



Lectio 1 (August 2021): 1-3
Editorial

The beginning of **LECTIO: A GRADUATE JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY** is a twofold conversation. The first is among friends one evening, sharing difficulties of pursuing graduate studies in a time where metrics seemingly dictate how things go. The second is between colleagues in the Department of Philosophy, sharing the desire to preserve in good memory the accomplishments of our own philosophy graduate students. What surfaced in the first conversation was the confession of a particular challenge in graduate studies: an avenue to receive critique to improve one's works and alongside it comments for both the content and the writing style. In how graduate studies are structured, it seems it is already expected that one should strive to publish or perish though not being provided crutches to guide one in this precarious bout. We aspired to form a journal to address this need we currently recognize among graduate students. There is a demand to publish in indexed journals, however, not everyone already has that capacity to engage at such a level. In the second conversation what surfaced was the appreciation for our own philosophy graduates who, because of their respective commitments, eventually find themselves elsewhere be it in another institute of learning locally or abroad. It is rather unfortunate that we are unable to put down in print our own congratulatory remark for our colleagues. From these two conversations, **LECTIO** presents itself as a journal primarily for graduate students in philosophy that would provide them adequate support in terms of critique for the contents of manuscripts and likewise for a refinement of the style of writing while providing an avenue to showcase those who have already completed their degrees.

As written in the front matter, **LECTIO** is an interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed, and open-access journal of Philosophy that aims to give graduate students an avenue to develop and publish their philosophic research. The Latin *lectiō (-ōnis)* refers to mindfulness in reading texts stemming from the verb *legere* which conveys various notions such as gathering and selecting, reading and reciting, and even traversing horizons and events. **LECTIO** is an intentional engagement of a single text by negotiating the horizons of multiple interpretations; through our own *lectio*, we seek to cultivate that disposition of reading and selecting, of challenging our thoughts and expanding our philosophical horizons. As a platform for intellectual exchange, **LECTIO** provides a forum for dialogue among M.A. and Ph.D. students to help them cultivate their craft of research as they seek to establish their own voice within academic circles.

We aspire each issue to be composed of various sections for a more fruitful exchange. (1) *Featured Articles*. Every issue will present works from keynote speakers of conferences, invited authors, or faculty members. We aspire to shed a different perspective for our graduate community to consider in their respective philosophy

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research. (2) *Conference Articles*. We will hold an annual graduate conference every April/May and invite all those who have presented to submit their works for blind review, and after successful evaluation and editing, present the manuscripts to a wider audience. (3) *Abulad Sanay-say Proceedings*. Another annual event to be held every September/October is the *Abulad Sanay-say writing workshop* that would guide successful applicants in their respective writing styles and focus. This section would feature the works from the workshop *fellows* who have successfully edited their manuscripts according to the comments. (4) *Excerpts of Graduate Theses*. Graduate studies culminate with one's thesis or dissertation defense. We invite our newly minted philosophy scholars who have just successfully defended their manuscripts to submit a summary of or an extract from the theses or dissertations and aim to present them to the entire philosophy community in a congratulatory tone to showcase how the defended manuscript is a fruit of the individual author's own *lectio*. (5) *Graduate Papers*. Almost all subjects at the graduate school culminate with a term paper. These ought not to be simply done for the sake of the course but in light of broader philosophic research. We hope these papers or works-in-progress not to be put to waste and so this section allows authors to consider subjecting their articles to peer evaluation for them to be refined. Lastly, (6) *Book Reviews*. We aspire to cultivate a reading culture among the extended members of the Department of Philosophy. By such a culture, we mean a critical reading of texts as practice in other graduate communities abroad. Book reviews are essential practices of critique, and which should be a craft proper to graduate students.

