

Marginalization and the Multiplicity of Rationalities: A Discourse Theory of Poverty

Agustin Martin G. Rodriguez¹

This essay argues for the necessity for a rationality based theory of poverty. It explains how the roots of poverty are rooted in the marginalization of the rationalities of the so called poor, a marginalization that renders them disempowered from realizing their conception of the good life. It argues that the genuine liberation of the poor demands their empowerment founded in the liberation of their rationalities. This means that reformers must focus on building systems of discourse that allow the marginalized to participate in the shaping of the dominant rationalities that govern us all. . [Article copies available for a fee from *The Transformative Studies Institute*. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2012 by *The Transformative Studies Institute*. All rights reserved.]

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The roots of global poverty are often explored from a purely economic perspective. Its main causes have been attributed to the exploitative practices of the dominant economies of the first world and the continued imposition of unfair and unjust trade relations with the global south. From the dire and unabashed exploitation of natural resources and manpower during the colonial era to today's almost manic imposition of

¹ **Agustin Martin G. Rodriguez**, Ph.D., is associate professor and chair of the Philosophy Department of the Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines. He is the author of *Governing the Other* and has published on discourse theory, poverty, good governance, and social justice. He has also written on Derrida, Habermas and Scheler. His current research is focused on the possibility of building new paradigms of just and sustainable development that are not western based. Address correspondence to: Agustin Martin G. Rodriguez, Department of Philosophy, Ateneo de Manila University, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City, 1108, Philippines; e-mail: arodriguez@ateneo.edu.