

RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Understanding the Social Media News Consumption Among Filipinos as Transnational-Migrants in Thailand

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**Abstract:** This study identifies news consumption practices, preferences, and motivations on social media platforms among 25 Filipino transnationals in Thailand using the lens of the news consumption model and the concept of transnationalism. Through in-depth semi-structured individual interviews and focus group discussion (FGD), findings revealed that besides routine surveillance of news consumption as commonly practiced by Filipino transnationals, other reasons why they consumed news on Facebook and YouTube are relational, personal, and social. Thus, this paper argues that Filipino transnationals in Thailand do not only consume news on social media platforms to be informed of the latest happenings, development, and political conditions in their home country, but also to reconnect with their families and friends, to relieve stress, and to feel a sense of home away from their homes. This present study offers new insight into the news consumption model, particularly in the context of transnationalism as studies of this kind are rarely conducted, especially in the Global South.

**Keywords:** Filipino transnationals, news consumption, online news, Philippine news, social media news

The Philippines is considered as one of the world's largest sources of transnational migrants next to China and India (Encias-Franco, 2016; Nicolas, 2011). Besides competitive globalization, two of the many reasons why Filipinos leave their home country are lack of employment opportunities and low salary rates (Encias-Franco, 2016; Frederiksen, 2014; Ulla, 2019). In Thailand, Filipinos have found opportunities to work and stay in the country as it is only a 3-hour flight from and one of the closest countries to the Philippines. With a provision on visa exemption, a visa to enter the country is no longer needed as both countries are members of the

Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN). This entry visa exemption has provided Filipino nationals an easy entry into the country. According to the records of the Thailand Ministry of Tourism and Sports, there were a total of 432,053 Filipino tourists who visited the country in 2018 (Ministry of Tourism and Sports, 2018), and it is expected that this number will still grow in the next years. Furthermore, with a proper working visa and permit, Filipinos can also find employment in the country. According to Harkins (2019), 15,196 Filipino nationals were given work permits for professional and skilled work in 2019.

Although there are only eight professionals (e.g., medical doctors, dentists, nurses, architects, engineers, accountants, surveyors, and tourism professionals) recognized to work in the ASEAN region under the Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) (Hamanaka & Jusoh, 2016), most of the Filipinos are teachers who are teaching English, science, mathematics, and computer subjects in kindergarten, elementary, secondary, tertiary, and language center classrooms in Thailand (Ulla, 2019). Teaching may not be one of the professions acknowledged by MRA; however, it has become the most popular job in Thailand both for native English speaking-teachers and non-native English speaking-teachers, as the country is struggling with the English language proficiency of its people. Thus, Filipino teachers have seen this opportunity to work in Thailand. Given the large number of Filipino nationals who are highly-skilled workers in Thailand, they now constitute the third biggest work permit holders in the country, next only to Japanese and Chinese workers. It is expected that in the next few years, the number of Filipinos working and staying in Thailand will grow exponentially as the country's economy is also growing continually (Harkins, 2019).

Consequently, with globalization and migration, the interest in studies about transnational news consumption, which includes the emergence of online news media and the way people consume news on social platforms, is also becoming popular. However, studies focusing on "transnational news consumption beyond specific groups or consumption contexts" (Widholm, 2018, p. 1473) are still limited. Additionally, studies that dealt with immigrants' home country news consumption on social media are also scarce. Although previous studies on transnationals news consumption asserted that media consumption among immigrants may always have something to do with their integration and acculturation experiences of their host country (Alencar & Deuze, 2017; Christiansen, 2004), there may only be limited studies that concentrate on home country news consumption among transnationals, especially in the Global South. Thus, using the lens of the news consumption model (Antunovic, Parsons, & Cooke, 2018) and the concept of transnationalism (Faist, 2012), this present study tries to explore and understand Filipino transnationals' preferences, motivations, and attitudes on news consumption on social media through in-depth semi-structured individual interview and focus group discussion

(FGD). Although it might be more likely for Filipino expats to check the news about their home country more regularly than the news in their host country, it is important to understand how and based on which motives these Filipino transnationals consume news on social media. Thus, as some researchers, especially in a non-Western context, may not have explored this area of research, the findings of this study may offer additional reference regarding news consumption on social media, especially by Filipino transnationals in Thailand. The results may also shed light on how Filipino transnationals in Thailand consume online news articles and other news media content about the Philippines on social media.

