

NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE SOUTHEAST ASIA BIOETHICS NETWORK TEAM

As we reflect on the activities of the Southeast Asia (SEA) Bioethics Network over the past six months, we cannot thank you all enough for your unwavering support in our efforts to develop an inclusive and vibrant regional bioethics community. We deeply value the opportunity to strengthen relationships with our bioethics colleagues in Indonesia through our workshop, jointly organised with the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities at Universitas Gadjah Mada. Looking ahead, we are excited to forge closer connections with our colleagues in Laos during our upcoming workshop in March 2025. Our grant awardees have been instrumental in advancing research and fostering professional growth in the region. We appreciate their dedication and wish them the very best as they embark on this journey. Additionally, the students at the Faculty of Law, Universiti Malaya, have been highly engaged in our efforts to raise awareness about bioethics. Their contributions have been invaluable to the success of our podcast series, *Bioethics Frontiers in Southeast Asia*, which would not have been possible without their involvement.

Thank you once again for your support, and we look forward to an exciting year ahead. Wishing you a happy and prosperous 2025!

Funding Opportunities

open on 1 February 2025



We are excited to announce that funding opportunities will officially open on 1 February 2025. This is a valuable opportunity to secure support for your projects and initiatives. Stay tuned for detailed guidelines and application requirements, which will be shared closer to the date.

Let's Celebrate!
**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**



SEA BIOETHICS NETWORK GRANT AWARDEES

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the latest grants awarded by the SEA Bioethics Network. These talented individuals have been recognised for their outstanding contributions to the field of bioethics and their commitment to advancing research and professional growth within the region. These awards reflect the dedication and excellence of our colleagues, and we look forward to the impact their work will have on the advancement of bioethics in SEA. Please join us in congratulating the following awardees:

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP GRANT



KATHRYN MUYSKENS



KUEK CHEE YING



**AGNES BHAKTI
PRATIWI**



**ABDUL HALIM BIN
IBRAHIM**

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH FELLOWSHIP GRANT



**CRYSTALE
SIEW YING LIM**



MARK TAN KIAK MIN



ANN PHUOC LUU



GIANG NGUYEN

RESEARCH SEED GRANT

INTERNSHIP GRANT



**ANAK AGUNG GEDE
KESUMA YUDHA**



**REYNARDI LAROPE
SUTANTO**



**ARIELLE EUNICE
SINDHUNATA**



**NUR NISA QARIN
BINTI SHAHINUDDIN**

UPCOMING EVENTS



BUILDING CAPACITY IN BIOETHICS - EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN LAOS (11 - 12 MARCH 2025)

The SEA Bioethics Network is hosting a two-day workshop titled Building Capacity in Bioethics: Empowering Local Communities in Laos. This event, bringing together experts and local stakeholders, will focus on key topics such as healthcare ethics, research ethics, disability rights, and grant application skills tailored for the Lao community.

Event Highlights

- Day 1: Topics will include fundamentals of bioethics, healthcare ethics and research with disabled people. Participants will delve into the foundational aspects of bioethics and access to healthcare among disabled people, with breakout sessions for deeper discussions.
- Day 2: Topics will include ethics in data sharing, culture and bioethics, tips on applying for research grants and publishing.

This workshop aims to strengthen bioethics capacities in Laos and support local communities in addressing ethical challenges in health and research.



TIPS ON PUBLISHING BIOETHICS PAPER (21 JANUARY 2025)

You are invited to join us for an informative webinar on successful publishing in bioethics. This event will provide key insights into what makes a strong bioethics article, how to develop your research ideas into compelling analysis and discussion, and how to navigate the complex landscape of journal publishing. We will also cover common mistakes to avoid when submitting to journals. This webinar is designed for scholars at all stages of their career, from those seeking to publish their first article to those with more experience looking to publish in high-impact journals. Don't miss out on this opportunity to gain valuable tips and advice to enhance your publishing journey.



