

Graduate School of Global Studies, Sophia University Symposium and Workshop Series 2022-2023

Author/Organizer: Edward Asis

Symposium Report:

“Pathways to Healing and Recovery: Confronting Diverse and Globalizing Forms of Precarity”

Date and Time: January 21st, 2023 (Sat.) 9:00 -13:00

Place: Online Event (Zoom)

Participants:

Student Presenters

- Ziad Alahmad, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Global Studies, PhD Candidate
COVID-19 pandemic and forced immigrants' small businesses: impact and recovery strategies of Syrians and Turkish communities
- Sam Conde Amorim, Sophia University, Area Studies, PhD Student
Brazil's Humanitarian Food Cooperation: Moral Authority's Influence on the Pursuit of Autonomy
- Edward Lugo Asis, Sophia University, Global Studies, PhD Candidate
Racial Microaggression and Positive Coping Strategies among Migrant Elderly Care Workers in Japan

Commentators

- Professor Makiko Deguchi, Sophia University, Global Studies
- Associate Professor Takehiro Watanabe, Sophia University, Global Studies

Keynote Speaker

- Associate Professor Jerome V. Cleofas, De La Salle University, Sociology and Behavioral Sciences

Moderator

- Michelle Sta. Romana, Sophia University, Research Student

Workshop Summary

The workshop explored the diverse and globalizing forms of precarity and the pathways to healing and recovery and was conducted in English. The event program was divided into three main parts. The keynote presentation, student presenters with commentators' opinions after the presentation, and Q&A portion. There were a few changes in the initially-planned program to accommodate the early departure of the first student presenter. The program went smoothly and was very productive for the participants and guests.

The online event began promptly with opening remarks from the moderator Michelle Sta. Romana and the dean of the Graduate School of Global Studies, Professor David Wank. The first part of the workshop started with an insightful presentation by keynote speaker Associate Professor Cleofas. The keynote speaker discussed various human security issues, such as economic, food, environmental, community, and personal security. Later, he shared the security threats during the pandemic and Asia Pacific. Finally, he wrapped up his presentation with various pathways to healing and recovery, and then we had a short Q&A portion.

After the keynote speaker, the workshop proceeded with the second part of the workshop, which was the student presenters. The first student presenter was a PhD student at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS), Ziad Alahmad. He presented Covid-19's impact on small businesses owned by Syrian Forced Immigrants and the Turkish host community. He utilized the disadvantaged theory data as a part of a more extensive data set collected in Gaziantep between February and March 2022. His results showed a significant difference in some aspects of the negative influence of the pandemic on the businesses owned by the Syrian society and the Turkish community. After the presentation, the commentators shared several questions and insights on why he chose the research and his data collection method. Mr. Alahmad addressed several questions from the audience, such as how his research could be applied to other low-income countries. Although an unavoidable early departure meant the Q&A session for Mr. Alahmad was held immediately following his presentation, he graciously responded to questions via personal communication following the event.

The second student presenter, Sam Conde Amorim, presented his research on Brazil's humanitarian food cooperation, particularly on the moral authority's influence on the pursuit of autonomy. His research seeks to demonstrate alternative practices from peripheral countries and their influence on global governance. He further elaborated on the Covid-19 pandemic situation in Brazil, defined several key terms such as autonomy, and used Brazil's Zero Hunger Program as a case study for further analysis. He concluded his presentation by stating that a civil society needs a close relationship with the state and that autonomy can be reached through moral authority. After the presentation, the commentators shared several insights on his topic and asked him to elaborate on issues such as the Zero Hunger Program.

The third student presenter, Edward Asis, presented about racial microaggression and positive coping strategies in Japan. The objective of the presentation was to explore the racial microaggression experiences and positive coping mechanisms of migrant and Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) care workers working in Japan's formal long-term care setting. The presenter concluded with recommendations such as care facilities are suggested providing opportunities for care workers to develop a sense of agency for feelings of control over perpetuated racially charged interactions tailored to the recipients' culture. The commentators wanted to know more about the source of the data set and how migrant care workers from different countries differ in their answers.

The third part of the workshop was the Q&A portion for the second and third presenters. There were several questions for both presenters. The second presenter received questions such as the previous historical events that may have affected Brazil's current economic situation and about the countries with the closest economic partnership with Brazil. The third student presenter received questions about his methodology and the insights of the Japanese care workers.

Finally, the commentators, organizer, and chairperson gave their final comments and thanked everyone involved in the event. The workshop ended with a request by the chairperson for guests to answer the survey. The online guests commented on the post-survey that everything went well. They also thanked the participants and organizer for the workshop. Overall, it was a fruitful online event for both participants and guests.