### **News Content on Social Media**

The terms social media news or news on social media, as used in this study, refer to the news content about the Philippines that are shared on social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube. News consumption, on the other hand, refers to how Filipino transnationals in Thailand use and follow news content about the Philippines on social media.

Generally, with the advent of technology and the internet and the popularity of many social networking sites (SNSs) in recent years, news media content not only become widely accessible (Shu et al., 2017), they also change and affect how people consume news as well as their preferences, motivations, and attitudes towards news content on social media. The emergence of social media does not only provide a place for personal, social, and professional communication with people (Waheed et al., 2017), it also becomes a platform for exchanging and sharing news and information. In fact, people have turned into being media content creators (Gangadharbatla et al., 2014) by not only posting, sharing, and commenting on other media content, they also spread various news and information even before the news reporter reports them in a mainstream news media outlet. This has made SNSs relevant in delivering news content and in reaching out to people who might miss the news report on traditional media outlets, especially those who are living and working outside of their home country.

Thus, the emerging use of social media plays a crucial role in today's globalized world. They have made individual information and communication faster and efficient. In the Philippines, Filipinos spent

an average of three hours and 57 minutes on social media, making the Philippines the social media capital of the world for three consecutive years (Mateo, 2018). Although their usage varies from educational, entertainment, to personal, Facebook and YouTube (Morillo, 2014; Dumpit & Fernandez, 2017) are two of the most widely used social media platforms in the country. In other words, digital media platforms play a critical role in the everyday lives of Filipinos, not only for those who are in the Philippines but also for those who are living and working abroad. There have been a number of studies in the literature that explored the usage of social media among Filipino transnationals in different contexts and regions, such as maintaining communication among Filipino families (Hjorth & Arnold, 2011), restaging family celebrations and other festivities (Cabalquinto, 2018), and expanding responsibilities between left-behind fathers and migrant mothers (Cabanés & Acedera, 2012). However, only limited studies that focused on how other Filipinos living outside of the capital and those whose families are working and living abroad use social media for news consumption were conducted. One study, for example, was conducted by Ong and Cabañes (2011). Although it did not mention family reconnection through news consumption on social media, the study presented how elite Filipino transnationals in London consumed news on the internet for political engagement on political issues of the Philippines. The study further revealed that Filipino scholars in London consumed news heavily on the internet to maintain their engagement with issues so that they may address these issues when they returned to the Philippines. However, such engagement online also created a distance between them and other Filipino transnationals.

### **Transnationalism and News Consumption**

According to Faist (2012), transnationalism refers to the process by which immigrants build social fields that link together their country of origin and their country of settlement (p. 2). However, the concept of transnationalism has been stressed to be the result of globalization, which makes people economically vulnerable. Such vulnerability forced people to move out of their country of origin and to find a better place to settle and work. Interestingly, given the mobile activities of the transnational people, they

remain connected to their homeland by maintaining their connection to their families and keeping themselves updated on the latest events. In other words, transnational migrants always consider their homeland as the center of their physical and emotional focus (Burrell, 2003).

In the Philippines, migration has always been a part of the Filipino culture as a way of dealing with poverty, lack of high paying jobs, and low salary rates in the country. By forming agencies and departments that look after the welfare of the Filipino migrants, the Philippine government has also been instrumental and supportive in facilitating migration among Filipinos. Although working abroad has always been a family decision, that is, all members of the family should be involved, many Filipino professionals and other skilled workers have left the country to sustain their family's financial needs brought about by the lack of decent and high paying job provisions. Additionally, Filipinos who are working overseas and are registered and documented are also called Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). They are those migrant workers who may only work temporarily overseas and may return to the Philippines when their job contract finishes. Filipinos in Thailand are of no exemption. They, too, have come to the country to find a high paying job that can support their families back home.

Generally, empirical studies on news consumption among immigrants are important as the topic of migration in media communication is emerging (Lynott et al., 2019). According to Christiansen (2004), media consumption reveals complicated issues pertaining to multiculturalism and social integration among migrants. When immigrants constantly follow the news about their host country on television and other media, they would be able to understand more easily its culture, language, and people (Alencar & Deuze, 2017). For example, Lee (2005) revealed that the degree of the acculturation process among the participants was dependent on the degree of their consumption of the U.S. media. In other words, the more the participants consumed U.S. media, the more they get acculturated with the culture of their host country. Likewise, in terms of age, Reichenberg (2016) pointed out in her study that between younger immigrants and older immigrants, younger immigrants tend to consume more media in their host country. However, media consumption of both age groups was believed to have impacted their social capital. Specifically, media

consumption provides an avenue for people to connect with each other and strengthen their relationship. Thus, the studies of Christiansen (2004), Lee (2005), Lynott et al. (2019), and Reichenberg (2016) proved that immigrants' media consumption is mostly linked to adapting to a new culture and learning more about their host country.

