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Effect of Police Corruption on Former Residents of the Philippines Upon Their Return to Their Homeland

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Walden University
2025

Abstract

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Abstract

Corruption in law enforcement is particularly heinous because it deprives the citizens living under the threat of police corruption of the rule of law and takes away the constitutional protections that are guaranteed and enforced by the courts. The purpose of this qualitative phenomenological study was to explore the perceptions of former residents of the Philippines regarding the effect of police corruption on them. Schultz's behavioral theories and the reward neurophysiology provided this study's framework. Data were collected from twenty-four surveys of former residents of the Philippines when they visited their homeland. Findings indicated that former residents of the Philippines who now live in the United States have well-thought-out plans to ensure they are not arrested and not charged by corrupt police. Findings may contribute to positive social change in that they can be used to develop anticorruption policies that are effective in addressing the problem, with a focus on the victims.

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Dedication

To my loving wife, whose support, guidance, and strength made this journey possible.

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I want to express my deepest gratitude to my committee chairperson, Dr. Howard Henderson, and committee member, Dr. Gregory Kohele, for their invaluable guidance, unwavering support, and perceptive feedback throughout my research journey.

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Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study

Corruption is a problem that affects people regardless of where they live or travel. Police corruption and its effects on local populations in the Philippines have been studied and evaluated by several researchers (Ligson, 2021; Ngich & Cho, 2020). None of the previous studies had examined former residents, police corruption, and its effect on their behavior. Corruption in law enforcement is particularly heinous because it deprives the citizens living under the threat of police corruption of the rule of law and takes away the constitutional protections that are guaranteed and enforced by the courts. Aquino (2021) described corruption as an issue affecting every area of a country. The United Nations defined corruption as a complex issue involving political, social, and economic difficulties in all countries of the world. Horne et al. (2022) implicated UN peacekeepers as perpetrators of rape and murder. The study explored the police culture that allows corruption to flourish and focused on police corruption in the Philippines and how the former residents perceive police corruption has affected them. Further research was thus needed to overcome a lack of data on systematic police corruption in the Philippines, Ligson (2021) identified.

The Philippines

Aquino (2021) argued that corruption perverts the rule of law and causes a backup in justice when its only purpose is to allow officers to solicit bribes from residents. From thriving countries to third-world countries, in many cases corruption is due to the drug trade and the allure of big money (Piazza & Piazza 2020). Corruption is similar in manner but different in the effect it has on the lives of the citizens who live under threat.

In many areas of the world, corruption can be found in the departments of the government that serve the people. Obtaining data that revealed the effect that police corruption has on former residents of the Philippines was the first step in identifying the damage that can be done to former citizens of the Philippines. Ligson (2021) noted that police who are corrupt undermine the faith given to them by the community and that their acts are accepting bribes, stealing from citizens and criminals, and physical harm to those they come in contact with. In the Philippines, police have been accused of all of the actions listed, and according to Ligson (2021), the culture is ripe for corruption, including sex-related crimes committed by police. The current study was important because it served as the starting point in determining how those corrupt acts affect former residents of the Philippines. This chapter addresses the study's background, problem, steps taken in the research project, restrictions, and reason for the research. This chapters shows the importance of understanding how police corruption affects the nation of the Philippines.

Background

Philippine citizens have developed certain acts that help to prevent police corruption from affecting them and allow them to exist without fear of arrest. The current study explored the acts or omissions that help to ensure that the former residents of the Philippines are among those who benefit from the tradeoff of acts for the benefit of a reward of nonarrest. Ligson (2021) noted there is a lack of information on police corruption in the Philippines and that there must be information before a strategy to correct police corruption can be developed.

The current study was needed to produce data on corruption's effects on former residents. Findings may support strategies to fight the culture that permeates communities into accepting that police corruption is acceptable if the tradeoff is corrupt practices such as bribes are allowed to help keep citizens from charges. The findings may help effect social change in understanding the police culture that is the motivation of the former resident population to accept corrupt police practices. Pinpointing the behavioral tradeoff of bribery for absolution of criminal activity is imperative in producing programs that address the culture of corruption because understanding what motivates the officers to break ethical codes to change the behavior of the residents is the key to developing an understanding of the strategies that will work. By concentrating on the acts that create a behavioral change in former residents to compensate for the guarantee of reduced or dismissed charges when they break the law, the study provided data needed to understand the behavioral change in the former residents. In its most basic state, that would be fixing a traffic ticket with an off-the-books fine at a traffic checkpoint, and the most serious would be an off-the-books fine for a murder charge.

The current study's importance was what Sultanovna (2021) described as a corrupt system throughout the government's offices and departments from top to bottom. Sultanova added that the rule of law is degraded when the degree of dishonesty in a country rises to a certain level, making corruption a severe problem for countries worldwide. Sultanovna added that corruption has existed for as long as society has existed.

The current study sought to fill the knowledge gap by concentrating on former residents of the Philippines who are now living in the United States and the changes in their behavior when dealing with police corruption in the Philippines. The study was unique because it addressed the life changes the former residents endured to avoid being arrested by corrupt police. The study may provide valuable information about how former residents make day-to-day adjustments to avoid negative interactions with corrupt police. The findings may allow others to see inside the world of police corruption and the changes in behavior the former residents of the Philippines had to go through to avoid arrest or charges being filed against them. These findings may provide the Philippine government with valuable information that can help create effective programs to address police corruption in the country.

Police corruption has been a persistent issue for governments and residents since the establishment of police departments. Nowhere is it more prevalent than in underdeveloped countries (Hope, 2020). Policing in the Philippines has long been marred by corrupt practices. First, Spanish rule and then American influence created a culture of corruption, ensuring that the Philippines continued the corrupt police practices taught to them by the two countries (Batalla, 2020).

Corruption in the Philippines

According to Aquino (2021), corruption is an accepted practice in the Philippines and will not change because it is an accepted practice. Lacking the political will to correct the problem of police corruption in the Philippines will ensure the continued practice of police corruption without any effort to stop the corrupt actors from taking advantage of

the residents of the Philippines (Ngich & Cho, 2020). Aquino noted that the problem is the residents' acceptance of police corruption and their lack of desire to address the issues or the resulting corruption. That is why there is widespread corruption, which is deeply rooted in the system. When 18- to 30-year-olds were asked about their views, of police corruption in the Philippines and their ideas about what they believed needed to be done to correct it, it became clear that corruption is an accepted practice and is condoned by the elected officials because they are also corrupt. Police corruption has progressed to the point that it is at its worst, and the youths accept it (Aquino, 2021). Ngich and Cho (2020) insisted that without the political will to correct police corruption in the Philippines, there can be no correction. Filipinos now living in the United States accept that the Filipino police are corrupt. The former residents of the Philippines had to live daily under the alleged protection of corrupt police officers.

Magpantay et al. (2021) indicated that for Philippine police to act ethically and professionally, their selection to serve and their training must be standardized and that failing to do so will lead to a culture in which police work condones corruption and immoral, illegal acts by police officers. Magpantry et al. argued for more standardized training to address the culture that allows corruption to flourish, while Jamasali-Abdula et al. (2022) reported that the police subculture is what leads to police corruption and that it is the subculture that must be addressed because it is the subculture that affects the ethics of the officers and can give the police a reputation of being corrupt. Batalla (2019) argued that the culture of favoritism and weak controls contributes to institutional corruption among the police, while Mendoza et al. (2020) noted that local subcultures may influence

police subcultures. Bak (2021) revealed that corruption is a global issue, with a 2020 survey in Asia indicating that most or all police officers are perceived as corrupt. Bak also argued that there is not an easy fix for police corruption. One reason is a police culture that protects colleagues and keeps officers silent about other officers who commit corrupt acts. In a departure from most other studies, Zhang et al. (2020) argued that trust in the police improved between 2002 and 2014, and that the more education one has, the more likely they are to distrust the police.

What is missing from these reports is the effect that police corruption has on former residents in the Philippines. Many former residents are high school educated, do not possess college degrees, and are older. Findings that represent how those former residents feel they are affected by police corruption is important because the former Filipinos behave and focus on issues different from those who still live in the Philippines. The recent studies that addressed police corruption in the Philippines concentrated on large metropolitan areas of the Philippines (Ngich & Cho, 2020).

Problem Statement

It was not known ift the former residents of the Philippines understand how police corruption affects them. Artello and Albanese (2021) noted that if the police are not trusted enough for the citizens to call when they need assistance, there is no one else to call, and they will take matters into their own hands, which most times results in violence. In the United States, the former residents have accepted that the Filippino police are corrupt. Police corruption in the Philippines will not be corrected until the

people living under it have the political will to correct it (Ngich & Cho, 2020). The corruption of the police feeds off accepting the culture of the people they serve. Deloria (2021) noted that corruption is complex and is viewed as only affecting law and politics; however, its existence in every sector hurts that sector. Deloria also noted that corruption causes a disruption between society and the social environment. Nyberug (2021) argued that when looking at the issue of personal effects on private citizens, researchers must first understand that in the private realm of the democratic process, when police are corrupt, citizens are unable to form independent opinions, and their personal liberties are not protected. Obiora (2021), added that corruption is multidirectional, meaning that the person providing the benefits from the receiver and the receiver are both aware that the action is corrupt but have determined to keep it hidden. Obiora further noted for us that the acts create an unethical act that damages society. M. A. Khan (2022) explained that crime prevention in rural communities is hampered and that many times, because of corrupt police, suspects are released without charges. M. A. Khan added that there is a fundamental distrust of police in rural areas because of the perceived corruption they are involved in.

According to T. A. Johnson and Cox (2014), a lack of ethics taught in police academies is to blame for police corruption. T. A. Johnson and Cox introduced “noble cause corruption,” explaining that it occurs because police officers do not recognize the difference between right and wrong in law enforcement. T. A. Johnson and Cox indicated that in their zeal to serve and protect, police officers have trouble distinguishing the right way to do their jobs. Olea et al. (2022) added that regarding the Philippine National

Police, it is possible that they received rewards for planting evidence to implicate people on drug arrests. Olea et al. also indicated that the high numbers of arrests were the result of overpolicing and corruption. According to Batalla (2019), police corruption in the Philippines is institutionalized and consists of petty cases of bribery and extortion, and the media continues to report important levels of corruption. Batalla further alleged that organizational culture and weak internal controls are to blame. According to Ngich and Cho (2020), in a Transparency International survey in 2017, 51% of those responding indicated that they perceived that police were corrupt and that police corruption was a significant issue. Ngich and Cho further stated that police corruption is a product of a larger problem of political corruption that fosters the corruption of law enforcement with external pressures. Ngich and Cho concluded that to prevent and investigate corruption, the public must be engaged, and there must be political will to fight corruption if there is ever to be a solution.

Quah (2021) noted that one of the problems faced by Asian countries is that they allow police officers to investigate their own corruption and that the Philippines has the record for the creation of anti-corruption agencies to fight corruption having created twenty-one in the last 27 years. On January 30, 2017, President Rodrigo Duterte said that 40% of the Philippine National Police's 180,000 personnel were engaged in illegal activities (Ngich & Cho, 2020). Ligson (2021) indicated that even minor corrupt acts that are ignored will lead to more serious acts of corruption. Ligson further stated that Kraska and Kappler (2015) believed that the cases in their study were a tiny fraction of the real corruption in the Philippine National Police Agency. With a scant twenty-one articles

dealing with police corruption and general corruption by public officials in the Philippines, Quoc Bui et al. (2021) insisted that the study of police corruption in the Philippines is lacking. The current study explored the perception of the effect that police corruption has on the daily lives of former residents visiting the Philippines. Changing the way former residents approach their daily lives helps to keep police involvement to a minimum; in so doing, a statement that changes the pattern of these residents' lives is rewarded by little or no contact with corrupt police.

Purpose of the Study

Artello and Albanese (2021) studied the culture of corruption and determined that corruption becomes a culture when history and the culture are persistent throughout that history. Leaders can spread corruption if they adopt an attitude that says "That is the way it is always done." Artello and Albanese concluded that when that occurs, a local community accepts that their representatives are corrupt because they grow accustomed to it. Albanse and Artello looked at public corruption and determined that it destroys people's confidence in their government and causes them to see it as disappointing and not meeting their needs.

The current qualitative study, which had a phenomenological design, explored the perceptions of former residents of the Philippines regarding the effect of police corruption on them. Although several studies have addressed police corruption from the perception of police corruption in the large cities of the Philippines, few have studied the effects of that same police corruption on former residents of the Philippines who are now living in the United States. In law enforcement and business, corruption, as defined by

Campos et al. (2010), either facilitates or impedes the process. If it facilitates the process, it cuts through the bureaucratic red tape, making the process smoother. If it impedes the process, it reduces the group's efficiency (Campos et al., 2010). Lazhar et al. (2022) explained that when there is corruption in a country, there will be other corruption in government areas because corruption breeds more corruption. Agoff et al. (2021) described the corruption toward young drug users in Mexico, which included extortion in lieu of arrest. Onyango (2022) noted that in Kenya, the poor are required to pay twice as much as the well-off for public services such as police assistance. Singh (2019) described a police culture that leads to biased recruitment, bribery, and extortion. S. A. Khan et al. (2021) noted that in Pakistan corruption is a way of life and that corruption in the police service is a problem for all government officials.

In Nigeria, Apeloko and Akinola (2021) alleged that there are three levels of police corruption: grand corruption, or embezzling public funds; "junior corruption, or junior officers accepting bribes; and booty corruption, which involves all officers and occurs when junior officers have to share their bribes with senior officers. Abun et al. (2020) noted that in the Philippines, the police are the most corrupt institution in the country. Sukarman and Wastika (2022) found that, like Thailand, the Philippines National Police are corrupt and are used by politicians for personal issues not related to law enforcement. Mendoza et al. (2020) indicated that there has to be a good subculture for police to be ethical in their dealings with the public. Bak (2021) noted that there is intense debate over police corruption and that the Philippines has a long history of corrupt acts by police. The findings from the current study may help to advance the

understanding of how corruption affects people in a rural community and the actions taken to keep the residents from having negative experiences with the corrupt police. Although studies of police corruption in the Philippines had been conducted, few had explored the toll that police corruption takes on the daily lives of the visiting former resident population. The current study addressed this gap.

Theoretical Framework for the Study

Schultz's (2006) behavioral theories and the neurophysiology of reward provided the framework for this study. Schultz noted that rewards cannot be obtained entirely from the input of events but are based on behavioral effects. For the act of paying bribes, former residents of the Philippines can obtain the reward of no arrest or harassment from police. By examining the feelings associated with police corruption and determining the propensity of the former Philippines residents to obtain rewards by no arrest or small fines off the books, the current study showed the payment reward behavior created by police corruption. Schultz insisted that rewards induce changes in behavior that can be observed, increasing the behavior, which results in a reward. Wasserman and Castro (2022) critiqued the Rescorla–Wagner model of Hume's theory of causation and said that there is a cause-effect system present in the human mind that operates off of experiences in the past and is a natural part of any action people undertake. Wasserman and Castro also noted that although people view these effects as separate actions from the cause, they are connected. According to Wasserman and Castro, prior experiences lead people to expect that some action will result in some effect.

Although acts and effects may appear to be separate, people's experiences tell them that they are not separate but connected. Kang and Furtak (2021) argued that learning differs from a cognitive view of learning and is more of a social-cultural experience. To change the thoughts and ideas in the minds of the former residents of the Philippines, they first have to participate in the act that got them the reward (Kang & Furtak, 2021). The current study's purpose was to explore how police corruption changes how residents living abroad in the United States go about their daily lives to please the corrupt police. By concentrating on former residents, this study addressed the effect of police corruption on the numerous islands rather than those in major cities where opportunities abound for the residents. An email was received by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) notifying me that the (IRB) had approved your application for the study your approval # is 03-21-24-0054196.

Nature of the Study

I used a qualitative phenomenological design. According to Friesen (2023), to increase credibility in a phenomenological study, researchers should employ bracketing, or looking at stages of the phenomenon, or what Friesen referred to as reduction, which is a method of reducing the phenomenon to its most basic form and then examining the steps or stages until it gets to what it is today. Friesen credited Husserl's (1913/2015) definition of bracketing. I took this approach when conducting the study while spending time with the phenomenon while living in the Philippines under the same police corruption that former residents have to live with.

I used a phenomenological and ethnographic design in which in-depth survey questions, which were open-ended, were used to tie the responses to the research questions in both cases. Phenomenology addresses the meaning of the lived experience, and ethnography requires the researcher to get involved with the environment and live with the target participants of the study (Patton, 2014). In phenomenology, the analysis is guided toward the assessment of similarities, and the data should be classified and the experiences of the individual looking at them beyond human awareness. In ethnography, researchers analyze the individualized narrative from the sample to attain the relevancy of the story and describe the parameters of the culture (Patton, 2014).

Manen and Manen (2020) noted that phenomenology and heuristic inquiry are suited for the study of lived experiences, which in the current study addressed the phenomenon of police corruption in the Philippines. The survey questions asked addressed the whatness of the behavior modifications of the former residents. The current study is conducted to understand rural residents' description of their changes in daily activities to avoid contact with police officials. The justification for using the phenomenological and heuristic analysis was that it would allow me to construct survey questions designed to elicit personal and lived experiences. The goal was to explore the meanings and events that the former residents of the Philippines had.

A quantitative approach would not have enabled me to explore participants' changes in activity to avoid falling victim to police corruption (see Eatough & Smith, 2007). Houston (2022), while critiquing a study by Bourdieu who said that phenomenology fails to offer anything legitimate, noted that phenomenology is useful

because it looks at the lived experiences of sections of society. Houston insisted that phenomenology is concerned with what an individual thinks is significant to themself or acts that are on purpose. I used a phenomenological design to study how residents view police corruption and what changes they go through to guarantee no arrest or criminal record, and why they would rather pay a bribe to stay out of trouble than trust the country's justice system. This justice system has seen arrestees languish in jail for years without seeing a judge or the inside of a courtroom or having the opportunity to prove their innocence. To further justify the choice of phenomenology as the design of the current study, I explored the lived experiences of people who had the idea that by creating events in their daily lives, they could avoid the situation of police corruption in the Philippines.

Phenomenology allowed me to explore the experiences of the participants, gauge their perspectives regarding those experiences, and provide an objective view of the topic. In addition, I intended to live in the community where data were gathered. As van Oorschot et al. (2022) revealed, it is sometimes easier to participate in society with ethnography because the researcher involves themself so they can then report the problems encountered in study design. Ike and Jidong (2022) noted that because participants are human beings, it is appropriate to use hermeneutics to uncover how they interpret the issues of their lived experiences and what is important to them.

The basic qualitative design was not selected for the study; although it would have covered experiences the potential participants have lived through, it would not have addressed the events leading up to the behavioral change or the what and the why of the

behavior, making it necessary to live with the phenomenon of police corruption or the perception of how it affects the lives of them and their families (see Patton, 2014). A qualitative case study design was also not selected because the current study was not a case study but rather an exploration of the perceptions of a group of former residents of the Philippines. The qualitative case study is designed to look at the frequency of the research and the attributes of the case study. Although the case study addresses the experience of a person or event, the current study looked at the behavior change. Grounded theory and realism were not chosen for the current study because the intention was not to develop a theory but rather contribute to a theory that was already established. Social construction and narrative inquiry are more concerned with the worldview of the phenomenon, while the current study addressed the individual and how the meaning of the lived experience guided the analysis toward the assessment of similarities.

T. A. Johnson and Cox (2014) indicated that if police are to be effective, the public must not think that a corrupt officer is answering their call for help. T. A. Johnson and Cox also noted that police ethics differ from ethics of other professions and that officers do not always intend to break the law, but they do not often realize that what they are doing is illegal. If there is a sign that an officer is corrupt, not only the officer but the entire organization will look bad as a result (T. A. Johnson & Cox, 2014). This supported the need to understand how former residents of the Philippines perceive how police corruption has affected them.

Residents of the United States who are former residents of the Philippines randomly completed an online survey consisting of questions about their lives when they

lived in the Philippines. The current study was designed to explore former residents' perceptions of how police corruption affects their lives and the concessions they must make to avoid police corruption upon their return to the Philippines. The online surveys focused on understanding the individual experiences of the phenomenon of police corruption in the former residents of the Philippines to determine the lengths they go to to avoid police contact upon their return. The surveys also addressed the individual experiences of former residents of the Philippines to understand the changes to their lives because of police corruption. The asynchronous surveys were used to elicit information from participants who feel more comfortable not doing anything that could be construed by others as going after the local police (see Amanfi, 2019). Data gathered in the form of online surveys were assumed to provide a thorough view of participants' perspectives of the phenomenon of the changes in behavior required to avoid contact with the police.

Data from the surveys were analyzed to understand the efforts that the former residents of the Philippines go through to adjust their lives to avoid police contact and avoid corrupt police practices upon their visits to the Philippines. Singh (2022) argued that police corruption weakens the rule of law and is often accompanied by criminal conduct, including misconduct involving bribery, theft, and extortion.

Definitions

American influences: American colonial authorities created the Insular Constabulary, which was responsible for stopping unlawful activities and had more authority than municipal police officers (Batalla, 2019).

Anticorruption agencies: Government agencies that implement anticorruption policy for the government (Bandyopadhyay, 2022).

Asynchronous surveys: Online surveys in which participants can respond at any time, not simultaneously with other participants (Zwaanswijk & van Dulmen, 2014).

