

IDRC Doctoral Research Award Technical Report

Award recipient: **CLARENCE M. BATAN**
Institution: *Dalhousie University*
IDRA Award No.: *102667-99906075-040*
Period: *March 2005 - March 2006*

Project: ***Preparing for the Future: Life Course and Intergenerational
Analysis of Youth Transitions in the Philippines***

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Date covered: **March 2005 to March 2006**

About the technical report

This report gives a documentation of the field research conducted in the Philippines covering the period from March 2005 to March 2006. It provides description of the following: (a) the brief national situation; (b) major research accomplishments; (c) related activities; (d) financial report.

A. National situation during the conduct of research

Throughout the conduct of field research, the Philippines experienced economic down-turn and political instability. Some of the identified causes of this situation were: (1) the rising price of *oil* in the world market, which affected the cost of basic commodities and services; (2) the mismanagement and corruption cases that brought divisions among political parties in the government; (3) the questioning of the legitimacy of the current leadership due to the alleged massive cheating during the 2004 presidential elections and; (4) the proposed amendment in the constitution changing the form of government from presidential to parliamentary system.

The months of June and July 2005 were critical to the Arroyo administration. This situation persisted until February 2006. There were street protests, massive demonstrations and failed military coup attempts asking for the voluntary resignation of President Gloria Macapagal-

Arroyo. The lack of viable alternative and political exhaustion were cited as the main reasons why these rallies did not generate support from two institutions – the Catholic Church and the military, which are believed to be influential in motivating ordinary citizens to join street mass demonstrations. This situation made the economy and political situation more precarious for ordinary Filipinos whose everyday life and work were severely affected.

This national situation impacted my research, especially my data-gathering procedure on two ways. First, traffic and security checks, particularly in Metro Manila are heightened as a preventive response to local and international threats of violence and terrorism. In this regard, I scheduled my field visits to the UP Population Institute and Manila case study site strategically with full caution. Thus, my mobility to these sites has been affected. On the other hand, my visits to Talim Island have relatively been successful. And second, as expected, the narratives of my key respondents were filled with their personal takes on this current situation, which could be both a good or bad thing for this research. My transcripts will be carefully analyzed considering this context.

B. Major accomplishments

- 1) *Communication with the Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines.* As a courtesy call, Ambassador Peter Sutherland was formally informed of the conduct of this research project by providing him a copy of the research proposal. Ambassador Sutherland responded through a formal letter recognizing the value of this research in furthering the understanding of the situation of youth in the Philippines. (For reference, photocopy or scanned-copy of the letter provided.)
- 2) *UP Population Institute's (UPPI) YAFS data sets.* From March to mid-October 2005, I worked with local researchers and experts of the University of the Philippines' Population Institute (UPPI). I visited the office at least twice a week, mostly to gain primary knowledge of the data sets from the Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFS). I also took part, as an observer and facilitator at the regional-based reporting of the YAFS data held at Quezon City, Metro Manila and Bohol Province. In the UPPI, two research aids assisted me. I have electronic copies of the YAFS data sets in Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) format, as well as some national census data sets, which will be analyzed with direct supervision from Dr. Thiessen upon my return to Canada. Even while doing actual field research in two case study sites, I occasionally visit the UPPI to participate in forums on health-related and demographic issues.

3) *Case studies.* Preliminary correspondence with community leaders in two study sites were initiated since April 2005 and were formalized on June 2005. Actual fieldwork started August 2005 until December 2005. Field visits, ethnographic observations, interviews, focus group discussions and video-documentation were conducted in these case study areas. Formal data-validation workshop transpired last January 22-23, 2006 and community presentations of the preliminary findings of the study in two study sites were implemented on February 17-18, 2006.

a. *On research assistants.* Two research assistants from each area assisted me in the conduct of this research. All of them are part-time workers. In Manila, I had one college male student, and a local female resident. While in Talim, I was assisted by two local residents, a female and a male. Three of my research assistants are college graduates, who at the time of this research were unemployed. On specific situations when I needed assistance such as in the UPPI, during video-documentation, data-validation workshop and community presentations, I gave honoraria to those persons who rendered assistance.

b. *Actual data-gathering*

1. *Focus group discussions.* In both study sites, three focus groups on three age-groups (15-19; 20-24; and 25-35 years old) were conducted. A total of 22 youths participated in these focus groups.