### **News Consumption Model**

In an attempt to describe the pattern of news consumption among young adults, Antunovic et al. (2018) argued that "the changing technological and industrial structure of news production and distribution has led to a concomitant change in the process of news consumption among young adults" (p. 633). They believed that news consumption among young adults may be affected or influenced by their attitudes and motivations as they are still in the period of knowing what they like and what they want in life. In other words, the age transition among young adults may have an impact on their decision to what types of news they want to access and consume, whether online or offline.

To explore further the news consumption behavior among young adults, Antunovic et al. (2018) proposed the three-stage model: routine surveillance, incidental consumption, and directed consumption. Routine surveillance refers to regular and constant monitoring and following of a specific news media site on social media. Incidental consumption is accessing the news content on any social media platform without the intention of consuming it at first. Directed consumption means that a person checks the news online and reads its full story, which may extend to reading other related stories. Thus, in the process of news consumption, people may be shown to have used any of the three-stage models of news consumption.

Furthermore, Antunovic et al. (2018) asserted that besides the changing landscape of consuming news, which is brought about by the technological and structural changes in the news environment, the change in behavior and attitudes towards news consumption among consumers also contributed to the change in patterns of news consumption. For example, with the emergence of social media platforms, news content is now available on any social site, making it easier to access for people. This means that people may not need to buy a newspaper or watch a newscast on television

just to keep informed about the latest events in society because social media platforms can provide them with the same news content on newspaper and or television anytime at no cost. Thus, technology plays an important role in the change of behavioral patterns of people with regard to news consumption. Likewise, structural changes in the news environment are also a factor why there is a shifting pattern of news consumption. For instance, when people move from one place to another, their patterns of news consumption may likely change as they may not be able to access the news regularly. Consequently, their motivations and preferences towards news consumption may likely be affected. Although, according to Chyi and Lee (2013), news consumers over the past years preferred news in print format, this may change eventually considering that people are mobile. Thus, the presence of various digital platforms may enable people to change their behavioral patterns when consuming news. From traditional news consumption to digital, people's attitudes and practices towards news consumption may also transform because of this digital revolution. This particular phenomenon led to an increasing demand for social media platforms where news content can be accessed and consumed (Casero-Ripollés, 2012) anywhere and anytime.

### **Methods**

#### ***Setting and Participants***

Twenty-five Filipinos working in Bangkok, Thailand, participated in the study. This is comprised of 14 males and 11 females. Although the age brackets of the participants were between 29–44 years old, they have been working in Thailand for 3–14 years as teachers, hotel managers, nurses, software developers, and consultants. Thirteen participants were recruited through "a call for participants advertisement" posted on a Filipino Facebook group in Thailand, whereas the other 12 were recruited through a snowball sampling.

Because I also worked in Bangkok, the choice for the study locale was deemed practical. Likewise, Filipino transnationals in Thailand may be considered a unique group as they may not have been the subject of other research studies in journalism, media, and communication studies before. Their consumption of news about the Philippines on social media may offer new light on the issue of transnationals' social media news consumption.



### **Research Tools**

An in-depth semi-structured individual interview and FGD were used to collect the necessary qualitative data for the study. Both the interview and FGD aimed to describe the importance of keeping the Filipino transnationals in Thailand informed about the news in the Philippines on social media. The interview, which usually lasted between 30 to 45 minutes, was conducted at participants' time convenience. The questions that were asked in the interview were semi-structured and centered on the news on social media consumption. Through the use of a mobile device, the recorded interview questions were asked in the English language, and the participants were allowed to use the Filipino language to answer. The individual interviews were conducted between September and December 2018.

### **Data Gathering and Analysis**

Before the conduct of the study, I uploaded and posted a baseline survey questionnaire through a Google form on a Filipino Facebook group in Thailand to identify those Filipino migrant workers in Thailand who were willing to be interviewed for the study. For ethical consideration, the purpose of the study and what the research was all about were explained. It was also emphasized on the cover post that participation is voluntary, and all the information will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. After identifying the number of participants who were willing to participate, they were then contacted through their emails or Facebook to set the interview at their most time convenience. Furthermore, the interview and FGD responses from the participants were recorded, transcribed, and read many times to understand the content better and reflect the objectives of the study. The transcripts were then sent individually to the participants to validate the information. Lastly, the interview data were grouped according to the themes developed from the research questions.

