outbreak. While we are in this moment of being forced into a very long moment, we are also in a time of becoming; to (re)think what was, what is, what is to be done, and what will be - a "challenge to think differently together." (Ballard and Eriksen, 2020).

Keywords

Curation, community, festival, indigenous, sound I voice

References cited

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- 2. Eriksen, C., & Ballard, S. (2020). Alliances in the Anthropocene: Fire, Plants, and People. Springer Nature.



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Performances: Virulence, Virality and Vision

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Kinship ties in politics and response to extreme weather shocks

Abstract

A notable feature of the democratization experience of some developing countries is the presence of concurrently elected politicians with kinship ties. Politicians with kinship ties may have more aligned preferences on policy matters, thereby leading to better policy coordination. On the other hand, kinship ties can mean fewer checks and balances between politicians. This increases the possibility of misallocation of fiscal resources at their helm. This paper investigates whether politicians with kinship ties respond better to extreme weather shocks. Using typhoon shocks in the Philippines, I find that politicians with kinship ties are better able to mitigate the adverse effects of a disaster shock but only for typhoons close to an election

Keywords

Developing countries, disaster shocks, dynastic politics, kinship ties



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Performances: Virulence, Virality and Vision

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Mga Kayamanan sa Bakuran (Treasures in the Yard)

Abstract

The quarantine in response to the COVID19 pandemic has forced Filipinos to stay within their homes as much as possible. A result of which is more time to look around their yard and consider its potentials. Limited access to food led many to acknowledge that growing one's own food is possible. Whether a household is blessed with a garden or just a condominium unit's balcony, Filipinos' resourcefulness has been tapped in the midst of the crisis. Alongside the rising trend for collecting indoor plants is revisiting backyard farming. Both activities benefit physical health, and mental health as well, for these shift one's attention to tending life forms that can constantly remind people of patience, growth and hope. As a succinct reminder of the value of this renewed interest in backyard farming, this presentation is a set of photos of my small-scale repoussé works depicting vegetables commonly grown during the quarantine. Instead of botanical illustrations, I continue with my repoussé explorations. These low relief gold-plated brass sculptures give an impression of high value, befitting of the subjects: vegetables. Their higher worth over material possessions is thus highlighted by the inedible medium. The crisis emphasized that hunger is equally a threat, that lack of nutritious food is also a problem. While backyard farming might have become a new hobby to many, it has also obliquely underscored the vital role of farmers in the fields.

Keywords

Contemporary Philippine art, quarantine, repousse, vegetable and backyard farming



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Day 2: Tuesday, 27 January 2021

Session 3: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM AEST (11:00 AM - 12:00 NN PST)

Methods in Crisis

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Operation "Galugad": ELT-infused glocalized module as means to enrich experiential learning

Abstract

Experiential learning is theorized to improve students' mastery of the competencies in Earth and Life Sciences. However, glocalized experiential learning materials in the K to 12 Program in the Philippines is very scant. The study aimed to develop and evaluate the effectiveness of a glocalized experiential learning-infused resource package for an Earth and Life Science subject in the basic education curriculum. Through a quasi-experimental research with a pretest-posttest design, an educational design research method, the developed learning resource package was implemented to participating Grade 11 students at a forestry national vocational high school in the Panay region during the School Year 2019-2020. Results of the module's posttest and the Student Evaluation of Learning Experience Questionnaire (SELEQ) were gathered for this study. Results of the SELEQ revealed a significant increase in students' learning experiences after using the developed Learner's Material (p = 0.000) from moderate experience level (2.60) to high experience level (3.51). Moreover, a significant improvement in the students' performance was evident after using the developed based on the results of the posttest (p = 0.000). Students' performance in the topic "Bioenergetics" improved from category Least Mastered to Satisfactorily Mastered after the implementation of the developed Learner's Material. Correlation analysis between the SELEQ and posttest data revealed a p and r values of 0.000 and +1, respectively, suggesting a significant positive linear relationship between the two variables. This study further revealed that when learning materials are glocalized, contextualized and infused with experiential learning activities, learners are more likely to be engaged, and thus, increasing their potential to improve in their academic performance.

Keywords

Action research, experiential learning, glocalization, learner's material, science education, video-based module



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Methods in Crisis

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Citizens' assessment on social welfare services and programs delivered by the Local Government Unit of Banga, Aklan, Philippines

Abstract

A study was conducted to evaluate the performance in the delivery of social welfare services and programs of the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Banga, Aklan. Multi-Stage Probability Sampling technique was employed in this study. Targeted respondents were proportionately allocated at each barangay based on the 2015 Census of Population and Housing Data from the Philippine Statistical Authority. The qualified sample respondents were selected using Kish Grid. Female respondents were targeted for even numbers while male respondents were targeted for odd numbers. The four major core concepts namely, awareness, availment, satisfaction and need for action were used in measuring the rating of the respondents and presented in frequency and percentage distributions. The study revealed that respondents were highly aware about Child and Youth Welfare program, persons with Disability programs and older persons/senior citizens program but low on women's welfare program, family and community welfare program and programs for internally displaced persons. Based on these findings, the LGU is strongly advised to continuously take actions in improving citizens' awareness of their programs. Furthermore, this study found evidence of low availment of social welfare services. This infers that further efforts should be implemented to notify and persuade citizens to avail of the social welfare services offered by the LGU. Despite these findings, however, respondents' overall satisfaction on social services was high. Nevertheless, the local government is encouraged to continuously take actions to sustain and even better the programs and services for its citizens, most especially on programs offered to persons with disabilities.

Keywords

Awareness, availment, need for action satisfaction, social welfare

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