2. *Interviews.* Three types of interviews were employed in the study. Twenty-three (23) interviews were conducted with youth respondents, ten (10) with parents and eleven (11) with teacher-respondents.

Distribution of Respondents by Method of Data Collection

	Bgy. Kasile, Talim Island	Bgy. 342, Sta Cruz, Manila	Total
Youth interviews	12	11	23
Youth FGD (3 age groups)	13	9	22
Parent interviews	5	5	10
Teacher interviews	5	6	11
Total	35	31	66

c. *Video capture.* With consent from the respondents, most of the interviews and other focus groups were captured through video. Additional situationer visuals were taken especially involving important community activities.

d. *Transcription & encoding.* Whenever possible, my research assistants personally transcribed the interviews and focus groups by hand because they do not have computer skills to encode

these transcripts electronically. Thus, part-time workers for electronic encoding of transcriptions were employed.

- e. *Community projects.* As the reciprocity ethical part of the research to the community and the respondents, community projects were implemented. In consultation with Talim Island community leaders and youth, a *feeding program* in Kasile Barrio School was executed from September 2005 until February 2006. Sixty children benefited from this project. In addition, a Christmas project was implemented in December 18, 2005. (Before the end of the field research, two more projects were initiated by the community – a community chapel project and computer-training youth program. These projects are currently being supported by the Social Research Center and Faculty of Arts and Letters of the University of Santo Tomas.)

On the other hand, community leaders of Manila chose to implement a Christmas 2005 project last December 17, 2005. About 100 children benefited from this project where the community also received sporting and recreational equipment envisioned to further youth development in this area.

In both communities, these projects were organized with the assistance of the local youth organizations and community councils.

- f. *Data-validation workshop.* In order to validate the preliminary findings of the study, a two-day data-validation workshop was conducted on January 22-23, 2006. This was attended by 11 youth respondents, 4 research assistants and four observers. This identified and clarified issues surrounding the study, as well as produced a working framework for the scheduled community presentations.
- g. *Community presentations.* In rural Talim Island, more than 150 persons attended the community presentation while only 30 persons participated in the same activity in Manila. Overall, this activity generated a lively discussion in the community focused on the situation and future of the young persons in their respective communities.

C. Activities related to research

1) *Paper presentations.* The table below specifies the papers I presented during the tenure of this research grant. For information purposes, it also identifies two upcoming conferences where I shall be doing research presentations.

<i>Conference name/ academic activity</i>	<i>Organizer/ Venue</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Title of the paper presented</i> ¹
Proposal presentation	University of the Philippines' Population Institute/Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines	January 28, 2005 ²	"Preparing for the Future: Life Course and Intergenerational Analysis of Youth Transitions in the Philippines" (Research proposal)
University of Santo Tomas (UST) – Social Research Center Brown-bag Series	University of Santo Tomas/ España, Manila, Philippines	September 22, 2005	"Thinking and Doing Sociology: A Personal Reflection"
Seminar on Qualitative Research	Aklan State University/ Aklan, Philippines	October 17, 2005	"A Qualitative Glance: Doing Youth Ethnography and Why It Matters"
The Anthropology of Crisis: Annual Conference	Ugnayang Pang-Aghamtao, Inc. (UGAT) (Anthropology Association of the Philippines)/ University of the Philippines – Visayas, Miag-ao, Iloilo, Philippines	October 20-22, 2005	"An Ethnographic Account of Rural Youth's Educational Aspirations and Their Problems of School-to-Work Transition: The Case of Talim Island"
The 7 th International Conference on Asian Youth Issues	RC 34 –Sociology of Youth International Sociological Association/ Macau, China	December 5-9, 2005	"Interacting Social Dynamics in Young People's Social Exclusion" <i>Co-paper presenter</i> "Linking Social Research to Policy Initiatives: The Case of the National Youth Commission – Report on the Situation of Youth in the Philippines"
Third General Assembly of Faculty Advisers of Student Organizations, UST	Office of Student Affairs – University of Santo Tomas/ España, Manila, Philippines	December 14, 2005	"Transmission of cultural capital & intergenerational perspective"

¹ Copies of selected papers are attached and provided in electronic format.