### **Results**

For presentation purposes, excerpts from the interview were included in this section where participants were given codes (i.e., P1, P2, where P1 stands for participant 1 and P2 for participant 2) to withhold their identity.

### **Evidence of the News Consumption Model**

In the interview, it was noted that 19 Filipino participants consumed Philippine news on Facebook, whereas only six of them used YouTube as their source of Philippine news. Additionally, they can be described to be consuming news using the routine surveillance model of news consumption. According to Antunovic et al. (2018), routine surveillance means regular and constant monitoring and following of a specific news media site on social media. This is evident in the following excerpts:

I followed the news (mentioned a Philippine TV network) and watched them on Facebook every morning before I get up and prepare for work. I followed their Facebook page so that I can be updated every day about politics in our country. (P1)

For me, I follow and watch local news every day about my hometown on YouTube to have an idea of what is going on there. (P8)

Both Participants 1 and 8 consumed news on either Facebook or YouTube every day. Although Participant 8 did not mention any specific time of the day, Participant 1 watched the news on Facebook every morning. On the other hand, both Participants 6 and 7 expressed that they routinely checked for Philippines news on Facebook every night. Thus;

As a Filipino, I watched the news every night on Facebook before I went to bed because I think it's really important to be updated about the Philippines. When you know the latest issue, you have something to talk about with your fellow Filipinos here in Thailand. (P6)

I do not have much time to watch Philippine news in the morning. Usually, when it is weekdays, I watched the news on Facebook every night in my bed. If it is weekends, I do it any time of the day. (P7)

Lastly, Participant 3 emphasized that consuming news on social media constantly is already his habit as he always watched TV newscast even before he was still in the Philippines.

Reading and watching some news articles and clips on social media about the Philippines makes me feel like I am not away from my country. I feel like I am only in the Philippines... I grow up watching a newscast on TV in the Philippines and it is very hard to change that habit. (P3)

### ***Purpose for News Consumption***

Besides keeping themselves updated on the events in their homeland, Filipino transnationals also cited other reasons why they consumed news on social media. One participant said:

Watching the news about the Philippines on Facebook every night is my way of releasing stress from working all day. Although some news stories are not good, at least they make me forget how tired I am and, at the same time, it makes me aware of the latest happenings in the Philippines. (P2)

I just want to be updated on what is going on in the Philippines right now. I believe it is very important, especially that I am far from my family. (P23)

To relax is one of the reasons why Participant 2 turned to Facebook and watched news online. On the other hand, Participant 13 consumes news because he wanted to be politically engaged and knowledgeable about Philippine politics. He said:

To be honest, I wanted to be informed about the political landscape in the Philippines as I have supported, favored, and disfavored some of the politicians, which is why I followed Philippines news on social media. Knowing the performance of the political leaders and their contribution to the Philippines' economic growth is important for me to determine whom I am going to vote for in the next election. (P13)

I only followed news about the Philippines on Facebook because I can't understand the news here in Thailand. I cannot speak and understand their language. But I considered it very important because that is my only way of keeping myself informed also about what is going on in the Philippines and in my hometown. (P25)

Interestingly, unlike Participant 13, Participants 25 and 4 revealed that due to their inability to understand the language of their host country, they followed and consumed news about the Philippines on Facebook. However, she admitted that watching the news about the Philippines on Facebook made her aware of what is going on in her country. This is also true for Participant 20:

For me, news about the Philippines is more accessible and comfortable to watch since I can't speak and understand the Thai language. (P4)

All the local channels here in Thailand are in the Thai language, and it is very difficult to understand it. It is always better to watch our home country news as we can relate all. (P20)

Indeed, language is also one of the reasons why Filipino transnationals consumed Philippines news on social media. Their lack of language knowledge and their inability to relate to the events happening in their host country made them routinely checked on Philippine news.

