

CUHK Centre for Bioethics – Hong Kong Bioethics Association Joint Distinguished Bioethics Seminar

Regulating Physician-Assisted Suicide Solely Based on Autonomy:

The General Citizen's Right to Receive Assistance in Suicide in Germany

Speaker

Jochen Vollmann is Director of the Institute for Medical Ethics and History of Medicine, Ruhr–University Bochum, Germany. He is a physician and philosopher working in the field of medical ethics for 30 years. His research interests include end-of-life decision-making, informed consent and capacity assessment and clinical ethics consultation.

Moderator

Roger Yat-nork Chung is a social epidemiologist who uses the lens of biomedical ethics and justice to examine the social determinants of health and health inequalities. His current research investigates social determinants such as poverty, deprivation, socioeconomic disadvantage, environmental and housing factors, and migrant status. He is also particularly interested in the health of vulnerable populations, including migrant workers and rare disease patients, and conducts research on aging-related issues such as multimorbidity and long-term/end-of-life care.

Prof. Chung graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a BA (Public Health Sciences), the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health with an MHS, Harvard Medical School with an MBE, and the University of Hong Kong with a PhD in social and lifecourse epidemiology. He is currently the Co-Director of CUHK Centre for Bioethics, an Associate Professor of the Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care of CUHK, and the Associate Director of the CUHK Institute of Health Equity. He has had more than 120 peer-reviewed international publications and was the inaugural international health policy fellow of the National Academy of Medicine in the USA.

Discussant 1

Jean H. Kim is a social epidemiologist who graduated with a M.S. and Doctor of Science from Harvard University, T.C. Chan School of Public Health. Professor Kim is engaged in research in human well-being research in relation to lifestyle and behavioral factors. Areas of research that Prof Kim is currently working in include: 1) assisted reproductive technology policy, 2) euthanasia and assisted death policy, 3) alcohol use policy and 4) workplace well-being initiatives to improve worker health. The key purpose of her research is to provide an evidence-based to inform public policies that optimize population well-being, individual choice and life satisfaction.

Discussant 2

Derrick Au is Advisor and former Director of the Centre for Bioethics at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). He received medical education at Brown University in the US and postgraduate training in geriatric medicine in Hong Kong. Before joining CUHK in 2017, Dr. Au served in clinical service in geriatrics and rehabilitation then health service management positions in the Hospital Authority (HA), including Director of Quality & Safety (2014-16), the portfolio of which included overseeing clinical ethics, research ethics and technology assessment. Dr. Au is former chairman of the HA Clinical Ethics Committee (2017 to 2020) and current Convenor of the Ethics Advisory Committee of the Hong Kong Genome Institute.