

Philippine Politics and Communication

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This issue of PCS Review offers a humble interrogation of the intersection of Philippine politics and communication from the lens of communication and media:

The issue includes four articles that queried the various instances where stakeholders exercised their agency in a democracy: the article on political memes highlighted the role of the online public in creating awareness about false narratives that were circulated online; the article on former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte analyzed his Talk to the People speeches and the comments that these speeches generated among the online public; the article on current Vice President Sara Duterte analyzed the online mobilization campaigns that her supporters initiated to encourage her to run for the top executive post for the 2022 Philippine National Elections; and the article on Anakbayan surfaced how the members of this progressive organization were able to transition to cyberactivism during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The issue also contains two essays that reviewed viable avenues for enlightening and strengthening citizen agency in a democracy: the essay on Presidential debates argued the significance of institutionalizing debates in the country to enrich the electorates' informed decision-making, and the essay on classrooms as a socio-politically conscious learning space made a case on the importance of classrooms in developing political literacy, political affect, and political discourse among students.

The issue also covers a feature on the Digital Public Pulse Project of the Philippine Media Monitoring Laboratory, a social science laboratory of the UP Department of Communication Research that investigated the online election landscape during the 2022 Philippine general elections. The issue also includes a feature on Dr. Clarissa C. David, a leading local contemporary scholar of political communication.

As our democratic landscape is mired with information malaise, I hope that our modest contribution to the local political communication literature could enthuse more communication and media scholars, professionals, and the public to engage in evidence-based local studies, essays, and discourses that probe and theorize on the intersection of politics and communication.



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