

A Context-Specific Casebook for Southeast Asian Bioethics Education

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Short biography

Dr. Nishakanthi Gopalan is a Senior Lecturer at the Medical Humanities and Ethics Unit (MedHEU), Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya (UM) and Programme Coordinator for the Master of Health Research Ethics (MOHRE), developed with the Berman Institute of Bioethics, Johns Hopkins University.

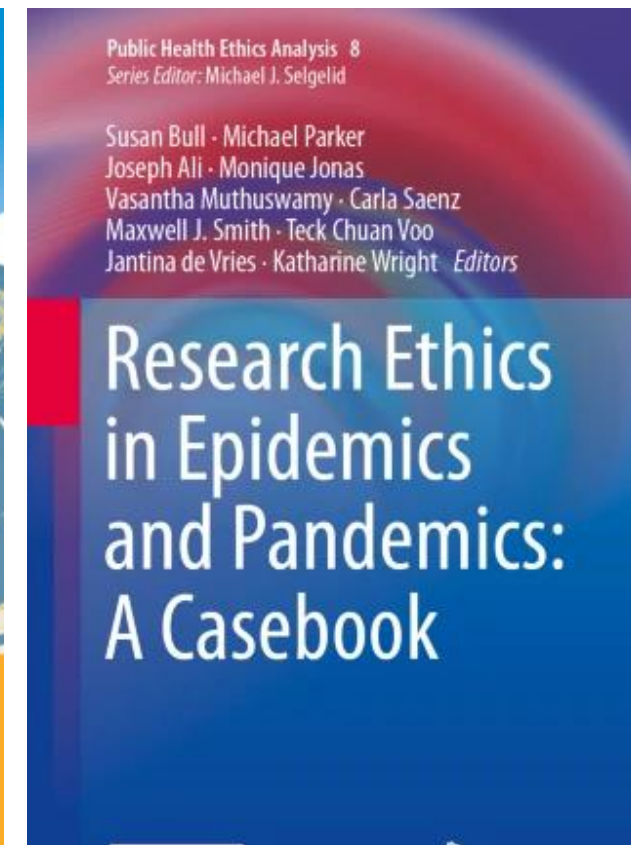
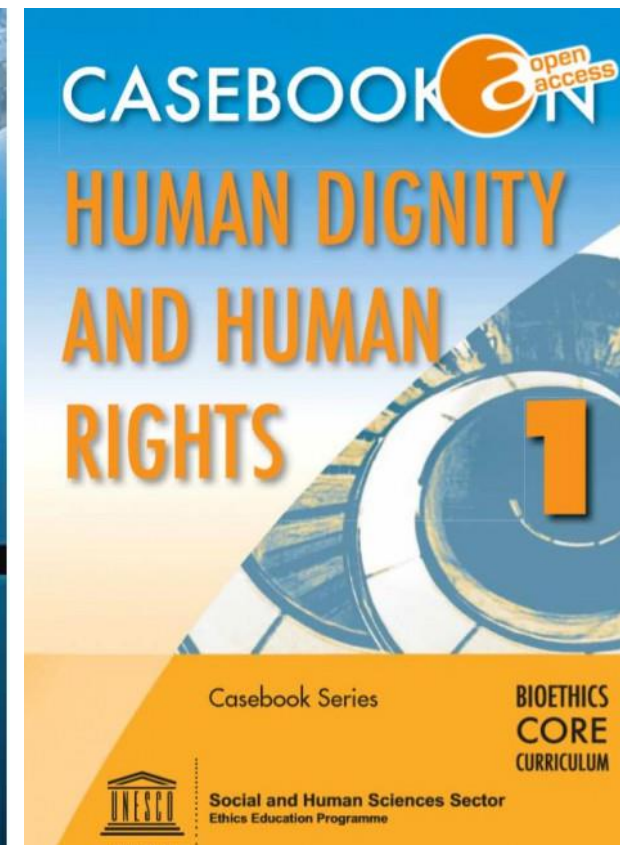
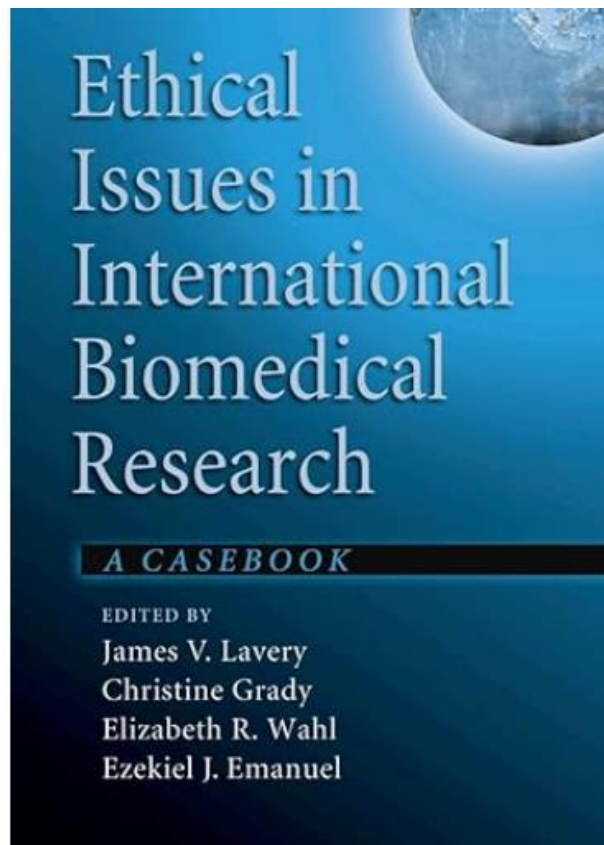
A biotechnologist by training with a PhD in research ethics, her research focuses on bioethics, clinical ethics, and emerging technologies, including regenerative medicine and AI in healthcare. She is a member of UM and UMMC ethics committees, serves on the editorial board of *Asian Bioethics Review*, and is involved in multiple international ethics training and research initiatives.

