

ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIAL SCIENCE REVIEW

Volume 24 Number 2
JUNE 2024

The *Asia-Pacific Social Science Review* (APSSR) is an internationally refereed journal published four times a year—March (online edition), June (online and print editions), September (online), and December (online and print) by De La Salle University in Manila, Philippines. It aims to be a leading venue for authors to share their work on compelling and emerging topics in the social sciences and related disciplines with the global community of academics, researchers, students, civil society, policymakers, and development specialists. The APSSR welcomes social science papers (research articles and research briefs) on topics situated in or with implications for the Asia-Pacific region employing sound methodologies and adopting comparative and inter, multi, and transdisciplinary approaches. The APSSR is also hospitable to Humanities research and will consider submissions in Literary, Translation, or Cultural Studies that engage topics and issues pertaining to the Asia-Pacific region. Overall, the APSSR seeks to glocalize knowledge toward developing a body of regional perspectives on key global issues. The APSSR is listed in Elsevier's Scopus, the ASEAN Citation Index, and EBSCO and is a Category A journal based on the Philippines' Commission on Higher Education list. APSSR has both printed and online (<https://www.dlsu.edu.ph/research/publishing-house/journals/apssr/>) editions and a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DLSUAPSSR/>.

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ISSN (Print): 0119-8386, ISSN (Online): 2350-8329

Published by De La Salle University Publishing House
2401 Taft Avenue, 0922 Manila, Philippines
Telefax: (63 2) 523-4281
Email: dlsupublishinghouse@dlsu.edu.ph
Websites: <http://www.dlsu.edu.ph/offices/publishing-house/default.asp>
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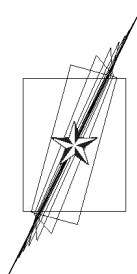
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ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIAL SCIENCE REVIEW

Table of Contents

FROM THE EDITOR

Social Science Research Publication Through the Lens of Social Responsibility

Maria Caridad H. Tarroja

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Beyond the State's Failure to Protect: The Case of Masungi and the Prospects for
Resolving the Environmental Conflict 1

Antonio P. Contreras

Best Interests of the Child in Juvenile Justice: Analysis of Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand 16

Mary Grace C. Agcaoili

Does Ethnicity Matter in Friendship? A Comparative Study of Malaysian Students in
Local and International Universities 30

Khauthar Ismail

Policy Leadership for Faculty Members and Staff's Mental Health: Case Study of a
Private University in the Philippines 44

Sterling M. Plata

A Shared Intellect: A Rawlsian Analysis of Vaccine Patent Protections 59

Vincent T. Co

Fear of COVID-19 Scale: A Case of a Filipino Adaptation and Validation Study 72

Mark Stephan Felix

From the Editor

Social Science Research: Publication Through the Lens of Social Responsibility

Broad and diverse, basic or applied, social science research has a wide reach that can have a strong impact on society in general. For social scientists, research is at the core of their functions, and so is publishing. Although most, if not all, social scientists perceive research as a social responsibility, not too many may have the same perspective about publication. Social science researchers view publishing differently. Some are highly motivated and inspired to publish to contribute to their discipline and to society. Some others may view publishing as an academic exercise, needing to publish so as not to perish. A few may be even nonchalant about publication. Whatever the intent is and the level of motivation, social science publication, just like social science research, may be viewed using the lens of social responsibility. In this regard, overcoming the challenges of publishing is part of social responsibility.

Using the lens of social responsibility, publishing is more than an academic exercise. It is more than a race for the journal with a high impact factor. The impact factor and the citation index are all relevant research indices, numbers that contribute to social impact. Researchers can aim to continuously improve their ranking, and yes, this is likewise a pathway to fulfilling their social responsibility as social scientists. Publication completes the process of research and **contributes to the collective understanding of social issues and phenomena**. Knowledge about global warming and other environmental issues, economic, political issues, sociological, medical and health, and psychological issues are broadened and deepened when empirical data and evidence-based arguments are presented through published work.

The published papers **connect the different social scientists**, building on one another's work and validating research findings. Publications provide opportunities for researchers to collaborate and work together and to bring their respective expertise to come up with a multidisciplinary approach to arrive at a common basic understanding of social phenomena and even find solutions to some of these social problems. This collaborative effort may be more difficult to achieve without publicly reporting the research findings.

Using the lens of social responsibility, publication may be viewed as a reputable way of disseminating research findings. The publication process, including peer reviews, **provides quality control** to the kind of research social scientists do and, hence, **ensures the reliability of the research findings**. Aside from providing quality control, publication **safeguards ethical ways** of doing research and presenting findings. Informed consent, confidentiality, privacy, potential risks to participants, data trustworthiness, and integrity are some of the ethical issues that need to be consistently ensured.

When validated and corroborated by several researchers, published papers may carry greater weight to **inform policies, guidelines, standards, and solutions for various social science phenomena**. For example, some of the laws on environmental issues, governance, social norms, child and women's rights and protection, and SDG (sustainable development goals) related issues stem from the published work of social scientists. Using the social responsibility lens, publication may be one of the highest forms, if not the highest form, of research dissemination for social science research, resulting in high social impact and benefits for society.

APSSR, therefore, invites all social scientists in the Asia-Pacific region and neighboring countries to take up the challenge of seeing publication as a social responsibility. Our research is never complete and does not meet

our social responsibility unless it is shared in a public domain where the findings can be scrutinized, validated, and, in the end, valued for society's benefit.

In this issue of APSSR, social responsibility is at the core of the six research articles. The authors tackled important social issues that range from protecting the environment to protecting people in different contexts. Using a political ecological lens, Antonio Contreras offered Cullen's theory of transitional governmentality as an alternative theoretical framework that could be used in resolving an environmental conflict. Mary Grace Agcaoili, on the other hand, presented the academic, legal, and practical interpretation of the best interests of the child (BIC) in juvenile justice and child protection of children in conflict with the law (CICL) in Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand. Khauthar Ismail studied Malaysian students, particularly how ethnicity and its boundaries within friendship are socially constructed, maintained, and heightened depending on social actors' particular needs, situations, and socio-political context. For her paper, Sterling Plata focused on the whole-university approach to mental health leadership, particularly for faculty members and staff who are frontliners in addressing mental health issues. Vincent Co analyzed Rawls' theories on the nature of justice and equitable distribution and addressed their limitations to establish a framework for the vaccine patent debate. Finally, the paper of Alexi Basileyo and Dennis Erasga developed and validated the Fear of COVID-19 Scale, a tool that can be adapted even beyond the pandemic.

I would like to thank the editors and reviewers for their consistent support for the journal. 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>.

Maria Caridad H. Tarroja

Editor-in-Chief

Asia-Pacific Social Science Review

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1. The APSSR welcomes original and unpublished manuscripts discussing any topic in the social sciences situated in or with significant implications for the Asia-Pacific region.[1] As a multidisciplinary journal, the APSSR encourages diversity and inclusiveness and welcomes submissions from the various social science disciplines and authors in all regions and countries of the Asia-Pacific. The APSSR is also hospitable to Humanities research and will consider submissions in Literary, Translation, and/or Cultural Studies, particularly if they engage with issues pertaining to the Asia-Pacific region.
2. The APSSR encourages and welcomes submissions from different social science disciplines, regions, countries, and epistemological, ontological, and methodological traditions. The journal may decline a second or third consecutive submission from authors whose works have been recently published or accepted in APSSR to maintain the diversity of contributors and provide publication opportunities for other scholars.
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