



**2008 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
PHILIPPINE POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (PPSA)  
11-12 APRIL 2008  
( VENUE: SILLIMAN UNIVERSITY, DUMAGUETE CITY )**

**“Nation Formation, State-building and Political Science in the Philippines:  
Looking Back, Probing Inwards”**

**CALL FOR PAPER PRESENTERS AND PARTICIPANTS**

The Philippines' first 100 years in nation-building in 2008 brings the Filipino people face to face with the question of what their past has brought to the present. The value of the past to humanity, after all, lies in what it can offer for the present and the future. At the moment, there is too much literature on what has not been realized in these 100 years. There is need, therefore, to look at the other side and see what significant strides the Filipinos have done towards the right direction. The 2008 conference of the Philippine Political Science Association (PPSA) attempts to gather the gains of this century for the people to have concrete accomplishments to build on, to take inspiration from, and to begin a momentum towards true nation-building.

**CONFERENCE CONCEPT**

In 2008, the project of building a state that would reflect the changing dynamics of the Filipino nation will have reached a century. Many of us who studied this process have concluded that, viewed from the lens of today's politics, the effort has not been an exceptional one. One hundred years of state-building has not created a strong and robust state; instead its weak opposite appears to be the permanent symbol of the Republic. Correspondingly an epoch of nation formation has not unified a diverse population: instead, there is still no consensus on a national language, separatist sentiments continue to persist creating even reverberations in other parts of the country, and the yawning gap between the rich and the poor is still the defining feature of our political economy.

The most pronounced popular responses to this weak state and fractured imagined community have been to (re)join the *maquis*, flee abroad, burrow deeper into the informal economy or simply turn ones back completely on politics. One consequence of these differing forms of *exit* is the contraction of praxis of politics into a game solely played by clans and strongmen, and the return of the polarizing contest between state and revolution.

This is the more popular and lasting image of the Republic today, 100 years after its first edition was established by Emilio Aguinaldo.

Given that ample attention has already been given to the infirmities of nation formation and state-building, the 2008 conference of the Philippine Political Science Association (PPSA) hopes to re-examine these issues from the opposite end. While PPSA remains committed to a critical reappraisal of nation formation and state building in the last 100 years, it seeks to shift attention away from the obvious negatives to the less evident positives of these intertwined phenomena. More specifically, it invites scholars, public intellectuals, NGO activists, journalists, and policy-makers to organize panels that try to answer the following questions:

- a. In which segments or areas was state-building successful in the last 100 years (The assumption here is that it is possible to disaggregate state-building)?
- b. What variants of state-building developed at the regional, provincial and local levels? Which succeeded and which failed?
- c. What has kept the nation together since its initial formation in 1898?
- d. What bonds of unity and accommodation exist that bind ethnic, religious and linguistic communities to each other and brought about class reconciliation, even if temporary?

**CONFERENCE THEMES**

Participants are encouraged to form panels and present papers along the following suggested sub-themes:

1. Good governance and the “strong” state
2. Social movements and reforming and/or revolutionizing the state
3. Revisiting culture and identity in nation-formation
4. The marginalized and the politics of state representation
5. The Filipino diaspora and political survival
6. Exploring religion as a vehicle for nation-building
7. Confronting political dynasties as feudal appendages of the state
8. Local governments as units for political change
9. Nation formation in an era of globalization
10. Electoral politics as participative components of a liberal democratic state
11. Political institutions as arenas of intervention for state building
12. Contextualizing environmental politics and policies in national and local politics
13. Political science as a tool for national empowerment

Similar topics may also be proposed.

**CO-SPONSOR:**

Silliman University, Dumaguete City

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**

**Dr. Carolina G. Hernandez**  
Professor Emeritus of Political Science  
College of Social Sciences and Philosophy  
University of the Philippines, Diliman

**PAPER SUBMISSIONS**

Those interested in presenting papers or convening panels may e-mail the following:

Maria Ela Atienza (ela\_atienza@yahoo.com)  
Jorge V. Tigno (jorge.tigno@up.edu.ph)  
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Patricio N. Abinales (abinales@cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp)

Deadline for Panel and Paper Proposals (with abstract): **February 5, 2008**

Deadline for Paper Submission: **March 15, 2008**

**ELIGIBILITY**

Scholars, activists and other public intellectuals from the Philippines, Asia, and elsewhere are encouraged to participate in the Conference.

**REGISTRATION FEE**

**P3,000** per person inclusive of membership fee, conference kit and meals. Those who register before February 28, 2008 will pay only **P2,500**. Students (graduate and undergraduate) will pay only **P2,000** per person. **USD100** for foreign participants.

**FURTHER INQUIRIES**

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