Barangay: A rural community around a city in the Philippines, which is the smallest territorial and political subdivision. A group of barangays is what makes up city subdivisions (Yusingco, 2022).

Barangay committee: A forum where disputes are settled by a group of elders who mediate the disagreements and issue adjudication (Lupao & Alejandro, 2022).

Bayanihan: A community forum where citizens can have a say in government (Yusingco, 2022).

Behavioral theories: Theories that explain the different effects of rewards on behavior (Schultz, 2006).

Culture: The values, beliefs, and norms shared by any one group (M. Bacon, 2021).

Developed country: A country that has a high standard of living and a well-established transportation system and communications system and is often known as a first-world country (Unk, 2021).

Developing countries: Low human development and low domestic product are indicative of developing countries, which are often referred to as third-world countries (In Focus, 2021).

Ethics: The constant evaluation of what is right, wrong, and choosing to do right when no one is watching (McGranahan, 2022).

Global issue: Sustainable development goals, including an agreement with countries worldwide, to create a future that is prosperous, socially inclusive, and environmentally sustainable for all (Vera Cruz & Mullet, 2019).

Hume's associative theory of causation: The basic assumption is that all human knowledge is founded in experience and through causation (Stanek, 2017).

Institutional corruption: From the street level to the upper management level, corruption exists in an organization (Batalla, 2019).

Lived experiences: "Life as we experience it in its meaningfulness" or "to what matters" (van Manen, 2019).

Neurophysiology of reward: The areas of the brain that are activated when a reward is offered for an act (Bissonette & Roesch, 2015).

Noble cause corruption: Officers do not recognize the difference between right and wrong in law enforcement. In their zeal to serve and protect, they have trouble distinguishing the right way to go about enforcing the law (T. A. Johnson & Cox, 2014).

Off-the-books: Not reported or recorded (Merriam-Webster, n.d.).

Philippine National Police: The national police of the Philippines (Hip, 2022).

Police culture: A set of informal rules that guide an important part of police practices (Hendriks & van Hulst, 2016).

Private realm: The general public that the police officers serve and protect (Nyberg, 2021).

Rule of law: People are bound to obey applicable legal norms as part of the legal architecture they are subject to (Hildebrandt, 2020).

Rural Filipino: Farming and fishing communities, which are sectors of the country with the highest poverty levels (Cloete & Dasig Salazar, 2022).

Social-cultural view of learning: Students' cognitive psychology and education that leads to the application of social and cultural contexts (Sari & Hadiansah, 2022).

Subculture: Common cultural standards, job preferences, attitudes, and professional frameworks, which share the prevailing values of a broader culture in the most significant ways (Jamasali-Abdula et al., 2022).

Unethical act: Actions that are based on poor ethical and moral decision making, which results in prohibited or illegal acts (Cohen, 2021).

Value of law: Ensuring that victims of crime get justice and those who perpetrate crimes against them get punished are what laws are designed to accomplish (Bye & Bye, 2022).

Assumptions

Police corruption is the result of the general corruption that overshadows the Philippines. Attempts to eradicate police corruption have been unsuccessful because of the lack of will in the political realm to address police corruption. Police corruption results in keeping Filipinos in poverty and failing to address the corruption helps to fuel the third-world description of the country. Government use of the Philippine National Police for personal reasons ensures that the police are guilty of institutional corruption that permeates the entire police service in the Philippines. These assumptions were

necessary to understand the scope of police corruption and to understand the lengths that will need to be gone through to reduce police corruption. In some cases, police corruption can be described as a noble cause, as when police in the Philippines do not believe that charging victims or suspects money to make their crimes or injuries disappear is wrong (T. A. Johnson & Cox, 2014). When those who are being charged with a crime cannot pay the appropriate sum to the police officials who have arrested them, they can count on being incarcerated without the benefit of a trial. Many of those so unfortunates are not afforded an appearance before a judge and are released only when they can post the parole fee. This can be years from the time of the original arrest.

Scope and Delimitations

The focus of the study was the effect police corruption has on the former residents of the Philippines who are now living in the United States. The residents being studied had developed a system of behavior that ensured them of nonarrest for criminal acts. Understanding the required tradeoffs to ensure the nonarrest was the goal of the study and the first step in determining what can be done to reduce police corruption on a local level. The study looked at former residents and excluded residents of major metropolitan areas of the Philippines. Ruddell and Trott (2022) concluded that the more corrupt a country is, the less the police are seen as trustworthy. Ruddell and Trott also noted that rural residents of the country think more about being victimized by a criminal than the rule of law, and to them it means they have less trust in the police. M. Khan and Roy (2022) argued the most significantly advanced countries toward the rule of law have arrived there in increments while becoming more rule following. M. Khan and Roy also noted

that a person's perception and fear of victimization determine how they feel about the police. A case study design could have been selected for the current study: however, the case study would have failed to address the behavioral issues that were part of the study. The study used open-ended questions in surveys to determine how local police corruption affects the former residents' behavior and what behavioral changes they require to avoid arrest for themselves and their families. This approach ensured that the study could be replicated by following the steps outlined in the study.

Limitations

Limitations are occurrences that can occur outside the intended outcome of the study and cannot be predicted. The current study limited the participants to those who had lived in the Philippines, many of whom were poor farmers (see Simon & Goes, 2013). The limitations in the methodology of the study included the possibility that my personal conclusions as the researcher tainted the results of the study, which may make it impossible to persuade others that the conclusions of the study are unbiased (see Lietz & Zayas, 2010). Some readers of the study could argue that the study of the effect that police corruption has on the former residents of the Philippines is a limitation because it does not give the results to form a concrete conclusion (see Amanfi, 2019).

Focusing solely on a former population also carried the possibility of being looked at as a former population and, therefore, not representative of the at-large population of the Philippines. Further researchers may see phenomenology and ethnography as limiting the ability to replicate the study, and they may label it as a weak finding and impossible to repeat the study with any success; however, ensuring that data

saturation was met would alleviate this concern. The ethnographic approach of the study was a good method of understanding the behavior of those who grew up living in the Philippines and the effects police corruption has on them (see Queiros et al., 2017).

Significance

Many studies dealt with corruption and the consequences of leaving it unchecked (Abun et al., 2020; Agoff et al., 2021; Akinyetun, 2021; Albanse & Artello, 2019; Amini et al., 2021), and many dealt with the police corruption (Agoff et al., 2021; Akinyetun, 2021; Baker et al., 2019; Khan et al., 2021; Khan & Roy, 2022; Kratcoski, 2002) and police corruption in the Philippines, (Batalla, 2019; De Jesus, 2021; Jamasali-Abdula et al., 2022; Ligson & Crim, 2021). The significance of the study is that there were few, if any, studies that were done on police corruption and its effect on the former residents of the Philippines now living in the United States. The previous studies dealt with the effect that police corruption in the Philippines has on the major metropolitan areas of the Philippines. Ruddell and Trout (2022) studied the views of trust in the police and indicated a difference between urban and rural populations in how police corruption is viewed.

That is what made the current study so important. Understanding the perception of former residents of the Philippines regarding the effect police corruption has on them may provide needed information for policymakers in developing anticorruption programs. The study was designed to understand perceptions and find the common theme in behavior modification that causes former Philippines residents to change their activities to avoid arrest.

This study may change the lives of millions of Filipinos, which may have a trickle-down effect on the local population of the Philippines. By focusing on the perceived effect of police corruption on the lives of the area's former residents, this study may affect police corruption. Social change means that the study should be designed to improve the lives of those living in the area studied. The current study did this and has the possibility of a tremendous effect on the lives of Filipinos.

Significance to Practice

The rule of law is as old as the Magna Carta, which has references to it in the text, defining it as the opposite of corruption and providing protection to business and property rights to individuals, along with enforcement of contracts (Ridley & Nelson, 2022). Ridley and Nelson (2022) explained that for a country to claim it subscribes to the rule of law, it must first defeat corruption. All countries strive to achieve this, and the Philippines is no exception. The current study filled a gap in the literature regarding the perception that police corruption affects the daily lives of the participants living in the United States after being raised in the Philippines upon their return home. The study was unique because it addressed the life changes that former residents must undergo to avoid being harassed by the corrupt police. The data collected from the study may help explain the adjustments the former Philippines residents must make to avoid being harassed or arrested by their corrupt local police when they visit home. This information may provide the Philippine government with information that could help to create programs to deal with police corruption in the Philippines and enable them to claim that they subscribe to

the rule of law. Police services may use information from the study to develop or improve their ability to gain the trust of the population they serve and defeat corruption at its root.

Significance to Theory

In the Philippines, it is known that if the police become involved in something that has been done or not been done, it is likely that the person will be offered the opportunity to pay an off-the-books fine to make the case go away. If the person pays the off-the-books fine, they will be released, and no formal charge will be filed. If the person cannot pay the fine, they will be formally charged and, if arrested, may spend years in jail until they can pay to be released on parole. Most citizens in the Philippines lack the resources to pay an immediate off-the-books fine, so if they do not adjust their lifestyles to minimize the risk of police involvement in their lives, they may be incarcerated for long periods of time and never allowed to see a judge or be brought to court to face the charges.

The threat of that is enough to cause the former residents to modify their lifestyle so that they avoid any reason for having to pay the off-the-books fine or be incarcerated. These actions are a direct type of behavior in which Schultz (2006) argued that rewards (not having to pay to keep from being arrested) induce observable behavior (changes in the life of the citizen that reduce the possibility of police contact) and that repeated reinforcement of the reward will continue to elicit the changed behavior. For the former residents, Bandura (1974) explained that expecting people not to be affected by frightening, humiliating, disgusting, or sad circumstances would make them less human. The current study explored the perceptions of the former residents of the Philippines to

determine what those changes in behavior are. By identifying the changes and the reasons for those changes, the study added to the volume of information regarding ways to deter criminal behavior. Salazar (1991) noted that the behavior models aim to understand behavior and facilitate change. For many years, criminologists have attempted to determine what causes people to behave as they do. The current study may help clarify what causes behavior changes in criminal and noncriminal former residents and the police who commit corrupt acts, thereby providing what Sutherland (1972) described as the wants and values that drive human behavior. Understanding the changes that former residents of the Philippines undergo to reduce their chances of having police contact them when they make a trip home may add evidence that committing a crime or not is a choice.

Significance to Social Change

The current study's data could change society by identifying how former residents who lived under a cloud of corrupt police described what it has done to them and how it has required them to change their way of doing things in the Philippines. This could help authorities develop treatment plans that address police corruption in the Philippines. The most significant issue to social change is the guaranteeing equal protection under the law. Changing how the police approach law enforcement so that the residents do not have to pay to be protected by the police is a significant social change that may occur from the study results. The study and the data obtained may be used to ensure that police corruption is dealt with and that all people are granted equal protection. Anticorruption programs may be developed using the data from the study that addressed the behavior of the residents and how they were able to avoid or minimize police contact. The findings

from the study may be used to create programs that improve the lives of the entire population of residents of the Philippines.

Summary

Police corruption and its effect on the local populations have been studied and evaluated by other researchers (Ligson & Crim, 2021; Ngich & Cho, 20210), but none of the studies addressed the issue of the effect of police corruption on the former residents of the Philippines during their visits home. The current study included online surveys with open-ended questions to explore how local police corruption affects the population of the rural area and what behavioral changes the residents require to ensure they avoid arrest for themselves and their families. Corruption has been around as long as there have been societies, according to Sultanovna (2021), and the current study explored how former residents dealt with the effect of living under corrupt policing in the Philippines. General corruption and its connection to police corruption have been explained, and a connection has been credited to a decrease in the country's gross domestic product and the continued expansion of poverty among the rural populations in the Philippines (Sultanovna, 2021) . Understanding the changes in daily living that rural Filipinos go through to avoid police contact or the bribes they are required to pay to ensure no criminal charges may help to address those issues and resolve the corruption that permeates the Philippine National Police.

Chapter 2 addresses the general issue of corruption in the Philippines, how the corruption in the Philippines compares to corruption in other countries, what type of corruption the former residents of the Philippines face each day, how police corruption

affects the daily lives of the Filippino, how police corruption affects the rule of law, and how the Philippines has addressed excessive time delays in criminal prosecutions, resulting in local governmental policing by elected officials. Chapter 2 consists of an extensive literature review. I examine a broad view of police culture that allows corruption to flourish and narrow it to the police culture that affects the lives of former residents in the Philippines.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

In May 2020, police officers in Minneapolis were accused of systematic racism (Arango et al., 2022). There is an acceptance of police corruption in the Philippines (Aquino, 2021), which resulted in the planting of evidence by the Philippine National Police (Olea et al., 2022), Corrupt police can make life dangerous for those who are under the protection of corrupt police. The financial cost to governments and cities is staggering (Corley, 2020), and police corruption, which Transparency International (2022) called a global issue, continues to affect how people live. The current study sought to understand the effect that police corruption has on local former residents of the Philippines and the mechanism that is in place that results in residents changing their daily lives to help themselves and their family members avoid police corruption. I used Schultz's (2006) behavioral theories and the neurophysiology of reward and Glasser's (1985) choice theory to explore the changes in the lives of former residents and the way programs to discourage criminal behavior are designed. The study's goal was to identify the steps required by the former residents to make changes in their daily routines so that the same steps can be implemented to change the steps people take when they commit crimes.

The following literature review begins with an examination of corruption in society while determining whether it is systematic or simply the culture that exists that causes police corruption, how police corruption affects the application of the rule of law in countries, and how it affects the former residents of the Philippines while explaining the concept of the Barangay Justice System and how it functions as the misdemeanor

court in the Philippines. What follows is an organized explanation of the results of police corruption and its effect on those who depend on the protection of those corrupt police officers. Understanding how police corruption affects the lives of those they are sworn to protect and how, because of that corruption, an adjustment to the lives of that group of residents is required to prevent a negative experience with the police is a crucial step toward understanding the behavior change of those residents. Rescorla (date, as cited in Colwill et al., 2022), concluded that performance is the result of many more than a single contribution.

Rescorla's associative learning theories may answer many questions related to any noted change from the daily routines of local residents, which have been passed from one generation to the next by relating that change to a specific outcome. It takes a period of years for relatives and friends to teach the new generation what needs to be done, and once they learn these everything about the police corruption and they begin doing what they have learned, they are demonstrating Glasser's theory of choice. Once the behavior becomes routine by instruction from one generation to the next, it becomes what has been taught. These actions fit the theory of choice identified by Glasser in 2005. When local residents trade changes in their behavior to receive a benefit of some sort, Schultz's (2006) neurophysiology of reward is demonstrated, which can be an act such as bribes as an exchange for some action that benefits the person paying the bribe as in some leniency, which is what the study addressed.

To understand the implications of how police corruption affects individuals, it was important to understand how other types of corruption affect individuals and what

that corruption looks like. By examining police corruption, police culture, and general corruption, I collected data to validate the study. Transparency International (2023) tracked corruption in 180 of the 195 countries of the world. In 2021, the United States had a score of 67/100 with one hundred being corruption free and zero being corrupt. There was no country in the 180 that were monitored that had a score of one hundred (Transparency International, 2023). Of the 180 countries tracked by Transparency International, 88/100 was the highest score and that was for Denmark, Finland, and New Zealand, which made them the least corrupt of the 180 tracked. South Sudan had the lowest score at 11/100, which made them the most corrupt. The Philippines, which was a colony of the United States and is now a neo-colony of the United States, had a score of 33/100. The Transparency International report from 2021 also had data for that year on the governments of those 180 countries, and that data indicated that 87% of the respondents from those 180 countries believe that the legislatures and the police are the most corrupt. Due to the similarities between what is happening now with police corruption and the corruption experienced by the United States early in its history, I collected data from former residents of the Philippines.

Attempting to study police corruption in any part of the world has its own set of risks; however, in the Philippines, corruption and police corruption are openly talked about. It is so common that one question on the driver's test to get your license addresses the best way to avoid corruption (Philippine License Bureau, 2023). Some studies described police corruption as an integrity problem (Ivković et al., 2022) or an ethical problem (Sweeting et al., 2022), but few, if any, addressed police corruption as a

community problem. Understanding how police corruption is a community problem can only be accomplished by studying the community.

Corruption and police corruption have been studied in about every way possible. However, there were few, if any, studies that addressed the cost to community structure and the changes the residents go through to avoid police contact. The cost in terms of fear and human confusion had been neglected. Whether describing the blue wall of silence (Sweeting et al., 2022), meeting the victim (Ponce et al., 2021), navigating police encounters (Ponce et al., 2021), or the cult of corruption (Bleakley, 2020), researchers note that there is a human being who has had some kind of contact with a police officer who may or may not be corrupt. None of these studies examined the change in behavior brought on by the contact. The lack of research may be due to the fear of respondents talking about corruption.

According to Aubn et al. (2021), corruption weakens democratic governments, programs, agencies, and policies, and it delays or hinders economic growth. Corruption causes many negative issues in a country, including but not limited to interfering in democratic elections by destabilizing the process and weakening the rule of law by demeaning the authority of agencies and discouraging investments in the country (Aquino, 2021). Types of corruption present in developing countries include bribery, cronyism, nepotism, influence peddling, graft, and embezzlement (Aubn et al., 2021). The effects of corruption are many and far-reaching, affecting every country in the world to some degree or another. Silal et al. (2023) looked at how the government functioned and how goods and services were delivered and determined that corruption interferes

with the function of government and disrupts the distribution of goods and services. Silal et al. also noted that corruption interferes with the development of a country. Graycar (2015) argued that corruption demoralizes and weakens government and interferes with providing services while undermining trust and destroying community expectations.

A culture of corruption can be one of the most negative ethical dilemmas that are faced by those hoping to rule and trying to find ways to rid their agencies of that corrupt culture. According to Andrews (2014), corruption is one of the eight reasons the Roman Empire fell after installing twenty rulers in seventy-five years and losing the confidence of the people of Rome. Perkins (2022), in an interview with Harvard Law School Professor Matthew Stephenson (2003), says that there are stark similarities between the corruption experienced by the United States a century and a half ago and the corruption developing countries are now facing. He goes on to say that he has never and he knows of no one that has ever been asked for a bribe from a police officer or had to pay extra to get his phone hooked up which still happens in developing countries, one of which is the Philippines (Perkins, 2020). The Transparency International report from 2020 shows that 86% of the people surveyed in the Philippines thought that the Philippine government was very corrupt. Transparency International keeps records on 180 of the world's countries and publishes a report once each year (Transparency International, 2020). The Philippines, which is a developing country, is considered a neo-colony of the United States because part of the education system in the Philippines is provided for by the United States, which fits the definition of a neo-colony as the described arrangement has the United States controlling some aspect of the Philippines (Perez & Breto, 2020). In

this case, the United States assists with the education system in the Philippines, describing it as a gift, yet it is more a means of maintaining control over the country (Deloria, 2021). Corruption in the Philippines often begins with vote buying, which is rarely prosecuted due to the difficulty in proving it (Garson, 2022).

The Philippines is a struggling democracy due to the Significant influence of the United States after World War II. The United States military introduced democracy to the Philippines by opening military bases on the islands and allowing military personnel to take shore leave there. Garson (2020) concluded in her study that vote buying, although illegal and a form of corruption, in the Philippines vote buying actually causes corruption to decrease. The author suggests that a likely reason is that the sample size was too small, which may have affected the study's results. However, vote buying has been a longstanding practice since colonial times. Garson (2022) goes on to say that vote buying is one of democracy's ills and is a significant issue.

The Philippines has anti-corruption laws and programs. However, there is weak accountability, and many of those anti-corruption agencies have no power to act, which causes private sector individuals to participate in bribes. When coupled with a judicial system that refuses to punish powerful groups for crimes committed, the programs become mere symbols of what they should be with no real power (Atienza, 2022). Atienza follows up with oversight functions that should monitor the executive branch, and judicial officials are threatened by the executive and legislative branches of government, which sometimes results in assassinations. It appears that one, police corruption, is dependent on the other, and results in a weak political climate existing. If

the government adopts weak anti-corruption programs, or worse, does nothing to stop corruption, agencies like the police will always adopt the corruption climate for they stand the possibility of profiting from it. The profit from it does not always involve money but can be used to benefit family or promote friends to positions of importance. Batalla (2019) argues that the weak political climate makes it possible for corruption to permeate the country and for many government agencies to adopt a culture of corruption, the most serious of which is the police.

Lowe (1917) says that Edward B. Taylor who died on January 2, 1917, defined culture as "that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, customs, habits, any other capabilities, and habits acquired by man as a member of society." Based on this definition, a culture of police corruption would be based on a lack of knowledge, beliefs, morals, laws, habits, and/or customs. Kungirov (2023) agrees and says that culture has a long history, that culture goes back to antiquity, and that the concept of "Culture" has not changed since ancient times. Culture, then, is a concept that has guided many areas of society for a long time. It is created by the morals and ethics that humans acquire as they age, are guided by their parents, and are supposed to follow the lessons taught for society's common good. However, that is not always the case.