² Note that I arrived in the Philippines before the tenure of the IDRA grant to do preliminary networking with the UPPI, and study sites.

Academic presentation of Field research experience	University of the Philippines' Population Institute & UST- Social Research Center/ España, Manila, Philippines	February 22, 2006	"Perspectives from the Field: Researching Youth Transitions in the Philippines"
<i>Forthcoming conferences</i>			
The Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association 2005 Annual Meeting	Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association/ York University Canada	May 30–June 2, 2006	"An exploratory view of "idle youth" in the Philippines" "Generation and youth: Theoretical distinctions"
International Sociological Association World Congress – Research Committee 34 – Sociology of Youth (Forthcoming)	International Sociological Association/ Durban, South Africa	July 23-29, 2006	"Selected Sociological Accounts of Rural and Urban Filipino Youth's Problems of Unemployment and Underemployment: A Transitional Disappointment"

- 2) *Forums and related activities.* Below is the list of important forums, research presentations and youth-related activities, which I participated into. These provided opportunities for further interaction with local experts as well as students from various levels of education.

<i>Academic activity</i>	<i>Organizer/ Venue</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Role</i>
Seminar-workshop on Qualitative Research	University of Santo Tomas/ University of the Philippines, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines	March 22, 2005	<i>Participant</i>
Seminar-workshop on Quantitative Research	University of Santo Tomas/ España, Manila, Philippines	April 19, 2005	<i>Participant</i>
Talk at Vicente Madrigal National High School Graduation	Vicente Madrigal National High School/ Binangonan, Rizal, Philippines	April 20, 2005	<i>Speaker</i> "Student Aspirations"
Dominican Studentate Pastoral Training	Province of Dominican Order/ Quezon City Philippines	April 26, 2005	<i>Lecturer</i> "Seminar on Social Analysis"
Write-shop: Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Survey (YAFS) Regional Analysis	University of the Philippines' Population Institute/Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines	May 16-20, 2005	<i>Paper reviewer/ Observer</i>
UST Central Student Council Leadership Seminar	Office of Student Affairs – University of Santo Tomas/ Pillila, Rizal, Philippines	May 22, 2005	<i>Speaker</i> "Filipino youth, generation & society"

Faculty of Arts and Letters-UST – Student Leadership Seminar	University of Santo Tomas/ Pillila, Rizal, Philippines	June 25, 2005	<i>Speaker</i> “On Filipino students”
National Demographic and Health Survey: Presentation to the Academe	University of the Philippines’ Population Institute/Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines	June 27, 2005	<i>Moderator</i>
History Student Society Conference	University of Santo Tomas/ España, Manila, Philippines	July 13, 2005	<i>Presenter</i> “Growing-up Pinoy: A Socio-historical Analysis”
International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU) – Research Team	Office of Academic Affairs, University of Santo Tomas/ España, Manila, Philippines	July 14, 2005	<i>Lecturer</i> “A journey towards a theoretical understanding of the sociology of youth in the Philippines”
Binangonan Catholic College’s Student Leadership Seminar	Binangonan Catholic College/ Binangonan, Rizal, Philippines	July 23, 2005	<i>Speaker</i> “On Student Leadership”
International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU) – Research Team	Office of Academic Affairs, University of Santo Tomas/ España, Manila, Philippines	July 28, 2005	<i>Lecturer</i> “Doing participant observation”
Regional Analysis of the Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Survey (YAFS)	Population Institute - University of the Philippines/ Bohol, Philippines	August 18-20, 2005	<i>Moderator</i>
National Demographic and Health Survey: Presentation to the Public & Media	University of the Philippines’ Population Institute/Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines	October 28, 2005	<i>Moderator</i>
Forum on Filipino Youths Adolescent Health by Dr. Sanghmitra Acharya	Philippine Social Science Council/ Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines	November 9, 2005	<i>Participant</i>
Philippine Sociology Students’ Association Congress	Philippine Sociology Students’ Association/Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines	November 19, 2005	<i>Paper reactor</i>
Forum: Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Letters, UST	University of Santo Tomas/ España, Manila, Philippines	November 26, 2005	<i>Presenter</i> “TALIM: The School-to Work Transitional Problems of Rural Educated Youths”
Lecture on Pierre Bourdieu	UST Graduate School/ España, Manila, Philippines	November 26, 2005	<i>Lecturer</i>
Forum: Communicating the State of Filipino Youth	Philippine Association of Campus Student Advisers (PACSA)/ Baguio City, Philippines	November 27, 2005	<i>Lecturer</i>
Forum on Youth Migration	Philippine Social Science Council/ Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines	January 5, 2006	<i>Participant</i>

