



## **SYSTEMS PLUS COLLEGE FOUNDATION**

MacArthur Highway, Balibago, Angeles City, 2009, Pampanga, Philippines

### **AMERASIAN RESEARCH NETWORK, Ltd.**

210 Osborne Road, Albany, New York 12205 USA

Tel: USA +1-518-438-3538 \* Philippine CP# +63-929-338-0284

[www.AmerasianResearch.org](http://www.AmerasianResearch.org) or [www.AmerasianInstitute.org](http://www.AmerasianInstitute.org)

E:Mail: [pkuts001@waldenu.edu](mailto:pkuts001@waldenu.edu) or [chetking@localnet.com](mailto:chetking@localnet.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (#2015-01) (Friday, March 13, 2015)**

### ***International Journal of Interdisciplinary Global Studies* to Publish Adaptation of 2nd Generation Military Amerasian Stigmatization Paper Presented by PARC- SPCF College & ARN, Ltd. @ University of British Columbia's ICISS-2014 Conference in Vancouver, Canada**

**URBANA, Illinois, USA** -- The results from the only known empirical study on stigma, psychosocial risk and stress and socioeconomic conditions facing 2<sup>nd</sup> generation military Filipino Amerasians, and conducted by the Philippine Amerasian Research Center (PARC), Systems Plus College Foundation (SPCF College), Angeles, Pampanga, Luzon, the Philippines, will be published later in 2015 by *The International Journal on Interdisciplinary Global Studies*. The Common Ground Publishing (CGP) consortium here confirmed the article for placement in the prestigious scholarly journal. Publication of the study contents, "*Episodic Stigma, Psychosocial Risk, and Stress Confronting 2nd Generation Military Filipino Amerasians: A Multiple-case Study*" is an adaptation of a similarly titled "pilot study" research paper accepted and presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences (ICISS-2014), held June 11-13, 2014 at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver, BC, Canada.

"This is historic. It is a benchmark achievement because to the best of our knowledge this is the only research of its type ever conducted and soon to be published on a population cohort which includes a large segment of the more than 250,000 plus first and second generation military Amerasian diaspora alive today in the Philippines," declared Dr. P.C. "Pete" Kutschera, PhD, LMSW, PARC Director and Visiting Professor at SPCF College's Department of Social Work, College of Arts and Social Sciences.

The field research study, conducted inside the Angeles, Metro Manila and Olongapo City "AMO Amerasian Triangle" in west Central Luzon over a six-month period in 2013-2014 demonstrated significant "at risk" conditions among a small, essentially random sample of 2nd generation African (Black) and Anglo (White) military Filipino Amerasians. The multiple case study maintained that more empirical research is needed to crystalize troublesome characteristics reflected in an original (N=8) sample. Stigmatization and psychosocial risk levels, the study found, may not be as intense, as newer, succeeding generations of Amerasians become acculturated and assimilated into younger mainstream Filipino populations. However, like their

original first generation Amerasian parents - 2nd generation offspring suffer both socioeconomically and psychologically from abandonment or estrangement as a result of absentee fathers and missing patriarchal roots. "Moreover, the unequal burden that mothers of 2nd generation Amerasians have borne in bringing up their children" is significant, the research reported. Among numerous conclusions, the study maintained there is palpable evidence "Amerasian households (are) continuing to be affected negatively by remnants of the *military prostitution* system and the omnipresent Philippine sex (tourism) industry." Other findings included "unrelenting levels of chronic poverty, familial disorganization and dysfunction and lack of Amerasians' access to adequate medical/mental health preventative care and treatment services. The deeply traumatizing conditions facing an unknown number of 2nd generation Amerasian street children revealed new territory for study. Finally, how much (are) the at risk conditions described in this paper ... affected by the general poverty line in the Philippines and how many are consequences of the broken, troubled past of Amerasians?" the researchers asked.