Literature Search Strategy

Searching for information on police corruption and its effect on the lives of former residents of the Philippines may serve to help alleviate everything from false arrests, bribery by officers, and extrajudicial killings to poverty in rural areas and why it is detrimental to the population. To understand the effect of police corruption on the

former residents of the Philippines, it is first important to know that there are steps to corruption for police departments. They involve culture, ethics, and honesty. Google Scholar, EBSCOhost, ProQuest, and Science Direct were the primary electronic database systems used for the literature search. I also used Springer Briefs in Criminology, Science Direct, and the Criminal Justice Database for a majority of the articles. The limiters used by the searchers included full-text articles that had been published in peer-reviewed journals. The search terms used varied based on the specific topic being searched. Primary terms used in the search were *police corruption with additional terms in the Philippines, the Philippines National Police, administrative offenses of the Philippine National Police, satisfaction survey of the Philippine National Police, police culture, and corruption.* For each search, the I reviewed the titles of articles for relevance, followed by a review of the abstract. Upon completion, the I read the chosen article and answered questions specific to this dissertation to determine the article's potential use for this study.

Theoretical Foundation

The framework for this study will be based on Schultz's (2006) Behavioral Theories and the Neurophysiology of Reward. Schultz (2206) believes that rewards cannot be gotten entirely from the input of events but are based on behavioral effects. For the act of paying bribes, former residents of Philippine communities can get the reward of no arrest or harassment from police. By examining the feelings associated with police corruption and determining the propensity of former Philippines residents to get rewarded by no arrest or small fines off the books, the study will show the payment reward

behavior created by police corruption. Schultz (2006) insists that rewards induce changes in behavior that can be observed, and they increase the behavior, which results in a reward. Previous studies by Schultz (2006) have resulted in evidence that rewards can cause a person to receive a benefit of some type. That is what bribery is and how it works: a bribe is paid to an officer with the understanding that the bribe gets the bribe giver something in return; in the Philippines, there is no arrest and no evidence of a crime committed by the bribe payor. The Theory of Causation, Wasserman & Castro (2022) says Hume's Associative Theory argues that simple causal thought will not result in as good an outcome as deliberate experienced thought. Hume also believed that one action will always produce one result. Kang and Furtak (2021) argue that learning culture and what is in a person's social learning is different from a cognitive view of learning and is more of a social-cultural experience (Wasserman & Castro, 2022). To change the thoughts and ideas in the minds of the people of the Philippines, they first had to participate in the act that got them the reward (Kang & Furtak, 2021). That is what transpires when a resident makes the decision to offer a bribe and when the officer accepts the bribe and rewards the resident with a gift of no charge and no record of an offense, or what purpose says when he talks about the deliberate experienced thoughts that seek action and decisions that result in some reward. In order for the process to fit the theory, the resident has to choose to participate in the bribe, and the officer has to agree to the reward, which is Glasser's Theory of Choice, according to Onedera & Greenwalt (2007), who interviewed with Dr. Glasser. This study's approach provided the details necessary to show how police corruption changes residents' daily lives to please the

corrupt police. By concentrating on former residents, this study will examine the effect of police corruption on former residents rather than those people in major cities where opportunities abound for the residents.

Literature Review

Corruption and How It Affects Society

Fantaye and Birhanu (2022) describe corruption as "colorless, shapeless, odorless, collusive, secret, stealthy, and shameless." The authors add that corruption adds to poverty, undercuts economic growth, and threatens democracy. They conclude that corruption spreads through society if corrupt individuals are not caught and imprisoned. Gaygisiz et al. (2022) and Dehgan et al. (2022) say corruption causes negative economic issues, with Dehgan et al. (2020) calling it a "plague on economics", and Gayisiz et al.(2022) implying inconsistent services and an economy which may never recover. Both studies say that corruption in society, especially in individual countries, is impossible for individuals to escape. Gaygisiz et al. (2022) go on to say politics and anti-corruption culture is necessary for anti-corruption programs to be successful.

If, as Sir Fancis Bacon (1597) says, "knowledge itself is power", then a lack of knowledge results in a lack of power, which is what Gaygisiz & Lajunene (2022) attribute to a belief that gives others the idea that corruption is okay and that they can be as corrupt as they like, which can result in a lower income in the country. Dehgan et, al., (2022) suggest that "planners and policymakers in Asian countries should design anti-corruption programs for not only their own countries but for those countries that border them." Spyromitros & Panagiotidis, 2022) looked at the impact of corruption on

developing countries and determined that not only does corruption affect democracy, but corruption leads to wide income inequality in developing countries and destroys the infrastructure of the country. Villamil et al. (2022)explain that corruption affects economic growth by slowing it down, a particularly severe problem for developing countries. Their study looked at the systemic corruption present in Brazil, insisting that much of the corruption is present for a year before it is discovered. They go on to explain that all of the tools that are available to find ways to combat corruption are available to the corrupt actors.

Rahim (2022) insists that corruption causes disrespect for the law and endangers the rule of law. He concludes that corruption of some type and on some level exists in most countries. Němec et al. (2022) describe a "shadow economy" that develops because corruption and the shadow economy can siphon money and workers from the legitimate economy. They identify public administration as the most crippling agency if it becomes corrupt. Ngich & Cho (2020) studied corruption in Indonesia and determined that the government in Indonesia lacks ethics. Even though Indonesia has regulations that define ethical behavior, they are ignored by officials who are engaged in corrupt behavior. They go on to apply an ethical argument, where they determine right from wrong, to the study of the Indonesian government's corruption, and in so doing, argue that corruption harms democracy. They quote a 2009 study by Nichols which says, "Corruption causes severe damage to society." They conclude that corruption causes society to be chaotic and that chaos will affect the delivery of police services."

Laureti et al. (2023) studied corruption on a global scale and inform us of the effects corruption has on society and economics. They first say that corruption usually happens in poor countries but then admit that corruption can affect countries that are developed and subscribe to the rule of law. They conclude that the ability of lobbyists to have access to political members of the government has the same effect as corruption. Iqbal et al. (2022) identify financial corruption as a global problem and apply the Qur'an and its lessons to the problem. They link financial corruption to all types of corruption and point to greed and a desire for luxury as the source of dishonest acts. They conclude that corruption exists because countries do not have strict enough laws to prevent it. They introduce honesty and integrity as steps in the right direction for fighting against corruption.

Pradhan et al. (2022) examined the effect of capital inflows on economic liberalization and whether it affects corruption and hinders economic growth in India. They conclude that corruption threatens economic growth and is a major issue when trying to control it to maintain economic growth. Hope (2020) determined that corruption suppresses Africa's economic growth, politics, and social development. Hope concludes that reducing corruption in politics, administration, and business by 2030 is the goal in Africa. Hope points to corruption and bribery as being hard to identify and address successfully, resulting in interrupted sustainable growth. Beesley and Hawkins (2022) indicate that trust is necessary for economic growth because of its quality and political balance in democracies. They go on to say that low trust in institutions is present in many countries, especially in developing countries, and this, in turn, causes an acceptance of

illegal behavior. The authors use “a local, reputable survey from the Public Opinion Institute of the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru,” which had already conducted the survey that dealt with corruption. They conclude that other studies have examined institutional trust and determined corruption hinders economic development. They found that petty corruption affected institutional trust and grand corruption had no effect on trust. Additionally, they found that high levels of corruption cause low trust in institutions. Spyromitros and Panagiotidis (2022) studied several factors surrounding corruption and its effect on economic growth. They subscribe to the view that corruption is either “sand in the wheel” or “grease in the wheel,” implying that if it is sand, it stops the wheel from turning in its tracks, and if it is grease, it moves the processes along. They conclude that corruption is sand in the wheel as it applies to economic growth and that high systematic corruption is likely to negatively impact investment and growth of the country. The authors also developed methods that can be used to investigate corruption. Lee & Liu (2022) studied corruption in the United States and determined that there is a three-pronged problem with corruption. The authors add that not only is corruption harmful to individual state governments if there is public corruption, but it is also likely to affect the running of government and policy implementation. According to Agerberg (2020), there is a global industry measuring corruption. That industry identified Romania as a seriously corrupt country in Europe and conducted a large survey. Ofori and Sena Dogbatse (2023) looked at corruption-fighting tools employed by Ghana and found that the comedy provided by memes was an effective way to fight corruption when coupled with media reports. They allege that the memes with their anti-corruption message can

show the effect corruption has on the “average citizen.” They conclude that even though there is humor in the memes the humor does not distort the damage done to individuals by governmental corruption. When anti-corruption municipal audits program was studied in Puerto Rico, it was determined that in communities that have timely audits, an effect known as spillover, results in more corrupt mayors and vice-mayors. They blame social norms which accept corruption as normal (Bobonis et al., 2022). Accinelli et al. (2020) agree that society can become so accustomed to corruption that those living under the corruption feel it is the normal way of life, and that they do not want to upset the balance as it would be too costly to try and fight it. They conclude that corruption can erode democracy and trust in the political system. They found that citizen acceptance of corruption can affect how long corruption lasts. Iskandar and Subekan (2022) say that from 2010 to 2017, Indonesia had two hundred cases of corruption involving regional heads who engaged in bribery, budget falsification, and other forms of corruption. They conclude that democracy only has an effect on corruption eventually. They say that it takes more than democratic elections, there must be an independent judiciary and media along with political activity in order to affect corruption. They looked at the effect on democracy in Indonesia and made the point that most of the cases of nepotism, collusion, and corruption are committed by people who are active in politics, and who should know better. They continue to explain that one of the most damaging actions to democracy is corruption. They make the point that strong institutions help to defeat corruption. Imran et al. (2023) say that in Pakistan the judicial and law enforcement sectors are corrupt, indicating that it takes more than an independent judiciary that is needed to fight

corruption, as Pakistan has had corruption for decades. They go on to say that because of this corruption, the rich can get any with anything while the poor suffer injustice. Pepinsky et al. (2022) studied corruption in Asia in both democratic and non-democratic countries and determined that in democratic countries in Asia, it is still difficult to fight corruption. In Malaysia for instance, corruption has been a problem since its independence. In the Philippines, which has been a democracy longer than most of the others, the authors found that rather than addressing only the worst corruption scandals they should be addressing the corruption that ordinary citizens deal with daily. Liu et. al. (2022) studied corruption in Taiwan while accounting for Chinese culture and customs. They point to gift-giving at work and indicate it is an accepted custom in Chinese culture to accept what is offered. As individuals approach gift-giving at work as an acceptable act, it is hard to explain that it is a form of corruption. In addition, the authors point to higher satisfaction of the government when they claim to reduce corruption. Finally, the authors point to competing political parties, alleging that if one party is in power, the other party has a higher perception of corruption. This also applies to individuals who are aligned with a particular political party.

Agerberg (2020) studied the reasons there are corrupt actors and determined that most people condemn corrupt behavior, and people in a corrupt setting distrust other people in the same setting. The author found that Mexico is a very corrupt country people believe that there is corruption, but they do not trust that others in the same situation believe the same way. They concluded that although Mexico is terribly corrupt, the respondents thought it was wrong for officials to accept a bribe, but they did not feel that

others in Mexico saw corruption as being wrong as they did. Agerberg concludes that simple messaging will not affect the attitudes of residents living with corruption.

Chan et al. (2021) Found that it is possible to determine a country's standing by how corrupt it is. In their study of how corruption affects religion and culture, or vice versa. They claim that differences in culture cause differences in corruption from country to country. The authors then compare the percentage of corruption by religion. They compare corruption between Buddhist, Muslim, and Christian countries, and found lower levels of corruption in Muslim countries, concluding there is a connection between religion and corruption.

Kabir and Choudhury (2020) introduce their study of corruption in a tax game in Bangladesh, a severely corrupt country. They study the subject from the standpoint that all economies are open to corruption of one type or another. They tell us that corruption is not individual in society but can be a reaction to one's peers. In the case of Bangladesh whose economy is projected to grow above 7% yearly, it is imperative that they undergo economic reform and look at their tax system which is ripe for tax evasion. The authors point to tax administration employees taking bribes to keep from having to pay a fine. They conclude that tax evasion and corruption are two related problems good governance can overcome.

Bahoo et al. (2020) looked at international business and its propensity for corruption. A lack of enforcement of laws due to weak judicial systems in some countries has led to systemic corruption in international business. They conclude that there need to be strong international laws, and managers and policymakers need to create plans that

increase “efficiency and performance, and establishment of strong anti-corruption rules.” Troisi et al. (2023) indicate that corruption is the most serious problem interfering with reaching constant corporate growth. Once again “sand in the wheel” and “grease in the wheel” are mentioned as they apply to corruption. The authors talk about bribes paid in low-income countries to sidestep regulatory costs for corporations trying to enter the market. They conclude that corruption has a positive association to sustainability and is referred to as “grease in the wheel.” They say that work-related corruption has a negative link. Corruption hurts innovation according to Wong (2023), while establishing a link between “economic development and income inequality and corruption.” Wong concludes his study by saying that when corruption is high, income inequality is increased, and when corruption is low, it decreases income inequality.

Wachs et al. (2020) begin by establishing that corruption is very hard to measure because corrupt individuals want to keep it secret. The authors say that, concerning conviction rates for corruption cases, the figure cannot be verified as the court in the region may also be corrupt. They conclude that when corruption risk is centralized in their distribution, it could mean that the central government is corrupt, but when it is scattered, it may mean that individual institutions are corrupt and should be investigated.

Garson (2022) says that political corruption in the Philippines is the form of vote buying has been an ongoing problem. Garson concluded that a connection between accountability and corruption does not exist. Garson indicates that although vote buying is considered corruption, vote buying in the Philippines decreases corruption. The author calls for enforcement of the prohibition against vote buying. Artello and Albanese (2019)

say that corruption “undermines” the rule of law. They go on to talk about public corruption causing distrust of government. According to the authors, vague laws, and poor cases, as well as political pressure weigh into whether an Assistant United States Attorney determines whether to charge or not charge in a corruption case. They conclude that Federal Prosecution for corruption cases must be undertaken to continue to provide a deterrent to committing those illegal acts. Cuèllar and Stephenson (2022) looked at the systematic corruption in the United States from 1865 to 1944 to show that even developing countries, which the United States could have been classified as at one time, can make large strides toward ridding themselves of corruption. The authors say that, like many developing countries, 150 years ago, corruption in government in the United States was the same as what is seen today in other countries. This study was a history lesson on the path the United States took to end systematic corruption after the Civil War. In conclusion, the authors insist that corruption reform will not happen overnight, in months, or even in years, but in decades, leaving readers with hope for future democracies.

Sanchez and Lamchek (2023) address the Sovereign Wealth Fund and their fears that it can be corrupted by elites in the Philippines. They express reservations that the Sovereign Wealth Fund will be corrupted and will not benefit the citizens of the Philippines like it is designed to do. The authors implore the Philippine government to show transparency with the disbursement of any monies from the fund. They conclude that a good example is the Alaska Model which uses a direct benefit that can provide an increased democratic outcome.

Shaari et al. (2022) examined corruption and whether had an effect on foreign investment. The authors imply that five nations in the ASEAN have seen high levels of foreign direct investment in conjunction with medium to high levels of corruption. They conclude that a decrease in corruption can result in higher foreign direct investment in the long run. They then list ways in which corruption can be addressed, including but not limited to, incentives to whistleblowers, swift punishment of corrupt individuals, transparency, and continuing to combat corruption.

Charron & Annoni (2020) asks if the media has an effect on the perception of political corruption in twenty-four countries in the European Union explaining that in political corruption, the media will tone down negative information in a political story. The study's author questioned respondents on where they obtained their news, from television, radio, newspaper, or social media, and took that information and determined which had a methodical effect on corruption. Those who had a higher perception of corruption got it from social media. They determined that corruption is not high just because it is perceived as high. Qureshi et al. (2021) studied Foreign Direct Investment and the effect that corruption had on it if any at all. Looking at 54 countries, developed and undeveloped from 1996 to 2018. Qureshi et al. (2021) learned that prior studies on promoting economic development are mixed on corruption affecting economic development. They determined that the studies that found that in countries where corruption in many cases had a boost in economic development because the corruption removed many obstacles. Every part of the world has a problem with corruption in some form or fashion, and in many areas, it is well concealed and hard to detect (Cletus, 2002).

In Nigeria, the author says that corruption has rotted society and is everywhere and refers to it as a monster. The author concludes that corruption is unjust and is a symptom of a political system that has no regard for the population it represents.

Not even the United States is immune to corruption at the highest levels of government, according to Frank (2023), the former acting director of the CIA is telling people that he made up the Hunter Biden laptop scandal being Russia misinformation and authored a letter that had fifty of his colleagues sign before sending it to the Washington Post to have it published to help Joe Biden win the Presidential election. It is now believed, according to the article that the disinformation that was used prior to the 2020 election and a profound effect on that election.

Police Culture of Corruption

Police agencies all have some sort of culture within which they base their decisions and actions, known by various names, police culture is called the “code of silence,” “blue wall,” “blue brotherhood”, or some variation. It refers to the reluctance or refusal of officers to inform on one another for corrupt actions or misconduct. Turpin, S. (2020-2021) argues that police misconduct is not something new but that corruption in local police departments was common in the nineteenth century and that some believed it was acceptable. Turpin then argues for the privatization of law enforcement, much like the program created by the federal government to address overcrowding of prisons, but which is now being phased out. Beginning with President Obama and now President Biden, private prisons are no longer a viable solution to address prison overcrowding and therefore are to be phased out, and therefore, it is unlikely that the idea of privatizing law

enforcement is likely to be considered. This presents a problem for police culture when that culture is steeped in corruption, a problem that has existed for hundreds of years according to Turpin, S. (2020-2021). The code of Silence, blue code, blue wall, or whatever name it is known by, is a culture that some police officers participate in whereby one officer will not report the corrupt actions of another officer. It is an occurrence worldwide that results in a lack of integrity on the part of officers. Without first dealing with the issue of corruption, there is no hope of instilling integrity in a policing organization and its culture (Ivković et al., 2022). Frantz et al. (2022) imply that culture in policing is viewed as negative. Frantz et al. (2022) studied the culture of specialized drug units and found that police culture may have changed because of the movement to do away with the police, resulting in "cynicism, group solidarity, and mission/action – orientation." Group solidarity is likely where the code of silence resides, which suggests that although some areas of police culture may have changed, the code of silence is alive and well. For many officers worldwide, the challenge of becoming a police officer, once accomplished, is a lifelong dream come true. Such was the case of Frank Serpico in 1960 in New York City. After refusing to accept bribes like his fellow officers, they marked him as a rat that would turn them in for their corrupt actions. Shot in the face in 1971 during a drug operation, when his fellow officers would not support him, he resigned in 1972. He began testifying in front of the Knapp Commission against his fellow corrupt officers (Maas et al., 2012). As a result of police officers having very little direct supervision and the dangerous actions the job requires, it is easy to understand how officers fall into corrupt actions. Wasserman and Castro (2022) say that it is our

experiences of our past that produce the cause-effect evidence that precedes any familiar action. They go on to say that when faced with a decision to act or deliberate thought about prior events, which produced an effect that was satisfactory, it will inform our conscious mind of the expected result (effect) from each set of actions that can be taken. Therefore, what is important is the deliberate thought about the cause effect relationship that is important and what will result in the better effect that your mind is envisioning.

Wu (2022) identifies the very reason officers fail to inform their fellow officers of corrupt behavior. Although, according to Wu, there is some corruption in the urban areas of China, rural areas are more likely to participate in corrupt behavior. Aquino (2021) refers to a speech by Fr. Anton, a Catholic priest, in a baccalaureate address in April 2012, saying, “Philippine corruption is under the table, over the table, and includes the table.” Aquino (2021) says Filipinos are not angry about corruption because they use it to accomplish their needs. Aquino (2021) says that the respondents to his study describe the justice system in the Philippines as confusing, unclear, and unfair, indicating some corruption in the judicial system. Abun et al., (2020) describe corruption in the Philippines as being so prevalent that people have begun to lose hope that it will ever be fixed. This is a problem if Wu (2022) is correct and a society that is more accepting of corruption by government employees will have corruption in the ranks of their police because it paints a picture of a culture of corruption in the county and the people who police it.

Ponce et al. (2021) revealed that police corruption and the perception of police corruption are present in Mexico. They identify protests against police as the most

effective way to deal with corruption but insist that after a violent act committed against them by the police, residents may choose not to protest for fear of being victimized a second time by the police.

According to Held (2023), the United States is no exception to police corruption. While in charge of inspecting vehicles that have lost titles, a Missouri Highway Inspector has confessed to accepting bribes to certify vehicles even though, in some cases, he never even saw the vehicles he certified. In one instance, the vehicle that was certified was not a running vehicle.

Rule of Law

No study of corruption or police corruption would be complete without mentioning the "rule of law" because, as Efe and Yazici (2023) tell us, it has been accepted as an element that a country cannot reach democracy without accepting the "rule of law." Ridley and Nelson (2022) reflect on where the "rule of law" originated and say that the first official written document limiting the power of justice and advocating for fair treatment of all and the modern-day faithfulness to the due process clause of the United States Constitution is the Magna Carta in 1215. According to the "American Bar Association" (nd.), "The rule of law is a set of principles or ideals for ensuring an orderly and just society." Culot (2023) indicates that essential elements of democracy are not possible without the philosophical, political, and legal "principles of the rule of law."

Rush and Woodward (2022) define "rule of law" being "a set of principles, or ideals, for ensuring an orderly and just society." Waldron (2020) says that "rule of law" levels demand as when people in authority exercise power in a well-determined norm; it

requires society to accept decisions that they may not agree with, and the law should apply evenly to everyone equally, with "no one being above the law." Scharuddin, et. al (2022) say the "rule of law" will only work if the residents living under it agree to obey the laws that were formed. If the public and police agree to talk to one another." Tamanaha (2012) tells us that in the modern world, all countries strive to follow the "rule of law" to be legitimate. Tamanaha says that an act cannot be illegal unless the "rule of law is observed. Laws have been passed before the act. The public must be made aware of the law, and it must be clear so it may be understood, stable, and inevitable and apply to everyone equally."

