PROCEEDINGS 2026-01

Program on Social and Political Change

Election Insights – An Assessment of the 2025 Philippine Midterm Elections and Its Aftermath

Proceedings of the *Banyuhay* Podcast Series Season 2

---

30 May; 1, 6, 10, and 13 June 2025

DZUP, 2nd Floor Media Center Building College of Mass Communication, UP Diliman

Bonn Francis A. Mendoza

upcids Social & Political Change

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Cover Image Credit

" Filipinos cast their votes for the Philippine midterm elections in Antipolo City on May 12, 2025."

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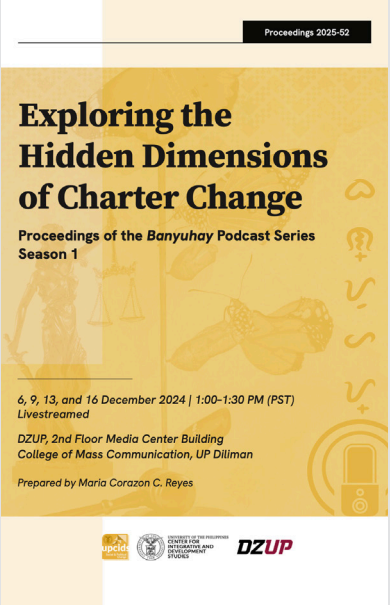

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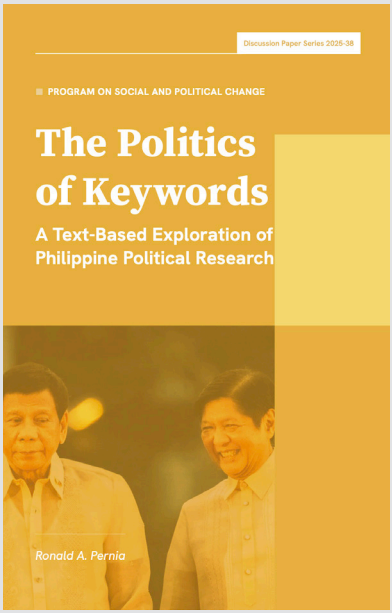

DISCUSSION PAPER

The Politics of Keywords: A Text-Based Exploration of Philippine Political Research

About the *Banyuhay* Podcast Series

The *Banyuhay* Podcast Series is an initiative of the Program on Social and Political Change (PSPC) under the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UPCIDS). It serves as a platform for discourse on the Philippines' most pressing national issues. "*Banyuhay*" is a process reflecting a change in action or perspective, such as a change in government leadership or the transformation of old beliefs. The program aims to provide fresh and meaningful insights to foster change in the nation's socio-political consciousness.

For its second season, titled "Election Insights: Assessing the 2025 Philippine Midterm Elections," the series focuses on a comprehensive assessment of the nation following the May 2025 polls. Hosted by Dr. Dennis Quilala of the UP Diliman Department of Political Science, this season brings together experts from the academe and civil society to dissect the aftermath of the elections through five topics: 1) the economy, 2) electoral integrity, 3) legislative prospects, 4) disinformation and artificial intelligence (AI), 5) and youth and social media.

These proceedings synthesize all five episodes, fulfilling the PSPC's mandate to generate discussions and make complex socio-political issues understandable and accessible to the public.

This podcast series was conceptualized and produced by Dr. Rogelio Alicor L. Panao, Bonn Francis A. Mendoza, and Maria Corazon C. Reyes of the PSPC, in cooperation with DZUP of the College of Media and Communication, UP Diliman. Documentation was provided by Bonn Francis A. Mendoza, the PSPC's Junior Research Associate.

