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Personal is Political: Caring Economy & Partnership in the Philippines

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<http://caringeconomy.org/personal-is-political-caring-economy-in-the-philippines/>

THE PERSONAL IS POLITICAL: CARING ECONOMY AND PARTNERSHIP IN THE PHILIPPINES

Ann Amberg, M.C.S.

Abstract

Center for Partnership Studies' program Alumni are applying their leadership skills as community advocates in powerful ways worldwide. "Personal is Political" features certified Caring Economy Advocate Theresa Balayon's work in the Philippines. In a context of a Partnership framework, Theresa facilitates local events with gender development activists and policy makers, witnessing their stories as women, to encourage awareness of the need for cultural change toward a more caring economic system.

Keywords: Caring economy, advocacy, gender equity, partnership, community activism, leadership, Philippines, mothers, policy, alumni, stories, cultural transformation, domination-partnership continuum

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Meet Theresa Balayon: inspired change agent, seasoned community leader, and current participant in the Center for Partnership Studies' (CPS) [Power of Partnership](#) workshop. Theresa, a resident of Quezon City in the Philippines, is creatively applying Partnership and caring economy principles to her gender equity and advocacy work in her community.



Theresa Balayon

Theresa Balayon and her colleague Rosanita Serrano are paving the way for the inclusion of caring economics in the Philippines' growing Gender and Development mainstreaming process. In October 2015, Theresa coordinated and facilitated a

conversation on caring economics for women community leaders hosted by the Quezon City Gender and Development Resource and Coordination Office (GADRCO).

Theresa writes: “We named this event *Huntahan at Hugutan* (Filipino for “light, oral exchanges about matters that have deep, often unstated, underpinnings”). I designed the conversations toward awareness of cultural change. Conscious change in the context of partnership is the theme that threads my conversation design, including assumptions, content, and process. In our community conversations, I include Riane Eisler’s Cultural Transformation Theory, the domination-partnership continuum, and Caring Economy’s Social Wealth Economic Indicators. I provide a glossary on Partnership concepts. Our conversations touch on the truism of ‘personal-is-political’; and, in general, women’s shared experiences of discrimination, harassment, invisibility, multiple burden, poverty, violence and inequity.”

Theresa is hosting several *Huntahan at Hugutan* events in 2016. Her colleagues are planning to capture participants’ life stories as change agents and have these published as a GADRCO monograph.





A Caring Economy conversation in Quezon City, Philippines, October 2015, with local gender equity and policy advocates.

Theresa is a catalyst for change at the government level: under her guidance, Caring Economy will be part of the platform of a presidential aspirant, and she is taking the lead as a policy advocate, an adept Caring Economy Conversation Leader, and a soon-to-be certified Partnership Practitioner for local barangays (village councils).

Here at CPS, we agree that conversations that arise in leadership circles embedded in the Partnership model often share similarities to *Huntahan at Hugutan*: light, oral exchanges about matters that have deep, often unstated underpinnings.

The diverse skills, knowledge, dedication and experience that Partnership Practitioners worldwide bring to the table is invaluable and timely as we collectively shift towards a Partnership system that works for all: women, men, children, community, nation, and planet.

Theresa is also a graduate of the CPS' Caring Economy Advocates Program and Riane Eisler's Cultural Transformation Course.

For more information on becoming certified as a Partnership Practitioner, see <http://caringeconomy.org/pop/>

The Caring Economy Advocates certification program begins March 8, 2016. Join the leadership cohort now forming! See: <http://caringeconomy.org/advocates/>
For information on The Center for Partnership Studies' courses, see <http://caringeconomy.org/onlineclasses/>

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