Graying Matters: Aging in the Contemporary Philippine Society


Abstract:

This article examines the challenges elderly Filipinos face today. Based on 15 in-depth interviews, I characterize how senior citizens, especially women, aspire to play a productive role in their families in spite of their physical frailties and financial limitations. Contrary to the continuity approach in sociology of aging, this article argues that the elderly wish to redeem their independence— not to pursue an individualized identity but to fulfil obligations to their family. The article also aims to add more nuances to the political economy and dependency accounts of aging by illustrating the different ways the elderly negotiate their roles and aspirations in their current life phase.