Philippine Population Association (PPA) General Assembly	Philippine Social Science Council/ Diliman, Quezon Ciy, Philippines	February 11, 2006	Moderator
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- 3) *Brief academic visit of Dr. Victor Thiessen from May 26 - 28, 2005.* Canadian professors Dr. Victor Thiessen of Dalhousie University, my thesis supervisor and wife, Prof. Barbara Cottrell delivered lecture at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) last May 27, 2005. As part of the UST's *Sociology Discussion Series 2005*, Dr. Thiessen discussed the topic, *Reflecting on the Conditions for Sound Social Analysis* while Prof. Cottrell explained a controversial issue based on her recently published book, *When Teens Abuse their Parents*. Twenty faculty researchers from different colleges and universities exchanged interesting views with Dr. Thiessen and Prof. Cottrell.

After the lecture, discussion about the possible research tie-up and future training of Filipino social scientists between Dalhousie University and Philippine universities was set-up. As planned, this agreement will be developed into a formal proposal to be endorsed to the International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS) for financial assistance. Other Canadian-based research funding offices like the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) were eyed to give support to these projects.

Other than giving lecture, Dr. Thiessen and Prof. Cottrell had a one-day field visit in my rural study site at Talim Island, Binangonan, Rizal last May 28, 2005. In this fishing village, they met with the community officials, some rural youths and visited a local elementary school. The next day, they visited urban Manila and witnessed a cultural presentation at Intramuros, a project sponsored by the Department of Tourism.

Although limited in time, I sought important advice from Dr. Thiessen on how I shall conduct the actual fieldwork in the following months.

- 4) *Networks.* My affiliation with the University of the Philippines' Population Institute (UPPI) was beneficial especially in providing network and exposure on issues related to social demography as well as health-related issues. More importantly, I was able to participate in activities related to the Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFS), which was on the last phase of implementation. Other than the UPPI, the Social Research Center (SRC) – University of Santo Tomas (UST) was also helpful in providing connections with other social scientists in various colleges and universities.

As per IDRC's advice, I also established formal communication with Dr. Celia Reyes of the Angelo King Institute at De La Salle

University. Dr. Reyes' staff gave me orientation about the IDRC-funded project – Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS), particularly on using the eleven-point poverty monitoring system employing geographic monitoring system (GIS) which was developed by the institute. Although this appears to be useful in my study, my limited field work time did not permit to learn the technical complexity of the CBMS methodology.

With respect to the study's *policy implications*, I have informed the local community leaders of the nature and conduct of this study through consultations and community presentations. Further communication will be established with the municipal, city and provincial officials as soon as the results of this research are finalized.

At the national level, formal communication was established through Mr. Paulo Benigno A. Aquino, IV., chair and chief operating officer of the National Youth Commission (NYC), the official youth policy-arm of the government under the Office of the President. The NYC promises to give the researcher a venue to communicate the findings of the study with the youth commissioners and leaders to shed light on some policy issues and recommendations, which this research would propose.

5) *Forthcoming publications.* Related to this research, I have two papers that would be published as part of the conference proceedings. These are:

a. *Charting the Directions of Youth Transition Research in the Philippines.* Paper presented at the International Youth Conference held at Colombo, Sri Lanka from 25 – 30 October 2004. This paper was reviewed by Asha Abeyasekera-Van Dort for this publication. It will be published by Kairos in Sri Lanka.

b. *Interacting Social Dynamics in Young People's Social Exclusion & Linking Social Research to Policy Initiatives: The Case of the National Youth Commission – Report on the Situation of Youth in the Philippines.* Paper presented to the 7th International Conference on Asian Youth Issues: Opportunities and Challenges of Youth in New Era on December 5-9, 2005 at Macao Special Administrative Region, China. The publication will be organized by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau of the Macao government.

D. Financial report: *Please refer to the next page or see electronic file Batan IDRA financial report (April 2006).*