

# **BRINGING HOME “LUCK”: SOCIO-CULTURAL DIMENSIONS OF MIGRATION FROM SAMAR ISLAND, PHILIPPINES**

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The search for better luck, or *sapalaran*, a concept local to the Philippines, is said to motivate many people to migrate. Based on a case study of villagers from Samar Island who migrated to Manila, this paper explores what constitutes “luck” for the Samaritan migrants. A close examination of migrant narratives and interactions with people in their home villages, including successful migrants who have recently returned home, reveals that luck is not just a matter of monetary gain, but also relates to the ways in which migrants maintain social relationships.

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