

First Fuwa Award Comments

Recipient: Jonna Estudillo (Professor, University of the Philippines Diliman)

Prof. Jonna Estudillo made a significant contribution to the economic literature on gender disparities in the developing world, especially when she collaborated with Prof. Keijiro Otsuka and Dr. Agnes Quisumbing in the rural Philippines, Indonesia, and Ghana. Their collaboration produced numerous journal articles and culminated in the monograph entitled *Land and Schooling: Transferring Wealth across Generations* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004). Their research in gender disparities challenged the then accepted wisdom that inheritance systems are unchanging. A groundbreaking finding from their collaborative research is that rural inheritance systems can alter as newly adopted agricultural technologies and non-farm sector development change relative returns to land and schooling, because parents try to maximize the benefit of inheritance for their daughters and sons. Another great finding is that higher lifetime incomes and household welfare for both women and men tend to be achieved when and where gender gap in land and schooling is smaller. These fascinating findings were first obtained in the Philippines and then confirmed in other study sites. Prof. Estudillo played a central, if not leading, role in the important studies in the Philippines. This is why she is the first author of the three journal articles based on the studies there, which underlie the core part of *Land and Schooling*, and which I attach to this nomination form (Estudillo, Quisumbing, and Otsuka 2001 a, b, c). She received the Ten Outstanding Young Scientist Award from the government of the Philippines in 2004. Prof. Estudillo is also known for her broad-based approach to poverty alleviation and rural transformation, which is epitomized by her often-cited EDCC paper and the chapter she contributed to the Handbook of Agricultural Economics (Estudillo and Otsuka 1999, 2009). This includes her collaboration with late Prof. Fuwa on the investigation into the disproportionate impact of a natural disaster on the poor (Sakai, Estudillo, Fuwa, Higuchi, and Sawada, 2017). In conclusion, Prof. Estudillo surely deserves to be the first recipient of the Fuwa Award.

References:

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