Corruption and the Rule of Law

Rodriguez et al. (2010) insist that "developing countries and developed countries, if they seek to establish justice, must strive for pure good, fostering and safeguarding desirable values while promoting development and progress in society." According to Priebus (2022), the European Union has a system for identifying problems with member countries that disregard the "rule of law." Once a problem arises with a member country's legal system, the EU sets in motion programs to prevent it from worsening.

Rodriguez et al. (2010) believe that in this system, the member state has the ability to establish checks and balances in troubled institutions and their system of enacting laws and provide Constitutional oversight on how to fight corruption in those in institutions. Ono and Zilis (2022) state that if fair actions are followed, it can affect whether people see the law as important and legitimate. They also say that support for the law is important for a "good democratic system." When governments are corrupt, such as

in the Philippines which Transparency International (2023) says is 33/100 on the Corruption Perceptions Index, it is more likely the police are corrupt (Garson (2022); Rudell and Trott (2022) and is true of the Philippines Batalla (2019).

Police Corruption in the Philippines

Batalla (2019) alleges that in a Global Corruption Barometer report in 2017, one in five people believed that most or all of the police in the Philippines were corrupt. Batalla goes on to allege that the Philippines National Police are well known for fixing criminal cases. He says that in 2017, the President of the Philippines insisted the National police were "corrupt to the core." Batalla goes on to describe the 2017 kidnapping of Jee Ick-Joo, a Korean businessman, killing him at the Philippine National Police office, taking his body to a funeral home owned by a former police official, having the body cremated, and then collecting a ransom from the businessman's wife as though he was still alive. Batalla (2019) goes on to say that new police recruits are forced to participate in corruption schemes due to a culture of corruption that allows it and is present throughout the Philippine National Police organization. Ligson (2021) interviewed police officers who had been charged with different acts of corruption. What is of interest is that for each act they were accused of, the accused officers denied they had done anything wrong, and when they were asked about accepting bribes, they said they could not refuse bribes from their friends.

Sukarman and Wastika (2022) indicate that politicians control the police from the top to the local level. They conclude that this is why no measurable change can occur, as someone new is elected, and it starts all over catering to the newly elected official and

his/her wants. A study by Benter (2020) determined that the police in the Philippines are the fourth most corrupt organization in the country. When the leader of a democratic nation pledges to protect the police who kill drug users, it is difficult to have a limiting effect on police corruption in general. Englehart (2022) says the majority of countries that have police corruption are less developed and points a finger at the President of the Philippines for saying he would protect officers from accusations of being corrupt during their drug raids. Amnesty International (2019) pointed out that the then Chief of the Philippines National Police was accused of selling the drugs confiscated in drug investigations, implying that the Drug War was actually a "war on the poor," in the Philippines. In October 2021, a report by the Philippine Department of Justice found that lethal force for fifty-two reports of police drug operations was not justified. They go on to report that although the International Criminal Court opened an investigation into police corruption in the Philippines in September of 2021, they were asked by the Philippine government to stop the investigation, which they did. Amnesty International (2021, 2022) alleges that in the Philippines, they have red tagging of residents believed to be associated with the Communist party but which, in reality, are politically active people. They go on to say that on March 7, 2021, security forces killed nine of the red-tagged and arrested six others who were all political activists. Additionally, Amnesty International indicates that those arrested were environment activists and local "urban poor community leaders. Thompson (2020) says that Duterte used police corruption, and rather than try the drug users and pushers in front of a judge, who might let them off on a technicality, he convinced the population that it would be better to have the police kill them rather

than try the offender. Thompson says that the drug pushers were never investigated or proven to have committed a crime; they were shot and a gun placed beside the body to be able to say that they had resisted the arrest. Thompson concludes that the support of the public for the killings was due to a corrupt criminal justice system.

Cimene et al. (2022) describe the Philippine Police Internal cleansing program, which investigated 617 officers who were dismissed between 2016 and 2021 for being involved in the drug trade, including 462 who tested positive for drugs, as something that was a positive step toward correcting the corruption. Vincente et al. (2020) start the study by saying police in any nation can commit crimes, and some are more serious than administrative violations. Strasser (2019) states that arrests and trials are unpredictable because of deviations from procedures and allegations of corruption in the Philippines. He goes on to say that from 2017 to 2019 more than 6,000 people have been killed who were accused of being drug dealers by corrupt police officers in the Philippines. Additionally, Strasser says that the Philippine National Police have been seen as having a culture of corruption. Aquilar (2022) discovered that in a drug sweep, Philippine National Police officers are likely to frame many of those they arrest. They conclude that the Philippine National Police framed 14% of those arrested by planting illegal items in homes on the person to make it look like the arrests for drugs and the drug program are succeeding. In Manila, where the Philippine National Police are headquartered, the police are still framing people to make the drug program look successful.

Quah (2019) says that police in the Philippines are known as “buwaya (crocodiles) or linta (leeches)” because they can extort money and threaten violence to

get it done. Quah goes on to explain that corruption in the police is systematic and routine, as everything can be fixed for a price. Additionally, Quah says that the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) is the recruiter and supervisor of police officers in the Philippines and that recruits can and have paid bribes to NAPOLCOM if they fail the entrance exam. They will be accepted because of the bribe. Batalla (2019) says that police corruption has been a problem for the Philippine National Police because the media has documented many instances of corruption by police officers. Batalla goes on to describe police corruption as "institutional police corruption." At the same time, Benter (2020) calls the Philippine National Police "the most corrupt institution in the Philippines" and says that corruption damages the human rights of individuals and violates laws resulting in consequences.

Magtaan et al. (2022) concluded that the higher an officer's education, the less chance he/she will be involved in corruption. They go on to say that although the Philippine National Police tries to be the lead policing agency in the Philippines, they were ranked as the most corrupt institution in the Philippines in a 2013 report by Global Corruption Barometer. According to Pelayo et al. (2019), 32% of surveyed homes that had contact with the police in 2009 offered them a bribe (Transparency International, April 19, 2013). Pelayo et al.(2019) then concluded that in their study, respondent's ages "ranged from 22 to 26 years old and were males, single with an annual income within 250,000 pesos per year, and most attended college." Hardly representative of the total population, however, of those who responded who had bad occurrences with the police, all disliked the actions of the local national police. A research project conducted by

Mendoza et al., (2020), in which they considered corruption cases at the Manila office of the Philippine National Police, discovered that “9,924 cases had been filed” against officers and that in many of those cases, senior officers and politicians had influenced those charged with corruption, and that a large number of them were new recruits. They concluded that there was a serious decrease in the recruit training curriculum for new recruits. The authors go on to say society has subcultures, and those can impact local subcultures and police subcultures. The result is that subcultures affect the officer’s ethical approach to the public and their dealings with the residents they serve.

Peñalba and Macabeo (2022) found that from “July 2016 to March 2022, 10,490 police officers had been suspended, 1,129 were demoted, and 848 forfeited their salaries. Additionally, 2,475 police officers were reprimanded, 208 were restricted, and 286 had privileges withheld.” They concluded that a breakdown in discipline and no attempt to prevent officers from committing administrative offenses existed in the Philippines National Police.

According to Rakhmawati (2023), the Philippine National Police were offered a 300-dollar reward for each drug suspect’s killing, resulting in more than 5,000 suspects killed. Additionally, the police were ordered to kill suspects by President Duterte, who was charged and convicted of crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court.

According to Basco-Galagco and Chinayo (2022), the police forces in the Philippines have failed to gain the trust of the locals in the provinces. They add that currently because of the lack of trust, the community does not see the police in the

Philippines as a legitimate organization. Additionally, as mentioned in prior studies, students' confidence in the police differs from the confidence of older adults. Kreuzer (2022) identifies one problem with the Philippine National Police that has existed for many years, an inability to investigate and build a winnable case for some of the most serious crimes. Additionally, he describes a police officer from another country who had served in nineteen other countries training officers, who described the officers of the Philippine National Police as "at the bottom alongside Pakistan and Bangladesh" in terms of case construction for major crimes. Kreuzer concludes that the extrajudicial killings that began in 2016 and lasted until the new president was elected in 2022 were the result of political will and will not occur again, but the concentration should center around strengthening the Philippine National Police and other policing agencies.

Lelliott & Miller (2023) while studying the corruption surrounding human trafficking and immigrant smuggling describe corrupt police who are likely to refuse to acknowledge migrants being smuggled and who demand bribes of 2,000 pesos per migrant from the smugglers, or they may return escaping migrants to the smugglers.

Gilbas et. al. (2022) revealed that of thirty-one respondents in the rural San Vicente area of the Philippines indicated that police officers had to learn to respect the citizens. Additionally, in three areas, Mercedes, Capalonga, and Labo, the comments that police officers should not be arrogant and should start treating residents fairly and the other officers that do nothing should begin to do their jobs. They conclude that the Philippine National Police need better delivery of their services to the community, suggesting that due to a corrupt culture, the officers do not deem it necessary to tailor

their services to all of the residents, indicating a lack of confidence in the abilities of the police. Although Deri et al. (2020) found that the police received high marks for approval and security and safety in urban parts of their survey area, in the agricultural, (rural), areas, and with parents there was some distrust because of the police accepting bribes and their involvement in the killing of suspected drug dealers. In addition, gambling, drinking, and failing to do their jobs were listed as problems in the surveys.

Ownes (2023), while studying police violence and misconduct, referenced data from a 2002 Amnesty International report, which confirmed politically motivated police brutality, of the most violent type was used by the President of the Philippines when he ordered law enforcement to kill anyone connected to the drug trade and told police officers, they would have immunity for doing so.

Van Rensburg et. al. (2022) concluded that during the COVID-19 lockdowns in the Philippines, the government used the military and Philippine National Police to go from home to home to COVID rules of staying in lockdown and getting families to inform the police if a family member came down with COVID. This caused mistrust between the Philippine National Police and the community. They went on to say that this program of informing their neighbors causes serious human rights violations, and by not requiring any oversight, the Philippine National Police could be misused as agents of the state.

On April 15, 2023, the headline for the Philippine Daily Reporter was *"PNP general denies hand in P6.73 'shabu' mess"* (Cabalza, 2023). Cabalza goes on to say that "a Lt. General who was the deputy chief of operations for the Philippine National Police"

was let go for his part in a cover-up in which he was recorded hours before the drug bust meeting with the suspect. The story lists ten high-ranking members of the Philippine National Police who were implicated in irregularities committed by the ten who were told to take annual leave or risk being suspended. The CCTV footage showed that the officers released the handcuffs on the suspect and allowed him to enter the building suspected of containing the drugs repeatedly after the raid had occurred. In addition, the ensuing investigation determined there were issues with the Drug Enforcement Officers misplacing the portions of the crystal meth that was seized. The drug raid netted 990 kilos (2182 pounds) of crystal meth that had a street value of 6.7 billion pesos (124,000,000.00).

According to Quah (2022), mistakes are being made in trying to rid the Philippines of police corruption by allowing the police to investigate their own issues of corruption. Qhah then lists countries that have tried allowing the police or agencies with the police department to investigate cases involving corruption and insists that each of those countries failed to overcome the corrupt practices.

Quah (2021) objects to corrupt police investigating their own corruption. Quah goes into detail listing other governments that have allowed police to investigate their own corruption and describe the failure of those countries to overcome the corruption. As human beings, we build our lives to achieve security and efficiency (Singh, 2022). When local residents adjust their behavior to gain a sense of security from a corrupt police officer, Singh (2022) says it is because that person is returning to a memory from his/her past, and when he/she does that person is trying to find that thing which makes them feel

secure and allows that person to justify the social behavior required to keep that person making moral judgments, which in the case of the residents of the former residents of the Philippines and it keeps them from acting in ways that draw negative attention from the police to them (Singh, 2022).

A look at the side from the police officer's perspective is provided by Schmidt & Wigt (2023) when they explain how the state, in this case, the corrupt police, comes by the belief that accepting bribes is an acceptable way of doing business. The authors go on to debunk the idea that state leaders cannot be assumed to act rationally and, therefore, cannot be considered rational actors. Schmidt and Wigt conclude the study by explaining the rational actor assumption which is not how state actors do behave but how they should behave, which explains the way of police corruption and their take on accepting bribes.

Prike et al. (2023) say that politicians only tell the truth about half the time. It is easy then to trust that there are corrupt police officers when judges can also fall victim to corrupt practices, according to the authors when they concluded that no matter how broad a set of formal guidelines for judges is, it is not enough to prevent politicians from getting lenient treatment in court. Much like Bucchiarone et al. (2023) describe the results of the Air-Break experience study, the former residents of the Philippines , have been exposed to different stimuli in developing the behavior that allows them to avoid police contact. The authors conclude that behavior change can be shaped by pleasant rewards for prescribed behavior.

Reyna et al. (2023) describe the effect of the uncertainty of decisions and how those decisions can affect what is received from poor decisions. The authors use a map of Hurricane Sandy that the public had access to prior to Hurricane Sandy coming ashore and causing billions of dollars in damage. The map only contained information about the direction the hurricane would take resulting in incomplete information for the residents to base their decisions on, according to the authors of the study. It is much like that for communities living under the corrupt police, they are often given incomplete information on which to base their behaviors, what they do know is if they adapt their behavior they will be rewarded with limited or no negative contact with the police. The authors conclude that many times the unforeseen future is what contains the reward, as is the case with the residents of the former residents of the Philippines.

Barangay Justice System

Issues such as a high number of pending cases and delays in disposition deny suspects swift and fair justice according to (Orbeta et al., 2021). They go on to explain that although new rules in the "Revised Guidelines for continuous Trial of Criminal Cases" (CT), were put in place to establish strict rules on timeliness for hearing criminal cases, the efforts increase the efficiency of the court but did not have an effect on the backlog of cases. The authors found that increases in arrest rates caused the reforms to fall behind and suggested that new courts be established to help the existing courts. Some Asian countries have a Village Justice System which handles minor disputes and misdemeanors and civil cases (Ibrahim, 2023). In the Philippines, this system is called the Barangay Justice System and handles civil disputes and misdemeanors (Benter, 2020).

The Barangay Justice System is a place to make peace and oversee social order according to (Glubwila et al., 2021). They continue by indicating that a form of community justice exists for four Asian member countries and lists them as, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Myanmar.

Created to help reduce the caseload on the police and judicial system in the Philippines, Lupo and Alejandro (2022) say that the Barangay Justice System is in place to offer suspects a method of mediation to settle cases. According to the authors, the Barangay Justice System oversees cases that would be misdemeanors in the United States, with the possibility of 1 year in jail or a fine of 5,000 pesos. The authors describe the process as similar to restorative justice in that the goal of the system is to repair the damage done to the community. Lupo and Alejandro indicate that the main problem with the Barangay system is that the participants sometimes have a hard time understanding the process. They conclude by saying the Barangay Justice System is as applicable today as in the past and that because the members of the system are members of the community, the trust and confidence in the system of the members are already there. In explaining the Barangay Justice System concept, Figer (2023) says the system is in many ways like Community Policing, as members of the community handle minor civil issues and misdemeanors before they become criminal justice issues. Voters of the Barangay elect all members of the Barangay Justice System. The members perform many of the duties relegated to the police in other countries, including patrolling, taking reports through the Barangay hotline, inspecting fire code violations, traffic control, assisting police in executing search warrants, arresting violators of Barangay ordinances, and

collecting crime information in the Barangay. Figer concludes that there be legal training for the members of the Barangay Justice System.

According to philatlas.com, each city in the Philippines has subdivisions surrounding them called barangays. Explaining the concept of the Barangay Justice System, Figer (2023) says the Barangay Justice System is a lot like Community Policing, as members of the community handle minor issues even before they become issues. The elected officials of the Barangay Justice System conduct actions of a local police department, such as search warrants, arrests, fire inspections, and traffic control. Figer (2023) Goes on to say that diverting most civil cases and criminal cases that can result in a sentence of up to one year in jail or a fine of fewer than 5,000 pesos, relieving the overburdened court system and assisting the local police in keeping order. Figer concludes it would be beneficial if the elected "Barangay Committee" members had some police training to help prepare them for criminal justice and end their responsibilities. The authors inform us that the authority the" Barangay Justice System" operates under is "Republic Act 7160" (1991 Local Government Code). They conclude the "Barangay Justice System" is widely used in the Philippines and that all non-violent offenses should be brought to the Barangay Justice System if the participants cannot resolve and the case can be referred to the police later. This supports the argument that these community justice systems should be able to assist in resolving the backlog of cases. Asis et al. (2023) tout the success of the Barangay Justice System and say it has helped communities by preserving the relationship between neighbors and praise conciliation of "quality decision making and conciliation process" and say that the system can be an innovative

way to continue the effectiveness of a community-based system. The fact that this system can sit in judgment of misdemeanor cases leads one to believe the system can help alleviate the backlog of cases in the criminal court system.

Summary and Conclusions

Fantaye and Birhanu, (2022), describe corruption as "colourless, shapeless, odourless, collusive, secret, stealthy, and shameless." They go on to insist that corruption is a major cause of poverty and that it undermines economic growth and democracy. They conclude that corruption spreads through society if corrupt individuals are not caught and imprisoned. Gayısız and Lajunen, (2021) agree that corruption erodes economic growth and prevents the government from giving everyone equal services. They say that when residents appear uninformed, they give those in power the impression that they can be as corrupt as they desire. They conclude that the income of the country as a whole allows cultural values to influence corruption.

According to Frantz et al. (2022), police culture is viewed as unfavorable. The code of Silence, blue code, blue wall, or whatever name it is known by is the rule or culture that some police officers participate in, whereby one officer will not report the corruption of another member of the police force. It is a worldwide phenomenon that directly results from a lack of integrity on the part of officers. According to the "American Bar Association" (2022.), "The rule of law is a set of principles or ideals for ensuring an orderly and just society." Culot (2023) indicates that the philosophical, political, and legal principles of the rule of law are essential elements of democracy.

Batalla (2019) alleges that in a Global Corruption Barometer report in 2017, one in five people believed that most or all of the police in the Philippines were corrupt. Batalla alleges that the Philippines National Police are well known for fixing criminal cases. A study by Benter (2020) determined that the police in the Philippines are the fourth most corrupt organization in the Philippines. Quah (2019) states that police in the Philippines are called "buwaya (crocodiles) or linta (leeches)" because they can extort money and threaten violence to get it done. Quah goes on to explain that corruption in the police is systematic and routine, as everything can be fixed for a price. Knowing that most police problems can be fixed with enough money, those living in the Philippines have come to expect that if they give in to a bribing police officer, they will be released and not have to endure the lengthy and burdensome act of the criminal process. Local residents in the outlying areas of the Philippines have learned to live their lives by avoiding what would get them involved in the criminal process. However, they also know that if they ever commit a criminal act, they will be asked for a bribe to keep them away from the official criminal justice complaint. Although corruption, police corruption, Barangay Justice, and the "Rule of Law" have had several research projects, what it does to the residents of the Philippines has little or no information regarding the changes to their daily life that have occurred or why they felt those changes were necessary for them and their family. The current study will attempt to understand the motivations that convinced them that a change was necessary and what has to occur for them to be rewarded with no arrest. Understanding these motivations and expectations will help to

understand better how programs that attack corruption should be designed and what must occur for corruption not to affect the citizens living in the Philippines negatively.

Chapter 3: Research Method

This study explored how residents of the Philippines adjust their daily activities to avoid conflicts that would require a police presence to address the problem. Artello and Albanese (2021) studied the culture of corruption and determined that corruption becomes a culture when history and the culture are persistent throughout that history and that leaders can spread the corruption if they adopt an attitude that says "that's the way it's always done." Artello and Albanese concluded that when that occurs, a local community accepts that their representatives are corrupt because they grow accustomed to corruption. Chapter 3 addressed how the research was designed and the reason for the research, methodology types, logic for selecting the participants, research design, type of instruments and the logic that went into their selection, how the participants were selected, how the data were obtained and analyzed, issues of trustworthiness, transferability, dependability, confirmability, and the ethical procedures and issues in the study.

Research Design and Rationale

I used a qualitative approach with a phenomenological design to explore the motivation for behavioral changes due to police corruption. I used a general inquiry following the phenomenological design to determine whether the changes in behavior were a form of Schultz's (2006) neurophysiology of reward theory and a component of Glasser's (1985) theory of reality of control or rational choice. According to Creswell and Zhang (2009), researchers seek to understand participants' experiences in a phenomenological study. The current study was undertaken to understand the experiences

of former Philippines residents and what motivates them to live with some restrictions and have little or no contact with the corrupt police. This inquiry addressed the descriptions of what life was like for the former residents when they were living in the Philippines. The neurophysiology of reward theory referenced Pavlov's salivating dogs and was applicable to those living with police corruption. Shultz's (2006) behavioral theories and the neurophysiology of reward provided the framework for this study. Schultz argued that rewards are not automatically received due to the input of actions that are part of the changes in behavior. For paying bribes, residents of this rural community can get the reward of no arrest or harassment from police.

