

Of Knives and Bones: Philippine Practice of English Forensic Pathology

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Upon the death of a person, an autopsy may be conducted to determine said his or her cause/s of death. Unbeknownst to most, however, is that there are different methods of conducting autopsies.

The Author, who took a fellowship in English Forensic Pathology in the University of Leicester, begins by discussing several types of autopsy techniques that are commonly used. From this, the salient features available to each method are highlighted. The contrasts between the American and English methods are likewise delved into, with emphasis on the autopsy methods the Author learned in the Leicester Royal Infirmary Forensic Pathology Unit.

Taking off from the aforementioned methods, the Author discusses how the protocols for an unidentified cadaver and techniques in English Forensic Pathology were applied in resolving the case of an American journalist who was killed in during her trek in the Banaue rice terraces. This case received widespread attention not just locally, but internationally as well. According to the Author, the case also exhibited the way different autopsy methods were applied, as it involved primarily Filipino pathologists, who were observed by their American counterparts.

Finally, the Author discusses the Philippine National Police's Medico-Legal System and its weaknesses, both legally and culturally, and how it could improve from the marked features of English Forensic Pathology.