

Editorial

**Introduction to the Special Issue
on Gender and Culture**

Hazel T. Biana
De La Salle University
hazel.biana@dlsu.edu.ph

In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of gender-related research within the philosophy discipline in the country. This special issue on Gender and Culture is the Social Ethics Society Journal of Applied Philosophy's contribution to further this growth. The first selection of essays engages with philosophers' frameworks and ideas concerning gender. Virgilio Rivas' *On the Agonism of the Woman-Question: Nietzsche and the Conflict Between Truth and Wisdom* ventures into contemporary feminist debates employing Friedrich Nietzsche's genealogical approach to gender and sexuality. Roshan Uttamchandani's *Demolishing Gender Roles within Hinduism* questions the claim that Hinduism is gender essentialist. Uttamchandani argues that this is not the case by examining the traditional gender roles of Ram and Sita and exploring Hindu identity and the genderless soul. Jenina Redrino's *Rebellious Princesses: Epistemic Injustice and the 21st Century Walt Disney Animated Films* investigates the Disney films *Encanto* (2021) and *Turning Red* (2022) through Miranda Fricker's moral philosophy. Redrino argues that the films address andro-centric values, dominant norms, and biases that restrict and silence Disney characters. She concludes that both films recognize shared vulnerabilities and give voice to the silenced. Finally, Hazel Biana's *bell hooks and the New Feminists* appraises fourth and fifth-wave feminism using hooks' feminist vision as a critical

framework. Biana reviews the new feminisms and evaluates whether these movements push for global transformation and revolutionary change.

The second selection of essays uses applied and interdisciplinary approaches to examine gender issues in the Philippines. Roy Joseph Sotelo's *A Beauvoirian Interpretation of the Philippine Pink Movement* discusses how former Vice President Leni Robredo reinforced feminine images during her political campaign in the last Philippine presidential elections. Mark Gatus' *From the Culture of Domination and Oppression to Safe Spaces* won the 2023 Don Isabelo delos Reyes Prize in Filipino Philosophy at the 3rd Biennial USAPP Summit. In his essay, Gatus examines the culture of domination and oppression, which poses a challenge in creating safe spaces. Gina Opiniano et al.'s *Towards Genderizing Philosophy Education in the Philippines: Reflections on CMO No. 26, S. 2017* revisits the Commission on Higher Education's CMO No. 26 and argues for the need to "genderize" Philippine Philosophy Education. Zaldy Dueñas' *A Liberal Feminist Critique of Single-Sex Schools* analyzes the debates between single-sex education and coeducation schooling. Dueñas reveals that both practices present advantages and disadvantages to women because of gender equity, academic outcomes, and responsiveness to learning needs. Paul Lawrence Viduya's *An Appeal for an Intersectional Understanding of Gender Justice: A Rawlsian Critique of the Current Gender and Development Mainstreaming Program of the Philippines* discusses how the Philippine government's understanding of gender hinders legislative attempts to enact anti-discrimination bills for the LGBTQIA+ community. Viduya recommends that policymakers adopt John Rawls' Theory of Justice for a more liberal conception of gender. Beverly Sarza's *The Road to Inclusive Mobility and Accessibility: Interweaving Intersectional Feminism with Disability Discourse through Cycling in the Philippines* evaluates The Safe Pathways Act of 2020. Sarza asserts that Philippine public policies are ableist, exclusivist, and disregard gender issues. She makes specific recommendations for developing more inclusive, responsive, and empowering public policies

on mobility and transportation. Joseph Martin Jose's *bell hooks' Postfeminism and the Indigenous Women in the Philippines* investigates the plight of Indigenous women in the Philippines through bell hooks' postfeminism. Jose reveals that while women in the country have experienced oppression, Indigenous Filipino women have experienced more oppression and discrimination. Finally, Guiraldo C. Fernandez, Jr. et al.'s *Transcending the Male Dominated Culture in the Philippines: The Role of Women in Conceptualizing, Promoting, and Implementing Rainforestation Native Tree Forest Restoration* investigates the motivations of women and their communities to conceptualize and implement Rainforestation and lead forest restoration initiatives in their respective localities.

The last essay is a collaboration between international researchers all over the globe. Liza Lorenzetti et al.'s *Challenges and Opportunities: Exploring the Contexts of Men's Gender Justice Roles in Canada, the Caribbean, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, and the Philippines* explores challenges and opportunities for men's roles. The essay documents the transdisciplinary action research project and uncovers the layered contexts of gender-based violence (GBV) in specific regions. The project builds a community of research and practice focused on understanding the challenges, benefits, and transformative impacts of men's violence prevention work.

We want to thank all the authors who worked on their essays with us and the reviewers who gave constructive feedback. On behalf of the Social Ethics Society Journal of Applied Philosophy editors, we hope you enjoy the special issue!