

China Studies in the Philippines: Insights on the Community of Practice

The field of China Studies has been accorded increasing attention over the years, dovetailing the rise of China. While the tendency towards Sinicization in defining the boundaries of acceptable knowledge that the field should have is understandable, the evolution of China Studies in different countries and the ensuing narratives cannot be discounted. These narratives enrich rather than dilute the field. In the interest of contributing the Philippine narrative, the study queries what the state of China Studies in the Philippines is. The research aims to analyze China Studies in the Philippines by interrogating the oral histories of senior experts in the Philippines in the fields of foreign relations, literature, media, and development and critically engage the academic literature and the discourses in the field. The approach applied in this current project focuses on narrative analytics, which underscore varied contexts (e.g. historical, cultural, political) that shape life histories, which, in turn, shape the larger narrative. The research contributes to an evaluation of the field of China Studies in the world in aid of enriching the field epistemologically. Furthermore, a more nuanced appreciation of contextual paths of the evolution of China knowledge in the Philippines allows a self-reflective analytical modality in understanding Philippine perspectives on developments in Philippines-China relations.