On an optimistic note, the report specifically noted that the signing of the 2014 R.P. - U.S. Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA), finalized during President Barrack H. Obama's 2014 visit to Manila, raises the possibility for positive progress or policy changes affecting long neglected military Filipino Amerasians. "While EDCA will mean more U.S. troops (on the ground), it may also provide opportunities to revisit U.S. government policy of Filipino Amerasian neglect," the study noted. The report specifically listed such entities as the Office of the President of the United States, the State and Defense Departments, U.S. Embassy-Manila, U.S. Agency for International Development-Philippines and the Department of Health and Human Services "as potential leaders to marshal forces to examine the reprehensible conditions faced by abandoned U.S. American military blood progeny."

Dr. Kutschera, 71, who briefed the paper at UBC on the first day of the Vancouver international conference, June 11, 2014, was one of five other co-authors, part of a working group of Pan Amerasian subject researchers studying the issue in the Philippines, East/Southeast Asia and North America. Field researchers who directly interviewed sample participants on site from a sample drawn from across the notorious "AMO Amerasian Triangle" – where the preponderance of U.S. military bases were located in the Cold War/Vietnam War Era - included Professor Jose Maria G. Pelayo III, SPCF College Psychology Professor and an Associate SPCF Researcher and Prof. Mary Grace Talamera-Sandico, former SPCF College faculty, licensed social worker and Instructor, Department of Social Work, Don Honorio Ventura Technological State University (DHVTSU), Bacolor, Pampanga. Other contributing authors were Dean Elena C. Tesoro who heads the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, DHVTSU, and Phil M. Kutschera, a licensed New York master social worker and Research Officer and Advisory Board Member, ARN, Ltd., New York. The research journal report was analyzed and edited by Dr. Marie A. Caputi, Ph.D., veteran social science researcher and Contributing Faculty, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Walden University, Minnesota, USA. Co-authors Dean Elena C. Tesoro and Phil M. Kutschera also attended the ICISS-2014 Conference at UBC, Vancouver and assisted in its presentation at the conference's Society and Community panel presentation.

Common Ground, headquartered at the University of Illinois Research Park, Urbana, IL, is a major US-based academic book, scholarly journal and online community group material publisher and presenter. It organizes interdisciplinary research conferences worldwide on a wide variety of academic, scientific and technological subjects. In addition to *The International Journal on Interdisciplinary Global Studies*, CGP also publishes similar journals on such topical areas as civics and politics, environmental issues, cultural affairs and organizational affairs. Since its formation in the late 1980s the publishing group has issued 77 journals of various types in English, 13 in Spanish, published over 200 books and generated a publication backlist comprising 22,000 research-related articles. In 2014, the Library of Social Sciences listed CGP as having a ranking of 15<sup>th</sup> among the world's top influential scholarly and academic publishers.

Dr. Bill Cope, ICISS 2014 Vancouver Conference director, warmly praised the research paper originally titled, *"Episodic Stigma, Psychosocial Risk, and Stress Confronting 2nd Generation Military Filipino Amerasians: A Multiple-case Pilot Study."* (It) played an important role at ICISS-2014 which examines the nature of disciplinary practices, and the interdisciplinary practices that arise in the context of 'real world' applications. It also interrogates what constitutes 'science' in a social context and the connections between the social and other sciences. The pilot study research, employing a quota or essentially random sample selection methodology, posed five key questions:

1. What is your personal knowledge of your grandfather - either as a uniformed member of the U.S. military, a private corporate contractor or civilian U.S. government employee - developed through your contact or what has been told to you by others?
2. Have you ever been subject to stigmatization, discrimination, ridicule, exclusion, rude, violent behavior, or been denied a job promotion, not hired, lost a scholarship, received a lower grade or related conduct on the part of others that you attributed to your mixed-blood background?
3. Compared to neighbors, friends, acquaintances and other family members, how do you personally ascribe your own socioeconomic status and social standing in Philippine society and to what extent do you believe this may or not be related to your being Amerasian?
4. Do you have knowledge that your grandmother or mother may have been a prostitute or worked in some capacity as a bar or nightclub hostess, entertainer, waitress, "door girl" or some other role thought to be associated with sex labor? Have you ever in any way been criticized or held up for ridicule or embarrassment because of such claims?
5. Have you or any members of your immediate family have a history of any type of mental disorder, illness or symptoms of mental illness (i.e., anxiety, depression, stress)? Have you or they ever been diagnosed with any type of mental disorder?

