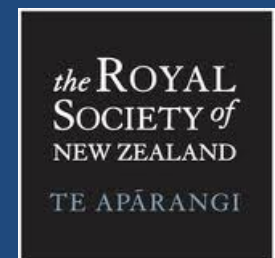


Understanding Local Notions of Development

A Case Study from the Philippines

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PHILIPPINES



Background

- Province-island of Siquijor, Central Visayas
- Population of ~80,000 rely on fishing, farming, small-scale entrepreneurial activities and remittances
- Over a year of fieldwork, 2005 and 2007
- Examined what 'development' means to people on the island
- Thesis entitled 'In Pursuit of Progress: Narratives of Transformation on a Philippine Island'

Anthropology of Development

- Post-development theory – development as a Western invention
- Multiple notions of development – discourses are appropriated, reinterpreted and fused with local concepts

Concepts of Development on Siquijor

- Ten words in local and imported vernaculars denote 'development'
- *Kalamboan* = development
literally, unfolding of fertile potential
- Can refer to society-wide change or personal/familial social mobility

Some Markers of *Kalamboan*

- Education
- ‘Professional’ employment
- Mobility
- ‘Modern’ possessions
- Concrete house
- Processed and imported food

The 'Simple Life'

- A strong discourse on Siquijor around *ang simpel nga kinabuhi*, the simple life
- Suggests 'good life', sufficiency, austerity
- Not always compatible with dominant ideas of *kalamboan* (development) on the island
- The tension between the two discourses reflects ambivalence about what constitutes desirable economic and social relations

Implications

- Notions of development held by individuals are not necessarily singular – competing ideals can be held at once
- Need to pay attention to this when incorporating local views, otherwise risk identifying only those ideas that match organisation's pre-existing philosophy or programme goals