By exploring participants' experiences associated with police corruption, as in the case of a bribe to avoid arrest, the study addressed the payment reward behavior that is created by police corruption. Schultz (2006) insisted that rewards induce changes in behavior that can be observed, and they increase the behavior, which results in a reward. Schultz found evidence that rewards can cause a person to receive a benefit of some type. That is what bribery is and how it works: A bribe is paid to an officer with the understanding that the bribe gets the bribe giver something in return; in the Philippines, there is no arrest and no evidence of a crime committed by the bribe payor. Wasserman and Castro (2022) noted that it is the experiences of the past that produce the cause-effect evidence that precedes any familiar action. Wasserman and Castro also asserted that when people are faced with a decision to act or deliberate thought about prior events that produced a satisfactory effect, it will inform their conscious mind of the expected result (effect) from each set of actions that can be taken. Therefore, what is important is the

deliberate thought about the cause-effect relationship and what will result in the better effect that your mind envisions.

Kang & Furtak (2021) argued that there is a difference in learning culture and what is in a person's social learning than a cognitive view of learning and is similar to a social-cultural experience. To change the thoughts and ideas in the minds of the people of the Philippines, they first have to participate in the act that got them the reward (Kang & Furtak, 2021). That is what transpires when a resident makes the decision to offer a bribe and when the officer accepts the bribe and rewards the resident with a gift of no charge and no record of an offense, or what Schultz (2006) said when talking about the deliberate experienced thoughts that seek action and decisions that result in some reward. To fit in with the theory, the resident has to choose to participate in the bribe, and the officer has to agree to the reward, which is Glasser's theory of choice, (Onedera & Greenwalt (2007).

The current study's approach provided the details necessary to show how police corruption changes residents' daily lives to please the corrupt police. By concentrating on former residents, this study looked at the changes in behavior that police corruption produces in former citizens rather than those in major cities where opportunities abound for the residents. The study's main scope was the effect police corruption has on the former resident population of the Philippines. The study included surveys with open-ended questions to determine how local police corruption affects the population of the former residents and their families still living in the Philippines and what behavioral changes are required by the residents to ensure they avoid arrest for themselves and their

families. The residents being studied had developed a system of behavior that assured them of nonarrest for criminal acts. Understanding the required tradeoffs to ensure the nonarrest was the goal of the study and the first step in determining what can be done to alleviate police corruption on a local level. The study consisted of former residents and excluded residents of major metropolitan areas of the Philippines. Ruddell and Trott (2022) concluded that the more corrupt a country is, the less the police are seen as trustworthy. Ruddell and Trott also noted that former residents are more concerned with crime and being victimized, and as far as the "rule of law" is concerned, they trust the police less. M. Khan and Roy (2022) argued that the most significantly advanced countries toward the rule of law have arrived there in increments while becoming more rule following. M. Khan and Roy also noted that a person's perception and fear of victimization can affect the way the participants look at the police. I could have selected a case study design for the current study; however, the case study would have failed to address the behavioral issues that were important to the study.

Role of the Researcher

I had no affiliation with the participants who are former residents of the Philippines. I used online surveys, transcribed data, coded the data, analyzed the coded data, and produced the report. Although I spent 22 months living in the Philippines to experience police corruption firsthand, I did not form any relationships with the participants because the participants were former residents now living in America, and the participants were unknown to me.

A study by Norm Friesen (2023), titled “Phenomenology and education: researching pedagogical experience,” a description of bracketing is listed on page 1. That description says that in order to increase credibility in a phenomenological study, bracketing, or looking at stages of the phenomenon, or what the author refers to as reduction, or bracketing, which is a method of reducing the phenomenon to its most basic form and then examining the steps, or stages until it gets to what it is today. Friesen (2023) credits this to Husserl’s definition of bracketing (1913/2001,p. 275). The description provided above is the approach I took in conducting the study while spending time with the phenomenon while living in the Philippines under the same police corruption that they have and do live with.

As an agent of social change, I believe that combatting police corruption in any manner is imperative to fixing many of the problems in the Philippines. By focusing on the lowest level of corruption and police corruption, we as a society take the first step in advocating for social change in a country considered one of the most corrupt in the world. Burns et al. (2022) describe descriptive phenomenology as when a person is part of society because they envision their world, and as such, they envision their place in it because of their world. They explain a person’s experiences interacting with action as though it is past, present, and future all at once, and they are all three connected (Mackey & Marsden, 2015; Orbanic, 1999). The concept of the study is precisely what is stated above.

There was no association between the myself and those former residents selected, neither personal nor professional; however, as a retired police officer, I had preconceived

ideas surrounding police corruption, and because the I lived lived here, I have heard stories of police corruption and how bribery works in getting done what needs to get done and have seen how it contributes to many of the problems facing the residents and how they deal with them. Being aware of potential bias, I will ensure that those ideas or what transpired while living with the target participants do not enter this study. No associations would consist of positions of power, and no incentives would be offered to participants.

Methodology

The methodology or method of research is surveys. The study's research question is, "How do former Philippines residents perceive the effect of police corruption on their daily lives?" This study will examine the daily experiences of former Filipino residents who are now living in the United States. According to Qutoshi (2018), the study used surveys and described the tenets of phenomenology and heuristic design. Based on the information above, the study does support a qualitative research method. The key to replicating this study is living with the participants and seeing how daily life works before undertaking the survey.

The data collection, phenomenology, is designed using in-depth surveys. Because I have lived for more than a year in the same area as the participants, the design also has an ethnographic quality. The study surveyed those who prefer to provide information without exposing themselves to others. Phenomenology and heuristic studies of the behavioral theory are the preferred methods because the past, present, and future actions that make up individuals' behaviors in their daily environments are studied. Phenomenology is what social scientists use to study human engagement with the world.

When the leader of a democratic nation pledges to protect the police who kill drug users, it is difficult to have a limiting effect on police corruption in general. Englehart (2022) says the majority of countries that have police corruption are less developed and points the finger at the President of the Philippines for saying he would protect officers from accusations of corruption during their drug raids.

Participant Selection Logic

Filipinos living in America for more than five years were selected for the study. The Philippines has several small communities called barangay, which are part of every island. In addition to that requirement, all potential participants must be twenty-one or older. Data will be collected regarding how police corruption affects the area and what that corruption looks like. This type of study was undertaken because former Philippine residents have never had a study that looked at how they were affected by police corruption. This study will focus on former residents of the Philippines. The research promises to fill the gap in understanding their behavioral changes and life experiences in the Philippines. The project is unique because it addresses the life changes that former residents must go through to avoid being arrested by the police upon their visits home. The study will help to provide much-needed information on the day-to-day adjustments made by the residents to avoid damaging contact with the corrupt police. Data from this research will help produce a picture of police corruption worldwide as described by former residents of the Philippines and its effect on their daily lives. This information will provide the Philippine government with information that could help create programs to deal with police corruption in the Philippines.

The participants will be free to participate if they are former residents of at least twenty-one years old, currently living in the United States, and have lived there for five years or more. The participants will be in common areas. There will be two methods of identifying and recruiting participants. The first will be an online post announcing the study and requesting that interested residents contact me, which will trigger a message for the potential participant to deliver the online address of the survey and informed consent. Potential participants may be contacted by telephone. Participants will be accepted until a minimum of twenty-five is reached or until no new information is revealed in the survey results, which is known as saturation, and the sample size is the total number of participants that provide new information, which is when saturation occurs . Policing in the Philippines was first exposed to corrupt policing practices by the Spanish and later by the Americans; from there, the police in the Philippines evolved into a corrupt police force and maintained the distinction of being corrupt (Batalla, 2020). According to Aquino (2021), corruption is an accepted process in the Philippines and will not change because it is an accepted practice. Ngich and Cho (2020) Argue that without a will to correct the problem of police corruption, there will be no change; they say that in order for the corruption to be corrected, there has to be a determination to fix a problem that they refuse to accept as a problem. Aquino (2021) says the problem is that once people accept corruption, any desire to fix it disappears. He insists that corruption is so deeply rooted in Philippine life that the problem will never be fixed. Understanding the lengths that the residents go through is important and the focus of this study. Focusing on the

former residents of the Philippines and determining what drives their ability to avoid corruption is an important step in determining what needs to be done to alter it.

Instrumentation

After consulting the research to determine the best approach, I settled on the fourteen questions because they promised to produce the most complete picture of police corruption in the Philippines and the former residents' perception of how it affects them daily. Validity was an important aspect of the study because if ethical behavior were not followed on my part, and credibility could not be assured, the study of corruption would be tainted and useless to anyone. To that end, the questions were peer-reviewed, reviewed by professors, and patterned after open-ended questions that were asked in other studies with a different focus but broke down the elements needed to study police corruption. Many journals were consulted, and videos were watched to ensure I understood the study. While reading those studies and watching those videos, I took endless notes before constructing these interview questions. All former residents are bilingual and speak English and their native Tagalog. The survey was in English.

Procedures for Recruitment, Participation, and Data Collection

The sampling strategy is nonprobability sampling with a convenience sampling design. When saturation is reached, the sample size is twenty residents of Tanjay, Philippines. The relationship between sample size and saturation is described as a set number, or when no new information is being obtained from participants and when the information is beginning to repeat from previous participants.

I did not personally contact potential participants to inquire whether they have a desire to participate. The study will be advertised on Facebook and pages that Filipinos and Americans frequent. If they wish to participate, they will be directed to SurveyMonkey, where instructions will guide them through the process. I posted information on Facebook with my contact information. Potential interested participants can contact me by phone or email. If emailed, l, responded with an email request for a phone interview at the potential participant's convenience; if the potential participant phones me, the eligibility will be confirmed (i.e., adults who prove they are former residents of at least 21 years of age who have been residents of the United States for at least five years). The researcher will describe the study, answer questions, and repeat it if necessary. The researcher will inquire whether former residents of the Philippines are interested in participating in the research. If the potential participant expresses interest, the website will be provided for them to begin the process, allowing them to read the consent form. The researcher will inform the participant that by completing the survey, they agree to the information in the consent form. The researcher will address any confusion identified and explain that the facts are provided with the understanding that participation is completely anonymous.

If the potential participant disagrees, research will be terminated for them, with thanks for their interest. After the participant agrees to the consent form, the SurveyMonkey program will allow them to proceed with the survey. The participant cannot access the survey without checking a box acknowledging that they have read and agree with the informed consent. I made myself available to answer any questions that

the participant has. Survey Monkey will collect the data over one month. Surveys will be used to collect data for the study. Every step will conceal the participants' identities, and the data provided shall be maintained.

The inquiry will last one month or until saturation is reached. The data will be entered into a spreadsheet and transcribed onto a Word document, and codes will be developed. If there are fewer than twenty participants, the study will continue until the data begins to repeat or saturation is reached. Once the surveys are recorded in a Word document, the document will be placed in a notebook until the contents of the document are analyzed.

Too few responses could limit the information collected by the survey questions; however, if saturation is reached, there will be no shortage of data. Out of twenty-five participants, one set of responses was disregarded as they did not follow instructions, and the answers did not apply to police corruption in the Philippines, leaving twenty-four participants. Participant twelve believed that the questions pertained to police in the United States and that the answers provided were disregarded. Although there were only twenty-four participants, it did not affect the data collected, as the study reached saturation and nothing new was forthcoming.

Data Analysis Plan

The evidence that will be collected will track back to the research question: How does police corruption affect the former residents of the Philippines who are now living in America? The study's questions are designed to elicit a response that will further explain the perception of the former residents who have lived under police corruption in

the Philippines. This study is designed to improve how former residents in the Philippines understand how police corruption affects them. To address the gap in information regarding rural residents, the study approach will use a qualitative design. Questions in the study will be designed to elicit their feelings, how they deal with police corruption, and their propensity to get involved in addressing police corruption in their local police agency. This will be accomplished by determining how the former Philippines residents perceive police corruption affects them.

The study uses a phenomenological and ethnographic method, which will be conducted using a survey to obtain information. Phenomenology looks at the meaning of the lived experience, and ethnography requires that the person conducting the study experience what the participants were exposed to get into the same environment and live where the participants of the study lived (Patton, (2014). In phenomenology, the analysis is guided toward the assessment of similarities, and the data and the experiences of the individual looking at them should be classified beyond human awareness. In ethnography, got an analysis of the individualized narrative from the sample to attain the story's relevancy and describe the culture's parameters (Patton, 2014).

The study employed a framework analysis. The framework analysis is discrete and strengthens over other methods (Frazer et al., 2023). According to LaiYee (2022), framework analysis consists of four steps, the first of which is "familiarization." Once some data, like what one would get in the survey transcripts, are developed, examine the data and look for developing themes and subthemes. This will provide me with excellent knowledge of the content that will work with the stages that follow. Stage two identifies

themes and subthemes that will lead to identifying the “thematic framework.” Themes and subthemes can be found inductively or deductively from the transcripts of the survey data. The third stage is indexing, which involves taking the themes and subthemes identified above and assigning a code to each. Step four is charting and summarizing the findings. This is the stage where the data can be organized or rearranged into organized groups so that the data can be interpreted. LaiYee (2022) says it is helpful to create and use a matrix “where each column is an initial theme/subtheme, and each row is a transcript.” Stage four, according to Srivastava & Thomson (2009), is interpreting or mapping, which leads me to gain insight to understand better the overall picture produced by the data. This is where the themes and subthemes are grouped for data analysis. This is also the stage where the narrative behind the data is explained and is where it is revealed what it all means. This study will use manual coding for data analysis. The manual process allowed me to construct a fundamental matrix and input codes and categories based on similarities and themes into the matrix for easy and constant access to the information to keep the information organized in one place so that I could see what is there at a glance is. According to Frazer et al. (2023), the key to success in data interpretation lies in the verbatim transcription of both the semi-structured interview and the survey. According to Antin et al. (2014), discrepant cases are likely to occur in social sciences studies that deal with perceptions. The author’s follow-up with those cases will strengthen the study by including them as their categories, as negative cases can be “valuable for assessing credibility.” Liu et al. (2023) agree and add that all information is important, as in their study, views on the future of the livestock sector benefit from a

deep understanding rather than an emotional response. Tsur et al. (2023) agree and point out the importance of listing all of the provided information and allowing for the coding of that information no matter the conclusion that is drawn, using their study on child sexual abuse. This phenomenological qualitative study explained how Filipino residents adjust their daily lives to avoid running afoul of the corrupt police in their home country.

Issues of Trustworthiness

Credibility

I spent two years living among the potential participants of this study, getting to know them, and gaining insight into the challenges they have faced throughout their lives. Manual coding will ensure that the data is not distorted and interpreted according to the rigorous rules that a Phenomenological study sets for data analysis. As a retired police officer, this researcher is accustomed to noticing subtle hints in surveys and written documents, as well as reading reactions to questions. This study will involve survey data, and because three theories are being considered, they form a type of triangulation that will be the rule. Notes will be taken during the coding of the participants' surveys. In a study by Norm Friesen (2023), titled "*Phenomenology and Education: Researching Pedagogical Experience,"* a description of bracketing is listed on page 1. That description says that to increase credibility in a phenomenological study, bracketing, or looking at stages of the phenomenon, or what the author refers to as reduction, or bracketing, which is a method of reducing the phenomenon to its most basic form and then examining the steps, or stages until it gets to what it is today. Friesen (2023) credits this to Husserl's definition of bracketing (1913/2001,p. 275). The description provided

above outlines the approach I took in conducting the study, which involved spending time with the phenomenon while living in the Philippines, where I experienced the same police corruption that former residents have and continue to live with.

Transferability

I ensured that rigorous rules were followed during the current study. Among those rules will be a meticulous audit trail that will document all actions taken by me. Megheirkouni and Moir (2023) argue that it can be challenging to ensure transferability when the problem is societal, as people are constantly on the move. Populations change, making the paper trail the key to transferability.

Dependability

As with transferability, the audit trail provides an account of the research stages from beginning to end and should allow others to examine it. As with transferability, dependability depends on societal actions and population movements. Megheirkouni & Moir (2023) indicate that in both cases if the same steps are followed and the same result is not replicated, it should not mean the research has failed to establish trustworthiness.

Confirmability

Coding the data is an important first step in establishing confirmability. By examining samples of the information provided by participants against existing knowledge, I ensured the validity of any findings. A third step in establishing confirmability is the reviews provided by the Committee Chairperson and the Program Director. Ensuring that the sample of potential participants represents populations

comprised of former residents of the Philippines is the key to confirmability (Megheirkouni & Moir, 2023).

Ethical Procedures

According to Ravitch and Carl (2021), ethical problems can occur from several actions that are part of the study. The most common ethical problem that is easiest to overlook is the language used in the documents needed to gain and keep potential participants. Language that causes individuals to feel that there is pressure on them to participate, that misleads them or makes them feel judged or upset. Using judgmental body language, that makes the potential participants feel uncomfortable are all ways that involve ethical dilemmas (Ravtich & Carl, 2021). Failing to follow through on any promises is also a crucial ethical consideration, as it clarifies what will be held in confidence and what will not. Ensuring that potential participants are aware that participation is entirely voluntary is an ethical concern.

The most concerning ethical issues are privacy and confidentiality, which are addressed through anonymous surveys. Current issues surrounding the theft of computer equipment and the loss or theft of cell phones contain information that could be used by an unauthorized individual who is not entitled to have it. Many researchers believe this cannot happen to them, which, if it does, raises an ethical concern. Researchers are ethically bound to protect the confidentiality of potential participants, including their names and responses to survey questions. This issue can be avoided by implementing appropriate safeguards, such as using passwords to protect all devices and maintaining separate storage devices for computers. Furthermore, safeguarding participant data and

ensuring their confidentiality will be paramount, and for any potential liabilities not explicitly mentioned here, the informed consent process will follow the model used in the pilot study conducted during the Advanced Qualitative Research course. Several ethical issues that could be problems in the study have been covered here. Simply following the three rules listed below will drastically reduce the likelihood that the study will fall victim to the listed ethical issues:

1. Ensure that everyone who has access to the data understands all confidentiality standards.
2. Keep track by keeping a list of people who have the right to use any of the paperwork, the reason for access, the time and date of access, whether anyone else has access to the data, and listing all steps in the research so the study can be duplicated.
3. "Limit the collection of personal identifiers to those vital to the study's success and who are authorized to have them. Do not ask questions that could help identify potential participants (Bordens & Abbot, 2022)."
4. All material from this research will be securely kept in an undisclosed location that only the researcher will know the location of.
5. All IRB concerns will be strictly adhered to.

Summary

The study is a much-needed study to understand the motivation of former residents of the Philippines. Understanding their motivations will strengthen the theories that address behavior in societies that live with police corruption and help them design

programs that successfully combat police corruption. By recruiting participants until data saturation is reached, the study will ensure the collected information reflects the most up-to-date perspectives and experiences. They will help identify what the former Philippines residents perceive that police corruption does to them and their families. This information becomes essential when the government finally addresses corruption in the Philippines. By attempting to address police corruption, if successful, they can change the way police corruption is approached to improve efficiency in the country. When officers contact people, they expect to be treated fairly and respectfully. Bribes and nepotism destroy the respect that those living under them have for the officers. After all, if you cannot call the police because you do not have unrestricted access to their assistance, who is left for you to call in an emergency? The data from the study promises to affect the official contact that former residents of the Philippines have with police who are corrupt, making that contact free from bribes, nepotism, fear, and abuse.

Chapter 4: Results

Prior to this study, it was unknown how the residents of the Philippines, who were raised there and now live in the United States, changed how they approached daily life to provide for their safety under a corrupt police force. Residents who live in the United States and often visit the Philippines to see family and friends have to deal with police corruption when they return to the Philippines. Nillama et al. (2024) described the police as sadists in uniform because that is how the participants described them in a study of how police corruption affects residents in Cebu City, Philippines, who are dealing with the corrupt police because participants shared that they had been beaten while being interviewed. Respondents in this study reported that the police are corrupt in the Philippines, indicating they learned of the corruption when they were young and grew up knowing that it existed. Manan et al. (2023) noted that the Philippines has four anticorruption organizations and that the problem with them is that they have no power to do anything about the corruption when they discover it.

Despite the push to rid the police in the Philippines of corruption, it persists, and the people living under it must learn techniques to deal with it. Therefore, there was a need to explore what changes were made by the participants to adjust to police corruption and how that manifests in their beliefs and actions when returning to the Philippines for visits. Chapter 4 presents the findings of this qualitative phenomenological inquiry based on analysis of the data using thematic analysis, and identifies the key points associated with the inquiry's findings.

Setting

Research addressing with the behavioral changes as a result of corrupt police and their control over other people's lives or over the lives of former residents of the Philippines now residing in the United States has been rarely or never conducted. Police corruption is a serious problem affecting many countries (de Guzman, 2001; Jensen & Hapal, 2018; McCoy, 2009). Examining corruption from the perspective of former Philippine residents with first-hand experience was important because it provided an understanding of the daily workings of that corruption. Cayabyab (2023) wrote that two lieutenant colonels who were assigned to the Philippine National Police Drug Enforcement Group were accused of tipping off a drug lord who was the focus of a drug bust. Despite the push to rid the police in the Philippines of corruption, it persists, and the people living under it must learn techniques to deal with it. Therefore, there was a need to explore what changes were made by the participants to adjust to police corruption and how that manifests in their beliefs and actions when returning to the Philippines for visits.