Outline:

- Introduction & Overall Process
- Overview of '**Cases in Bioethics**'
- Key Feature of '**Cases in Bioethics**'
- Key Objective for '**Cases in Bioethics**'

Introduction

- Bioethics teaching requires appropriate teaching tools, including cases for discussion.
- To engage learners with real-world ethical dilemmas, fostering critical thinking, cultural sensitivity, and context-specific decision-making skills.
- Over the years, several casebooks on health research ethics have been published by researchers and organizations to address diverse ethical challenges in various contexts.



- Cash, R., Wikler, D., Saxena, A., Capron, A. M., & World Health, O. (2009). *Casebook on ethical issues in international health research / edited by Richard Cash [... et al.]*. In Geneva: World Health Organization.
- Lavery, J. V., & Al, E. (2007). *Ethical issues in international biomedical research*. Oxford University Press
- UNESCO. (2011). *Casebook on human dignity and human rights*. UNESCO. <https://gcedclearinghouse.org/sites/default/files/resources/190403eng.pdf>
- Bull, S., Parker, M., Ali, J., Jonas, M., Vasantha Muthuswamy, Saenz, C., Smith, M. J., Teck Chuan Voo, Wright, K., & Jantina de Vries. (2024). *Research Ethics in Epidemics and Pandemics: A Casebook*. In *Public health ethics analysis*. Springer Nature (Netherlands). <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-41804-4>

Overall Process

Current Status: Beta Testing & Soft Launch

1
Call for cases.
Retrieved 90 cases
(e.g., Thailand,
Philippines,
Malaysia,
Indonesia)

2
Preliminary
Editorial Review
83 accepted & 7
excluded (didn't fit
the scope)

3
Extensive Editorial
Review
2 main editors: 4
expert reviewers
(Jeremy Sugarman,
Adeeba Kamarulzaman,
Julia Patrick Engkasan,
Rumana A. Saifi, Allison
Davies)

