

Introduction to the Fourth Volume of the Aguipo Global South Journal

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The *Aguipo Global South Journal* (AGSJ) is on its fourth volume. It contains three articles and two book reviews, all which concern major issues in the Philippines like civic participation, neocolonial control, historical distortion and Martial Law, power dynamics, and Marxism.

The first article is by Arielle Elaine Collera, Anika Jolie King, Christina Rai Padilla, and Arra Katrina Villaruel entitled “Studying Humor Seriously: The Potential of Humor in Political Participation.” The authors reflected on the potential of humor as a reflective, critical, and creative tool especially in relation to reinforcing civic participation and engagement. The authors traced how humor could transform from a negative and critical political message to a positive and creative advocacy narrative helpful in realizing democratic participation. The second article is by Jhon Martin Carlos entitled “Why are we Still Afraid of Divorce?: Marriage and the Traces of Neocolonial Control in the Philippines.” In this article, Carlos investigated (neo)colonial remnants in an important institution in the Philippines: marriage. Carlos compellingly argued how capitalism and patriarchy, being neocolonial systems of control, continue to dominate the Filipinos through marriage. His argument enlightened a new understanding of divorce which perhaps could be helpful in the ongoing debates in the country over its legalization. The last article is by Maurice Jitty Villaester entitled “Constructing Counterpublics: Gen Z Students Reclaim Martial Law Memory through DYUP Sugbo.” Villaester explored the potential of a student-led radio program of the University of the Philippines Cebu as a platform for the production of truth. Amidst the deluge of historical revisionism, Villaester elaborated how the local radio program becomes an important counterpublic that reinforces history education and civic participation.

The two book reviews are by Epifanio San Juan Jr. and Mejedin Tena. San Juan Jr. reviewed Jose Maria Sison’s *Reflections on Revolution and Prospects* while Tena reviewed Mary Racelis’ *The Dynamics of Power in a Philippine Municipality*.



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