This qualitative phenomenology design was used to determine what changes Philippine citizens now living in America go through to compensate for the police corruption that affects their home country. Corruption weakens and damages democratic governments, programs, agencies, and policies, delaying or hindering economic growth. Corruption has many negative effects on a country, including but not limited to interfering in democratic elections by destabilizing the process and weakening the rule of law by demeaning the authority of agencies and discouraging investments in any republic (Aquino, 2021; Aubn et al., 2021). The information in this study may support the

conclusions of Rescorla (date, as cited in Colwill et al., 2022) that performance results from many behaviors. Rescorla's associative learning theories may answer many questions related to any noted change from residents' daily routines, which have been passed from one generation to the next, by relating that change to a specific outcome. It takes a period of years for relatives and friends to teach the new generation how to approach daily life. Once these areas are learned, people begin doing what they have learned, and are demonstrating Glasser's theory of choice that behavior becomes learned by instruction from one generation to the next. When residents change their behavior to receive a benefit of some sort, Schultz's (2006) neurophysiology of reward is demonstrated as an exchange of some action that benefits the person paying the bribe.

Demographics

I used a qualitative phenomenological design to explore the dilemmas faced by the former residents of the Philippines and what changes were made to adapt to police corruption upon their return to the Philippines (see Carson et al., 2001). I explored the experiences the participants went through and how generational learning was followed to modify their lives, as well as how that learned behavior changed their view of how to deal with corrupt police. Through this study, I explored the actions of those subjects and how they would have dealt with police corruption if they encountered a police officer on their trips home to visit friends and family.

The study involved finding out what contributed to the acceptance of offering a bribe to police officers and how participants learned it was a course of action that would keep them from being arrested and charged. The basic information about the study was

uploaded to Facebook and Twitter. Once participants learned that there was a survey, there was no shortage of participants, and many learned from word of mouth. Twenty-five people participated, with one participant's answers not included in the final tabulations.

An honest effort to develop questions was intended to produce honest answers regarding the transformation in the participants' behaviors and how they determined that police officers could be bribed to forgive criminal acts they may commit. The survey questions were designed to elicit responses that addressed how the former Philippines residents believe police corruption affects them. The survey questions provided the direction taken during the study to answer the research question: How does police corruption affect former residents of the Philippines upon their return to their homeland? Survey questions included the following:

1. How long did you live in the Philippines?
2. How long have you lived in the United States?
3. When was your last trip back to the Philippines?
4. When did you learn that it was possible to pay a bribe requested by police to be released from custody? Who taught you?
5. If you were arrested in the Philippines and asked by an officer to pay to get out of trouble, would you pay it?
6. Who taught you that it was possible to bribe the police to get out of trouble?
7. If you were approached by an officer and asked to pay a bribe, would you have to think about it or would it be an automatic action?

8. If you knew it was wrong to pay an officer a bribe but it meant you would not get arrested, would you still pay the bribe expecting to get the reward of no arrest? Why or why not?
9. How did you learn that it was possible to resolve police trouble by paying a bribe to the police?
10. If you are familiar with the ability to pay a bribe to the police, what would you expect in return?
11. Who should be responsible for correcting police corruption?
12. Do you think the police are receptive to the areas you rely on them to fix?
13. Do you think the police in your area of the country are professional?
14. If you said you would pay the bribe, would you expect to get something in return?

The survey, which was posted online, provided the data and satisfied the study's questions; it consisted of open and closed-ended questions that helped to identify how and why the lives of the participants were altered to ensure that they were not the subject of police contact, which could result in a lengthy court case followed by whatever sanction the courts determined appropriate. The triangulation of data from the three theories, Schultz's (2006) "Behavioral Theories and the Neurophysiology of Reward," Hume's "Theory of Causation," and "Glasser's Theory of Choice" allowed for the comparison of the responses to the survey points at issue and permitted improved trustworthiness of the study. This chapter explains thematic analysis as the method used to find codes in the data, form categories, develop themes, and construct responses to the

inquiry questions. Chapter 4 further explains the entire process involving qualitative phenomenological study.

Data Collection

Instructions were provided to potential participants and those who agreed to provide informed consent before they started the survey. Study codes were assigned to the participants upon acceptance into the study to provide a confidential way for the research to refer to the participants. The codes were P-1 through P-25, which referred to all references to and documents collected. The data was collected without any participant's personal information, as it was collected using a code to identify the participant, which shielded the identifying information.

Participants in this study were those of Filipino descent who had resided in America for at least 10 years and returned at least once to the Philippines. An online informed consent process was implemented, which participants had to complete before proceeding to the survey questions. Allowing the participants to access the survey signified they had read and agreed with the online forms. The data collected for this qualitative phenomenology study was for a single-source survey. The survey consisted of fourteen questions that were a combination of questions that could be viewed as open-ended or closed. Those participants chosen to participate in the study were told to answer the fourteen questions and provide details of their lives while growing up in the Philippines. For two months, I checked the online website, and when it appeared that no new information was forthcoming, they discontinued access to the survey and downloaded the responses.

Participants answered questions that pertained to their lives while they lived under the corrupt police, which were contained in the survey. Out of twenty-five participants, one set of responses was disregarded as they did not follow instructions, and the answers did not apply to police corruption in the Philippines, leaving twenty-four participants. The asynchronous survey questions 4, 6, and 9 were constructed to elicit responses that provided data that answered one of three themes resulting from the coding of the data. The answers were varied regarding how it was learned that the police could be bribed, but it was clear that all participants knew that police corruption existed and was accepted in the Philippines as a way of life. P1 suggested that it was since grade school and was seen in the newspapers and on television. P2 specified that it was learned from the elders in his community and that it was not a secret. You heard it from everyone. P3 suggested that it was learned from the media and friends and that it had been known from the teenage years P4 revealed that it was learned from the television news, stating, “Actually, nobody taught me, and I have not encountered such experience. I just saw it in the news.” which is listed in Table 1.

Table 1

How Police Corruption Is Learned

Method of learning	Frequency	Percentage
Learned in school	3	12.5%
Learned from others, not family	1	4.1%
News reports	5	20.8%
Friends and relatives	5	20.8%
Not taught	4	16.8%
Common knowledge	2	8.3%
Heard on vacation	2	8.3%
Learned but not taught	2	8.3%

Questions 5,7 and 8 were designed to provide data that applied to Theme Two of the study, which concerned the choice theory, asking what action the respondents would take if asked to pay a bribe and whether it would be an automatic response or would the respondent have to think about what his/her action might be. P12 implied it would not be considered because the "judicial process in PH is not fair though at all." P15 signified that it was a decision that would have to be thought about, and then the bribe would be paid to "avoid long arduous judicial process." P18 suggested it would be thought about first and then paid to get out of trouble

The third theme deals with the neurophysiology of reward, which says that a person will expect a reward for their action. Question 8 asked whether the respondent would pay a bribe to the arresting officer if it meant the respondent would not be arrested, and question 14 asked if they would pay a bribe and if they would do so and expect something in return. Forty-six percent of the responses for question 14 indicated they did expect something in return for their action, 42 % said they did not expect anything in return for their action, and 12.5% said they were not sure whether or not they would expect something in return. Those totals are represented by the graph below. Question 8 overlapped with making the choice theory, represented by the graph above showing 46% yes, 38% no, and 8%. P20 signaled that an automatic action would lead to the payment of the bribe to get out of trouble. P21 implied that after thinking about it would be paid to get out of trouble. P22 said it would be thought about, leading to payment of the bribe.

Data Analysis

Purpose of Thematic Analysis

Thematic analysis, which helped produce themes collected from information, made clear meaning from information produced by the inquiry's research questions. Analyzing the data with the four-step process to get answers to the study queries in the survey questions occurred first : (1) find codes in the answers to the questions, (2) Organize the codes into categories, (3) Use analytic memoing to assess the groups of code (categories) and align them into themes, (4) Use the themes to provide insights into study's questions. These actions are suggested in the thematic analysis approach in identifying codes that align with the questions asked in this study (Amanfi, 2019); (Saldaña ,2015). Step one involves examining the data and finding codes. Step two involves reviewing the codes and determining what categories can be developed from the words and phrases. Next, step three involves defining what would be themed up by evaluating the categories and deciding what would best answer the study's questions. These three steps were used for analytic memoing, from codes to categories. Finally, step four is where the themes were posted as answers to the questions in the study asked in the survey.

Four-Step Process

Data was obtained from answers to the survey questions. Saldaña (2015) suggests following a "systematic" process that involves four distinct steps, which Saldaña labels "thematic analysis." "(1) identifying codes in the data. (2) creating categories of codes and developing clusters of themes, (3) Looking at themes and synthesizing them to find

themes through analytic memoing, and (4) applying themes to the research questions. An explanation of the four-step process is provided below. A detailed description of each step used in the thematic data analysis follows" (Amanfi, 2019).

Step 1: Identifying Codes in Participant Responses

Survey answers were examined using known coding methods in order to develop labels from the data produced by participants, which allowed an outline of ideas to be produced. The outline produced ideas from the codes of information obtained from the survey data. Saldaña (2015) suggested finding and using a coding technique that aligns with the answers desired for the type of study I conducted.

Step 2: Developing Categories and Groups of Categories

Step 2 Consists of combining codes and making categories of codes. Saldaña (2015) recommended, "finding codes with like characteristics and combining them into solid categories." An example would be the codes "Common knowledge" and "Heard from everyone," which appear to belong in a category because they can mean the same thing when describing how the participants describe how they learned to bribe the police. Saldaña (2015) revealed that like meanings, as they apply to the current study, between Common knowledge and Heard from everyone relate to themes that are revealed during the analytic process to help answer the questions in the study.

Step 3: Going Over Categories and Blending Categories to Produce Themes Using Analytic Memoing

Thematic data analysis is intended to recognize, evaluate, and describe themes in the data produced by the survey responses (Braun n& Clarke, 2006). Step 3 looks for

associations in categories and discovering themes. Saldaña (2015) suggests condensing groups of similar categories and forming them into themes. Saldaña said, “Qualitative inquiry consists of deep reflection by myself and recommended analytic memoing as an essential in step 3.” By using analytic memoing, determining themes takes on meanings and begins to make sense. It can be modified to give responses to the queries in the study.

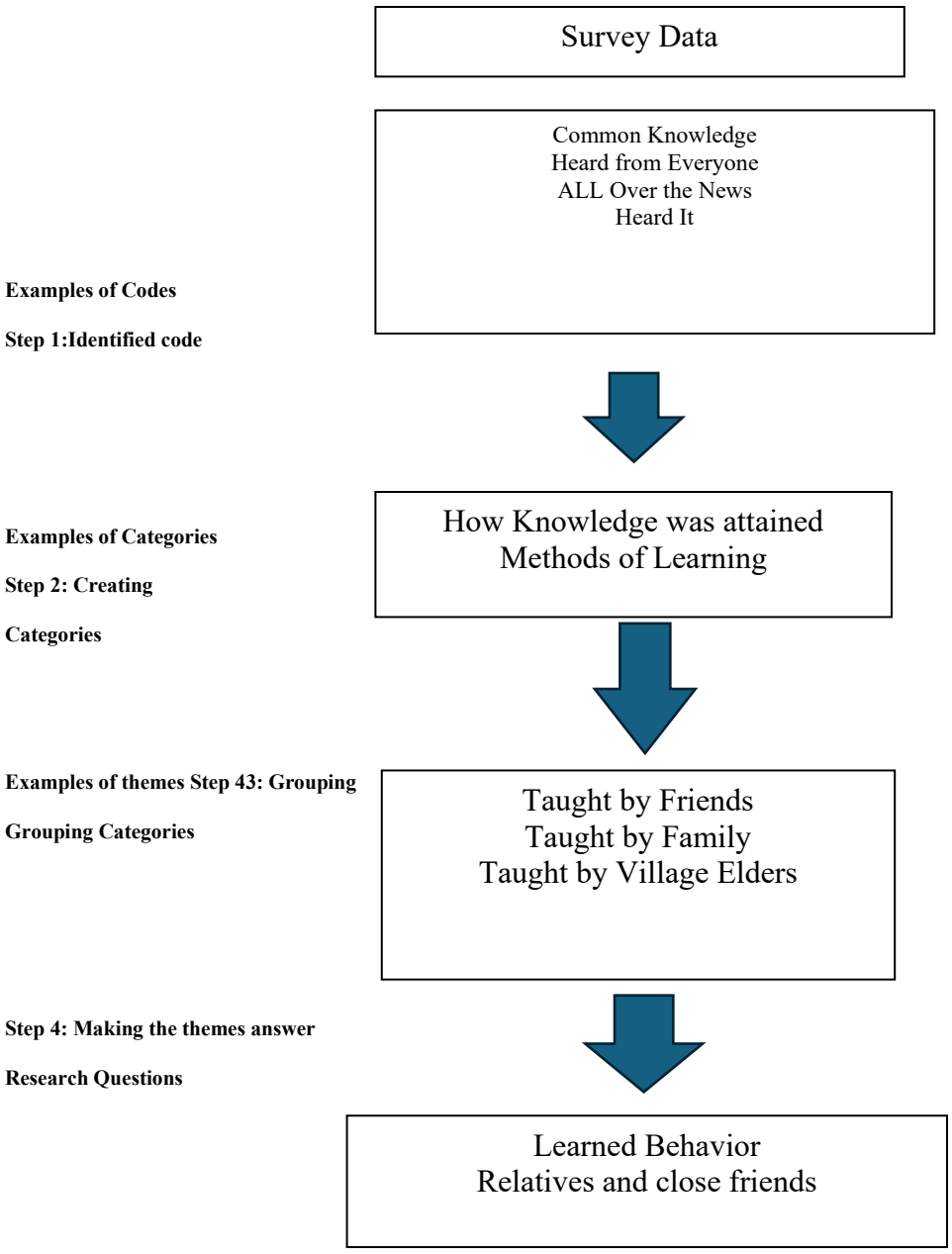
Step 4: Applying themes as They Emerge to the Study’s Research Questions

Step 4 takes the information produced in Steps 1, 2, and 3, causing me to think about the themes produced in Step 3 and determine how they fit the study’s questions. By using analytic memoing, fellow researchers can later review and confirm my perspective (Birks, Chapman, and Francis, 2008). Analytic memoing can help the researcher get a greater appreciation of the problem being looked at because it caused me to think critically about developing themes, which gives future researchers a benchmark to count on when replicating the study.

The primary idea behind using thematic analysis was to help find themes that helped to give responses to the study questions and link the answers to the main themes that were discovered in the data. Saldaña (2015) said that following the four-step process to find the guiding information and using thematic analysis will help narrow the data from the questions in the study by (1) discovering codes, (2) building categories, (3) finding themes in the categories, and (4) Mapping the identified themes directly to the research questions posed in the study, as illustrated in the figure, allows for a clear understanding of how each thematic element addresses a specific aspect of the inquiry.

Figure 1

Thematic Analysis and Steps to Analyze the Data (Amanfi (2019)



Survey Responses: Step 1 (Finding Codes in the Survey Responses)

Following IRB approval, I designed a survey containing specific questions that were administered to a sample of Filipino immigrants currently residing in America. The answers to the study questions were typed into a Word document, and the answers were read and reread 10 to 15 times to better understand the gist of the information. Codes were established for analysis. I read and reread the survey responses, adding labels (codes) to likenesses, phrases, and associations to the research questions. Using phenomenological Theming to help identify codes reduced the chance of errors in the coding process.

The coding process used descriptive coding techniques as described by (Saldaña, 2015). To illustrate this, a passage by P-14 reads: “My friend who had a brother-in-law who was a police officer, he told stories about bribery in the police forces.” P-1 said, “It was learned from friends and relatives, and it became common knowledge when the participant was in grade school because everyone was talking about it.” P-16 revealed that “I cannot remember what age I learned about bribing to not be arrested, and back then I did not know the difference between bail money and bribing. Paying police to get out of trouble is something you knew growing up there.” P-2 replied that “It was heard everywhere and seen on the news and in movies.” “Using descriptive coding, “Learned about police bribery” was labeled a code as it breaks down the passage to give it meaning.

In another example, the answer read, “It depends on what happened. If it were self-defense or someone insinuated something about me that would lead to an arrest, I

might consider bribing because of jail records or something that can hinder your opportunities in life, but something like murder or manslaughter, I will probably accept being arrested." By assigning labels and tags to data sections, the researcher could code the data descriptively (Saldaña, 2015). To illustrate this, a passage read: "My friend who had a brother-in-law who was a police officer, he told stories about bribery in the police forces." Using descriptive coding, "Learned about police bribery" was identified as a code after analysis of the data, and a summary of the passage was suggested.

In another example, the answer read, "It depends on what happened. If it were self-defense or someone insinuated something about me that would lead to an arrest, I might consider bribing because of jail records or something that can hinder your opportunities in life, but something like murder or manslaughter, I will probably accept being arrested." Using Phenomenological Theming, the word "Bribery" was selected as a code because the word used explains the meaning of the act in the data phrase.

Completing Step 1: Finding Codes

Once the survey information was analyzed, codes were found in the answers. Codes were grouped based on their meaning, studied, and modified. Saldaña (2015) stated that coding enables the discovery of meaning because it is a process. Saldaña (2015) recommends considering coding methods that yield the solutions you want for answering the research question.

Completing Step 2: Listing Categories to Prepare and Create Themes Using Analytic Memoing

Step 2 involves grouping codes into categories. Saldaña (2015) recommended developing codes based on a familiar look or meaning. An example of like codes is "Common Knowledge" and "heard from everyone," which seem to belong in the same category because they are similar and convey the same meaning. Combining common meanings or appearances among groups of codes to create themes is part of the analytic process, which helps transfer the codes to a cohesive meaning in the data (Saldaña, 2015).

Completing Step 3: Assessing Groups of Codes and Merging the Codes to Create Themes

The analysis creates themes from data as Thematic analysis identifies and analyzes them (Braum & Clarke, 2006). Step 3 finds relationships between categories and combining them helps to create solid themes. Saldaña (2015) explains that qualitative research involves a researcher repeatedly reflecting on the categories and themes, advising that "analytic memoing is an essential process in step 3." In step 3, it is imperative to create clear understandable analytic memos to help find values in the data to uncover themes.

Completing Step 4: Themes Were Submitted to Respond to the Study's Inquiries

This step involves determining what themes were and their importance by relating them to the inquiry questions and assessing how well the former residents answered the research questions. Saldaña (2015) The use of analytic memos may help to answer the

research questions, according to Saldaña (2015). Birks et al. (2008) imply that to develop a greater understanding of what is being studied, thinking through the progress of themes using analytic memoing is important to ensure success.

Table 2

Themes With Categories

Theme	Category	Frequency
Learned behavior	Taught by friend or family member	13
Learned behavior	Not taught but learned from news and talk	11
Rational choice	The choice was automatic	12
Rational choice	Had to think about choice	12
Expect reward	Yes if bribe is paid	14
Expect reward	No if refusal to pay bribe	10

Table 3

Survey Question with Associated Theme

Survey question	Theme
How does police corruption affect former residents of the Philippines, upon their return to their homeland?	Change the daily lives of the participants
Who taught you that it was possible to bribe the police to get out of trouble?	Participants who learned about police corruption from family and friends
If you were approached by an officer and asked to pay a bribe, would you have to think about it or would it be an automatic action?	It was a choice to act or not act
If you said you would pay the bribe if asked, would you do it?	People expect a reward if they act on something

Data Saturation

A total of twenty-five former residents of the Philippines participated in this study. This study resulted in data saturation in determining the number of surveys needed to determine when no new information was forthcoming (Guest & Bunce, 2006). In

qualitative research, data saturation is important because it helps to determine when the threshold of no new facts or information is reached and when the study can move forward to coding the data collected, as there will be no new patterns of information to consider(Ahmed, 2024; Lu et al., 2024; Naeem et al., 2024; Hossain et al., 2024). The survey questions were designed to elicit significant information for the study. In constantly reviewing the responses to the questions, the interviewer determined that saturation had been reached after 25 surveys were completed due to no further recurring themes in the answers. During data analysis, I coded and recorded the data until no new information had been identified. Saturation was reached when codes began to repeat, and no new code could be identified. Data saturation ensured that the study was trustworthy and achieved impeccable quality. After 25 surveys, I determined that responses were reaching saturation due to responses recurring. The determination that saturation had been reached was verified when no new information was found during coding and when information began to overlap, and any new information would not be helpful (Mason, 2010). When the codes began to take on a common theme, and nothing new was found, during the analysis, it was decided that data saturation had been reached (Amanfi, 2019).

Evidence of Trustworthiness

An unbiased examination of this study's basic theories is necessary to establish the survey's trustworthiness (Montoya, 2003). My personal judgments did not influence any step in conducting the survey, evaluating the data, or collecting and analyzing the information. I was constantly self-aware and consistently engaged in self-reflection to minimize potential bias and preconceptions and attempted to disregard any relationship to

the data collected (Mays & Pope, 2000). Although knowledgeable of the concepts of police corruption, I attempted not to allow personal feelings, suppositions, or perceptions in collecting and showing the data unbiasedly. Bracketing the phenomenon by living in the area where the subjects gained knowledge about police corruption, I was able to understand the study questions answers and break the phenomenon into steps of learning and experiencing the corruption firsthand; I understood the steps required to get to the point of bracketing which added to the study's trustworthiness. The data was attached to the theories being studied to guarantee that the determinations were made by analyzing the data and ensuring it was connected with the themes (Botes & Amit, 2015).

