



POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND DEVELOPMENT

UGNAYAN AT TALASTASAN

An Interdisciplinary Forum on the Social Sciences and Development



DR. JULIUS BAUTISTA

Kyoto University

**ROMAN CATHOLICISM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA:
THE PHILIPPINES AND TIMOR LESTE IN
MULTIDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE**

September 2, 2021 | 2:00 PM

MEETING ID: 815 0966 8492

PASSCODE: IDF104

THIS SERVES AS AN INVITATION

RATIONALE

Ugnayan is the Filipino term for associating any subject of interest to something that is relevant to it in some ways. Typical to this tendency is the inherent propensity of people to see the relationship of these subjects and whether this relationship is relevant to the understanding of certain phenomena or realities. Hence, an integrated and more effective approach of understanding phenomena or realities is determined, paving the way towards a more effective and more resolute acquisition and advancement of knowledge. Talastasan, on the other hand, refers to the act of widening and deepening the meaning, scope and relevance of the subject through the analyses and interpretations shared by experts or well-experienced intellectuals. Thus, Ugnayan and Talastasan becomes the rendezvous of scholarly sharing and integrative discussion of relevant subjects through inter and multidisciplinary approaches with the view of arriving at a comprehensive appreciation of knowledge.

The Philippines has always been at the forefront of many interesting concerns and challenges. In the recent years, the country has become the focal point of stimulating discussions in the areas of politics, governance, security, economy, environment, Indigenous People's, human rights, and culture. The current challenges that confront the Philippines draw much public attention. The new normal, for instance, engages the public to issues that affect them like human rights, social justice, geopolitics, national security employment and peace and order.

At this juncture, the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, through the College of Social Sciences and Development (CSSD), would like to engage its faculty members, students and other stakeholders in integrative discussions through inter and multidisciplinary forums. By inviting distinguished intellectuals and academicians, the interrelationship of the social science disciplines would be established and reinforced as a channel of discerning knowledge which can be more effectively applied in dealing with problems and challenges that confront Philippine societies. By and large, the University, through the CSSD, would like to draw scholarly assessments on problems and challenges in relation to History, Economics, Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, and Cooperatives and Social Development. Further, this program intends to integrate the social science disciplines in addressing societal concerns like human rights, poverty, indigenous peoples, livelihood, peace and public safety, governance, national security, civilizational dialogue, diplomacy, and overseas Filipino experience.

Finally, this initiative is a good opportunity for the faculty members to adapt themselves and develop interest in inter and multidisciplinary approaches in the social sciences and development. This project can also foster new areas of research interests among them. Through this endeavor, the University can urge research collaboration among faculty members with different academic backgrounds and can encourage partnership with other academic institutions. While observing disciplinary integrity, the Interdisciplinary Forum shall mitigate the gap among the disciplines.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide platforms for integrative discussions through inter and multidisciplinary forums;
- Apply the social science disciplines in formulating inter and multidisciplinary approaches in confronting social problems and challenges;
- Capacitate the faculty members, students, and other stakeholders on the relevance of integrative approaches in the social sciences and development;
- Discern methodologies, theories, perspectives and trends that can be used to study societal problems and eventually address the problems through research;
- Foster collaboration and new areas of research interests among the faculty members, students, and other stakeholders with the view of mitigating the gap between disciplines while observing disciplinary integrity;
- Contribute cognizance on the interaction of the Global North and the Global South with the Philippines at the crossroad;
- Provide avenues of research collaboration among faculty members with different academic backgrounds and encourage partnership with other educational institutions; and,
- Promote the University as a nucleus of epistemic discussion of inter and multi- disciplinary approaches in the social sciences and development.



UGNAYAN AT TALASATASAN: INTERDISCIPLINARY
FORUM ON THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND DEVELOPMENT

SPEAKER & ABSTRACT

JULIUS BAUTISTA is Associate Professor at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), Kyoto University, Japan, where he teaches courses on the topics of World Religion and Asian culture and society. Prior to his appointment at CSEAS, he was a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Southeast Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore, where he worked

for just under a decade. He received a PhD in Southeast Asian Studies (anthropology and cultural history) at the Australian National University, and has subsequently published on religious practice in Asia, with a focus on Christian iconography, religious piety, and the relationship between religion and the state. His publications include *The Way of the Cross: Suffering Selfhoods in the Roman Catholic Philippines* (University of Hawaii Press, 2019), *Figuring Catholicism: An Ethnohistory of the Santo Niño de Cebu* (Ateneo, 2010), *Christianity in Southeast Asia: Colonialism, Nationalism and the Caveats to Conversion* (book chapter, Oxford, 2014) and *Catholic Democratization: Religious Networks and Political Agency in the Philippines and Timor Leste* (journal article, Sojourn, 2020).

ROMAN CATHOLICISM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: THE PHILIPPINES AND TIMOR LESTE IN MULTIDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE

In 2021, Filipinos commemorate the fifth centenary of the arrival of Roman Catholicism in the country. The quincentenary brings into focus the legacy of evangelization in the country, in a way that resonates with John XXIII's designation of the Philippines as the "lighthouse of Catholicism in the Orient." This sense of religious exceptionalism has conditioned the widely held impression that the Philippines is "the only Christian country in Asia."

This would, however, be a mistake.

Emerging from a legacy of four centuries of European missionary activity, followed by a tumultuous period of anti-colonial resistance, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste has a Roman Catholic population that grew by about 400 per cent over the past half century. With over 96 per cent of its population professing the faith, Southeast Asia's youngest nation has the highest proportion of Roman Catholics of any country in the world outside the Vatican City itself.

In spite of the intriguing parallels between the Philippine and East Timorese experience, the comparative prospects between these two Roman Catholic societies remains understudied. In this paper I examine the prospects for a multidisciplinary analysis of Roman Catholicism in Southeast Asia by taking the audience on a visual journey through my research in both communities of faith over the past few years.

PROGRAM

NATIONAL ANTHEM & INVOCATION
AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATION

WELCOME REMARKS

DR. RAUL ROLAND SEBASTIAN

Dean, College of Social Sciences and Development

INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE

DR. MANUEL M. MUHI

University President

DR. EMANUEL C. DE GUZMAN

Vice President for Academic Affairs

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

PROF. MC DONALD DOMINGO M. PASCUAL

Faculty, Department of History/Vice President, CSSD Faculty Club

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DR. JULIUS BAUTISTA

Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University

REACTORS

PROF. ABEL UBALDO

Faculty, Ateneo de Manila University

DR. JOSE CORNELIO GUTERRES

Director, Graduate Program of Universidade de Paz

OPEN-FORUM

AWARDING OF CERTIFICATES

CLOSING REMARKS

PROF. MARLON F. AGOY-AGOY

Chairperson, Department of History

MODERATOR

PROF. ADRIAN NICOLE BUAN

Faculty, Department of Psychology