

# The Programme

## International Symposium Medically Assisted Dying: Global Trends and Asian Perspectives

23 May (Saturday), 2026  
9:00 – 17:00 (Hong Kong Time)  
Academic Conference Room, 11/F, Cheng Yu Tung Tower, Centennial Campus,  
The University of Hong Kong (HKU)

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| 9:00 – 9:05                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <p><b>Prof Gilberto K. K. Leung</b><br/>Director of the School of Clinical Medicine, LKS Faculty of Medicine,<br/>Co-Director of the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, Clinical Professor and<br/>Tsang Wing Hing Professor in Clinical Neuroscience, HKU, Hong Kong SAR.</p>               |
| <p><b>Session 1: Medically Assisted Dying Across Worldviews: Secular, Religious, and Ethical Perspectives</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b><br/><b>Prof Eric C. Ip</b><br/>Co-Director of the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law and Professor of the Faculty of Law, HKU,<br/>Hong Kong SAR.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 9:05 – 9:25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>Killing Off the Elderly, Sick, and other Unwanted (Expensive!) Patients</p> <p><b>Prof Mark J. Cherry</b>, The Dr. Patricia A. Hayes Professor in Applied Ethics,<br/>Professor and Chair, Department of Philosophy, St. Edward's University, Austin,<br/>Texas, United States.</p>                                       |
| 9:25 – 9:45                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>How Should Autonomy be Understood in Euthanasia Practice and Policy?</p> <p><b>Dr Simon Walker</b>, Senior Lecturer, Department of Bioethics, University of Otago,<br/>Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand.</p>                                                                                                                   |
| 9:45 – 10:05                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>Interrogating Common Arguments for Physician-Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia</p> <p><b>Prof Ana S. Iltis</b>, Carlson Professor of University Studies, Professor of<br/>Philosophy, and Director, Center for Bioethics, Health and Society, Wake Forest<br/>University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, United States.</p> |

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| 10:05 – 10:25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>Beyond Secular Borders: Islamic Bioethical Perspectives on Euthanasia in Global Discourse</p> <p><b>Prof Mohammed Ghaly</b>, Professor of Islam and Biomedical Ethics and Head of the Research Center for Islamic Legislation &amp; Ethics, College of Islamic Studies, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Doha, Qatar.</p> |
| 10:25 – 10:40                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 10:40 – 10:50                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Intermission (Tea Break)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p><b>Session 2: Medically Assisted Dying: Theoretical, Empirical, and Cross-Cultural Insights</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b><br/> <b>Prof Gilberto K. K. Leung</b><br/> Director of the School of Clinical Medicine, LKS Faculty of Medicine, Co-Director of the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, Clinical Professor and Tsang Wing Hing Professor in Clinical Neuroscience, HKU, Hong Kong SAR.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 10:50 – 11:10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>Is Medically Assisted Death a “Good Death”? From Global to Regioglobal Bioethics</p> <p><b>Prof Ruiping Fan</b>, Chair Professor of Philosophy, Department of Public and International Affairs, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR.</p>                                                                       |
| 11:10 – 11:30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>Physician-Assisted Suicide: A Reconstruction of an Ethical Perspective from Zhuangzi’s Daoism</p> <p><b>Prof Ellen Y. Zhang</b>, Professor and Head, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Macau, Macau SAR.</p>                                                                               |
| 11:30 – 11:50                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>End-of-Life Autonomy in Taiwan: Public Attitudes Toward Physician-Assisted Dying</p> <p><b>Prof Duan-Rung Chen</b>, Institute of Health Behaviors and Community Sciences, College of Public Health, National Taiwan University, Taiwan.</p>                                                                            |
| 11:50 – 12:10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>A Confucian Middle-Way Perspective on Medically Assisted Suicide</p> <p><b>Prof Jue Wang</b>, Professor of Philosophy, Xi’an Jiaotong University, Xi’an, Shaanxi, Mainland China.</p>                                                                                                                                  |
| 12:10 – 12:25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 12:25 – 14:00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Lunch (for invitees only)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

**Session 3: Medically Assisted Dying in Europe and Beyond: Case Studies from Belgium, Australia, and the UK**

**Chair:**

**Prof Carl Hildebrand**

Assistant Professor, Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit, School of Clinical Medicine, HKU, Hong Kong SAR.

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| 14:00 – 14:20 | <p>In(ter)dependence: the Relational Turn in End-of-Life Ethics</p> <p><b>Prof Chris Gastmans</b>, Full Professor of Medical Ethics and Director of the Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law, Faculty of Medicine, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium.</p>                                               |
| 14:20 – 14:40 | <p>Structural and Ethical Obstacles to Assisted Dying Reform in the UK</p> <p><b>Ms Daisy Cheung</b>, Lecturer of Medical Law and Ethics, Edinburgh Law School, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom.</p>                                                                          |
| 14:40 – 15:00 | <p>Voluntary Assisted Dying Law Reform and Regulation: Australia and Beyond</p> <p><b>Prof Ben White</b>, Professor of End-of-Life Law and Regulation and an Australian Research Council Future Fellow, School of Law, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.</p> |
| 15:00 – 15:15 | <p>Discussion</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 15:15 – 15:25 | <p>Intermission (Tea Break)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

**Session 4: Medically Assisted Dying: Comparative Insights, Potentials, and Local Challenges**

**Chair:**

**Prof Gilberto K. K. Leung**

Director of the School of Clinical Medicine, LKS Faculty of Medicine,  
Co-Director of the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law, Clinical Professor and Tsang Wing Hing  
Professor in Clinical Neuroscience, HKU, Hong Kong SAR.

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| 15:25 - 15:45        | <p>Defining Autonomy in a Family-Centric Culture: The Case of Advance Care Planning and Advance Medical Directives in Hong Kong</p> <p><b>Prof Emmanuel H. L. Cheung</b>, Clinical Assistant Professor of Practice, Critical Care Medicine Unit and Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit (joint appointment), School of Clinical Medicine, HKU, Hong Kong SAR.</p>                                          |
| 15:45 - 16:05        | <p>Medically Assisted Dying: Comparative Ethical Insights and Reflections</p> <p><b>Dr Md Sanwar Siraj</b>, Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Medical Ethics and Law &amp; Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit, HKU, Hong Kong SAR.</p>                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 16:05 - 16:15        | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 16:15 – 17:00        | <p><b>Roundtable Discussion</b></p> <p><b>Chairs: Prof Carl Hildebrand, Prof Eric C. Ip, Prof Gilberto K. K. Leung</b></p> <p><b>Prof Duan-Rung Chen, Prof Mark J. Cherry, Ms Daisy Cheung, Prof Emmanuel H. L. Cheung, Prof Ruiping Fan, Prof Chris Gastmans, Prof Mohammed Ghaly, Prof Ana S. Iltis, Dr Md Sanwar Siraj, Dr Simon Walker, Prof Jue Wang, Prof Ben White and Prof Ellen Y. Zhang</b></p> |
| After session 4 ends | Dinner (invitees only)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |