The Institute of Philippine Culture is a social science research organization of the School of Social Sciences of the Loyola Schools, Ateneo de Manila University. Founded in 1960 by Fr. Lynch, SJ, the IPC advances the University's mission and goals by generating knowledge that helps deepen the understanding of cultures and societies; improve the quality of life of disadvantaged groups; and build a more peaceful, just, and equitable society in the Philippines, Southeast Asia, and the world. As a nonstock, nonprofit, private educational institution, the IPC supports its research activities with funds derived from internal or external sources. Enjoying academic freedom, the IPC investigates what it wishes and publishes what it finds.

CAPACITY BUILDING

The IPC conducts capacity building and training programs for and with local government units (LGUs), national agencies, non-government organizations, and people’s organizations, with focus on such topics as: social science research methods and methodologies (e.g., participatory research with communities, child-friendly research); gender and development (GAD) training; social and environmental assessment of projects; and the training of LGUs in the use of electronic tablets to record health information and diagnoses of patients, among others. Some of these programs have resulted in the production of research manuals, handbooks, and other training guides.

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The results of IPC research and lessons from capacity-building activities are disseminated through:

- IPC publications (i.e., the IPC Papers, IPC Monographs, IPC Research Reports, IPC Reprints, and the IPC Culture and Development Series)
- the conduct of conferences, workshops, research dissemination forums, roundtable discussions, and lectures
- the IPC website (<www.ipc-ateneo.org>)

The IPC has a collection of its publications on empirical social science research on the Philippines and has a unique and extensive collection of reprints on the subject, in addition to the final reports of IPC projects. The IPC has five publication lines: the IPC Papers, IPC Monographs, IPC Research Reports, IPC Reprints, and the IPC Culture and Development Series. For a full list of our available IPC publications, visit <www.ipc-ateneo.org>. Interested individuals can purchase copies of these publications at the IPC office.
OUR PROGRAMS

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

Under the IPC Institutional Research Program, research staff of the Institute of Philippine Culture carry out theoretically-grounded studies on topics they deem of interest, such as the “voice of the poor.” What poor voters look for in candidates, the link and times of overseas Filipino Workers' social change initiatives that help bridge the poverty gap, armed conflict, natural disasters, urban development, population displacements in the Philippines, and Filipinos families in urban informal settlements; among others.

IPC MERIT RESEARCH AWARDS

With Ford Foundation grant funds, the IPC Merit Research Awards (MRA) Program advances theoretically grounded social science research on Philippine culture and society. Awarded on a competitive basis, MRA grants support the research of faculty and researchers of the Ateneo de Manila University (including the various Loyola and Professional Schools). The principal investigators of the proposed research should be a full-time faculty or researcher of the University; and the research project completed within one school year.

Proposers are asked to submit a written research proposal with clearly stated research objectives, the proposed study’s theoretical significance, and research methods. Research proposals are assessed based on a set of criteria, including clarity and focus, theoretical substance and scholarly significance, and methodological rigor and feasibility.

The proposed research comprises:

- Religious change and transformation
- Social dynamics of agriculture and labor
- Community-based health and education
- Urban renewal and rural development
- Poverty reduction and the agency of the poor
- New media and social transformation
- Culture, memory, and nationhood
- Environment and sustainable development
- Women and gender; family, youth, and education
- Global flows and Asian integration
- Peace, justice, and democratic governance
- Science, technology, and social innovation

For the granting, the MRA scheme is expected to generate a substantial written output worthy of publication. They are also expected to deliver a public lecture to share the highlights of their study findings.

IPC VRA PROGRAM

The IPC Visiting Research Associates (VRA) Program encourages and facilitates studies on the Philippines by scholars from the Philippines or abroad who are not members of the IPC or of the University. Since the 1980s, the IPC VRA Program has assisted scholars whose disciplinary interests are in the social sciences or humanities, such as anthropology, art, communication, economics, history, linguistics, music, political science, psychology, and sociology.

VRA appointments are generally granted to postdoctoral fellows, doctoral candidates, and other experienced scholars from the Philippines or abroad. Through the IPC, a non-Filipino scholar residing in a country other than the Philippines can apply for a special non-immigrant visa as defined in Section 47 (a)(2) of the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940. The affiliate fee is USD 60 for every month of the VRA appointment.

The IPC VRA Lecture Series provides a venue for VRA to present their research findings and conclusions to an interested public.

IPC DSA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

With Ford Foundation grant funds, the IPC-DSA Scholarship Program for Young Filipino Social Science Professionals offers support for academic and professional training in the graduate programs of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology (DSA) of the Ateneo de Manila University. It aims to develop young Filipino social science professionals with the expertise to respond to the rapidly changing social and cultural landscapes that constitute the world in which we live.

Recipients of the scholarship will be enrolled in an academic program of the DSA (e.g., MA Anthropology, MA Sociology, or MS Social Development). Moreover, the scholars will be exposed to the research programs of the IPC. This combination of academic and research training is designed to equip the scholars with the methodological, analytical, and theoretical tools to generate and mobilize knowledge in shaping transformations in their localities.

IPC SUMMER SCHOOL

The IPC International Summer School for Doctoral Researchers on the Philippines is a three-year program (from 2013 to 2016) whereby 10 to 12 promising PhD students in the social sciences or interdisciplinary programs from around the world are invited for an intensive series of workshops and lectures. With the theme “Historical and Ethnographic Approaches to Philippine Culture,” the IPC Summer School addresses questions about how historical and ethnographic approaches contribute to a deeper understanding of Philippine social realities. The IPC covers the travel, lodging, and most meals of the participants who are selected based on their submission of a never-published paper appropriate to the theme of the Summer School.

The four-day IPC Summer School includes presentations by each of the Summer School fellows on their paper and subsequent discussion on it. Two leading scholars in Philippine Studies moderate the discussion, provide feedback on the paper of the fellows, and deliver public lectures on their own research. The Summer School fellows are expected to review their papers based on the suggestions offered during the workshop sessions, with a view to submitting their papers for possible publication in Philippine Studies: Historical and Ethnographic Viewpoints.