Introduction

The second season of the Banyuhay podcast series provided a multi-faceted analyses of the 2025 Philippine Midterm Elections, examining its conduct, outcomes, and broader implications for the country's economy, political landscape, and democratic future. The series featured in-depth conversations with leading experts from academia and civil society, covering electoral integrity, economic dynamics, post-election governance, the role of youth and social media, and the pervasive challenge of disinformation. The experts featured in this season include Dr. Cielo Magno, Associate Professor, UP School of Economics; Atty. Rona Ann Caritos, Executive Director, Legal Network for Truthful Elections (LENTE); Dr. Maria Fe Villamejor-Mendoza, Professor Emeritus, UP National College of Public Administration and Governance; Asst. Prof. Maria Elize Mendoza, Department of Political Science, UP Diliman; and Dr. Maria Diosa Labiste, Dean, College of Media and Communication, UP Diliman.

Episode 1 featured Dr. Cielo Magno wherein she assessed the Marcos administration's economic trajectory, highlighting the disconnect between public needs and election results. Episode 2 featured Atty. Rona Ann Caritos, who examined the state of electoral safeguards and discovered weak enforcement mechanisms as well as the persistence of patronage politics. Episode 3 featured Dr. Maria Fe Villamejor-Mendoza, who reflected on the tension between bureaucratic capacity and political demands. Episode 4 saw Asst. Prof. Maria Elize Mendoza unpack the dual nature of social media use during the elections. Lastly, Episode 5 featured Dr. Maria Diosa Labiste who analyzed the media's influence on public discourse, warning against the corrosive effects of disinformation on democratic processes.

EPISODE 1

The Economy During Elections

Dr. Cielo Magno

Associate Professor, UP School of Economics

Dr. Cielo Magno, the former Department of Finance Undersecretary, discussed the profound impact of elections on the Philippine economy and the persistent disconnect between voter concerns and political outcomes.

Dr. Magno outlined the two-sided impact of elections on the national economy, characterized by short-term stimulus and long-term uncertainty. First, according to her, there is a massive infusion of cash into the economy from campaign spending on paraphernalia, events, and direct cash assistance ("*ayuda*"). This creates a temporary but significant increase in consumption and a surge in GDP growth in the quarters surrounding an election. Dr. Magno notes that the 5.4 percent GDP growth in the first quarter of 2025 was partially attributable to this effect, with further impact expected in the second quarter. Secondly, the international community—particularly investors—closely monitors Philippine elections as a barometer of political stability. Investment decisions are heavily contingent on a predictable and stable governance environment. A chaotic or non-credible election can deter foreign direct investment, as capital seeks environments with stable policies and a reliable rule of law. The presence of international observers, such as those from the European Union, underscore the global significance of the country's political health.

The core of Dr. Magno's analysis is the identification of a "disconnect" between the economic concerns of the population and their choice of candidates. Surveys consistently show that the top concerns for Filipino voters are economic: inflation, the affordability of basic goods, and job security. Despite these concerns, Camille Villar won a senate seat even with her family company's issues with service delivery in light of a piped water crisis. Water is a fundamental economic and survival issue, yet the candidate's connection to it was not a barrier to her election. Another example is Lito Lapid, who has

made no significant legislative contributions to improve the lives of Filipinos, remembering instead his family's past association with corruption allegations. Another is Rodante Marcoleta, who won a seat after promising free electricity for households with bills below Php 2,000. Lastly, Dr. Magno cited Willie Revillame (despite not winning), whose candidacy is presented as the ultimate "*insulto sa taong-bayan*" (insult to the people) when he openly ran without a platform and promised to figure it out only after winning.

Dr. Magno also showed how political dynasties actively sabotage economic policies that would benefit the nation but threaten their personal and business interests. Dr. Magno noted that the national land use act, essential for food security, was long stalled under the committee chaired by then-Senator Cynthia Villar, whose family's real estate interests could be impacted by the measure. Similarly, Dr. Magno noted that Speaker Martin Romualdez, whose family holds significant mining interests, passed a bill lowering mining taxes, undermining the mining industry's potential as a major revenue source. She also pointed out that the former Solicitor General and the Tulfo Siblings won government contracts, creating a conflict of interest and necessitating a law requiring the disclosure of the "beneficial owners" that is a standard anti-corruption measure in other countries.

