About the Research Team

This peace magazine is a collaborative research project between the faculty of the Notre Dame of Jolo College (NDJC) and the graduate students of the Social Psychology Action Research Laboratory (SPARL) of the Psychology Department of the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU). Through the initiative and inspiration of Fr. Charlie M. Inzon, OMI, President of NDJC, and the encouragement and guidance of Dr. Cristina J. Montiel, peace psychologist and professor of ADMU, a group of psychologists from Manila and a group of educators from Jolo came together to work on a research project on peace in Mindanao. Through a collective research process, the group built a dream to use psychological research for peace-building. This magazine is the product of that shared dream.

Each article in this magazine was a partnership between a Christian and a Muslim, between a scholar with a social psychological lens and an educator with the experience of living with the people of Mindanao, between peace advocates alike. As Nur-ain, a member of the research team, shares, "our group is a clear manifestation that despite religious and cultural differences we can work together as one as long as there is sincerity in one’s heart."
About the Authors

Marshaley J. Baquiano has a doctoral degree in Social-Organizational Psychology from the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU). She is currently the Head of the Graduate School of Davao Oriental State College of Science and Technology. She engages in collaborative research through the Ateneo Psychology Department’s Social Psychology Action Research Laboratory (SPARL). For Marshaley, peace is simply, “tranquility and a calm mind.”

Mary Kathleen S. Bueza has a Masters in Applied Social Psychology from Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU). Currently she works with the Miriam College - International Partnerships & Programs Office as its Coordinator. She continues her project collaborations with the Social Psychology Action Research Laboratory (SPARL) of the Ateneo Psychology Department. For Kathleen, “Peace is a work in progress. It is something that societies should never stop working for, even when achieved.”

Nursiba Buraya-Adzhari is a faculty member of the Notre Dame of Jolo College (NDJC). She is currently pursuing a masters degree in English at the Ateneo de Zamboanga University. As a Tausug, Nursiba dreams to see her home place become a zone of peace. For her, peace is “the acceptance of one another’s true opinion, expressed diplomatically, through inter-dialogue.”

Nico A. Canoy is taking his PhD in Social-Organizational Psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) where he earned his MA in Applied Social Psychology. He teaches at De La Salle University and Ateneo de Manila University and is an active member of the Ateneo Psychology Department’s Social Psychology Action Research Laboratory (SPARL). For Nico, peace is “not the absence of violence.”

Liberty Contessa L. Catbagan has a doctoral degree in Social-Organizational Psychology from the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU). She is a professor and psychologist at the University of Baguio. She is part of the Ateneo Psychology Department’s Social Psychology Action Research Laboratory (SPARL). For Liberty, peace is “the assurance of everyone’s basic needs, safety, security, and opportunities for growth.”
Judith M. de Guzman has a doctoral degree in Social-Organizational Psychology from the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU). She is a faculty member of the Psychology Department of the Ateneo de Manila University and is an active member of the Social Psychology Action Research Laboratory (SPARL). For Judith and in line with Amartya Sen’s main thesis, peace is “freedom and development.”

Raymond R. delos Reyes is an assistant professor at Notre Dame of Jolo College (NDJC). He has an MA in Business Administration from the Ateneo de Zamboanga University and an AB in Political Science from the Western Mindanao State University. He is a member of the Association of Social Science Education Researchers and Teachers (ASSERT). For Raymond, “the source of building a culture of peace is the people themselves.”

Elmelyn S. Hayudini was formerly a Guidance Coordinator and a faculty member of the Notre Dame of Jolo College (NDJC). She has a Master of Science degree in Guidance and Counseling from the Ateneo de Zamboanga University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from the Western Mindanao State University. For Elmelyn, peace is “faith, solidarity, harmony, and justice.”

Janice A. Jalali is the Director of the Peace Center of the Notre Dame of Jolo College (NDJC). She is a member of the Peace Education Network – Philippines (PENPhil) and the Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute – Alumni Association. For Janice, peace is “when all children are in school, when all people have access to health care, when there is food on every table, and when people can freely go about their lives without fear.”

Rowella Jane A. Lopera is currently doing her graduate studies in Social and Cultural Psychology at De La Salle University, Manila. She teaches psychology at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Muntinlupa. She engages in collaborative projects with the Social Psychology Action Research Laboratory (SPARL) of the Ateneo Psychology Department. For Wella, there is peace “when there are no worries, no pain, no suffering.”
Sitti Rhaihan K. Malik is the Language Coordinator and a faculty member of the Notre Dame of Jolo College (NDJC). She has a Master of Arts in Teaching from the Notre Dame of Jolo College and is a member of the National Organization of Professional Teachers. For Sitti, peace is “freedom from all forms of injustices.”