DATA ETHICS WORKSHOP (27 - 28 MAY 2025)

This upcoming workshop will address the ethical and social challenges of sharing health data, with a particular emphasis on SEA. It will bring together bioethicists working on the ethical and social aspects of data sharing, as well as practitioners who curate and manage data, to explore critical issues and potential solutions. Taking place on 27 - 28 May 2025 at the Mahidol Tropical Oxford Research Unit in Bangkok, the event offers a unique opportunity to engage in in-depth discussions on the responsible sharing of health data.

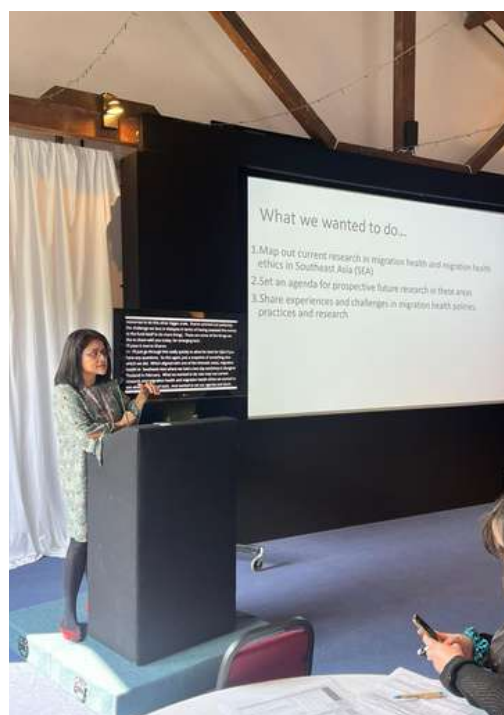


PAST EVENTS



REFLECTIONS ON DEVELOPING THE SOUTHEAST ASIA BIOETHICS NETWORK AT THE BEST PRACTICE IN ENGAGEMENT AND CULTURE SYMPOSIUM

At the Best Practice in Engagement and Culture Symposium, organised by the Wellcome Trust in Bristol, UK, from 15 - 18 July 2024, the SEA Bioethics Network spoke on "Reflections on Developing the Southeast Asia Bioethics Network." Chaired by Dr. Voo Teck Chuan, the session highlighted key activities from the Network's second year. Associate Professor Dr. Tamra Lysaght shared insights on the formulation of the Network's Vision, Mission, and Values, developed through a Delphi survey process during a workshop in Langkawi, Malaysia. Dr. Tay Pek San discussed funding opportunities, providing statistics from the first grant call and plans for improvements in 2025. Dr. Mohammad Firdaus highlighted the Network's collaboration with the Global Forum on Bioethics in Research on AI ethics in health, while Associate Professor Dr. Sharon Kaur presented on the ethical issues surrounding refugees' health in SEA discussed at the network's workshop in Bangkok in February 2024. This session provided an opportunity for attendees to reflect on the Network's progress and contribute ideas for its future direction.



GLOBAL HEALTH BIOETHICS NETWORK SUMMER SCHOOL



SEA Bioethics Network members were involved in the 13th Annual Global Health Bioethics Network (GHBN) Summer School that took place in Kuala Lumpur from 19 - 22 August 2024. Four days of intensive discussions on key global health issues were held which included topics on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), migration and refugee health, and navigating religious and cultural contexts in bioethics. Experts and participants explored the ethical challenges surrounding AMR, the responsibility of healthcare systems toward migrants, and how cultural and religious beliefs shape healthcare decisions. The event fostered collaborative dialogue, encouraging critical thinking about how bioethical principles can be applied across diverse contexts while respecting human rights and cultural values. With a focus on interdisciplinary exchange, the summer school provided a platform for networking and learning, equipping participants with new perspectives and strategies for addressing urgent global health challenges. The event reinforced the importance of international cooperation in tackling these complex ethical dilemmas.



BIOETHICAL FRONTIERS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA



PODCAST 1 - GENES TO CHOICES: UNDERSTANDING GENETIC RISK DISCLOSURE

In our first episode, we unravelled the mysteries of DNA and its impact on our lives. We explored how family history can illuminate personal health risks and the delicate balance between knowledge and ignorance regarding genetic information. Our guest, Dr. Ong Ai Kiang, Serene, a leading expert in genetic risk disclosure, shared her research on the ethical implications of genetic testing and its effects on family dynamics.