Dr. Magno argued that the Philippines does not need convoluted economic reforms. The solutions lie in addressing the most fundamental building blocks of a healthy economy: its people. The top priorities should be education and health, which form the foundation of the nation's human capital. According to Dr. Magno, one health and economic issue is childhood stunting, affecting one-third of all Filipino children. As Dr. Magno explained, stunting is not merely about height; it causes irreversible learning challenges, trapping individuals and their families in a cycle of poverty as they are less likely to finish school and find stable employment. Further, the current health system, including PhilHealth, does not prevent citizens regardless of economic class from facing bankruptcy due to medical emergencies. The poor often forego treatment entirely, knowing they cannot afford it. Dr. Magno recommended that through targeted nutrition programs, pregnant mothers and children in their first 1,000 days can be given appropriate health care and assistance.

Dr. Magno concluded not with a message of hope in a political "champion," but with a sober call for a paradigm shift in the role of the Filipino citizen. Dr. Magno spoke of the civil responsibility to move from idolization of politicians to the active holding of public officials accountable, from a local level to the

highest governance level. This responsibility is grounded on the principle of the taxpayer as the employer of government officials, therefore giving citizens the right and duty to ensure their money is being spent properly and is returned in the form of effective public services. Dr. Magno insists that while the additional burden of monitoring the government is exhausting, it is necessary. The alternative is to be endlessly squeezed for taxes that are either wasted or stolen, while public debt grows. The fight for an accountable government is a matter of economic self-preservation, encapsulated in her final, powerful message: *"Tax ng Ina Mo, Bantayan Mo."*

EPISODE 2

Assessment of the 2025 Midterm Elections

Atty. Rona Ann V. Caritos

Executive Director, Legal Network for Truthful Elections (LENTE)

Atty. Caritos began her presentation by describing the 2025 national and local elections as a notable departure from previous electoral cycles due to the Commission on Elections (COMELEC)'s proactive, reform-oriented, and uncharacteristically innovative performance. According to her, the COMELEC took an assertive stance against longstanding electoral abuses, particularly vote-buying and the abuse of state resources (ASR). For the first time in its history, the Commission issued close to 600 show-cause orders and filed numerous disqualification cases, marking what she described as a long-overdue assertion of accountability in an environment historically characterized by impunity.

Atty. Caritos also commended the implementation of new campaign guidelines focused on improving the discourse during elections, resulting in the disqualification of candidates whose remarks were deemed offensive or inappropriate. She also noted that the COMELEC took a more proactive approach to combat disinformation, taking real-time action, actively monitoring social media platforms and issuing rapid responses, and not waiting until after narratives spread.

Despite these improvements, Atty. Caritos pointed to persistent institutional limitations. She relayed that while the COMELEC's central office displayed political will, the enormity of electoral violations requires a more coordinated, systemic response. She recalled a meeting of the "Kontra-Bigay" committee, where the Philippine National Police (PNP) reported no vote-buying incidents despite being far from the truth. This disparity, Atty. Caritos argued, reflects the uneven trickle-down of national to local implementation.

Atty. Caritos also raised serious assistor-related concerns during election day. The "assistor" provision is intended to help senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and indigenous peoples (IPs). However, multiple instances, notably

from Bulacan and a widely circulated video in Abra, show watchers affiliated with candidates acting as assistants, allegedly filling out ballots themselves and undermining voter choices. This, she argued, constituted a threat to suffrage, since the ballot cast reflected not the voter's intent, but the will of those seeking electoral advantage.

Atty. Caritos acknowledged many more unreported incidents, as ordinary citizens face difficulties in filing formal complaints due to fear of reprisal, especially when confronting entrenched and powerful political families. For this reason, Atty. Caritos underscored the vital role the COMELEC must play in upholding accountability, since it is a constitutionally independent body that cannot be easily cowed or defunded.