Nur-ain L. Sahibil is currently the Department Chairperson of Liberal Arts and Criminology of the Notre Dame of Jolo College (NDJC) and at the same time teaching Islamic Theology. She has a masteral degree in Islamic Studies from the University of the Philippines, Diliman and a bachelor degree in Islamic Studies, Major in Shari’ah, from the Mindanao State University. For Nur-ain, peace is “complete tranquility of the heart and mind, of the body and soul.”

Puraida L. Tibli is the Academic Dean of Notre Dame of Jolo College (NDJC). She has a masteral degree in English Language Education from De La Salle University. She is a member of the Peace Education Network – Philippines (PENPhil). For Puraida, peace is “the ability of a person to understand and respect diversity.”

Lino J. Ulanghutan is a faculty member of the Notre Dame of Jolo College (NDJC). He was formerly the long-time Coordinator of Student Activities for NDJC. Lino dreams that his hometown of Jolo will someday find peace. For him, peace is “something that makes a person happy, that solves conflict, and makes a person understand one’s self.”

Hayalee Joy C. Vicente is an M.A. Candidate in Counselling Psychology from the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU). She is a faculty member at the Palawan State University. She takes part in the research projects of the Social Psychology Action Research Laboratory (SPARL) of the Ateneo Psychology Department. For Haya, “Peace is so important that some lives are lost in war trying to achieve it, some families are torn apart without it, and some individuals spend entire lifetimes searching for it. Peace is essential to our existence.”
Fr. Charlie M. Inzon, OMI is the President of the Notre Dame of Jolo College (NDJC). He has a doctoral degree in Social Psychology from the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU). His dissertation was entitled “Social Representations of the History of Conflict in Mindanao.” Fr. Charlie spearheaded a peace research program on the social-psychological aspects of the Mindanao conflict in collaboration with faculty members of NDJC and psychology graduate students of ADMU. This magazine is a product of this collaborative peace research program. For Fr. Cha, peace is “about quality standard of living for all”.

Mira Alexis P. Ofreneo is Associate Professor at the Psychology Department of the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) and is part of its Social Psychology Action Research Laboratory (SPARL). She holds a doctoral degree in Social Psychology and a masteral degree in Counselling Psychology from Ateneo de Manila University. She is currently the Associate Director for Training of the Fr. Jaime C. Bulatao, SJ Center for Psychology Services. She is also a Research Associate of Isis International. This is her first collaboration with NDJC. Her name comes from the Russian word “mir” which means “peace”.

Tesa Casal de Vela is Assistant Professor at the International Studies Department of Miriam College and Head of its International Partnerships & Programs Office. She holds a masteral degree in Women and Development from the University of the Philippines, Diliman and is taking her doctoral studies at the National College of Public Administration & Governance at UP Diliman. She was formerly Associate Director of Isis International, a feminist development communications organization. This is her second collaboration with SPARL and her first with NDJC. For Tesa, peace is “understanding differences, affirming diversity”.

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Notre Dame of Jolo College is a Catholic institution in Jolo, Sulu, Philippines run by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. It was founded in 1954 with Fr. Maurice Hemman, OMI as the first president, and is a member of the Notre Dame Educational Association, a group of Notre Dame Schools in the Philippines under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The O.M.I. or the Oblates of Mary Immaculate is the seventh largest congregation of men in the world. It was founded by St. Eugene de Mazenod of France in 1816 with the mission to respond to the needs of the poorest of the poor. On March 14, 1939, an official invitation was made by the Holy See asking the Oblates to accept the mission in the Philippines. The first group of Oblate Fathers arrived in Cotabato and Sulu in 1939. Since then, the OMI mission in the Philippines has grown to become an integral part of the Cotabato and Sulu community. Today, part of the mission of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate is to work with Muslims and people of diverse faiths. In their 1990 Provincial Congress, the Oblates made a commitment to their work with Muslims: “We believe that God is calling us to be with the Muslims and Tribal Filipinos --- to make Muslim concerns ours: habitat, ecology, ancestral domains, and the right to self-determination.” The OMI believes that Christians and Muslims must begin to learn to accept each other and respect each other’s religion, culture, and tradition in order to provide the foundation for peace.