PODCAST 2 - NAVIGATING COMPLEXITY: ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN END-OF-LIFE CARE

Our second episode addressed the profound ethical decisions faced by healthcare providers and families when managing end-of-life situations. With Dr. Mark Tan Kiak Min, a respected figure in medical ethics, we discussed the emotional challenges and ethical dilemmas surrounding quality of life and patient autonomy. This episode aims to provide listeners with a compassionate understanding of how to navigate these difficult moments while honoring the dignity of those involved.



PODCAST 3 - DATA DILEMMAS: ETHICS IN HEALTH SHARING

In our third episode, we discussed the complexities of health data sharing, an increasingly pertinent issue in today's technology-driven world. We were joined by Professor Dr. Phaik Yeong Cheah from the University of Oxford, who specialises in the ethical considerations of health data sharing. Together, we explored consent, data ownership, and the balance between public health benefits and individual privacy rights, providing a nuanced perspective on how to responsibly manage health data.

PODCAST 4 - BRIDGING THE GAP: EQUITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN HEALTHCARE FOR REFUGEES

In our final episode of this series, we focused on the challenges refugees face in accessing healthcare in Malaysia. With insights from Associate Professor Dr. Sharon Kaur from the Faculty of Law, Universiti Malaya and Dr. Susheela Balasundram from the United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees (UNHCR), we discussed the barriers to healthcare access and the policies that can address these disparities. This episode highlights innovative solutions aimed at improving healthcare equity for refugees in SEA.



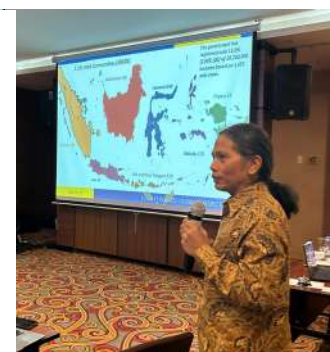
🌸🌸🌸 DELPHI SURVEY WEBINAR

Following the Delphi Workshop on 9 - 10 October 2023, the SEA Bioethics Network hosted an exclusive webinar on 28 October 2024 to discuss the final outcomes of the Delphi study conducted subsequent to the workshop. The final part of the Delphi study looked into the prioritisation of the Network's activities and research agenda which were identified at the Delphi workshop. With the study now complete and the statements published on the SEA Bioethics website, the webinar invited feedback on refining these statements and strategies for implementing the research priorities. Participants also discussed ways to expand the Network beyond its founding members and contributed to the planned academic output and activities. The webinar was a crucial step in guiding the Network's future direction in bioethics across SEA.



🌸🌸🌸 WHOSE VOICES? - DECOLONISING BIOETHICS WORKSHOP

On 5 November 2024, the SEA Bioethics Network, in partnership with the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities (CBMH) at Universitas Gadjah Mada, hosted the workshop "Whose Voices? – Decolonising Bioethics" in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The event focused on decolonising bioethics, offering diverse perspectives with a particular emphasis on Indonesian viewpoints. Participants explored case studies that addressed the dominance of mainstream narratives, the impact of climate change on Indonesian communities, and the ethical issues faced by marginalised groups. Through these discussions, the workshop aimed to amplify underrepresented voices in bioethics, promoting a more inclusive and diverse approach to ethical challenges in the region.





CELEBRATING ESSAY COMPETITION WINNERS IN CONJUNCTION WITH GFBR 2024

The SEA Bioethics Network is delighted to share the results of the Essay Competition held in conjunction with the Global Forum on Bioethics in Research 2024 (GFBR 2024), which took place in Kuala Lumpur this November. This year's GFBR focused on the ethics of research into health and climate change, especially relevant to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The competition provided students with a platform to explore ethical issues guiding Malaysian policymakers and researchers in this critical area.

Congratulations to our winners:

Undergraduate Level:

- 1st Prize: Denson Bin Jodar
- 2nd Prize: Tan Wen Hui

Postgraduate Level:

- 1st Prize: Veeranasimman a/l Ravendran
- 2nd Prize: Nur Nisa Qarin binti Shahinuddin

This competition encouraged reflection on the ethical dimensions of health and climate change research. Given the intertwined health of humans and non-humans, research in this area transcends traditional fields, integrating insights from environmental science, veterinary science, and Indigenous perspectives.



