



## ***CALL FOR PAPERS***

### *Book on Economics of Public Issues*

Many “hot topics” appear in media daily and catch the public’s attention, among others sin tax, sex education and condoms in public schools, *Pantawid Pamilya*, *Mocha Unson*, traffic, federalism, OFW remittances, tuition-free college education, extrajudicial killings and *tokhang*, jueteng and illegalization of 5-6, withdrawal of US support, terrorism, *endo* and 7-percent growth. Often enough the public debates on these issues scarcely have grounding in economics; neither are they supported by empirical evidence. One reason for this is that there are only a few economists who write for the general public or popular writers with adequate economic training or background. With virtually open access to social media, the proliferation of “fake news” and the spread of post-truth politics only increase the risks of misguided public debates and policies.

Through the *PerSe* and popular writings of UPSE faculty members, the School fulfills its mission to spread economics education and inform policy debates outside the academe. To contribute towards the School’s efforts, short articles on public or social issues in the country will be solicited, vetted and published. The articles for the proposed book will be written for the laymen, but the pieces will be informative even for more sophisticated readers as well. Notably, this will be a medium also for popularizing some empirical findings in the literature on the Philippines and other countries that are useful for policymakers and the private sector but are not very well known. Writers and editors will aspire for the standards and styles of the articles published in *The Economist*, *Project Syndicate* or *Vox*.

To attract wide readership, the editors will consider contributions from a broad range of public issues, including but not limited to:

- Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino
- Infrastructure spending and LGUs
- Tax on cosmetics and cosmetic surgery
- Abolition of “End of contract”
- Free tuition in SUCs
- Terrorism, conflicts and development traps in Mindanao
- Consolidation of devolved functions
- Increasing SSS pensions
- Energy mix, tax on gasoline
- Globe, SMART and regulation of competition
- Extra-judicial killings or *tokhang*
- Mining and environment
- Mall operations and urban congestion
- Federalism to reduce poverty

- Uber, Grab and surge pricing
- Emergency powers to manage traffic
- Money laundering and bank secrecy
- Legalization of gambling & prostitution
- Supply chains and logistics
- Government procurement
- Corruption and inefficiency
- Church and other institutions
- BPOs and OFWs
- Central Bank independence
- Financial literacy and saving
- Reforms of the BIR and BoC
- Demographic dividends and youth unemployment
- Regressivity of sin taxes
- K12
- Trade in body organs
- GMO and health safety
- FDI and hot money

### *Objectives*

The overall objective is to contribute to a more informed discussion of current public/social issues by bringing in the economic perspective and underscoring the importance of data and critical thinking in proposing and crafting public policy. Towards this, short articles on Philippine public issues will be solicited, compiled and published in a book. Expected to be launched in July 2017, the book will be distributed to policymakers, media agencies, school libraries, and other stakeholders.

### *Book editors*

Emmanuel Esguerra, Margarita Debuque-Gonzales, and Joseph Capuno

### *Submission guidelines*

1. Each article will apply economics theory, arguments, facts or evidence to illumine important aspects of a public issue. An article may provide or set right the economic basis for, or the implications of, a public policy.
2. The contributing author should be a faculty member, professor emeritus, student, or alumnus of the University of the Philippines School of Economics.
3. Each article should have a maximum of 3,000 words. Equations, graphs or tables should be kept to a minimum.
4. The first page of the paper should include the title, author's name and affiliation (including email address), and 3 keywords.
5. Each submitted article will be paid PhP5,000 (gross of applicable taxes). However, the editors reserve the right to determine the economics content of the submitted article before it gets paid, and to select which paid article will be included in the book publication.
6. Submission period: **February 1, 2017 – April 30, 2017.**
7. Send articles to: **upsepublicissues@gmail.com**