

Editorial Introduction

Aguipo Global South Journal: Introduction to the Maiden Issue

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The All UP Academic Employees Union (AUPAEU) Cebu chapter is happy to have released the maiden issue of its academic journal, *Aguipo Global South Journal* (AGSJ). The AUPAEU is the union of all academic employees of the University of the Philippines. It is guided by the principles of militant, progressive, and nationalist unionism. Its Cebu chapter launched in 2021 the AGSJ, during the international extramural *Decolonial Perspectives: Reclaiming our Rights as People of the Global South*. Through the AGSJ, the union could not only provide an intellectual space for the Global South discourses to flourish but also forge solidarities upon which peoples from the Global South draw strength to challenge entrenched neo- or semi-colonial and other exploitative relations of power.

What is Aguipo? Aguipo means glowing hot coal or ember. It is that which consumes an entity out of existence and remains after a raging fire has set ablaze and slowly turned to ashes a thing that once was. In traditional cooking, a single spark of an Aguipo can ignite and set ablaze a bunch of firewood. But the heat that comes along with it boils the broth in an earthen pot, transforming what once was a simple mixture of ingredients into a nutritious and comforting soup. The same Aguipo could also be the embers that remain after a tyrant's effigy has been burned by a people, whose raging determination signals an indefatigable resistance.

Aguipo both consumes and remains, quite like the Hegelian *Aufhebung* which simultaneously suggests destruction and preservation. In Aguipo, as in *Aufhebung*, things go out into existence yet transform or pave the transformation of things towards their other. Aguipo is the vanishing cause of a transformation whose reality can only be captured through the emergence of the new from the ruins of the old. Aguipo is a persistent reminder that things ceaselessly transform.

AGSJ affirms the need to not only interpret but also transform the world. In an interview with the former President of the AUPAEU Cebu chapter, whose tenure of office made possible the conceptualization of the AGSJ, Phoebe Zoe Maria Sanchez acknowledged that a "perfect movement is said to be both social and epistemic." Like an aguipo that carries with it a dual meaning, a movement's social and epistemic dimensions, according to Sanchez, "goes with the dialectics of praxis and theory." She insisted that this movement, which initially is academic and is located in the university, must nonetheless engage itself further in the social world, "in the different facets of social life and the conflicts that confront us." Praxis and

theory, epistemic and social movements, must consider the conflicts and contradictions that shape the social world. It is these conflicts and contradictions which AGSJ will reflect and interrogate. Social transformation could only be possible through a collective agency conscious of the complexities and dynamisms of conflicts that shape society.

In the present issue, the authors investigated various sites of conflicts. E. San Juan Jr. examined how tensions take place in the pandemic particularly under the Duterte regime. Karlo Mikhail Mongaya et al. revisited history to locate the resistance of the Diliman Commune against the Martial Law dictatorship then. Satwinder Rehal identified issues in racialized media scripts in sports news. Mar Louie Vincent Reyes illustrated how Francis' papacy provides a model in countering colonial tendencies. Christine Cerezo traced the tensions of how women redefine beauty through an agency exercised in the current beauty trends, despite their commodified scheme. And Antonette Arogo examined the theory-practice conflict by way of demonstrating literature's worldliness, one which enables the translation of theory into practice.