

**The Role of Social Media in the Political Participation of Overseas Filipino
Workers in Dubai, U.A.E. in the 2016 Election**

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ABSTRACT

Seventy-four active members of the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers (PICE) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates were surveyed to determine the role of social media in their political participation in the 2016 election.

Based on the Agenda Setting Theory, this study provided a descriptive analysis of how the respondents utilized social media particularly Facebook. Four roles were identified: (1) Connector- it connected the OFWs back home, (2) Catalyzer- it served as a channel for the respondents to express and discuss their political views, (3) Mediator- it also enabled two-way communication between the OFWs and different parties, and (4) Information provider- it played a role in getting information about the processes and mechanics of Overseas Absentee Voting.