Atty. Caritos also discussed the common complaint of machine-based cheating. Drawing from LENTE's monitoring and findings from the Random Manual Audit (RMA), she clarified that the automated vote-counting machines performed reliably and accurately. She noted, however, that technical issues remained, yet, they are not from the machines themselves but from flawed paraphernalia such thin ballots, smudge-prone markers, and a low vote-threshold setting of 15 percent, which together led to over-voting and "dirty ballots." These issues created noise and suspicion but should not be interpreted as evidence of pre-programmed fraud. Instead, Atty. Caritos stated that the real culprits of electoral manipulation re systemic vote-buying, the intimidation fostered by private armies and loose firearms, and the steady erosion of electoral competition due to the entrenchment of political dynasties. She warned that the country is heading toward a scenario in which an increasing number of positions are uncontested, a development she described as fundamentally anti-democratic. Atty. Caritos also delivered a pointed critique of the Philippine Congress, noting that over the last three Congresses, the only electoral-related measures passed were those postponing the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections. Legislative gridlock, she asserted, has stifled all efforts toward substantive reform. In response, LENTE has worked directly with the COMELEC to leverage its quasi-legislative powers. She cited LENTE's research and advocacy before the Committee on Kontra-Bigay which institutionalized ASR as an electoral offense. This, she emphasized, exemplifies how research and civil society initiatives can bypass the legislative bottleneck and translate into tangible policy.

Atty. Caritos closed with a powerful call to action. She argued that the country faces a democratic deficit not in participation at the polls, but in the scarcity of

credible, principled individuals willing to run for office. She urged the listeners not only to vote and advocate, but to seriously consider entering public service. The true path to democratic renewal lies in expanding the quality and diversity of choices on the ballot.

EPISODE 3

The Political Landscape After the 2025 Elections

Dr. Maria Fe Villamejor-Mendoza

Professor Emeritus, UP NCPAG

Dr. Mendoza opened her remarks by offering a cautious reading of the post-election political landscape: The 20th Congress is full of familiar faces, signaling continuity. However, signs of fragmentation within the ruling coalition are present and may have long-term implications for the 2028 presidential elections. Dr. Mendoza noted that 70–80 percent of seats are now held by members of entrenched and familiar patterns of political family names, such as Tulfo, Villar, Ejercito, Cayetano, Marcoleta, and Villanueva. This is also a familiar continuing pattern of political concentration in the hands of a few.

However, Dr. Mendoza emphasized that while the names are familiar, the landscape they now navigate has shifted. She pointed to the deepening divide between the Marcos and Duterte camps as the most consequential development to emerge from the 2025 midterm elections. This rift has disrupted the hegemonic stability the ruling bloc once enjoyed. Due to former President Rodrigo Duterte's unresolved legal battles at the International Criminal Court (ICC) and a renewed social media campaign, the Duterte name has maintained resonance and exposed the vulnerabilities of the current Marcos administration. Leadership within Congress, she observed, remains tenuous. While Senate President Francis "Chiz" Escudero and House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez are likely to retain their posts, both will do so under considerable pressure. She cited the looming threat of impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte as one source of instability that could further test the unity of the Marcos-led coalition. Dr. Mendoza also identified this shifting landscape as a symptom of the weakness of the country's party system. She noted that political parties in the Philippines remain personality-driven and transactional, lacking clear ideological commitments or programmatic

coherence. According to her, the legislative environment of policymaking is driven not by substantive deliberation, but of shifting allegiances and tactical accommodation.

Dr. Mendoza then gave her thoughts on the potential outlook of the 2028 presidential elections. She identified Vice President Sara Duterte as the most formidable potential candidate, not just because of her established base but because of her ability to frame herself as the underdog. Dr. Mendoza pointed out that this narrative is sharpened by the threat of impeachment and bolstered by public sympathy surrounding her father's legal battles with the ICC.

