

Editor's Note (Volume III, Number 1)

Enthusiasts of history, on behalf of the editorial board, we are pleased to present to you TALA's first issue for the year 2020. We hope that the readings you find, engage, and reflect on would provide a short moment of reprieve, one that may broaden your understanding and appreciation for historical studies.

As every passing year becomes a new benchmark for the journal's progress, where our processes are redefined, our standards elevated, and our capacities bolstered, so too is the TALA editorial team growing. At the beginning of the year, the team has garnered the support and commitment of 2 more scholars from around the world, making up a total of 19 International Advisory Board members. With this, we would like to warmly welcome our newest additions to the team, Dr. Rommel Curaming, from Universiti Brunei Darussalam and Dr. Lou Antolihao from the National University of Singapore.

Moving on to the new issue, the artistically crafted journal cover presents an image of a woman deprived of her agency, freedom, and, in turn, a part of her humanity. Strings hold this blindfolded woman captive to the whims of an unseen dominant figure or authority standing far above others. Although such an imagery may be a grim symbolism of an abuse of power and control, the discomfort one may feel ought to serve as a reminder to be prudent in our decisions, steadfast in our beliefs, and aware of that which violates our freedom and the freedom of others—a reminder that collectively we can break free.

For this issue of TALA, we present five articles that tackle a diverse set of topics on different intellectual, historical, and cultural settings. Those who possess a keen interest in various intellectual and historical settings would be delighted to read the following authors' articles. Steven Fluckiger's **Power, Control, and Marriage: The Catholic Utilization of Indigenous Wives in Early Colonial Philippines** explores how Catholic missionaries attempted to utilize the influence of women to convince men to convert to Catholicism. In this particular case, missionaries used their knowledge of the indigenous culture to attain their goal of conversion. Mark Joseph Santos' **Ginhawa, Hanapbuhay, Himagsikan: Tungo sa Isang Pilipinong Pagdadalumat ng Katarungang Panlipunan/Katuwirang Bayan** explores an alternative conception of social justice, one that does not fall under Marxist theorization. Santos suggests that

“each culture has its own logic in solving its own problems.” In place of Marxist theorization, he presents *Katuwirang bayan* as the alternative. Roland Macawili’s **Katawang Babae at ang Imahenaryo ng Nasyon** probes into Jose Rizal’s principles on women’s rights. He asks two critical questions: what is the limitation of Rizal’s principles on the condition of women in the colony, and how did the imagery he created for women become a part of his nationalism?

A reader who is adept in cultural heritage would be elated to read the following articles. Dominique Juntado’s **Contemplating Instances of Kapampangan Heritage in Two, 2019 San Fernando Lantern Displays** is a close reading of lantern displays in San Fernando and how these displays reflect the UN General Assembly’s program of promoting heritage. Percival Balite and Selwyn Robles’ **Philippine Games: On the Contemporary Awareness and Involvement of University Students** delves into which Philippine games are popular to students. They discuss the factors that affect participation in these games. More importantly, their investigation reveals the importance of Philippine games to cultural preservation.

For the book review, readers interested in Public History will find an insightful analysis of Gemma Cruz-Araneta’s *50 Years in Hollywood: The USA Conquers the Philippines. Makati: Cruz Publishing, 2019* by Wogie T. Pacala. His review, titled **Public History and the American Colonial Period**, is an assessment of Araneta’s contribution to Public History.

This year has been strange and tragic for each and every one of us, where our good old days have faded into the backdrop of history and now, we are forced to cope with the new normal paradigm. And since the COVID-19 virus still remains a major threat to everyone’s health, let us all remind each other to practice proper social distancing measures and sanitation procedures. Let’s us all remain healthy and keep others safe because it is better that we all sacrifice a little than to have one suffer more.

Through normal days and strange times, we thank you for your continued support to TALA and our goal of arousing interest in history by publishing credible historical research on the internet.

Para sa kasaysayan,

Adrian Kyle A. Vergara
The Managing Editor