Although there was a possibility of errors in this study, I tried to lessen them as much as possible. The omission of pertinent information could damage the credibility of a qualitative study, as could errors in understanding the research. I conducted a survey that steered the examination concerning the effect that police corruption had on the participants who had lived in the Philippines and now live in the United States and their view of the changes in their lives to survive under the police corruption that they learned and use in the Philippines. The survey questions, which provided information about the participants' experiences dealing with police corruption and how it had affected their lives, appear to have been a good method of gaining the lived experiences, which was the expectation of this study (Amanfi, 2019).

Another limitation identified was the low number of participants, which made the study more seamless (Francis et al., 2010). Johnson (2004) says a small study size can indicate a qualitative study. Also, the narrow focus on police corruption in the Philippines

did not require more participants as the answers to the questions began repeating, and saturation was reached, which allowed analysis of the information provided to respond to the questions.

Results

Results of the thematic analysis and data collected through surveys posted online are contained in this section. The participants were given codes of P1 to P25, which were referenced in that way in all documentation throughout the project. After identifying key themes from the data, the research questions were restructured to directly link these themes with the participant responses, allowing for a focused analysis based on emerging patterns. The study reached saturation at 24 participants, and the data for the study continued to be collected until that point. The information collected revealed areas of the participants' lives that were transformed because of police corruption in the Philippines. Strategies of the residents living under police corruption in the Philippines were learned through associations with family and friends and news reports that it was a choice whether to participate in police bribery and that they did not expect a reward for their bribe to the police.

This research examined how former residents of the Philippines, now living in the United States, had changed their behavior to accommodate living under corrupt police, specifically, how they had changed their daily lives to provide for the safety of themselves and their families.

This study aimed to see what changes participants went through, which caused them to modify their lives to accommodate the police corruption in the Philippines. I first

had to determine (a) how participants learned it was okay to bribe the police in the Philippines. (b) whether participants had to think about the decision to bribe the police or not to bribe the police. and (c) whether the participants would expect a reward for bribing the police. The data gathered from the surveys was coded, categorized, themed, and applied to the survey questions. While analyzing the data, three themes came to light that applied to the questions in the study making sense as a response to the survey questions.

Research question 1. This study's first question, which applied the response to the all-encompassing research question, was: How does police corruption affect former Philippines residents upon their return to their homeland? This research question was necessary to understand the changes that were required in the behavior of the former residents of the Philippines and how they became aware of the possibility of bribing the police to get out of trouble.

Theme 1: Learned Behavior (100%)

This theme emerged regarding the critical role that families, friends, and media play in teaching accepted behavior while living under corrupt police. Agreement among the participants emerged among those who grew up in the Philippines. Participants shared that they were taught that it was acceptable to offer bribes to the police. They noted that family, friends, and the news taught them that the police were corrupt and that bribing them to get out of trouble was how it worked. P1 stated: Since I was in grade school I believe. It was not taught; it was common knowledge. It's in the news or parents, friends and relatives talk about it. Participants indicated that was a common thing and said that they learned about it from friends and relatives or in small intimate groups. P14 stated:

Since I was a teenager. My friend who had a brother-in-law who was a police, told me a lot of stories about bribery in the police force. Participants identified numerous ways that they learned about police corruption and they could get out of trouble by bribing the arresting officer or the commander in the station.

In the view of P13, one possible way to learn about police corruption and what could be done: nobody taught me but growing up it was just a thing. P2 You heard it everywhere, saw it in the news, in movies. P3 Never a good idea….But like I said people do things that are not right for their benefit. P8 It is never a good idea but if that is the only way to get out, I think I will go with that option. P14 Some friends taught me. P16 Paying police to get out of trouble is something you kind of knew growing up there. This indicates that police corruption is a well-known problem and it was unnecessary for anyone to address the issue with the intent of teaching.

Participants Learned but Were Not Taught

Forty-one percent of the participants were aware that corruption existed and that it was possible to pay a bribe to officers, but a specific individual did not teach them that it was possible. P2 indicated: It is not a secret. You heard it from anyone. P4 Nobody taught me, it was just all over the news and that is how I found out that it was possible. P7 It was in the news and I heard it from people, not anyone in particular, just pick it up in general conversation. P8 It was never proven true to me, it was just that I heard it from others. When asked who taught P1 that it was possible to pay a bribe and get out of trouble, he said, “No one taught me; it was common knowledge; my friends and relatives talked about it; my friends in grade school talked about it and that is how it was learned.

P24 stated that although aware of the possibility of bribing the police and an inclination to pay a bribe if in trouble it was the news and acquaintances that he learned it from. P2 You heard it everywhere, saw it in the news, in movies. P3 Never a good idea….But like I said people do things that are not right for their benefit. P8 It is never a good idea but if that is the only way to get out, I think I will go with that option. P14 Some friends taught me. P16 Paying police to get out of trouble is something you knew growing up there.

Survey Question 1 Conclusion

Behavior was taught by close intimate contact with friends and family was a theme that developed after reviewing the data concerning the all-encompassing research question: How does police corruption affect former residents of the Philippines, upon their return to their homeland? Participants who took part in the research acknowledged that learning how to bribe the police was the most compelling behavior change affecting their lives under the rule of police corruption. Participants pointed out that the learned behavior was learned from close intimate groups such as family, friends, and schoolmates as the primary change in behavior required to be successful in living under police corruption.

Survey question 2. If you were approached by an officer and asked to pay a bribe, would you have to think about it, or would it be an automatic action? This question was asked to help answer the all-encompassing first question of the study. To determine whether or not participants would have to consider joining in on the corruption by

agreeing to participate in the act of bribery or whether they would have an automatic decision and whether that decision was to participate or not participate.

Understanding the steps involved in the act of participating in bribery will help to provide information to enable policy professionals and others to understand how the act works and what changes need to be implemented to correct the act. The major theme addressing the research question is (a) choosing to participate in the act or (b) choosing not to participate.

Theme 1: Choosing to Participate in the Act of Bribery After Thinking About Participating in a Bribe (50%)

Those who participated in this phenomenological qualitative study who thought about making an offer and then determining it to be something they would do, did so for various reasons.

Inquiry Response 2 Results

The inquiry was designed to determine what led to the decision to agree to pay a bribe to the police officer asking for it. The data collected indicated that the participants rationally thought about whether to pay a bribe when asked by an officer or refused to pay a bribe to an officer. In both cases, the participant thought about the act before committing it, which makes it a choice.

Survey question 3. Question three of the research was: If you said you would pay the bribe if asked, would you expect something in return? This question supported research question one of this study. After reviewing and analyzing the data gathered from

the survey posted online, the theme that emerged was: (a) those who indicated they would pay a bribe also indicated that they did expect to receive a reward.

Participants revealed that they did not always expect something in return for paying a bribe. A bribe in a corrupt police force can be something as simple as a pack of cigarettes or a snack to eat. For those who expect a reward for the bribe as they envisioned it, trading money for some act that allowed them to avoid arrest or incarceration. The research question was designed to determine whether participants expected a reward for their bribery or for those participants who indicated they would pay the bribe. This question was intended to support question one of this study.

Theme 1: Reward Expected (58%)

This emerged theme related to receiving a reward for Any bribery paid describes the desire of participants who paid a bribe to be rewarded for that bribe. Study participants identified the reasons for paying a bribe, with some saying that they desired not to be imprisoned. P3 indicated a desire to get out of prison as a reward once the bribe is paid. P8 said that they were unsure about getting a reward, while P20 simply answered yes indicating that a reward was expected if a bribe was paid. P21 Yes, I would expect a reward after paying a bribe to get out of trouble, I would expect to have my arrest expunged. P22 Yes, to get out of trouble when bribing an officer to get out of trouble for something I had been arrested for doing, I would expect to be released without charges. P23 Yes, of course, I would expect to be released as a reward for paying a bribe.

Participants' Comments Who Did Not Expect a Reward After Possibly Paying a Bribe or Not Paying a Bribe (41%)

P8 indicated that it would depend on whether they would pay a bribe and was unsure if a reward would be expected. P10 said they would pay a bribe to be acquitted, but it would depend on whether he would expect a reward or not. P11 said they would not pay a bribe and they would not expect a reward. P13 relayed that paying a bribe was the "Easy way out!", and not right, and when asked about expecting a reward, emphatically indicated they would not stating, "Nope!". P14 No, because I never believed in the bribe, and no, I would not expect a reward. P19 No, I will face the consequences and no reward.

Survey Question 3 Conclusion

The conclusion for question 3 helped to establish whether participants expected to be released once a bribe was paid, have the charges dismissed, or have their charges expunged as a reward for the bribe payment. One major theme developed: participants expected a reward for paying a bribe to an officer. As indicated above, two participants would not pay a bribe and, as a result, would not expect a reward.

Summary

Chapter 4 reported the analysis of the data and a complete explanation of the results. Saldaña (2015) provides an outline for thematic analysis of the collected data, which I followed. (1) find the codes, (2) list the codes and determine what the categories were, (3) look at the themes and create them through analytic memoing, (4) answer the questions in the inquiry with the developed themes. Themes were created while following the four steps of thematic analysis and analyzing the data from the study allowed those

themes to be incorporated into the study questions as answers to them. This study's first (predominant) research question was: How does police corruption affect former Philippines residents upon their return to their homeland? Thoroughly analyzing the data produced three themes that were applied to the answers to the research questions. Theme number one was that participants learned about police corruption from family, schoolmates, news reports, and friends. Theme two was that it is a choice to act or not to act. The third theme was that people expect a reward if they give something.

One of three research questions planned to apply to the predominant research question was: Who taught you it was possible to bribe the police to get out of trouble? While analyzing the data, one theme appeared that answered the study's question. Bribing the police is a learned behavior, and it is learned in small, intimate groups such as family, friends, school, and the media.

Question two of three, which helped to answer the predominant research question, was: If approached by an officer and asked to pay a bribe, would you have to think about it, or would it be an automatic action? While analyzing the data, one theme appeared that answered that question. The theme was that participants had to choose whether to participate or not participate in the act of bribing the police.

Question three of three is intended to resolve the question: If you said you would pay the bribe if asked, would you expect something in return? While analyzing the data, one theme appeared that would help solidify the response to the study's third question. People expecting a reward for committing some act is the theme that best responded to the study's question. These themes stand as an unembellished picture of how the lives of

the former residents of the Philippines believed their lives had changed while living under police corruption in the Philippines.

This research focused on the changes in the lives of former residents of the Philippines and how they were trained to change their everyday lives to conform to the expected life that police corruption imposes on people. An impartial assessment of the theories that guided this study ensured trustworthiness (Montoya, 2003). I ensured that prejudicial feelings had no bearing on the analysis, purpose of the study, information collection, and examination (Riege, 2003). Data from the surveys was coded, and an analysis was performed on it.. Theory triangulation was used to ensure the themes developed would complete the study's objective which was what changes Philippine citizens now living in the United States go through to compensate for the police corruption that ravishes their home country, aligned with qualitative phenomenological study design.

A study problem could be related to the small number of participants. Initially, I planned to recruit fifty participants from former Philippine residents who are now living in the United States; however, saturation reached twenty-five participants. The small sample size may have limited the data, but saturation prevented it from affecting the study's outcome. Out of twenty-five participants, one set of responses was disregarded as they did not follow instructions, and the answers did not apply to police corruption in the Philippines, leaving twenty-four participants. Participant twelve believed that the questions pertained to police in the United States and that the answers provided were disregarded. None of the identified possible limitations had any effect on the study.

The final chapter comprises a complete recap of the report from data analysis, including the conclusions reached, how and why they were reached, and why the data answers the research questions. Chapter 5 also accounts for the “theoretical and practical implications for future research and practice” (Amanfi, 2019).

Chapter 5: Discussion, Conclusions, and Recommendations

Several researchers agreed that police corruption affects those living under it differently, causing complete distrust of the sadists in uniform (Nillama et al., 2024; Tiwa, 2024; Zandi et al., 2024), stating that police corruption and abuse of power affect countries around the world. According to Zandi et al. (2024), this evokes negative emotions that can affect the behavior and well-being of those exposed to that corruption. Nillama et al. (2024) revealed the changes that must be made in people's daily lives to survive the corruption of the police in Cebu City, Philippines. Nillama et al. indicated that the "impact of police misconduct on the lives of the Participants and their families" (p, 12) includes distrust of the police and a loss of certainty about the officers they come in contact with. Most research on the corruption of the police examined the corruption of sexual and racial groups (Zandi et al., 2004). The current study targeted the types of changes that participants undertook and how they determined that those changes allowed them to avoid arrest and criminal prosecution. This chapter summarizes this study's results and provides conclusions and recommendations.

Criminologists and others have tried to determine why people do what they do, with much of the research focusing on criminal behavior and what causes it. Few studies have examined how a criminal act is supported by those who live and are victims of corrupt acts. Nillama et al. (2024) found that there are studies involving police corruption. However, I did not find studies of corruption's negative effect on the victims of misconduct, their existence, and the existence of their families.

The current qualitative study concentrated on how former residents of the Philippines now living in the United States think that police corruption has changed their behavior. To address this problem, it was necessary to investigate the steps taken by the former Philippine residents who are now residents of the United States to adjust to life under police corruption. The current study addressed the themes identified in Survey Question 1, which was the all-encompassing question in the survey, and the remaining questions that are listed, all three of which contain themes that support the all-encompassing research question.

RQ1: How does police corruption affect former Philippines residents upon their return to their homeland?

RQ2: Who taught you that it was possible to bribe the police to get out of trouble?

RQ3: If you were approached by an officer and asked to pay a bribe, would you have to think about it or would it be an automatic action?

RQ4: If you said you would pay the bribe if asked, would you expect to get something in return?

Chapter 1 included information on the study's background, problem statement, reason for the study, justification for the research design, definitions of terms, and methodology. The chapter also clarified the applicable theories, what was assumed, and what was likely to limit the data in the survey, and provided information that was important to the research. Chapter 2 examined the literature surrounding corruption, police corruption, and police corruption in the Philippines. Chapter 2 also explained the conceptual framework that detailed the overall difficulty with the study. A security

framework created by the interpretive phenomenological analysis established the conceptual framework used in this research (IPA, 2021). The methodology was described in Chapter 3, along with the strategy and plan for investigation. Chapter 4 included the findings revealed by data analysis. I also explained the study's data analysis method. Chapter 5 presents the data analysis results and their determinations. I explain the implications for future studies and describe the study's strengths and weaknesses.

Interpretation of the Findings

Numerous studies detailed the effect of police corruption on the people living under it (Bello, 2024; Mardon & Shah, 2024; McLeroy et al., 2024; Quinn et al., 2024). Nillama et al. (2024) suggested that the police in the Philippines must reassess their understanding of search and seizure if they wish to regain the public's trust. Agaton (2024) described the padrino system, which enables a close ally or supporter of a powerful person to secure a position within the police, thereby potentially overlooking qualified individuals for positions based on their qualifications. A corruption report by Ortiz-Ospina and Roser (2024) revealed that 38% of people worldwide who responded to a corruption survey identified the police as the second most corrupt organization in their countries and bribery as the most prevalent form of corruption. Ortiz-Ospina and Roser also noted that bribery affects the poor more drastically than any other group.

In May 2020, police officers in Minneapolis were accused of systematic racism (Arango et al., 2022). There is an acceptance of police corruption in the Philippines (Aquino, 2021), which has led to the planting of evidence by the Philippine National Police (Olea et al., 2022). Corrupt police can make life dangerous for those who are

under their protection. The financial cost to governments and cities is staggering (Corley, 2020). What Transparency International (2022) called a global issue is that police corruption continues to affect the way people live. The current study sought to understand the effect that police corruption has on local former residents of the Philippines and the mechanism that is in place that results in residents changing their daily lives to help themselves and their family members avoid police corruption. To recognize the repercussions of police corruption, I explored how other types affect individuals and what that corruption looks like.

By examining police corruption and police culture, as well as general corruption, I collected data to validate the study. Transparency International tracked corruption in 180 of the 195 countries of the world. In 2021, the United States scored 67/100, with one hundred being corruption-free and zero being corrupt. No country was monitored with a score of one hundred (Transparency International, 2023). Of the countries tracked by Transparency International, 88/100 was the highest rank, and that was for Denmark, Finland, and New Zealand, which made them the least corrupt of the 180 tracked. South Sudan had the lowest score at 11/100, making it the most corrupt. The Philippines, a former colony of the United States that is now a neo-colony, had a score of 33/100. The Transparency International report from 2021 also included data for that year on the governments of those 180 countries. That data indicated that 87% of the respondents from those 180 countries believe that the legislature and the police are the most corrupt. Due to the similarities between what is happening now with police corruption and the corruption experienced by the United States early in its history, I collected data from

former Philippine residents currently living in the United States. The framework of the study permitted the detection and description of (a) how participants learned about the possibility of bribing the police to avoid arrest or incarceration, (b) whether the decision to participate in bribery was something that was an automatic action or did they have to think about it first, and (c) whether the participant expected to receive a reward for the payment of a bribe. These questions helped me understand what steps were involved in the entire bribe process, which explained the changes required in participants' lives to live under police corruption.

The population selected for this study was composed of former Philippines residents who have lived in America for over 5 years and were over 21 years old. A sample of 25 participants, 24 of whom had filled out the survey on Survey Monkey, was selected. A small number of contributors in a qualitative study, such as the current study with twenty-five participants, does not affect the research project (Onwuegbuzie, 2004). The small participant size was adequate for efficiency, making managing and collecting the data more stress-free (Amanfi, 2019).

The tight focus on the participants' behavioral changes due to police corruption did not require more participants to identify the changes in behavior as saturation was reached at 24. Through open-ended questions in a survey format, participants shared their experiences of growing up under police corruption, describing how they understood what would be required to survive under that corruption.

This study used surveys to understand the issues faced by participants and their actions to overcome those issues. I received guidance from experts in the design of the

surveys to ensure they met or exceeded the expectations in attaining data and developing acceptable research questions for the study. Expert opinions with knowledge in approving survey questions also depended on to guide the collection of the data (Amanfi, 2019; Habbi et al. 2014). They can use their extensive knowledge to develop research questions and their expertise in collecting data.

Participants were expected to agree with the consent as part of the Survey Monkey requirements; before they could access the survey, they had to acknowledge that they had read and understood the form. It contained a breakdown of confidentiality, the steps taken to protect the participant's identity, and any information they decided to share via the survey. Participants were issued survey codes once they were approved to complete the survey. As Amanfi (2015) noted, it is designed to protect the participants from future harm. Participants were issued codes of P-1 to P-25 in order to conceal their identity. From the beginning to the end of the study and beyond, participants were known by those study codes on all documentation and any records that were obtained.

All data in this study was collected using surveys posted on Survey Monkey and retrieved from them. Survey Monkey was checked daily, and once saturation was reached, access to the survey was discontinued. The surveys were downloaded and securely locked in my desk until coding began.

Saldaña (2015) suggested using the thematic analysis approach when analyzing data was easy and a good idea. It should be used in conjunction with a four-step data analysis approach. That approach is: (1) find codes, (2) make categories out of codes, (3) develop themes from clusters of codes, and (4) use the themes to develop answers for the

question in the study (Amanfi, 2019). Chapter 5 details the study's conclusions and systematically presents the implications, theoretical, practical, and future (Amanfi (2019). Chapter five explains the strengths and weaknesses, as well as recommendations for the practice of criminal justice, and concludes with future research ideas and actions that change the lives of former residents of the Philippines who now live in the United States and what those changes appear to indicate. The study explored which theories applied to the changes in the behavior of the residents who lived under the control of corrupt police. Chapter 3 described the study's questions, strategy, and research plan expended for the examination. Chapter 4 gave the details on the data analysis results. The author also explained four provided a complete study's data analysis method, which was accomplished through thematic analysis, and explained the study's results. Twenty-five total participants, the changes in their lives that police corruption causes who are former residents of the Philippines now living in America, completed a survey with fourteen questions. This section describes the important addition to the scientific knowledge of the behavioral changes made by the participants that this study provided.

Research question 1. The first question was the main question in the study and the question that all the other research questions complemented: How does police corruption affect former Filipinos upon their return to their homeland? The changes in the behavior of former Philippines residents who are now living in America necessitate asking this research question. The data collected for this research question revealed one theme: (a) Living under police corruption causes behavioral changes in residents.

Theme 1: Living Under Police Corruption Causes Behavioral Changes in Residents

This theme was related to the changes people under police corruption in the Philippines go through and why they choose to follow those changes. As outlined in the literature review, the Philippines has a history of police corruption that affects those living under it. It is generational and it still makes the headlines in the Philippines, and people are still trying to adjust to the corruption as best they can. The surveys were uploaded to Survey Monkey and retrieved by myself.

Summary of Findings

There are changes to the lives of residents living under police corruption. Two participants, P1 and P2, focused on reporting the officer who requested a bribe, indicating they knew about the corruption and refused to participate in the scheme. Meanwhile, P24 and P25 said they would pay a bribe to avoid trouble and not get arrested. The change in the lives of the residents who participated in the study is that they have to decide what is right for them; even though it may be wrong in the eyes of those who would not pay the bribe, it is what those who would believe is the right thing for them to do. Of the twenty-five participants, sixteen said they would pay a bribe when asked to by an officer, and nine said they would not pay the bribe when asked. Paying the bribe or not, the study showed that all participants knew and accepted that paying a bribe was possible if they wanted to get out of trouble. By having to decide between paying or not paying the bribe, they are displaying a change in behavior that has taken place.

