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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the first issue of Volume 8 of the Philippine Social Science Journal. As we step into 2025, the academic landscape continues to reflect a world in flux—one where traditional structures in religion, education, and the workplace are being reshaped by migration, technology, and the evolving human search for meaning. This issue brings together nine diverse studies that, while distinct in their disciplines, collectively explore how individuals and institutions are adapting to these dynamic shifts. From the quiet therapy of companionship to the bustling corridors of multi-specialty clinics and international classrooms, this collection offers a panoramic view of resilience and innovation.

Psychological and Spiritual Resilience

The search for belonging and mental well-being forms a central pillar of this issue. In “*The Migrant Spirit: Motivations, Challenges and Joys of Disaffiliated Filipino Catholics*,” Genie U. Pedrosa and Dennis Madrigal explore the spiritual transitions of young adults leaving the Church, revealing a profound search for belonging and scriptural engagement despite the challenges of doctrinal confusion. Complementing this exploration of emotional needs, Daisy T. Kazandjiev and Sharon Rose G. Medez present “*Unspoken Therapy: Dogs’ Contribution to Their Owners’ Well-being, Coping Mechanism, and Newfound Meaning in Life*,” a phenomenological study highlighting how pets act as “four-legged therapists” for those living in solitude. Further examining psychological foundations, Janine Iza Alexis Yunting-Lamboloto investigates the academic workforce in “*Self-Confidence and Psychological Well-Being among Student Assistants at a Higher Educational Institution in Negros Oriental, Philippines*,” finding that while self-confidence is often high, it does not automatically guarantee overall psychological well-being.

Educational Frontiers and Global Mobility

The resilience of educators and the integration of technology define our education-focused articles. Angelo John C. Palma and Marisa B. Petalla offer critical insights into curriculum delivery in “*Exploring the Topics, Teaching Strategies, and Assessments on English Language Teaching of Junior High School Teachers: An Exploratory Mixed Sequential Methods Inquiry*,” emphasizing teacher resilience amidst resource gaps. On the technological front, Angelica V. Alison and Dexter Paul D. Dioso demonstrate the power of digital transformation in “*The Effectiveness of Technology Integration by Redefinition in Teaching Asian History Among Grade 7 Learners in a Catholic School*,” proving that moving beyond simple substitution to redefinition significantly boosts academic performance.

Expanding the narrative to the global stage, Rhey Mark E. Presquito and Dennis V. Madrigal examine the diaspora of educators in “*Job Satisfaction, Mental Well-Being, Motivations, and Challenges of Selected Migrant Filipino Teachers Working in the United States of America*.” Their work underscores the delicate balance between financial stability and the cultural challenges faced by teachers abroad.

Organizational Excellence and Service Quality

The final thematic group addresses workforce management and service quality in specialized sectors. Charissa Marie E. Go delves into the public sector with “*Levels of Training and Development, Performance Management, and Job Satisfaction among Millennial Staff in the Provincial Government in Northern Luzon*,” suggesting that retention strategies must look beyond employment status to broader engagement factors.

In the healthcare sector, two related studies highlight the importance of clinical excellence. Paul Brian S. Mendez and John Clifford Salugsugan present “*Service Quality and Clients Satisfaction of Digital Dental Diagnostics in Highly Urbanized Cities in Western Visayas, Philippines*,” emphasizing how empathy and advanced technology drive client satisfaction. Similarly, Jasmine Joyce G. Mendez and John Clifford P. Salugsugan assess clinical operations in “*Service Quality, Patient Satisfaction, and Challenges of Multi-Specialty Dental Clinics in Highly Urbanized Cities in Western Visayas, Philippines*,” establishing the critical link between operational efficiency and patient outcomes.

Challenge to Action and Future Directions

The research presented in this volume invites us to look deeper into the "why" and "how" of human behavior and organizational performance. A recurring recommendation across these studies is the need to expand the scope of inquiry—to move beyond urban centers to rural contexts , to employ longitudinal designs that capture change over time , and to look for the "unspoken" variables that influence retention and well-being.