The reason why I follow news about the Philippines on social media is that it connects me to my family and friends back in the Philippines. (P16)

Why I followed news about the Philippines on social media? Because it is my only way of knowing whether my family, my relatives, and friends are safe, especially if there are some calamities. (P21)

One of the most important reasons why Filipino transnationals in Thailand consumed news on social media is that it reconnects them to their home country and families left behind. They thought that when they knew the current situation in their place, they would also know the condition of their families. For example, Participant 23 mentioned that:

For me, the reason why I watch the news on YouTube every day is because I monitor my family and relatives, especially when there is flood, earthquake, and typhoon in Mindanao. I want to make sure that they are safe. (P18)

### ***Social Media Preferences and Types of News***

Undeniably, Facebook is the most popular social media platform where Filipino transnationals in Thailand consume their news about the Philippines on social media. With regard to how they consume Philippine news on social media, two participants revealed:

I prefer to use Facebook, so I can easily watch news about the Philippines on it. There are media organizations in our country that I follow on Facebook, so every time they have the latest news, it usually appears on my Facebook “timeline.” (P11)

I have two social media platforms as my sources to get the news about the Philippines—Facebook and YouTube. However, it is more convenient to watch on Facebook as I use it all the time. (P12)

Both Participants 11 and 12 admitted that news consumption on social media, such as Facebook, offers convenience for them to follow news about the Philippines. Their common reason was that they are always on Facebook, so whenever there is the latest news, they always get informed. On the other hand, Participant 10 said that she preferred YouTube:

I watch Philippine news on YouTube because I do not want to be disturbed by Facebook messages and other notifications. (P10)

When it comes to the type of news that Filipino transnationals consumed on social media, both Participants 14 and 15 preferred to watch political news because they are always shared by their friends.

I prefer to watch political news on Facebook. My friends often share these news clips, and I watch them every morning before I prepare for work. That is the only time I have since I work all day. (P14)

Honestly, I only watch Philippine political news on Facebook because all the news about the Philippines these days is about politics. Sometimes, my friends in the Philippines shared them with me. (P15)

Participant 5 has the same interest as Participant 14 with regards to the type of news she consumed on social media. She also preferred political news because she believed that the Philippines has an interesting political landscape:

I mostly watch news about politics, about the present administration, and about the criticisms against the government, especially that our country has a very interesting political landscape. (P5)

### **Discussion**

The present study addresses the need to explore the non-Western context of transnational news consumption by identifying the importance of Philippine news consumption on social media among Filipino migrant workers in Thailand. From the findings, it was found that relational, personal, and social are the common reasons why Filipino transnationals in Thailand consumed news about the Philippines on social media. All of the 25 Filipino participants admitted that following and watching Philippine news on social media is important for them for three reasons. One, it keeps them updated on the latest happenings, development, and political status of their province and the Philippines. Two, it is their way of knowing the conditions and status of their families back home. Third, it serves their personal and social purposes as it relieves stress, makes them relax, and connects them not only with their families in the Philippines but also with their fellow Filipino migrant workers in Thailand. Thus, this finding may offer a new perspective towards virtual reconnection through news consumption between Filipino migrant workers and their families left behind. Although previous studies (Cabalquinto, 2018; Garabiles et al., 2017; Hjorth & Arnold, 2011) reported that it might only be through using different online technology platforms (e.g., Skype, Zoom, etc.) that Filipino migrant workers can reconnect with their families back home, this study argues that news consumption practices among Filipino migrant workers in Thailand on social media also function as a constructive action towards online family connection. In other words, consuming news on social media for Filipino transnationals in Thailand satisfies and gratifies their social and personal needs,

knowing that they are away from their home country and from their families.

Interestingly, although other studies reported that people followed news about politics to engage themselves in the discussion and transmission of political information (Bode, 2015; Skoric & Zhu, 2016), the present study finds that Filipino migrant workers in Thailand followed the news about national politics in the Philippines on social media not because they wanted to engage in a political debate and argue with their family members or with their other Filipinos in Thailand but because they wanted to be informed about the political landscape in the country as they have supported, favored, and disfavored some of the politicians. Likewise, knowing the political conditions of their homeland is an imperative “long-distance nationalism” (Ong & Cabañes, 2011) practice as these Filipino migrant workers in Thailand may soon return to their country and contribute to its development and progress. Furthermore, following their homeland’s political news is also important as it serves as their deciding factor towards choosing their future national leaders in the coming elections. Thus, Filipino migrant workers in Thailand have maintained their interest in political news, information, and issues of their homeland to help them identify and evaluate the performance of the country’s political leaders, an issue that is of their concern as Filipino citizens.