For this first issue, we are glad to present a collection of articles that fill four of the six planned sections of the journal. The featured article for this issue is the keynote lecture that Dr. Christopher Ryan B. Maboloc gave during the first graduate conference last April 2021 with the theme "Christianity and the Philippine Intellectual Landscape." Dr. Maboloc's piece provides a peculiar insight into a post-colonial experience of both the Christian faith and of politics with two individuals with common roots: Bro. Karl Gaspar and President Rodrigo Duterte. His exposition proceeds through a mirroring of a twofold struggle: a theologico-anthropological one in relation to the Lumads for Gaspar and a political one for Duterte.

From the same conference are two articles included here. The first is from Victor John M. Loquias entitled "*Pagsantigwar sa Banwaan*: Social Healing for a 'People Who have Nothing'" and the second is from Anton Heinrich L. Rennesland with the title "Sloterdijk and Interreligious Dialogue against Extremist Reason: A Reflection on Christianity's Quincentennial Anniversary." Both provide different views in understanding Christianity's impact on the formation of society. Loquias proceeds through a reading of the Bicolano *Pagsantigwar sa Banwaan* as a form of social critique through Kristian Cordero's metaphorical construct of physiology to poetics. This metaphorical relation to social critique is likewise maintained in Rennesland's use of

Sloterdijk's rhetoric of the presence of extremist reason in the development of the three monotheisms. This is discussed from the post-colonial Philippine experience.

Following these are two excerpts of theses. The first is from Paula Nicole C. Eugenio, "Growing of Roots in Times of Turmoil and Uncertainty: Simone Weil's Legacy," and the second is Blaise D. Ringor's "The Necessity of Auto-Teleology in Achieving Moral Life according to Karol Wojtyla's Philosophy." Eugenio provides a chapter of her MA work presenting Weil's admonition for the need to regrow roots to realize what it is to be human. This, she presents, ought to be done against a world that has gone lukewarm in social relations and cynical in its moral considerations. This likewise is the background of Ringor's presentation of Wojtyla's emphasis on auto-teleology. Ringor provides a summary of his MA thesis that develops humanity's capacity to self-direct in order to realize the fundamentality of being human as geared towards a life of transcendence.

Lastly, the final section showcases two papers written through the course of their graduate studies. The first is Prince Airick S. Gapo's "Misedukadong Filipino sa Panahon ng Bagong Populismo: Pagdalumat sa Pang-edukasyong Pananaw ni Renato Constantino bilang Paglulunas sa Kontemporaryong Kamalayan at Pagtutulay ng Edukasyon at Demokrasya" and the second is Jim Lester P. Beleno's "Appreciating Art with Paul Ricoeur: from Aesthetics to Ethics." Gapo provides a (re)reading of Renato Constantino's *miseducation* as a stress of the balance between education and democracy in a time of the proliferation of fake news and the rise of the new populism. Beleno's approaches to this political consciousness is set via Ricoeur's consideration of aesthetics. He shows how Ricoeur proceeds from an aesthetic consciousness to ultimately a political attention.

Establishing a journal is not easy, yet we strive regardless in order to broaden our horizon as graduate students of philosophy. Though such a feat, this first issue was possible through the generous support of both the UST Graduate School and the Department of Philosophy. We, the editorial board, wish to thank in particular the Dean of the Graduate School, Prof. Dr. Michael Anthony C. Vasco, the Philosophy Program Lead, Prof. Dr. Paolo A. Bolaños, and also the Chair of the Department of Philosophy, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jovito V. Cariño, for their support in various ways to make this journal possible. We also wish to thank Assoc. Prof. Dr. RT Pada and Asst. Prof. Dr. Raniel Reyes for their help in establishing this journal. We likewise thank those who have participated in the 2021 graduate conference: from our keynote speakers – Dr. Joel Sagut, Dr. Ryan Maboloc, and Dr. Mark Calano – to our presenters and attendees. Lastly, we thank those who have contributed to this journal either in the capacity of an author or as a peer reviewer. We hope that the seed that begins with this first issue may be brought to fulfillment in our own respective *lectios*.