4
Revision Request
to Contributors.
Reviewing &
Consolidating
Revisions

5
Final cases were
formatted
Finalizing all
contributors'
names and email.
Proofs and
agreements.

6
JHU Press
Review and
Formatting
Discussion on
interface etc




CASES IN BIOETHICS

Health Research Ethics
in Southeast Asia

edited by Joseph Ali
and Nishakanthi Gopalan

Overview of ‘*Cases in Bioethics*’

- In Nov 2024, we soft-launched "**Cases in Bioethics**" in Johns Hopkins University Press (Project MUSE). 
- An online repository, containing region-specific health research ethics cases with idea to expand with more series (focus).
- The cases are classified into key categories—genetic research, biobanking, clinical trials, and emerging fields



Key Features of ‘Cases in Bioethics’

- **Regional Focus:** Tailored to the Southeast Asian context, addressing ethical challenges unique to the region's cultural, social, and economic landscapes.
- Cases sourced from researchers and ethicists within Southeast Asia to ensure authenticity and cultural sensitivity.
- **Collaborative Development:** A collection of cases grounded in robust research ethics principles, developed with regional and international expert input.



Key Features of ‘Cases in Bioethics’

- **Comprehensive Case Studies:** Features diverse cases offering practical insights into *real-world ethical dilemmas* shaped by *regional concerns* and *cultural nuances*.
- Cases include ethical dilemmas with guiding questions, and references.
 - *What unique ethics and regulatory considerations should the researchers consider given that they will be doing genetic testing with the samples? (Case 13)*
 - *Should the researcher be required to provide separate insurance for research staff to cover research-related risks in this scenario? Why or why not? (Case 17)*
 - *Should pharmaceutical researchers be permitted to conduct their clinical trials with adolescents in the country? Why or why not? (Case 21)*



Key Features of 'Cases in Bioethics'

- "Cases in Bioethics" will be freely accessible through Project MUSE since November 2024.
- Open-access approach ensures wide dissemination and utilization.
- Designed for educators, researchers, and policymakers across Southeast Asia.

The screenshot displays the Project MUSE website interface. At the top, there is a dark blue navigation bar with links for 'INSTITUTIONAL LOGIN', 'ACCESSIBILITY', and 'LOG IN'. Below this, the Project MUSE logo is visible next to a search bar and a 'BROWSE' button. The main content area features a teal header with the title 'Cases in Bioethics: Health Research Ethics in Southeast Asia'. Below the header, there is a section titled 'About Cases in Bioethics: Health Research Ethics in Southeast Asia' with social media sharing icons. The text describes the resource as a collaboration between the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics and Universiti Malaya, edited by Joseph Ali and Nishakanthi Gopalan. It highlights the resource's focus on global cooperation and addressing ethical dilemmas in health research in low- and middle-income countries. The page also includes the Johns Hopkins University Press logo and the resource DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1353/resource>.

Key Features of 'Cases in Bioethics'

About Cases in Bioethics: Health Research Ethics in Southeast Asia



A comprehensive, accessible collection of health research case studies emphasizing regional ethical challenges in Southeast Asia.

A collaboration between the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics and Universiti Malaya, editors Joseph Ali and Nishakanthi Gopalan created this groundbreaking course book on health research ethics in Southeast Asia.

Developed by researchers and ethicists from the region, this case compilation emphasizes global cooperation and a commitment to address real-world ethical dilemmas in health research, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. This resource vividly illustrates the ethical challenges prevalent in regional health research, including those

PUBLISHED BY
Johns Hopkins University Press



RESOURCE DOI
<https://doi.org/10.1353/resource.5>

Case Studies

Search within Cases in Bioethics: Health Research Ethics in Southeast Asia



All documents are currently displayed

Convenient keyword search

- A **real-world scenario** with detailed context, designed to foster critical thinking and encourage context-sensitive ethical reasoning.
- **Accessibility:** Available online to educators, students, and professionals.
 - Can search cases via keywords and download (each cases or whole casebook).
 - Plans to further expand with additional series supporting bioethics education in Southeast Asia and beyond.