WEBINAR FOR GRANT AWARDEES

The SEA Bioethics Network hosted a grant awardee webinar on 12 December 2024, providing a platform for grant awardees to present their research and preliminary findings. Chaired by Dr. Mary Chambers of Oxford University Clinical Research Unit (OUCRU), the event fostered engagement with the wider bioethics community and encouraged interdisciplinary collaborations. Associate Professor Dr. Sharon Kaur, Co-Principal Investigator, introduced the Network's objectives, highlighting its impact on bioethics across SEA. Dr. Tay Pek San, Network Lead, followed with updates on funding opportunities, including Research Fellowship Grants, Seed Grants, and Professional Growth Fellowships, emphasising their role in advancing regional bioethics research. Grant awardees showcased diverse projects. Dr. Kathryn Muyskens discussed ethical issues surrounding traditional medicine, promoting international collaboration. Ms. Agnes Bhakti Pratiwi examined patient autonomy in Southeast Asian cultures, focusing on Indonesia. Ms. An Luu and Ms. Alix Day explored ethical and sociocultural aspects of terminally ill patients discharged home to die in Vietnam, aiming to co-develop supportive guidelines. The webinar concluded with a Q&A session, fostering meaningful discussions. This event underscored the SEA Bioethics Network's dedication to culturally sensitive, collaborative bioethics research, addressing critical ethical challenges across SEA.





ETHICAL ISSUES ARISING IN RESEARCH INTO HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Our steering committee members, Associate Professor Dr. Sharon Kaur, Professor Dr. Cheah Phaik Yeong, and Dr. Mohammad Firdaus Abdul Aziz, participated in the Global Forum on Bioethics in Research (GFBR) on 19 - 20 November 2024. The forum focused on the ethics of research into health and climate change, with particular emphasis on LMICs. Discussions addressed the ethical challenges of researching interventions to respond to the health impacts of climate change, including impacts on both human and non-human health. Research in this field often involves interdisciplinary approaches, drawing from medical, environmental, and life sciences, and addressing the interconnectedness of human and ecosystem health. The forum also recognized the importance of Indigenous knowledge and perspectives in shaping climate change research. The discussion at the forum highlighted the fact that the specific ethical challenges of health and climate change research remain underexplored. GFBR aimed to engage with these challenges and offer practical tools for researchers in this area.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TRAINING AND STRATEGY WORKSHOP

The SEA Bioethics Network was involved in a Public/Community Engagement Training and Strategy Workshop on 16 - 17 December 2024 at the Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop aimed to strengthen the capacity of the SEA Bioethics Network and the Global Health Bioethics Network (GHBN) to effectively engage with stakeholders and communities throughout SEA. Participants gained key insights into public and community engagement, explored stakeholder mapping and evaluation tools, and collaborated to develop a strategic approach for engagement. The event fostered a shared vision for advancing bioethics in the region through public and community engagement, aligning with the network's mission to promote inclusive and impactful bioethics work.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOUTHEAST ASIA BIOETHICS PODCAST



The SEA Bioethics Network extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Faculty of Law students from Universiti Malaya and our distinguished guest speakers for their invaluable contributions to our podcast series on *Bioethical Frontiers in Southeast Asia*. Their insights and dedication have greatly enriched discussions on bioethics, bringing essential perspectives on pressing issues in our region.

We especially thank Dr. Tay Pek San and Dr. Eman Nazlan for their expert coordination with the students, ensuring the podcast's successful production. Their guidance and support, alongside the dedication of our guests and students, have been instrumental in achieving impactful episodes that further ethical awareness across SEA.

EXPLORE MORE WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA BIOETHICS NETWORK!



SUPPORT OUR MISSION:

Help us shape a vibrant bioethics landscape in SEA.

STAY INFORMED:

Sign up for our newsletter to receive the latest news. Attend our upcoming events and webinars to stay connected. (<https://seabioethics.com/join-mailing-list/>)

Follow us on social media for updates.



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