However, Dr. Mendoza emphasized that alternative candidates are not without a fighting chance and outlined a disciplined, three-pronged strategy for challengers who hope to gain traction in the coming years. First, potential candidates must do their jobs with sincerity and competence. Legislators who focus on crafting meaningful laws rather than mimicking executive-style relief efforts as tangible results will speak louder than performative gestures. Second, potential candidates must invest in building broad coalitions for accessing the resources, machinery, and grassroots support needed for a national campaign, and not merely for optics or shared rhetoric. Finally, she underscored the importance of clear and consistent messaging. In a hyper-mediated public sphere, good work is not enough, it must be communicated well and widely to cultivate public trust and recognition. Dr. Mendoza named a few figures who may emerge as potentially effective candidates: Bam Aquino, with his national visibility; Vico Sotto and Joy Belmonte, both proven local executives who need to build a broader profile; and former Vice President Leni Robredo, who retains a strong moral and political presence. However, she also acknowledged the steep challenge of the dynastic politics she previously discussed. Dr. Mendoza expressed hope that the country could finally move beyond the cycle of familiar names of Aquino, Marcos, and Duterte, and giving space to new leadership at the highest level.

Dr. Mendoza concluded on an optimistic note. She described the 2025 elections not as a harbinger of democratic decay, but as "*panibagong pag-asa*" for the consolidation of democratic forces. For her, democracy must be a "democracy in action," where citizens remain vigilant, engaged, and organized. The "little hope" glimpsed in the cracks of elite unity must be nurtured by the people themselves if Philippine democracy is to endure and flourish.

EPISODE 4

Youth, Social Media, and the Elections

Asst. Prof. Maria Elize Mendoza
Department of Political Science, UP Diliman

Prof. Mendoza's central argument is that the profound influence of social media is similar to a "double-edged sword." She built on this idea by stating that on the one hand, platforms like Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok have enabled unprecedented youth mobilization and creativity in campaign participation. Young Filipinos now create memes, infographics, and videos that gain massive traction online as they are no longer confined to traditional forms of engagement. Further, the speed of which these videos circulate, as well as the type of information that circulate, are testament to how social media is lessening the gap between politicians and constituents. These youth-produced content, from "kodigos" for senatorial slates circulating in group chats to humorous, yet persuasive TikTok videos, reflect the instrumental role of social media creation in shaping public discourse and rallying on-the-ground support.

On the other hand, this same landscape exposes the youth to the hazards of disinformation. The Philippines has been dubbed "patient zero" in global disinformation trends, and young users, despite their fluency with the medium, are not immune. Focusing on the habit of the youth to imitate trends and viral content, Prof. Mendoza stresses that virality does not always equate to truthful and accurate information. Prof. Mendoza stated that the inability to distinguish fact from fiction makes the youth susceptible not only as victims, but as inadvertent spreaders of false narratives. This is also exacerbated by the fact that those of older temperament sometimes outright dismiss or are skeptical of youth political engagement, especially since the youth "were not alive then." Yet the youth push back with a future-oriented perspective: "We may be young now, but we will inherit this country," an attitude that Prof. Mendoza noted is the main driver of much of youth political assertiveness today.

To address the issue of social media, the youth, and the potential of both, Prof. Mendoza's most urgent call is for deep-rooted educational reform. She argued that technical digital skills are not enough and that the problem is not simply knowing how to operate platforms but, more of the lack of foundational skills in reading, comprehension, and critical thinking. According to Prof. Mendoza, the country's well-documented education crisis reveals a paradox: Digital savvies can create viral content but also struggle with basic literacy. Thus, Prof. Mendoza emphasizes that, in places like Finland, genuine digital literacy must begin with improving core competencies in early primary education, not just introducing media literacy in senior high school. The need for early media literacy becomes even more critical with the rise of AI. Prof. Mendoza warns that relying on AI as a shortcut to many processes heavily erodes the very analytical and interpretative abilities essential for democratic participation and lifelong learning.

Moreover, Prof. Mendoza warns that top-down, state-driven solutions, such as laws policing "fake news" measures risk being co-opted into tools of censorship. This is because political climates are prone to authoritarian tendencies, citing regional examples where legislation meant to fight disinformation has instead been used to suppress dissent and silence opposition. Therefore, Prof. Mendoza champions a multi-stakeholder approach involving government institutions, civil society, educators, media practitioners, and tech companies that not only addresses disinformation, but confronts a broader range of online harms.