Significance of the Findings

Prior studies that addressed police corruption align with the current study of the changes in the lives of former Filipinos living under police corruption. Ha & Sun, (2023) describe the tendency of Asian Americans to form their opinions of police in America based on their experiences in their home country. Mengzhen et al. (2022) suggest it is common for individuals to seek approval from those they consider important to themselves. Ulo (2024) described the interaction between police and the people they are hired to protect, but instead, who elicits bribes from, as a marriage, which implies that it is a give-and-take and a departure from how police and citizens should relate.

What makes this study important is what occurs in societies where bribery is rampant, like in the Philippines, where a marriage-like relationship signifies a change in the lives of those who live under police corruption. In the Philippines and other developing nations, bribery obstructs positive advances and is the lowest form of corruption. Transparency International uses a score from O to one hundred, with zero being very corrupt and one hundred meaning absolutely no corruption. They track corruption in 180 countries worldwide, and no country ranks as wholly corrupt, but Somalia ranks as the most corrupt country at 12. It is listed as the 180th on the scale, representing the place it holds out of 180, with 180 being the worst, while the Philippines ranks at 33 and ranks 116th on the scale of 180. The 2004 survey of 50,000 respondents ranked police corruption worldwide as the second most corrupt government entity (CPI, (2004). With police corruption ranking as the second most corrupt agency in government, and most if not all countries having a corruption problem, this study's significance lies in

understanding what drives police corruption, and what makes former residents of the Philippines now living in the United States participate in that corruption and where their understanding of the bribery comes from and how those changes affect the daily lives of those participants.

Research question 2. Who taught you that it was possible to bribe the police to get out of trouble? This question was intended to help determine participants' experiences while growing up in the Philippines and how they learned what was acceptable when arrested by corrupt police in the Philippines to avoid arrest or having charges filed.

Theme 1: Offering Bribes to the Police Is a Learned Behavior

Participants in this qualitative phenomenological study acknowledged a series of places where they obtained the information that bribing the police was an acceptable method of avoiding trouble when confronted by the police. Each participant revealed they knew the possibility of bribing the police to avoid trouble when confronted. The reviewer's experiences, when embedded for two years with residents of the Philippines, verified that bribing police was a possibility.

Essential Findings

All of the study's participants acknowledged how they learned it was possible to bribe the police in the Philippines. P16 recounted the learned behavior: I cannot remember what age I learned about bribing, not to be arrested, and back then, I did not know the difference between bail money and bribing. Paying police to get out of trouble is something you knew growing up there. Beyond just knowing and not knowing how it was learned that the police could be bribed, which P14 indicated, "It was common

knowledge, I learned from friends and relatives when I was in grade school, was not taught, it was just talked about." P14: shared That as a teenager, a friend had a brother-in-law who was a police officer who told many stories about bribery in police forces.

All study participants (100%) described knowing about police corruption and describing how friends, school friends, relatives, or people in the community had mentioned it or took the time to teach them what they were supposed to do regarding bribing the police to get released and not have criminal charges filed.

Importance of the Findings

Those who participated in the study described daily routines in

Theme 1: Deciding Whether to Offer Bribes Requires a Choice

This emerged as a theme related to deciding whether to provide a bribe to an officer if asked. Ashworth (2024) argues that agents whose actions are necessary to make it work must be capable of forming appropriate decisions; if they are, it is a Choice. Data gathered from this study demonstrated that they could create appropriate thoughts, and their action implied they were well aware of what would happen if they acted.

Summary of Findings

The participants in this study were required to form an opinion about providing a bribe and, after thorough thought, decided. P18 indicated that any action surrounding paying a bribe would be thought about before completing the transaction and that after thinking about it, the bribe would be paid to get out of trouble. P7 revealed that it would not have to be internally debated; the decision had already been made to reject paying the bribe. In each instance, a choice had to be made, whether it was before the act was

requested or at the time it was requested, a choice was made. P13 delved into the choice by noting:

> I would have to think about it first because sometimes you do not know who is at fault if there is another party involved and there are times you just didn't do anything but still get approached by the police. It depends on what has happened, it was self-defense or someone insinuated something about me, that would lead to an arrest, I might consider bribing because jail records are something that can hinder opportunities in life, but if it is something like murder or manslaughter I will accept being arrested.

This statement shows that serious thought went into the request for a bribe and what would be done, implying a choice would be made at the time of the request. There were strong feelings about the bribe paying from those who said they would not pay the bribe. P2 revealed that the bribe would not be paid and that the boss would be told about the bribe solicitation because there would be no guarantee that what was agreed upon and it would be too much like extortion. The statement from P2 shows that rational thought was a part of the decision to refuse to pay the bribe.

Significance of Findings

Brown et al. (2007) determined that rational choice has many variables that apply to potential offenders and victims. The findings in the current study that each decision to pay or not pay a bribe to corrupt police is thought out before the actual choice is made. As identified by the participants of this study, the decision to pay or not pay a bribe is based on generational teachings, meaning that the decision is based on what is customary

and accepted. In the case of bribery, the act is a crime that has permeated the Philippine police for decades, helping residents to make their choice. Based on generational corruption, paying a bribe and being forgiven for your criminal act becomes an accepted process. This research produced data that will be invaluable to those who design deterrence programs. Those who participated in this study chose, based on the accepted social practice of bribing, to have charges disregarded and eliminated. The findings from this study will further prove that to decide a choice must be made before the action is accomplished. The participants in this study, in describing their thoughts concerning bribing corrupt police, demonstrated a rational process. Thus, the information provided in the current study complemented the theory of Rational Choice.

Question 4. The final question of the study was: If you said you would pay the bribe if asked, would you expect to get something in return? This research question was intended to determine whether or not participants expected some reward for paying a bribe to the police. Participants expecting a reward for paying a bribe was a theme that was discovered after using thematic analysis in answering the study question.

Theme 1: Participants Expect a Reward for Paying a Bribe

This emerged theme from the data was related to those paying a bribe and what they expected from it. Silver et al. (2021) allege that ability comes from trying a goal that is designed specifically to provoke that ability. Data gathered in this study revealed that participants, knowing that bribing the police was possible, set a goal of making it happen and learned (provoked) the ability to successfully bribe the police, expecting a reward of nonarrest or dismissal of criminal charges.

Summary of Findings

Of the participants who indicated they would pay a bribe (13), (100%) indicated they would expect a reward, and (11) who would not pay the bribe would not expect the reward. The study was concerned with the participants who would pay the bribe and would expect a reward for their efforts. P13 who disclosed a bribe would be paid revealed it would be expected that they do their part of the deal, and forget they saw anything, and act like I was a stranger. P20 indicated that a bribe would be paid just to get out of trouble and for the bribe expected to have the arrest forgotten. P22 revealed that a bribe would be paid to get out of trouble without any hassles and would expect a reward for the bribe. A strong consensus developed among participants that indicated they would pay a bribe and expect a reward. Shultz (2024) insists that rewards satisfy the needs of humans for survival, and while reinforcement learning is observational, what makes it so may be related to Free Will. Sultz goes on to insist that animals come back after having their neurons stimulated for more stimulation. It appears to be the same with the participants in this study as having seen, learned or received a reward from bribing the police, they come back to what they learned and are willing to bribe the police for the euphoric feeling of avoiding arrest or punishment for an act they committed. By doing so they are helping to strengthen the theory of Shultz's behavioral theory of Neurophysiology of Reward.

Significance of Findings

Many theories deal with the science of humans and their motivations for acting a certain way (Jagota & Parbhoo, 2024; Silver et al., 2021; Schultz, 2024), but none deal with former Filippino residents now living in the United States, and none examine the

reason that group has changed their way of life to adapt to police corruption. Participants in this study describe their motivations for changing their lives while in the Philippines and how they would act once those changes take effect. One of those changes is paying or not paying bribes to corrupt police if they are stopped and detained by them. Those who choose to pay the bribe get a reward of no arrest or criminal charges for that bribe, is the consensus among that group of participants. These findings complemented Shultz (2006) and his Behavioral Theories and the Neurophysiology of Reward. As Shultz describes the theory behind the desire for a reward, he insists that rewards are mostly based on the affected behavior and less on how chemistry affects the events. The data in this study revealed that the reward was based on expected behavior.

Limitations of the Study

This project was planned and executed with precision which helped to make the study stronger. Submitting the proposal to the IRB for approval before any data was collected resulted in no required fixes and data collection commenced. To guarantee confidentiality, selected participants were assigned codes of P-1 to P24, which followed all study actions, and no identifying information was obtained. The study participants were informed of confidentiality procedures before being accepted into the study, which increased participants' willingness to participate in the research.

Extensive time reading and rereading the surveys was an important strength of this research. Another strength was associated with my criminal justice background and experience. Understanding police corruption and its effect on those who live under it was

a valuable asset for a study of its effects on those living under it. Familiarity with the kind of police corruption that residents of the Philippines face daily supported this study.

Being embedded for two years with the residents of the Philippines and witnessing the kind of corruption this study worked with was invaluable for gaining participants' trust (Paterson et al., 2003).

It is possible that a weakness may have occurred due to a need to gather information via other methods, such as interviews and in-person meetings with those involved, which may have enhanced the study. In addition to the above, the sample size may have been a weakness; however, constant evaluation of the surveys determined that no other new information was forthcoming, resulting in the withdrawal of the surveys at 25 due to saturation of the subject matter (Mwita, 2022).

Lastly, another weakness related to the lack of participation of one out of twenty-five participants. Out of twenty-five participants, one failed to answer the questions asked appropriately when P12 mistook the survey and believed it was about police corruption in America. As the survey consisted of a survey, and there was no information linking the participants to the survey, it was not possible to determine who had completed the survey. As a result, only twenty-four surveys were used, and those twenty-four provided enough information to determine that saturation was reached (Mwita, 2022).

This survey, which relied on a qualitative approach and phenomenological study scheme, revealed participants' accounts of their lived experiences of living under police corruption in the Philippines, aligning with an (IPA) Framework (Choy, 2014). Data in this study was gathered through a 14-question survey related to their lived experiences

that described the changes in their lives that could be attributed to police corruption. This data source, when analyzed, verified the findings of the (IPA) recommended study design of the research. When many of the participants began identifying the same behaviors, this improved trust in this study as well as the overall worth of the results.

Recommendations

The current research addressed a serious gap in the literature regarding the life changes those residents raised in the Philippines and now living in the United States faced while returning to the Philippines to visit family and friends. The study significantly contributed to the existing information by revealing how police corruption affects former residents of the Philippines upon their return to their homeland.

The data analysis of this study showed that researchers have an opening to examine further the experiences of people living under police corruption in this study and their behavioral change because of it.

The recommendations listed here would benefit criminal justice and behavioral scholars regarding the life changes those in the Philippines and now living in the United States faced while returning to the Philippines to visit family and friends.

Recommendations for future research. The current study added to what is known about the behavioral changes experienced by Filipinos living in America while returning to their homeland to visit family and friends. This study examined a specific group of people raised in another country and now living in America to determine the changes in their lives because of living under police corruption in their home country.

The original sample size was twenty-five, with one participant mistaking the country for police corruption and providing information regarding the United States. Should there be an attempt to repeat the current study, the researcher may wish to increase the number of participants and see if they might be able to recruit from other countries where police corruption is present, to attempt to replicate the current findings and test the possibility of similar study findings in other groups

This study provided evidence of the life changes those participants went through to avoid arrest or criminal charges and looked at the theories that those changes fit into. The analyzed data aligned with the IPA guidance on four critical areas (a) The lives of the former Filipino residents who are now United States residents have changed; the behavior that was changed is learned behavior. There was a choice made between bribing or not bribing the police, and if a bribe was paid, the reward was nonarrest or expungement of criminal charges.

Future researchers should consider following the IPA guidelines to gain further knowledge from other groups who have been exposed to police corruption in their own country. Such a study would provide further evidence of the changes in behavior. Future practice recommendations. In this qualitative phenomenological study, the questions used were: (a) How does police corruption affect former Filipinos upon their return to their homeland? (b) Who taught you that it was possible to bribe the police to get out of trouble? (c) If you were approached by an officer and asked to pay a bribe, would you have to think about it, or would it be an automatic action? (d): If asked, would you say you would pay the bribe, expecting to get something in return? The data in this study

provide further evidence, as seen in the participants' changes in their lives to avoid trouble with corrupt police, what those changes look like, and what theories apply to them (Zandi et al., 2024).

Additionally, the data revealed in this study provide those who decide to study police corruption's effect on civilian populations with enough information to conduct studies that would add to the argument that police corruption hurts those who live under it. Due to the study's findings, a suggestion for policymakers to consider in the future is to use the findings to develop treatment programs for inmates and/or victims that consider what the data in this study revealed. Inmate treatment programs should be designed with the study's results considered. If police do not ask for a bribe, the residents will not develop and adopt actions that allow them to bribe their way out of trouble. Corrupt police cause the residents who live under them to create programs that will enable them to escape the corrupt police (Abun et al.,2020; Aquino, 2021; Atienza, 2022; Bandyopadhyay, 2022).

Implications

Together, they answer the all-encompassing research question: How does police corruption affect former Philippines residents upon their return to their homeland? More specifically, the results showed distinct changes in the daily lives of those raised under police corruption. The threat of arrest causes the participants to adopt actions that will ensure they are not arrested or convicted. This study found that former residents of the Philippines who now live in the United States have well-thought-out plans to ensure they are not arrested and not charged by corrupt police. I hope that policymakers can use the

information to develop anti-corruption policies that work while focusing on the victims of this problem.

Focusing on how former residents of the Philippines are now living in America and asking their survey questions, it was determined that no one theory would answer the question of a change in the behavior of those under the protection of corrupt police. First, the participants had to learn an accepted action in dealing with an arrest or criminal charge. They then choose to participate or not in bribing the police, and finally, they require a reward of no arrest or forgiveness of criminal charges. E.H. Sutherland (1972) was responsible for the Theory of Differential Association, which says that criminals learn their behavior through close intimate contact with others and that how criminals learn is also how normal people learn. He says that the exact needs and values are needed to learn any type of behavior. The participants in this study learned from relatives, friends, classmates, and village elders, and that is close, intimate contact.

This qualitative phenomenological study was limited to a single county from which the residents immigrated to America. A future study should consider a different immigration group living under police corruption who have had to change their daily lives to account for that corruption. Although I did not consider gender in this study, it is believed there was a mix of male and female participants. While no evidence includes gender as a question, there is no evidence that it impacted the study's outcome. Gender identification in future studies would give an idea of inquiries makeup, thereby adding to what is already known.

Focusing on how former residents of the Philippines are now residents of America and asking the survey questions of them, it was determined that not one theory would answer the question of a change in behavior of those who are under the protection of corrupt police. We all make daily decisions, whether to get out of bed or stay in bed, eat breakfast, or skip breakfast, and walk to work or drive to work. These are called choices. In the study, participants were asked whether they would pay a bribe or not. This caused them to make a choice, whether to pay a bribe or not pay a bribe if asked by an officer. This then becomes a choice whether to pay a bribe or not pay a bribe. There are now two theories that apply to the behavior modification of the participants: differential association and choice theory.

The third issue that the behavior modification required is whether they would expect a reward if they paid a bribe. Most participants (13) chose to pay the bribe and, as a result, expected to receive a reward for the payment. The reward sought was getting out of trouble, no arrest, and no criminal charges. That action fits the neurophysiology of reward, which says people commit to an act if they sense a reward for their efforts.

Lastly, the study's result is that it uses three different but connected theories to explain how police corruption affects former residents of the Philippines upon their return to their homeland. A practical implication of this study is that people who design and implement programs for victims of crime and criminals can use the information in this study to help design more effective programs to address behavioral issues in inmates or victims of criminal activity.

Future implications. The problem statement, which is that it is unknown how former residents of the Philippines now living in the United States perceive that police corruption affects their lives, is addressed by the current study

This qualitative phenomenological study revealed that there is more than one theory about the adjustment to the behavior of former Filipinos who are now American residents and face police corruption when they return to their homeland. This research was based on qualitative methodology and a phenomenological design and followed the (IPA) guidance (Amanfi, M., 2019; Antin et al., 2014; Burns et al., 2022). This allowed the evaluation of former Filipinos now living in America to account for their lived experiences, which was a necessary part of the study to answer the four questions. A plan to recruit fifty former Filipinos as participants for this research proved unnecessary when information began repeating itself, and the study was halted because it had reached saturation. The smaller study size may have reduced the overall amount of data collected. Any future study duplication may wish to have more participants and they may wish to have participants from other countries living under police corruption in their own country and now living in the United States, which may help to strengthen this inquiry.

Conclusion

Police corruption affects most countries in the world and understanding what residents living under that corruption have to change about their lives is vitally important in developing programs that address corruption. Understanding what actions were used to help complete the change in the participants' lives is important. If the goal is avoiding arrest or criminal charges, and that goal is reached by bribing the police, what

mechanisms were present that guided the participant toward that goal? The literature reviewed for this study indicated that police corruption is an ongoing generational problem in the Philippines. Attempting to study police corruption in any part of the world would have its own set of risks; however, corruption and police corruption are openly talked about in the Philippines.

It is so common that one question on the driver's test to get your license is asked about the best way to avoid corruption (Philippine License Bureau, 2023). Some studies describe police corruption as an integrity problem (Ivković et al., 2022) or an ethical problem (Sweeting et al., 2022), but few, if any, address police corruption as a community problem. Understanding how police corruption is a community problem can only be accomplished by studying the community. In this study, it was unknown how the daily lives of former Philippines residents who are now residents of the United States changed upon their return to the Philippines to visit friends or relatives. This qualitative phenomenological study explored participants' actions and changes to prepare for the return trip to their homeland. The study's purpose and problem revealed a need for further research, causing the current study to be investigated to help further the literature surrounding police corruption and how it affects those living under it.

The first question in the study revealed the all-encompassing research question. The second research question was: Who taught you that it was possible to bribe the police to get out of trouble? The third question was: Would you choose to pay a bribe or not, and would it be automatic, or would you think about it? The fourth research question: Would you expect a reward if you paid the bribe? The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th research questions

supported the all-encompassing research question number one: How does police corruption affect former Philippines residents upon their return to their homeland?

Research Question 4: If you said you would pay the bribe if asked, would you do so expecting to get something in return? In addressing Research Question 1, one major theme is that there are changes to the lives of residents living under police corruption that provided information pointing to behavioral changes in the participants' lives. Participants indicated that they learned about police corruption from family, friends, and intimate relationships, that in deciding to bribe the police or not they chose before deciding. If they did plan to bribe the police they would expect something like no arrest or dismissal of criminal charges as a reward. Participants indicated that these changes in how they approached living in the Philippines were brought on by the knowledge that they lived under police corruption.

In addressing Research Question 2, The data gathered through surveys indicated the many ways that participants became aware that the police were corrupt and that it was possible to bribe your way out of trouble. The major theme, offering bribes to officers is a learned behavior. The data showed that participants learned through conversations with family and friends, through news reports, in conversations when at school, and from village elders. The findings of the theme, bribing the police is a learned behavior is in line with the findings of E. H. Sutherland (1974) in his research regarding Differential Association and how two of the Principles of Differential Association. The association applies to "non-criminals and criminals. 1. Behavior is an expression of general needs and values. 2. learning criminal behavior by association with criminal and anticriminal

patterns involves all of the mechanisms involved in any other learning, as noted" by Sutherland (1974).

One central theme in addressing Research Question 3 is that deciding whether to offer bribes requires a choice, which was present in participants' answers to the question while weighing the information that was collected. The information revealed regardless of whether a participant indicated they would or would not pay a bribe to police if detained, it required them to make a choice.

The findings of this theme addressed the choice of whether to pay or not pay a bribe align with Glasser's (2007) Theory of Choice, as reported by Onedera & Greenwalt (2007), and Ashworth (2023) who argue that agents whose actions are necessary to make it work must be capable of forming appropriate decisions, and if they are it is a Rational Choice.

One major theme, residents wanting a reward for paying a bribe, developed from examining the information gathered from this study in addressing Research Question 4. The data revealed that 13 (100%) of participants who indicated they would pay a bribe to officers if asked revealed they would require a reward of no arrest or removal of any criminal charge that existed. The remaining participants, 11, determined that they would not pay a bribe if asked and that they would not expect a reward. The finding of the theme that residents want a reward for paying a bribe aligns with Schultz's Neurophysiology of Reward (2006), which says that people will expect a reward if asked to do something.

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Appendix A: Survey Questions

1. How long did you live in the Philippines?
2. How long have you lived in the United States?
3. When was your last trip back to the Philippines?
4. When did you learn that it was possible to pay a bribe requested by police to be released from custody? Who taught you?
5. If you were arrested in the Philippines and asked by an officer to pay to get out of trouble would you pay it?
6. Who taught you that it was possible to bribe the police to get out of trouble?
7. If you were approached by an officer and asked to pay a bribe, would you have to think about it or would it be an automatic action?
8. If you knew it was wrong to pay an officer a bribe, but it meant you would not get arrested would you still pay the bribe expecting to get the reward of no arrest? Why or why not?
9. Who taught you that it was a good idea to pay a bribe if asked by an officer?
10. Do you view Police Corruption in the Philippines as a problem?
11. Who should be responsible for correcting police corruption?
12. Do you think the police are receptive to the things you rely on them to fix?
13. Do you think the police in your area of the country are professional?
14. If you said you would pay a bribe if asked, would you do so expecting to get something in return?