Findings also revealed why Filipino transnationals in Thailand consume news about the Philippines on social media. First, they could not understand the newscast on television in their host country. These Filipino transnationals admitted that they could not speak and understand the local language in Thailand, which is the main language in the local televisions. Thus, their inability to understand the language is a contributing factor as to why they keep on following the news about their home country. Although other studies (Alencar & Deuze, 2017; Christiansen, 2004; Lee, 2005; Lynott et al., 2019; Reichenberg, 2016) reported that media consumption among immigrants may always have something to do with their integration and acculturation experiences of their host country, the present study argues that language is the main problem and the reason why Filipino transnationals consume news about the Philippines on social media. Instead of consuming news about their host country, which can help them in their settlement, integration, and acculturation process, Filipino transnationals prefer to

consume news content about the Philippines, as they believed they could relate more to them than in their host country. In other words, this finding suggests that the news consumption practices among Filipino migrant workers in Thailand are influenced by the lack of accessible news content in their host country, particularly the lack of knowledge of the host country’s language.

Second, Filipino transnationals in Thailand routinely consumed news on Facebook and YouTube at different times of the day. As mentioned earlier, they followed some news networks in the Philippines because they wanted to be informed of the latest happenings in their home country, which can facilitate the connection between them and their families and their friends. Such findings concur with the idea of the news consumption model (routine surveillance, incidental consumption, directed consumption) by Antunovic et al. (2018). However, while the studies of Boczkowski et al. (2018) and Fletcher and Nielsen (2017) emphasized and reported that incidental news consumption is evident in social media, this present study asserted that routine surveillance on news consumption is mostly practiced by Filipino transnationals in Thailand. According to Antunovic et al. (2018), routine surveillance of news consumption happened when people regularly and constantly monitor and follow a specific news media site on social media. Interestingly, the routine surveillance model of news consumption among Filipino migrant workers in Thailand does not only describe their habitual news consumption practices on social media; it also carries an emotional comfort and satisfaction that consoles them for being away from their homeland and their family physically. Thus, this study implies that routine surveillance as a news consumption model is also driven by the desire to gratify one’s personal and social needs, particularly in the context of transnationalism.

Lastly, with the results presented, this present study offers new insight on the topic being studied as research studies on transnationals’ news consumption on social media specifically, Filipino transnationals in Thailand, the Philippines as the geographical gaze, and the use of an in-depth interview and FGD are not common and are less conducted. Furthermore, theoretically, it is also noteworthy that the news consumption model proposed by Antunovic et al. (2018) goes beyond the habit of checking the news content regularly in both digital and traditional platforms, especially among



transnationals. Of particular importance, this study suggests that the news consumption model should not only be used to describe the news consumption practices among consumers; it should also be used to construe consumers' motivations towards news consumption on social media. Therefore, the findings have potentials and can add to the growing discussion on the news consumption model and to theorizing the news consumption on social media among transnationals.

## Conclusion

This study admits that its findings are only limited and thus cannot be a representative of the entire Filipino transnationals in Thailand. First, a small population size of 25 participants could not make a general conclusion of the Filipino people working in Thailand as to the importance of news consumption about the Philippines on social media. A bigger sample size, which may include other Filipino migrant workers in other countries, may offer a different insight into their news consumption practices on social media. Second, the use of an in-depth semi-structured interview may be validated by using other instruments that could possibly describe the study from different perspectives. Lastly, it would also be good to study Filipino migrant workers' online and offline political participation in news content to identify whether there is a correlation between their interests and their news consumption on social media. By doing so, it will shed more light on the issue of transnationals' news consumption on social media.

Generally, the present study on news consumption among Filipino transnationals in Thailand revealed three reasons why Filipino transnationals consume news about the Philippines on Facebook and YouTube: relational, personal, and social. Findings pointed out that Filipino transnationals do not only consume news on social media platforms to be informed about the latest happenings, development, and political conditions in their home country, but also to reconnect with their families and friends. Following news content on social media also provides them the means to relieve stress and to relax from working all day. Likewise, as language is a problem in their host country, consuming news about the Philippines on social media enables them to feel a sense of home away from their homes. They believed that they could

relate more to the news about their home country than in their host country.

Lastly, as social media opens a new window for people to connect and communicate with their friends and families, it is also best to consider and recognize the important role that social media platforms have for information dissemination. Although social media may help in promoting people's active online participation regarding news consumption, making the people aware of what is going on in society, their preferences, motivations, and attitudes towards news consumption on social media are also of most importance.

## Declaration of ownership:

This report is my original work.

## Conflict of interest:

None.

## Ethical clearance:

This study was approved by my institution.

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