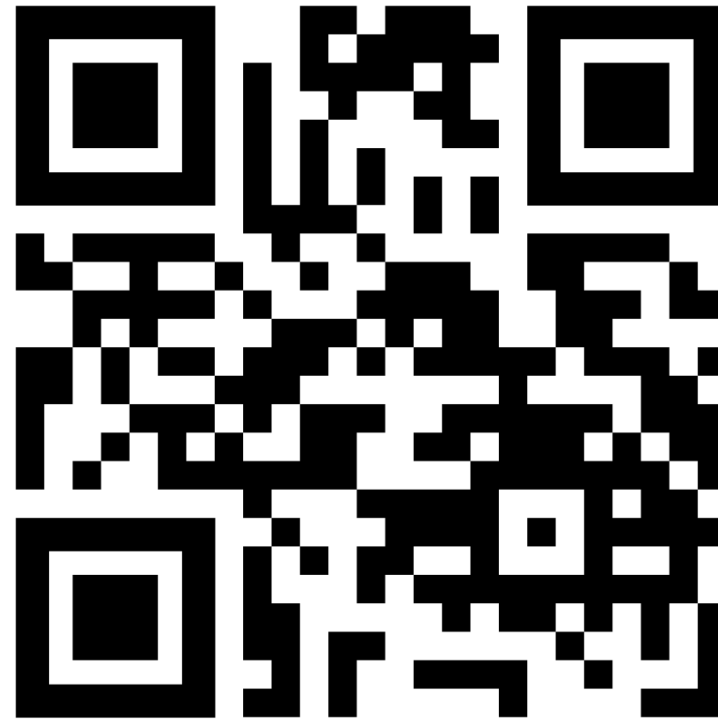
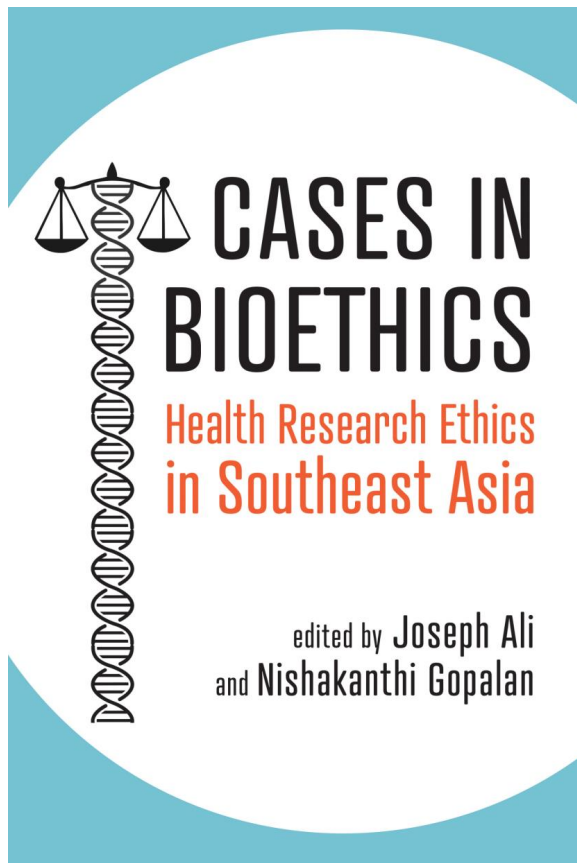
Key Objective for ‘Cases in Bioethics’

- Strengthen bioethics education and research ethics capacity in Southeast Asia.
- Foster understanding of bioethics theory and the actual research practices of global health.
- Enhances understanding of global principles in local contexts (creating solutions that are both globally informed and locally effective)
- Build a stronger bioethics community within the region.
- Dynamic learning tools paired with teaching aids for self-directed individual and group learning.





Acknowledging the Team



Scan for Cases in Bioethics



Explore the casebook and use it in your teachings.

If you have any comments, feedback, or enquiries email mohre@um.edu.my