To provide further concrete steps, aside from early media literacy Prof. Mendoza also advocates for empowering youth through meaningful roles in school governance, starting with student elections, and ensuring they have platforms to share their ideas beyond token participation. Institutions, she says, must recognize that young people already have ideas and just need avenues to translate these into real-world impact.

In closing, Prof. Mendoza leaves a message of caution and hope. To the youth, she offers encouragement: continue the work, speak out, stay engaged. She acknowledged that while older generations may feel fatigued or skeptical, the energy and clarity of purpose among young Filipinos are invaluable. To the wider public, fighting disinformation is not just about correcting falsehoods, but fostering respectful dialogue and a culture of truth-seeking. By investing in education, cultivating critical thinking, and building collaborative civic ecosystems, the Philippines can empower its digital-native electorate not only for the 2028 elections, but for a more resilient democratic future.

EPISODE 5

Disinformation and Artificial Intelligence in Elections

Dr. Maria Diosa Labiste

Dean, College of Mass Communication, UP Diliman

Dr. Labiste described the 2025 electoral cycle as a stage for "strategic disinformation:" a coordinated campaign designed not only to deceive but to exploit social fault lines and deepen political entrenchment. A central focus of the narratives during the campaign period was the intensifying rivalry between the Marcos and Duterte political camps. This rift, though allegedly internal to the ruling coalition, offered a fertile ground for manipulation, as rumors of Vice President Sara Duterte's impending impeachment, fabricated endorsements from figures like Donald Trump, and spurious claims regarding the International Criminal Court's jurisdiction were repeatedly debunked by fact-checkers. Similarly, false stories about President Marcos Jr.'s health and First Lady Liza Araneta Marcos' alleged detainment in the U.S. aimed to undermine reputations, while reinforcing partisan allegiance. Dr. Labiste sees the rift between Marcos and Duterte as less about convincing the neutral public and more about stoking loyalty and division: drawing lines between supporters and opponents.

The campaign theme of division was amplified through the weaponization of political dynasties. As relayed by Dr. Labiste, a study by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) revealed that 80 percent of district seats in Congress were occupied by members of political dynasties, some of which were described as "obese" for their excessive grip on power. According to Dr. Labiste, while this data galvanized anti-dynasty sentiment online, it also became fodder for distorted narratives. Disinformation operatives exploited these sentiments, selectively targeting specific candidates and shielding others. Many of the most viral posts were based on manipulated political surveys or exaggerated attacks on dynasty-linked figures.

Another potent instrument in the disinformation arsenal that Dr. Labiste was ideological red-tagging. This involved deliberately conflating armed rebellion with progressive politics: branding candidates, party-lists (particularly those in the Makabayan Bloc), and even their supporters as communists or terrorists. Dr. Labiste notes that these smears often peak just before election day, with false claims that certain groups had been disqualified from the ballot. Such tactics were not just disinformation, a form of electoral suppression that leverages fear to shape voter behavior.

Dr. Labiste identified the emergence of Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) as the most disturbing incident during the 2025 elections. Dr. Labiste revealed how coordinated, pro-China accounts began influencing Philippine political discourse online by typically portraying President Marcos negatively while boosting Vice President Duterte. In one striking example, AI was used to alter a video of Duterte to make it appear she was speaking fluent Mandarin about her father's confrontation with the ICC. These tactics not only stoked nationalist anxieties, but also demonstrated how foreign actors could exploit internal divisions for strategic gain.

