

## ISPP Eastern Hemisphere Virtual Seminar Series – January 2021

Organizers: Ying-yi Hong, Diwa Malaya Quinones, Peter Beattie

This is a new initiative aiming at showcasing research from the Eastern Hemisphere, broadly defined. It serves as a platform for intellectual exchanges among scholars in the region and beyond. It will be held regularly on the last Friday of each month.

### Seminar coming up

Jan. 29 (Friday) at 12noon-2pm (Manila Time)

Host: Diwa Quinones (University of the Philippines Diliman, Philippines)

Speaker: Mr. Francis Simonh M. Bries (University of the Philippines Diliman, Philippines)

Title: **Developing a Framework of Online Political Participation and Examining its Predictors and Transformation into Offline Engagement**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://up-edu.zoom.us/j/86735530118>

Meeting ID: 867 3553 0118

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### Abstract

Political participation has been a staple of political psychological research across the years as evidenced by the great diversity of conceptualizations, frameworks, predictors, and methodologies proposed to understand this phenomenon. However, even more contextualized investigations of political participation are required due to three recent sociopolitical developments: (1) the intensified influence of digital technologies on political processes, (2) the shift towards online forms of political engagement due to international COVID-19 regulations, and (3) global trends suggesting large-scale democratic backsliding. Indeed, these developments are well reflected in the Philippines' present circumstances: (1) the proliferation of digital disinformation and uncivil discourses, (2) ineffective political intervention and insufficient scientific approaches to resolving the pandemic locally, and (3) international organizations expressing concern about local human and civil rights conditions. Thus, drawing from extant research on digital politics, the current research proposes a framework for predicting Filipinos'

political participation across online and offline platforms. Crucially, the framework emphasizes how interactions between demographics, individual differences, political and cultural values, beliefs about political behaviors and systems, social cognitions and attitudes, and media usage afford political (dis)engagement. These variables are especially relevant because of the persisting digital divide (internet access and technological literacy) in Philippine society, cultural valuations and social norms on what constitutes effective and appropriate forms of political participation, fluctuations in political interest and efficacy relative to the state of democratic institutions, and differences in beliefs regarding the role that citizens play in influencing political processes. The research can then suggest directions toward further studies on political participation in other cultures, as well as provide insights in the context of the upcoming 2022 Philippine presidential election.

**Speaker Bio**

Francis Simonh M. Bries is an instructor and PhD student at the Department of Psychology, University of the Philippines Diliman. He has participated in and presented on research projects about experimental deception and replication, Filipino conceptions of motivation, and the effects of media usage on political engagement and social attitudes. His research interests include cyberpsychology, digital politics, and political participation. [[fmbries@up.edu.ph](mailto:fmbries@up.edu.ph)]

