

EU's principled pragmatism amid Duterteismo in the Philippines

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How does the EU navigate the state of democratic backsliding in the Philippines through its principled pragmatism socialized towards the support of human rights and rule of law?

- the power-idea nexus comprising Duterte's logic of no alternative and its perverse outcomes
- the state of peacebuilding amid the reality effects of democratic backsliding in Mindanao
- the socialized approach based on human rights and rule of law that the EU has employed towards political settlement and economic development in Mindanao

Dutertismo and the power-idea nexus

- Dutertismo as a viable logic of discourse in public policy and administration—one that dominates the meaning-making of realpolitik in the Philippines
- Dutertismo, as a way of doing politics by the politically powerful, is generally assumed to subsume any ability of weak political actors in advancing oppositionist ideas over the government's interests
 - logic of no alternative
- Influence of ideational power of policy outcomes: power through, over and in ideas (Carstensen and Schmidt, 2015)

EU and Mindanao in the time of democratic backsliding

- EU's principled pragmatism based on human rights and the rule of law → a different logic of communication that attempts to navigate – if not counter – the logic of no alternative posed by Duterteismo
- Principled pragmatism → EU's quest to “seek reciprocal inspiration from different regional experiences” and at the same time “[get] things done” based on a pragmatism modeled through the bloc's “primacy of practice”, its concern of practical results (EUGS, 2016, p. 32; Di Floristella, 2020, pp. 177-179).

- Mindanao as a particular site of democratic backsliding, and which has a greater presence from the EU
- Political conditions remain to be defined by protracted and violent conflict across the island region, although there have been promises of settlement through BARMM
- EU's principled-pragmatic logic of communication towards political settlement and economic development in Mindanao are constantly challenged by a prevailing narrative of castigating political freedoms amid Duterte's regime

Principled pragmatism: pressures and persistence

- Presence of EU's institutional structures in Mindanao
- EU's aims of peace and development
- EU's engagement with civil society

- Concluding remarks: principled pragmatism as an alternative logic of doing politics (and navigating Duterteismo, the logic of no alternative, in the country)

End of presentation.
Thanks!