Dr. Labiste also mentioned that the role of AI in the 2025 elections marked a pivotal shift from theoretical threats to actual AI-enabled manipulation. According to Dr. Labiste, 10 percent of fact-checked disinformation in 2025 were categorized as "altered," showing clear evidence of AI tampering with text, video, or audio content. While many of these were still "low-fakes" or "shallow-fakes," their virality remains a pressing concern. More sophisticated "deepfakes," capable of deceiving even the discerning viewer, are on the horizon. She warns that the 2025 elections were just a test bed since AI users are becoming increasingly skilled and well-resourced. Dr. Labiste also observed that AI developers continue to prioritize product growth over ethical safeguards. They create what she calls "invasive products," with little regard for the broader social and democratic harm they enable. Regulatory bodies like the COMELEC have attempted transparency measures such as requiring political campaigns to disclose AI use, but these were, according to her, "largely ignored." Dr. Labiste asked a question that society should ponder on: Should not AI use be held accountable for the harm it can do? Dr. Labiste stated that there is a need for new legal frameworks that assign political and ethical judgment to tech companies and platforms profiting from chaos.

Moreover, Dr. Labiste offered a most thought-provoking insight in the psychology of disinformation. According to her, contrary to popular belief, disinformation often does not work because people are misled. Instead,

disinformation works because it confirms what people want to believe. Believing and sharing selected narratives, no matter how ridiculous, becomes a signal of loyalty and belonging. The "in-group feeling" and the satisfaction of being part of a network often override the value of truth. For instance, widely debunked stories about Pope Francis or Elon Musk endorsing Filipino candidates persist not because they are credible, but because they feel affirming to those already inside the ideological bubble. Disinformation, in her view, is not simply about facts—it is about belonging.

The emotional and relational power of disinformation makes it difficult to combat. As explained by Dr. Labiste, a fact-check may address a single claim, but it rarely dismantles the larger narrative scaffolding around it. These narratives, as Labiste notes, are often rooted in deeper structural inequalities and longstanding social failures. Until these foundational issues are addressed, disinformation will continue to find fertile ground.

Dr. Labiste made several recommendations to address AI usage. One of these is that the government must go beyond cosmetic reforms and seriously regulate AI and platform accountability. She also suggested that technology companies must be compelled to build ethical architecture into their products through policy, pressure, and public demand. She also insisted that media and fact-checkers must continue innovating, and civil society must be mobilized for public education and awareness. Most importantly, she advocates for democratizing fact-checking by transforming it from a niche, professionalized activity into a grassroots movement. She explained that such an effort “is not rocket science” as the tools and habits of critical thinking can and must be taught to everyone.

Dr. Labiste did not forget to address the fact that not all Filipinos are online, and many lack access to the information or tools necessary to navigate disinformation. She praised non-government organizations (NGOs), local partnerships, and civic education initiatives that bring fact-checking directly to communities. Ultimately, Dr. Labiste sees equipping with the skills to discern and challenge falsehoods as the most sustainable way forward.

Dr. Labiste concluded with both a warning and a vision. While the threat of AI-driven, identity-based disinformation is real and growing, a solution exists and depends on collective empowerment. The real question, in her view, is not just how we fight disinformation, but what kind of society we want to become: one where truth is fragile and manipulated, or one where citizens are informed, critical, and engaged.

Photos

Photos by PSPC's Senior Research Analyst, Maria Corazon C. Reyes

Center for Integrative and Development Studies

Established in 1985 by University of the Philippines (UP) President Edgardo J. Angara, the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS) is the policy research unit of the University that connects disciplines and scholars across the several units of the UP System. It is mandated to encourage collaborative and rigorous research addressing issues of national significance by supporting scholars and securing funding, enabling them to produce outputs and recommendations for public policy.

The UP CIDS currently has twelve research programs that are clustered under the areas of education and capacity building, development, and social, political, and cultural studies. It publishes policy briefs, monographs, webinar/conference/forum proceedings, and the Philippine Journal for Public Policy, all of which can be downloaded free from the UP CIDS website.

The Program

The Program on Social and Political Change (PSPC) provides a platform for understanding the varied social and political challenges facing modern Philippine society and polity from a multidisciplinary perspective. In relation to this, the Program also designs empirical studies using a variety of methods and approaches which form the basis for policy inputs and discussions at the local, national, and international levels.

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