

ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIAL SCIENCE REVIEW

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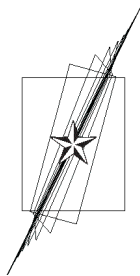
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From the Editor

Research Communities and Institutional Resilience amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic

It has been approximately two years since COVID-19 was declared by the World Health Organization a pandemic. At the onset, governments from across the world have declared stringent measures to curb the spread of the disease, which include community lockdowns, severe travel restrictions, and social distancing requirements. The effects of the pandemic and the measures implemented to mitigate the spread of the virus have led to economic recessions and accentuated different forms of inequalities. Most notably, the pandemic has taken a grim toll on lives, industries, and health systems.

The university as an institution of knowledge production has also been severely affected by the exigencies of the pandemic. Consequently, these institutions have been forced to operate in unprecedented conditions requiring them to shift to alternative modes of teaching and learning, reconfigure research agendas, and leverage ICT infrastructures to ensure operational continuity. The pandemic has undeniably accelerated the adoption of digital solutions in response to a host of continuously evolving challenges. Universities have experienced extremely precarious circumstances in the past and I am optimistic that it will endure the effects of the pandemic.

The primary condition in order to resume normal day-to-day activities is the successful containment of COVID-19. This requires creative public health solutions in conjunction with robust global and national strategies. In the face of extraordinary difficulties, research communities within universities persisted and pressed on with their projects and collaborations. Considering the compounded risks and health challenges, I acknowledge the tenacity of academics who stay true to the mission of producing and disseminating knowledge. They were able to successfully navigate through the constraints of the pandemic, adapt to the disruptions, and discover ways to be productive. Their commitment to research is extraordinary and is most certainly encouraging.

While these things are ongoing, the journal has also undergone a change in leadership. I recognize the work done by the previous Editor-in-Chief, Romeo B. Lee, for his unwavering commitment to bring the *Asia-Pacific Social Science Review* into its current state. The APSSR has encountered a multitude of successes under his exemplary leadership. I am honored to continue his work along with the Journal's esteemed set of editors. My primary goal is to further enhance the APSSR's global standing and to continue publishing scholarship that is relevant, timely, and, most importantly, impactful.

This issue of the APSSR contains twelve research articles from authors coming from different geographic locations such as Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, and the Philippines. These articles represent diverse viewpoints on a wide range of topics in the social sciences. Nguyen Thi My Hanh explored the diplomatic activities between China and Vietnam in the late nineteenth century. Pilasinee Wongnuch et al. examined the structural and cultural violence in relation to persons with HIV who are part of stateless hill tribes in Chiang Rai, Thailand. Norbert Meiners et al. put into perspective the factors that influence food shopping among older consumers in India. John Jamir Benzon Aruta and Christine Joy Ballada offered insights on materialistic values in relation to nature relatedness and environmental attitudes. Annie Wong Kai Sze et al. examined the Malay version of the STEM efficacy scale for children. Lorreine Ladao et al. investigated the effects of authentic leadership and perceived organization

support in relation to turnover intention of business process outsourcing employees. Napoleon Mabaquiao, Jr. and Mark Anthony Dacela discussed the moral right to healthcare vis-à-vis the current COVID-19 pandemic. Imary Frances Boy et al. examined the influence of extracurricular activity involvement on the compassion, academic competence, and commitment of university students. Olalere Oluwaseyi Ebenezer and Janine Mukuddem-Petersen scrutinized the effect of economic policy uncertainty on firm value. Junmo Kim et al. provided a comparative examination of disaster management agencies of the Philippines, South Korea, and United States and identified areas for reform. Alvin Patrick Valentin et al. studied the predictors of mental health outcomes across age groups during the COVID-19 pandemic. Lastly, Natthani Meemon et al. investigated the effect of parent's socioeconomic status on children's opportunity in higher education in Thailand.

The research articles in this issue highlight the continuous engagement of the *Asia-Pacific Social Science Review* with social scientists and scholars from across the region and the world. I would like to extend my gratitude to the authors in this issue for their excellent contributions. In addition, I thank our readers, reviewers, and colleagues who continuously support the endeavors of the APSSR.

I look forward to receiving your submissions. Our website is at <https://www.dlsu.edu.ph/research/publishing-house/journals/apssr/> and our ScholarOne submission platform is at <https://mc04.manuscriptcentral.com/apssr>.

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