We challenge scholars and practitioners to use these findings not merely as academic records, but as blueprints for action. Whether it is developing responsive spiritual formation programs , integrating dog-assisted therapy in medical settings , or tailoring support systems for migrant workers, the path forward requires intentional, data-driven intervention. We look forward to seeing how future research builds upon these foundational insights to foster a more empathetic, efficient, and well-connected society.

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ABOUT THE JOURNAL

Aims and Scope

The Philippine Social Science Journal (PSSJ) is an open access indexed peer-reviewed journal published by Recoletos de Bacolod Graduate School, University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos. The journal publishes original and quality scientific papers dealing with social science and allied disciplines such as anthropology, human geography, demography, business, management, economics, education, psychology, criminal justice, political science, social policy, international relations, sociology, law, media studies, history, health and well-being, and religion.

As a refereed journal, PSSJ continuously commits itself to provide a mentoring space for researchers and scientists to publish original and unpublished scholarly papers that can foster new knowledge and understanding of various societal issues and become the basis for policies and programs to enhance organizational practices and improve the quality of life.

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Editorial Team

PSSJ Editorial Team is composed of respected academics in the journal's field from across the globe. Selected by the journal editor, they provide expert advice on major journal policy and content. In addition, they review submitted articles, invite new authors and submissions, and promote the journal to the global academic community. With their field of expertise and extensive work as scientists and researchers, the Editorial Team members enhance and strengthen the quality, integrity, prestige, and sustainability of our journal.

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Crossref
Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
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Publication Frequency

PSSJ is a quarterly publication. It comes out in March, June, September, and December. Special issues may be published in a year.

Sources of Support

The journal is funded by Recoletos de Bacolod Graduate School, University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos.

Journal History

The Philippine Social Science Journal was envisioned to provide an online platform to graduate students and professors and all research enthusiasts across the globe to engage in research publication. Led by Dr. Dennis V. Madrigal, first chief and managing editor, and Rev. Fr. Jose Alden B. Alipin, OAR as the Graduate School Dean, and Vice President for Academics, the print maiden issue was released in December 2018. Then, the journal's website was launched in May 2019 with the release of the online version of the maiden issue.

PSSJ initially released journal issues twice a year in June and December. In 2021, PSSJ started to release quarterly issues: March, June, September, and December. The publication frequency will provide more opportunities for researchers to publish their scholarly works and strengthen our commitment to foster social science researches in the Philippines and beyond.

On January 22, 2021, PSSJ has been accepted into DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals). Being indexed in DOAJ will enhance PSSJ's reputation and prominence, standard and best practice, funding and compliance, discoverability and visibility, and international coverage.

The journal was also accepted and indexed in Crossref on February 22, 2021. Crossref is one of the official DOI registration agencies of the International DOI Foundation. The DOIs they generate for journal articles make the latter "easy to find, cite, link and assess".

The Philippine Social Science Journal has been accepted/included in the ASEAN Citation Index (ACI) beginning October 2021. ASEAN Citation Index (ACI) is a central regional database that was designed and set up to index all the bibliographic records and the citations of all quality ASEAN research outputs that appeared in the ASEAN scholarly journals. The member countries of the ACI are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Capping the pandemic year 2021, the Philippine Social Science Journal was accepted and indexed in the Index Copernicus International (ICI) Journals Master List Database for 2020 last December 31, 2021.

On August 17, 2022, the Philippine Social Science Journal was indexed in The Andrew Gonzalez Philippine Citation Index (AGPCI). It is a journal indexing and citation database for Philippine academic journals which aims to assist local journals improve their quality and attain international accreditation.

PSSJ was officially listed as a member of the prestigious Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association (OASPA) last November 18, 2022. Based in Netherlands, OASPA is a diverse community of organizations engaged in open scholarship. Its membership includes scholar-led and professional publishers of books and journals, across varied geographies and disciplines, as well as infrastructure and other services. OASPA is a trusted convenor of the broad, global spectrum of open access stakeholders and a proven venue for productive collaboration. With our OASPA membership, we commit to and support open access as the predominant model of communication for scholarly outputs.

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