

Title: The Missing Sociological Imagination: Sociological Functionalist Theory That Shapes the Filipino Social Consciousness in the Philippines

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Summary:

This lesson explores the links on the development of sociology in the Philippines and the sociological consciousness in the country. The assumption is that limited growth of sociological theory is due to the parallel limited growth of social modernity in the Philippines. Therefore, the study of sociology in the Philippines takes on a functionalist orientation limiting development of sociological consciousness on social inequalities. Sociology has not fully emerged from a modernity tool in transforming Philippine society to a conceptual tool that unites Filipino social consciousness on equality.

Objectives:

1. Study history of sociology in the Philippines.
2. Assess the application of sociology in context to the Philippine social consciousness.
3. Explore ways in which function over conflict contributes to maintenance of Filipino social order.
4. Apply and analyze the links between the current state of Philippine sociology and the threats on thought and freedoms.
5. Create how sociology in the Philippines can benefit collective social consciousness and of change toward social movements of equality.

Content:

Social settings shape human consciousness and realities. Sociology developed in western society in which the constructions of thought were unable to explain the late nineteenth century systemic and human conditions. Sociology evolved out of the need for production of thought as a natural product of the social consciousness.

Sociology came to the Philippines in a non-organic way. Instead, sociology and the social sciences were brought to the country with the post Spanish American War colonization by the United States. Sociology was used as a functional tool for colonization and administration of the colony's groups and organizations in construction of an engineered social reality in forming a compliant social consciousness.

In spite of poverty, corruption and political instability, sociology historically as a discipline was used to create a functioning social order. We can suggest the underdevelopment of sociological theory today not used as a tool or lens "to see" the modern conditions of conflict and inequality

is contributes to the lack of the Philippine consciousness, imagination and awareness and maintains its current condition of a functionalist orientation.

How can sociological inquiry and theory contribute to the growth of the discipline in the Philippines? Sociological theory and modernity are involved in a communicative action that makes it run parallel to the understanding of the world and how to make sense of it. With modernity, interaction relies on awareness directly proportional to the level of the theory and understanding of the social world. Therefore, the limited growth of the modern human social condition can be due to the underdevelopment of sociological theory in the Philippines.

Sociology has moved from the dominance of functionalist theory and positivist paradigms to a social conflict theory and social action outcomes via participation and social movements. Human rights, academic freedom and self-determination in a society of collective awareness is the start of modernity in the Philippines. In its quest in the west, sociology struggles to full inclusion of oppressed categories is represented in legislation and collective awareness of the tenets of equality.

Filipinos continue to be shaped by religion and poverty as the social order in the Philippine collective consciousness of society. The inefficiency of the Philippine social groups and systems to accommodate the social needs of the people reflects the society's inadequacy of sociological imagination towards an unprepared modern social consciousness. When Filipino people recognize their own capacity to determine their own future is when the individual action plays to modernity. However, the modern conditions in the Philippines, a developing country, is a society where the line that separates the private and public life remains blurred with religion and government controls playing an active and strong role. It alters the social setting with a force to conform controlling modernity for its advantage and status quo government. A fully developed social conflict theory is only possible in a developed, stable, modern society. A distinct Filipino "dream" could open sociological theory to an emancipated open future of modernity impacting creative sociological thought, imagination and social action on its structural inequalities.

Lesson:

**The Missing Sociological Imagination:
Functional Status of Sociological Theory in the Philippines**

Ask students to prepare for lecture and discussion by reading:

1. 1999. Antolihao, Lou A. "Modernity and the Underdevelopment of Sociological Theory in the Philippines." Philippine Sociological Review Vol 27: 1-8

2. 1999. Giddens, Anthony. Risk, Lecture 2 of Runaway World: BBC Reith Lecture Series, Hong Kong: BBC
3. 1981. Makil, Perla and Chester Hunt. "The Impact of Martial Law on Sociologists in the Philippines." PSSC Social Science Information 3.

Lecture 30 minutes on

Instructor preparation needed: Familiarity with assigned resources and an understanding of the relationship between sociological theory, functionalism and social conflict to modernity and change in sociological consciousness.

For information and clarification, consult such sources as:

1. 1982. Abad, Ricardo and Elizabeth Eviota. "Philippine Sociology in the Seventies: Trends and Prospects." Philippine Sociological Review 30: 131-150
(Sociology in 1970's Philippines was used as a practical prescription for living and process of group administration for a better social order and not used as a tool for intellectual imagination and explanation)
2. 1998. Bautista, Maria and Cynthia Rose Banzon. "Sociology and the Social Sciences in the Philippines: Developments and Prospects." Philippine Sociological Review 46: 66-75
(New theories of 1980's put end to functionalist dominance and positivism. Participatory methods and research developed a multidisciplinary pluralism focus explaining different social realities in the Philippines)
3. 1999. "Towards a Filipino Sociological Imagination." In Virginia A. Miralao The Philippine Social Sciences in the Life of the Nation Volume I: The History and Development of Social Science Disciplines in the Philippines. Quezon City: Philippine Social Science Council.
(The Philippine government implemented development programs as means to create better society. Sociology theory did not significantly change in development but did increase demand in applied sociological work in community based organizations (NGO's) active in social development.)

Lead a class discussion:

1. Why do you think theory is used to explain science of society? What are functionalist and social conflict theories in sociology?

2. How do you think social conflict theory and the era for the 1970's in the US shared in shaping social awareness and social action?
3. What kind of impact do you think social conflict theory might have on the lives of students and sociologists?
4. How can a new sociological theory emancipate the social consciousness outside or from the limited existing social settings in the Philippines?
5. How are some specific reforms or actions being implemented worldwide aimed at eliminating social injustice? How are some of the reforms fueled by collective social consciousness and thought?
6. Is the broader goal of modernity to eliminate social injustice and increase the role of the individual in the world a realistic one? Explain.

For homework, ask the student to:

1. Research the history of sociology in the Philippines. Write a 2 – 3 page paper on linking modernity to social justice and its undeveloped link in the Philippines.
2. Write a letter to, or attempt to communicate with, a Philippine sociology professor or students in the Philippines (Skype, social media). Listen to the current status of sociology lessons in the Philippines. Suggest possible measures of actions to increase awareness and social actions to be taken on poverty or gay rights and report the response to the class at a later date.
3. Identify groups and organizations for collaborative work in sociology between US university and Philippine university. Locate common courses, shared syllabi or directories, course descriptions, assessments and outcomes. Report to class. List recommendations on sociological thought and imagination, theory in Philippines via courses/issues/lessons or lectures and possible outcomes.

Works Cited:

1999. Antolihao, Lou A. "Modernity and the Underdevelopment of Sociological Theory in the Philippines." *Philippine Sociological Review* Vol 27: 1-8
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